

# Lecture 3 Christ & Covenant

## Adam: A Real Historical Person?

Alfred Poirier  
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### Introduction

PCA Creation Report 2000 affirms: “We affirm ... the special creation of Adam and Eve as actual human beings, the parents of all humanity (hence they are not the products of evolution from lower forms of life).”<sup>1</sup>

### 1. Adam as Teaching Model

H. M. Kuitert: “But no matter how far we go back in history, we do not find any hint of a single, original married couple in a Garden of Eden.” “‘Adam’ is simply a story, an illustration, which served Paul by helping him preach Jesus. Jesus is Paul’s real interest, and Adam simply illuminates the meaning of Jesus Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

Peter Enns: “We are quite justified in concluding that the Adam story is not about absolute human origins ... There are all sorts of angles one can take ... *But the “Adam is Israel” angle is at the very least a very good one—and in my opinion a much better angle than seeing Adam as the first human and all humans are descended from him. Genesis does not support that reading.*”<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Is there biblical evidence for a “first man” named Adam?

A. The Question of History: Biblical Genealogies, Genesis Genealogies

B. Paucity of References to Adam

1] Jesus Affirms Adam:

Matt 19.4-6 “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ (Gen 1.27) <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’(Gen 2.24)? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Matt 19.4-6

2] Jesus’ Own Genealogy: Luke 3.23...38.

Luke 3.23, 38 He [Jesus] was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, ... v.38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

3] Paul Affirms Unity of Mankind from One Man

Acts 17.26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth...

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<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church in America Creation Study Committee, "Report of the Creation Study Committee," in *Minutes of the 28th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America* (Atlanta, GA: Office of the Stated Clerk, 2000), 119–212, page 2302, Lines 9-14.

<sup>2</sup> H. M. Kuitert, *Do You Understand What You Read?* Trans. Lewis B. Smedes, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970), 36ff

<sup>3</sup> Peter Enns, “Adam is Israel,” posted March 2, 2010. Accessed online at: <http://biologos.org/blog/adam-is-israel/>. My emphasis.

- 4] Paul: Adam & Christ as Covenant Heads  
Romans 5.14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did *Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.*
- 5] Paul: Adam & Christ Paralleled  
1 Cor 15. 45-49 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”(Gen 2.7); the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.
- 6] Paul: Creation of Adam and Eve  
1 Cor 11.8-9 “For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man.
- 7] Paul: Affirms Adam & Eve and Fall in Genesis 3  
2 Cor 11.3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.  
  
1 Tim 2.13-14 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. <sup>14</sup> And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.

### 3. Theological Implications if Denying Adam’s Historicity.

- A. No Adam, No Human Nature, Gen 1.27, 31; Eph 4.24; Col 3.10
- B. No Human Nature, No Incarnation, Heb 2.14ff; John 1.14
- C. No Adam, No Fall
- D. No Adam, No Christ, No Atonement or Resurrection

*“For that which He [Christ] has not assumed He has not healed.”*

—Gregory Nazianzus, *Epistle 101*, c.370