

**A Good Start**  
**Genesis 1-4**  
**February 8, 2026**

There have been tons of jokes about Adam and Eve and most of them I've told or you've heard. Nevertheless, you know that God told Adam He'd make a really great helper for him but it would cost him an arm and a leg, to which Adam asked, "What can I get for a rib?" Something even better yet. Although it's a paraphrase, I like how the Living Bible puts Adam's comment when he first laid eyes on Eve, "This is it!!" That's how I feel every time I see Nancy. Happy Valentines Day! Please open your Bibles today to page 1. Genesis 1.

Now that we have our theme kicked off for 2026 and moving along, we will try to fertilize our vine with teaching and preaching from God's Word. To do so, we're going to begin a broad sweep through the Old Testament revisiting some great truths we often assume but seldom mention. Since so much of the rest of the Bible and even our world situation today grows out of our beginnings, we turn to the only reliable source we have for that, the book of Genesis. Our theology begins in Genesis 1, not Romans. So we'll start there. It's vitally important to get a good start. Say start. If you're flying from here to Hawaii, you don't have to be off but a fraction of a degree to end up way off course. Even worse is if you crash on takeoff. Humanity has done both. Let's see what we can do to get a good start.

If you are able, please stand as we read from Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day. Skip to Vs 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Vs 31. God saw all that he had made, and it was **very** good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

Say Creation. Genesis 1 tells us where all that is came from and how it got here. It tells us where **we** came from and how **we** got here. God's creation of the heavens and earth is foundational to our faith. In fact, that's where the Hall of Faith begins in Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command..." The Ten Commandments include references to Creation as did Jesus Himself. The devil knew that if he could get people to disbelieve the first page of the Bible, he would have no problem getting us to disbelieve the rest. And that's exactly what has happened. Atheists declare that Darwin's theory eliminates a need for God although a growing body of evidence disproves this ridiculous fairy tale more and more each day. Even many scientists who are not yet ready to believe what we've just read agree that there was intelligent design involved in the formation of the universe which implies an Intelligent Designer. Because life is just too complex as are even non-living things like ice columns, northern lights, snowflakes and many other wonders of God's creation are also much too beautiful and complicated to have just happened by random chance. Only the fool has said in his heart there is no God.

We could go through that first week to see which day God made what, and you know how much I love this topic, but the pinnacle of God's creative work is human beings! He created Adam from the dust of the ground, which science affirms is what we're made of, and then Eve from Adam's rib. We're also told that human beings are different from everything else God created for we, and we alone, were fashioned in His own image. Nothing else in all creation bears that and this makes human life sacred and holy and special from the womb to the tomb. (make a good sign) We're not just another animal or improved ape who happened to learn to walk on two feet. If we are, who cares if you kill babies or adults or anyone? Such garbage. A good start is vitally important.

This also tells us we're all cousins because we're all descended from Adam and Eve. Even subgroups like neanderthals, for most of us all have traces of their DNA in us. Some more than others :). Geneticists and other scientists who study DNA now confirm that every human came from common ancestors; just like the Bible has told us for thousands of years. Which should eliminate all prejudice based on skin color for every Bible believing Christian. Just as different colored dogs are all still dogs, people born with different skin colors are all still people bearing God's image. Just letting that truth sink in will transform the way we see, value, and treat other people. When you walk into Walmart, remember that. Which people bear God's image? All people! Even those we disagree with, look different, vote different, talk different. It was evolutionists who divided us into supposed races. We are all one race, Adam's race. It was evolutionists that came up with eugenics which killed or sterilized people of certain colors, eye shape, hair, and ancestry whom they deemed inferior. Beliefs have consequences and sadly these beliefs of Darwin's theory continues to be taught in most schools with little or no mention of its

many scientific errors and shortcomings. Shame on us! The answers to racism are found on the very first page of the Bible! Read them again to get a good start on your faith and life!

We find in Genesis 1 the answer to the question of which came first, the chicken or the egg? God created the fowl of the air and then they reproduced after their kind. Adult first, eggs later. But the question is indeed a challenging one for evolutionists who must explain how the fossil record has not just missing links, but a missing chain. Nowhere do we see transitional species changing from dinosaurs into birds or fish into reptiles or any of the rest of that nonsense. It's a fine story, it's just not so. As for millions of years, if God created people, animals, and plants as adults, could He not have created the rocks, earth, and universe as mature? Not to mention the effects of Noah's flood but that's next week.

Genesis 1 also tells us of God's first command. Vs 28 says "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." The very first command God ever gave us was, and continues to be a very delightful one. Say be fruitful! God never withdrew nor altered that command. It would set the tone for all the fruit-bearing God desires from us in many ways. And He gave humans dominion to rule over all that He had made. Not to abuse, but to use and manage wisely.

It's in Genesis 2 that we are introduced to God's concept of the Sabbath, or resting, that is later reinforced with the 4th command. It's in Genesis 2 that we are introduced to God's concept of holy marriage consisting of one man and one woman joined intimately together which Jesus referred to. This week is National Marriage week. Celebrate and attend to your marriage and thank God for it. Gen 2:24, Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. Gen 2 also describes the first Garden where the first humans lived. What an awesome place! And this chapter also tells us about one of the coolest jobs ever when Adam got to name all the animals. How'd he come up with Aardvark or opossum?

This second chapter of the Bible tells us one other thing: God's second command which was not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. All else fine. Go at it. But not this! Which becomes a crucial event for the next 1187 chapters that follow this one. For in Genesis 3, we read of the Fall. Say the Fall. We're not talking about that season of the year when we get to hunt, we're talking about the most pivotal event in the first 4000 years of human history that continues to cast its long dark shadow on our world today.

Look at Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God **really** say, 'You must not eat from **any** tree in the garden?'" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, **and** you must not touch it, or you will die.'" 4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

We have here the saddest and most painful event ever to have occurred. For from that moment, the death of an innocent Savior became necessary to pay for it and all the sin it ushered in. It's called the Fall because it was mankind's fall from God's original will and plan. A fall from perfection and innocence. A fall from what could have been. An infinite fall from glory into sin. From heaven into Hell. And although we've examined it numerous times, we seem to forget its lessons for we repeat our greatest grandparents' mistakes many times over. Notice anew the devil's approach. "Did God **really** say..." casting doubt on God's Word, on God's goodness and His infinite desire to do the best for those He created in His holy image. Satan still wants you to doubt God's Word, motives, wisdom, and goodness. Don't fall for it! He's a liar! God loves you perfectly and wants your absolute best now and always, even when we suffer. All of His commands are for your good and your best.

Satan also misquoted God's Word which he continues to do today. He intentionally rephrases it by adding to it or taking away. Not through various translations that are based on reliable manuscripts, but by supposed versions and paraphrases based on no manuscripts or on those proven to be fakes like the golden tablets that no longer exist for the book of Mormon or by a group, like the Watchtower, who decide what God **really** meant instead of letting His Word speak for Him. Or those who outright reject God's clearly revealed will in Scripture about sexuality, stewardship, fruitfulness, or anything else.

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We also see Eve's misquotation of God's Word **adding** that they were not to touch the fruit. That was not part of God's command and she made it more restrictive than He did. Finally, the devil lies outright telling her that God was a liar, that she would **not** die but instead become like God Himself. Sadly, she believed him enough to disobey God. "When she saw that the fruit was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some

and ate it.” Its appearance and perhaps its taste enticed her into sin, but her soul was rebelling against and disobeying her Maker, Guardian and Friend. And then she talked her husband into eating some, which he did. And that same rebellion lived in his heart and it also lives in yours and mine as well. Beware!

We could speculate on what would have happened if Adam and Eve had **not** sinned, or if Eve did and Adam didn't, etc but the fact is they both did. And doing so opened the floodgates of sin's consequences including death, hell, and the grave. Every kind of sickness and sadness entered the human experience. Disease, murder, abuse and rape. Cancer, MS, heart attacks and strokes. Like a giant tsunami of pain, all of these washed through the door they opened to drown every person by one means or another. This was the worst news in human history for the Fall caused all the other bad news to follow including that on your phones and TVs this morning. Every disease, every crime, every death, all poverty, all of it flowed downstream when their sin breached the dam of God's perfection.

Adam and Eve thought they could hide from God. They could not and neither can you! You'll never win hide and seek with God. They attempted to cover their sin with the works of their own hands just as many today try to erase their evil deeds by doing good ones. It doesn't work any better now than it did then. God in His undying love sought them out and named the consequences they and their billions of offspring including you and me would experience as results of their disobedience. Eve and all of her granddaughters would give birth in great pain and she was now to be subject to her husband, perhaps hinting at an original arrangement that was not always so.

Adam and all his grandsons would now have to labor in great earnest to make a living. Thorns, thistles and weeds would now populate his fields creating a whole industry for Roundup and 2 4 D. They had to leave the beautiful garden God had planted for them to enjoy. But worst of all, both of them as well as all of their descendants, including you and me, would one day die to pay the wages for their sin.

Many reject a literal Adam and Eve today, even though Jesus Himself referred to them and Paul did as well. If there was no sin of the first Adam, there would be no need for the salvation of a Last Adam. When Adam sinned, he represented all humans. We were all in him. You may fight against that if you like, but that doesn't change a spiritual truth made clear throughout the Bible. Adam was a federal head of the human race and we suffer because of his sin, as well as our own. We may think we would have not sinned and yet we do so every day if not in actions, in our

thoughts. You may be a great driver and not be at fault ever, but if your bus driver misses a turn at the Grand Canyon, you're going to suffer the consequences along with him. Adam took humanity's bus off God's righteous road and into sin's abyss when he disobeyed God and ate that fruit. Humanity crashed on takeoff. But God had a plan. We'll get to it in a minute.

In Genesis 4, we read about the horribly tragic account of Cain murdering his own brother in cold blood. The first child born killed the second in the first case of sibling rivalry. Reminding us of what can happen in our own families if we allow offenses to grow and jealousies to increase. Cain was banished and went eastward where he built a city raising the age old question of, "Who did Cain marry?" It was obviously his sister for there were no other options. And there was not yet a commandment against doing so. That didn't come until much later necessitated by the gradual breakdown of DNA which is compounded when relatives marry. Adam and Eve had perfect DNA and there was no danger of defects until later as genetic deterioration compounded and still does.

But in the midst of the bad news, there is good news. Back up and look at Gen 3:21 "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them." Instead of tanning their hides, He tanned some animal hides. First leather jackets. When I heard this story as a child, I never thought much of it, but somewhere along the line, I realized this foreshadows the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ. For in order for garments of skin to be made, some animal had to die. Its blood had to be shed illustrating from the very beginning that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. And it was done not by Adam or Eve but by God Himself. **He** provided the remedy for our sin just as He would do on Calvary many years later. Where their efforts at fig leaf fashion fell short, God's tailoring covered their sin.

Which brings us to the best news, for God Himself made the first promise of a Messiah, a Savior, when He talks to the serpent in Gen 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Her offspring would be Jesus Christ who would rise up 4000 years later to crush that serpent's head when He died and rose again.

In order to end up at the right destination, you have to have the right start and Genesis 1-4 gives us that. I'm praying today as we've looked way back in time that you've been reminded of your worth and value in God's eyes. You are made in His image. As was every other person, including those we hate. And you, like me and everyone else, is infected with the fatal disease of sin because of Adam's sin and because of your own. Sin is not just what we do, sinners are who

we are. Until we receive the Snake Crusher and get our white garments of atonement and forgiveness from God. If you never have, do it today. Accept Jesus as your Savior. For one day, time will end in another Garden, the Garden of Glory for those who are saved. But eternal death awaits those who are not. Come to Jesus today and be redeemed and transformed as we pray.