

EVE AND ADAM: GOD SAVES US FROM THEM

1. When did the Lord God begin existence for us? Who was the active agent?
2. Later in the creation (the “sixth day”), humans were created, both male and female. Who did the creating? In who’s likeness?
3. What are the implications of being created “in the image of God?”
4. What did Yahweh breathe into the human’s<sup>2</sup> nostrils?
5. What was the human’s responsibilities regarding animals?
6. How many trees were in the middle of the garden? From which were the human told not to eat? Why?
7. What was the purpose of creating the woman?
8. Who was greater, the original human or the wo-human made expressly by Yahweh from the human?

GENESIS 1-2

[1]In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>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.

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<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make human 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, [or *over all the wild animals*] and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created human in his own image, in the image of God He created human; male and female He created them.

<sup>28</sup>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.”

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[2]<sup>7</sup> the Yahweh the Lord God formed the human from the dust of the ground and breathed into the human’s nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being. <sup>8</sup>Now Yahweh the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the human he had formed. <sup>9</sup>And Yahweh the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

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<sup>15</sup>Yahweh the Lord God took the human and put the human in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And Yahweh the Lord God commanded the human, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

<sup>18</sup>Yahweh the Lord God said, “It is not good for the human to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for the human.”

<sup>19</sup>Now Yahweh the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the human to see what the human would name them; and whatever the human called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the human gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for the human [ah’-dahm] no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So Yahweh the Lord God caused the human to fall into a deep sleep; and while the human was sleeping, He took part of the human’s side and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then Yahweh the Lord God made a woman [woah’-ah-dahm] from the side He had taken out of the human, and He brought her to the male human. <sup>23</sup>The male human said,

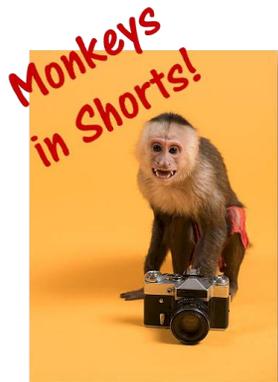
“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ [woah’-ah-dahm], for she was taken out of the human [ah’-dahm].”

<sup>24</sup>For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>The man and his wife were both naked; they felt no shame.

<sup>2</sup>The Hebrew for *man* (*adam*) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground* (*adamah*); it is also the word for which we use as a name for the male human, *Adam*.

*Wrestling with our culture: who's to blame?*

1. What's the implication of calling the serpent more naked than crafty?
2. Who created this serpent? Why?
3. How would you characterize the craftiness of Satan's question?
4. About which tree was Satan speaking?
5. Did the woman lie to the serpent?
6. Who told her not even "to touch the fruit?"
7. What are the Talmud & Midrash?<sup>3</sup> When were they first begun?
8. To what extent did the Serpent lie to the woman?
9. Why did the woman eat the fruit? And, why did the man eat the fruit?
10. Who was responsible for eating the fruit about which the Lord God Yahweh had warned?
11. Why were they ignorant of "being naked" before eating the fruit? What members of the "animal kingdom" realize they're naked?
12. Most importantly, what changed God's mind about whether the humans could stay in the garden? Why did the Lord God Yahweh change the consequences for "eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?"



GENESIS 3

Now the serpent was more crafty [Hebrew pun on "naked"] than any of the wild animals Yahweh the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>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.' "

<sup>4</sup>"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw 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 [not *ah-dahm*, but *אנושׁ enosh*, "human"], who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>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.

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<sup>21</sup>Yahweh the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife [now named "Eve"] and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And Yahweh the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." <sup>23</sup>So Yahweh the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed in front of the Garden of Eden cherubim with a flaming sword slashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

<sup>3</sup>Commentative and interpretative writings which hold a place in the Jewish religious tradition second only to the Hebrew Scriptures in the Bible (aka "Old Testament"). Learn more at <https://www.Britannica.com/topic/Talmud>