

It all began with Adam

Lesson 1: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

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Man is created in God's image to:

- Be **fruitful** and **multiply** and **fill** the earth.
- Have **dominion** over all the earth

Wisdom is seen in creation in that:

- Adam and Eve were created as **rational, thinking** beings.
- Adam and Eve were created to **complement** each other.

What Makes Us Human?

The creation account explains our humanness:

- We are made in God's image.
- We are commissioned by God to take charge of the world, and to take charge of the world we must know and understand it.
- God gave us intelligence and reasoning powers that none of the animals have.

God made us capable of getting knowledge by:

- using our senses
- processing or organizing knowledge into a coherent whole

Two Sources of Knowledge

Origins of knowledge in creation narratives:

- the creation – Natural knowledge comes from what is to be found in the world around us. The evidence for the existence of God that is built into the creation is part of natural truth.



- the Creator – Supernatural knowledge comes from the spiritual world, and is beyond our ability as humans to find out. God must communicate as much of this supernatural knowledge as he wants us to have.

Supernatural Truth

God gave Adam and Eve an understanding of:

- what their task was
- how they relate to:
 - God
 - each other
 - the world

Two Realms of One Reality

- Central to the God-given, human tasks of worship and dominion is our pursuit of knowledge and truth.
- God is the source of all truth.
 - The natural realm is the reality in which we discover truth by using our senses.
 - The spiritual realm is the reality of which we are unable to discover truth by using our senses.

Spiritual vs. Natural

- There is evidence of the spiritual realm in the natural realm, but it is outside of our ability to discover this realm.
- The two realms are part of one reality and are bound up with one another.
- God determines the ultimate purpose and meaning of everything, natural and supernatural.

Real and Eternal Significance

- The real and eternal significance of each part of the creation can only be described in relation to the God who made it.
 - Empirical knowledge is understanding facts discovered by the senses.
 - Revealed knowledge is understanding facts in light of God's word.

Knowledge-Gatherers

- Human beings were intended to understand every fact discovered by the senses in the light of the word that God spoke.
 - God intended for us to be knowledge-gatherers.
 - True wisdom understands all facts in the light of the eternal truth which God must reveal.
 - Every fact that we discover with our senses is understood correctly only because we see it as a fact interpreted by God.
 - The real and eternal significance of anything is that God gives it His eternal purposes.

God's Interpretation Falsified

- An alternative reality is presented to Adam and Eve.
- Satan deliberately falsifies God's interpretation of reality.
 - God does not reveal the truth when He speaks.
 - God cannot be trusted.

God's Interpretation Rejected

- Reality is to be understood from a human-centered point of view.
- Adam and Eve take to themselves the role of the final authority in determining right and wrong.



- Rebellion against the authority of God's word becomes the hallmark of human sin.
- Humans begin seeking to understand the world and their role in it without any reference to the revelation of God in his word.
- Humans begin ignoring the author of all truth in engaging the intellectual task alone.

Two Ways to Live

- There are only two possible ways to approach the interpretation of reality: God's way or the serpent's.
- Humans were meant to be gatherers of facts in fellowship with a loving Creator who reveals by his word the ultimate meaning of all facts.
- There is no longer a partnership with the One who speaks that Word which is necessary if humanity is to know the purpose and meaning of life.
- Humans seek other explanations for the existence of evil and disruption in our world.

Where is the Meaning?

- Since Eden, the pursuit of knowledge has gone on.
- In all cultures people have reflected on and learned from their experiences.
- Humankind has sinfully interpreted the things it has learned.
- Humans have reasoned and planned and invented, and have looked for some underlying plan or order in the whole universe.
- Rebellion deep within and the deathly veil drawn over the conscience has prevented people in all ages from acknowledging their corporate guilt and offensiveness to God.

Thinking Like the Serpent

- Humans have always searched for understanding so that we as humans might better control the creation for our own good.
- Without the revelation of God received by regenerate minds, humans still think like the serpent.
- Fallen people have observed and thought and crystallized into words their ideas about their experiences.
- Memorable experiences were reflected upon passed on so as to preserve the meaning of that experience.
- The saying lived on to be applied here and there to other people's experiences.

Two Kinds of Human Existence

- Two kinds of human existence unfold in the progress of revelation:
 - The continuing growth of human wickedness as the effect of rebellion against God.
 - There is a line of people among whom God is graciously acting to restore them to fellowship with Himself.

Revelation as the Activity of God in Christ

- The Bible concentrates on the activity of God in bringing about a restoration of the human race and of the creation at large.
- The central message of Scripture is salvation through Christ, which is God acting in unconditional love to restore his creation to the right relationship with himself.
- The human story in the Bible concerns people who, in Christ, are the central objects of God's acts and revelation of salvation.
- The human story always remains secondary to the story of what God is doing in Christ.



- The Bible is a book about God first, and only then is it a book about people.

The Progress of Redemption

- The Old Testament's major saving events:
 - The Call of Abraham
 - The Exodus of Israel from Egypt
 - The Possession of Canaan
 - The Davidic Monarchy in Jerusalem
- The culture of Israel developed within the context of these major saving events, including the process of gaining knowledge about life.

The Emergence of Wisdom

The Wisdom we find in the Bible emerges:

- Within Israel's story of the quest for wisdom and knowledge.
- Between the lines of the main story of God's acts in Christ.