

30 People in the Bible You Need to Know

#1 Adam | January 21, 2018

Why Adam Matters

- Your “theology of Adam” becomes your *anthropology*, that is, your theology of mankind.
- Your anthropology determines much of your view of *soteriology*, that is, your theology of salvation.
 - Is mankind eternal?
 - Is mankind in need of salvation?
 - Is mankind capable of saving himself?
- Your anthropology also determines much of your view of
 - Ecology – your doctrine of mankind’s interaction with the environment.
 - Is mankind an animal or of a separate order?
 - Is mankind in a position of dominion or equality?
 - Sociology – your doctrine of mankind’s interaction with other men and women.
 - Is there a morality of sexuality?
 - Is gender fluid for fixed?
 - Are sexual relations morally limited?
 - Is there a created order between the genders?
 - Is marriage an anthropological matter?
 - Is there an ordained *head of the house*?
- Your anthropology is affected by two other doctrines:
 - Theology – your doctrine of God
 - Creation – your doctrine of origins

Adam’s Name | What Does It Mean?

- The name Adam has been used to deny the origin of mankind in one single individual.
 - אָדָם [adam] is translated *man, mankind*, or some other general term for the human race 533 times in the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - The word is Transliterated *Adam*, as a personal name, 12 times.

- Many have made the false conclusion that the personal name *Adam* is symbolic and that there was no single individual who was Adam.
- To do this requires a non-literal hermeneutic to be adopted from the very first pages of Scripture, setting the stage for future non-literal interpretations of the text.
- The interpretation of Adam as a historical figure or a mythical figure was one of the key points separating modernists from fundamentalists in the early 1900s.
- Some noted theologians who deny the existence of a single man, Adam: Emil Brunner, Rudolf Bultmann, N.T. Wright, The BioLogos Foundation, Alister McGrath, C.S. Lewis, John Ortberg, John Walton (Wheaton Univ.), Richard Mouw (Fuller Seminary), Tim Keller, Phillip Yancy, Os Guinness, Peter Enns, and many more.
- The Hebrew אָדָם [adam] has the same root as אֲדָמָה [adamah], which means *earth*.
 - *Adam* was created from the *adamah*, the **dust of the ground** (Gen. 2:7).
 - Adam’s sin led him to **return unto the ground** from which he had come (Gen. 3:19).

The Biblical Adam

- Was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
- Was given dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:28), a dominion that was expressed in his naming of the animals (Gen. 2:19-20).
- Was created on the sixth day, and was fully developed both physically and intellectually (Gen. 1-2).
- Was given a single prohibition: do not eat from the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, with the penalty of death (Gen. 2:17).
- Was given a female help meet for companionship, marriage, and sexual relations (Gen. 2:20-25).
- Ate of the forbidden fruit and thus introduced sin and death into the world (Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12).

Our Adamic Problem

- Because we are decedents of the original couple, we are born into separation with God and are in need of a Savior (who doesn’t have the same problem we do).