



From Genesis to Jesus: What can the Torah Tell Us About Christ?

session #2: **Adam and Eve Uncovered!**

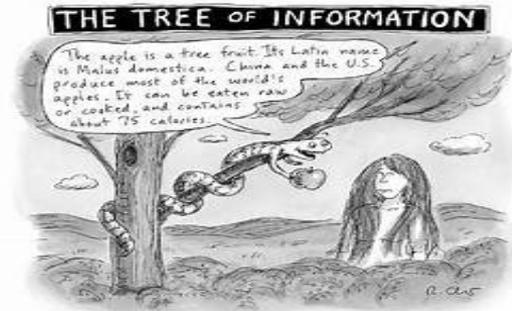
Or,
"It's all her fault" vs. "It's all his fault"



"Then God said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The good news is, the apple had zero cholesterol.'"



"I'm not sure. Fat compared to what?"



Shortest Poem in the English
Language (Allegedly):

Fleas

By Anonamous

Adam
Had'em

SHEE-ROO LA YA-WEHH,
KEE, GA-OL, GA-AH
SOUS, WA- RO- KA-- VO
RA MA, YA YAM

Amen.

Timeline of History *Years before the present*

13.5 Billion Matter & Energy appear. Beginning of Physics.

Atoms and molecules appear Beginning of chemistry.

4.5 Billion Formation of Planet Earth

3.8 Billion. Emergence of Organisms. Beginning of biology.

201 Million Jurassic Period of Dinosaurs

6 Million Last common grandmother of humans and chimpanzees

2.5 Million Evolution of genus Homo in Africa. First stone tools

2 million Hominids spread from Africa to Eurasia

500,000 Neanderthals evolve in Europe and the Middle East

300,000 Daily use of fire

200,000 Homo Sapiens evolves in East Africa*

70,000 **The Cognitive Revolution:** Emergence of Fictive Language. Beginning of "History". Sapiens spread beyond Africa. ("Tree of Knowledge" mutation?)

45,000 Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Aust. megafauna

40,000 "Lion Man" statue carved in Stadel Cave, Germany

30,000 Extinction of Neanderthals

16,000 Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.

13,000 Extinction of Homo floresiensis. Homo Sapiens the only surviving human species.

12,000 **Agricultural Revolution.** Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent settlements. Transition to grain-centered nourishment.

5,000 First Kingdoms, scripts, and money. Polytheistic religions. 60% Sapiens mal-nourished to support middle and upper classes.

From the Book of Common Prayer:

Q- What are we by nature?

A- We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.

Q- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

A- It means that we are *free* to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with God

The Priestly Creation Story

The “Source Material”: 8 Sequences

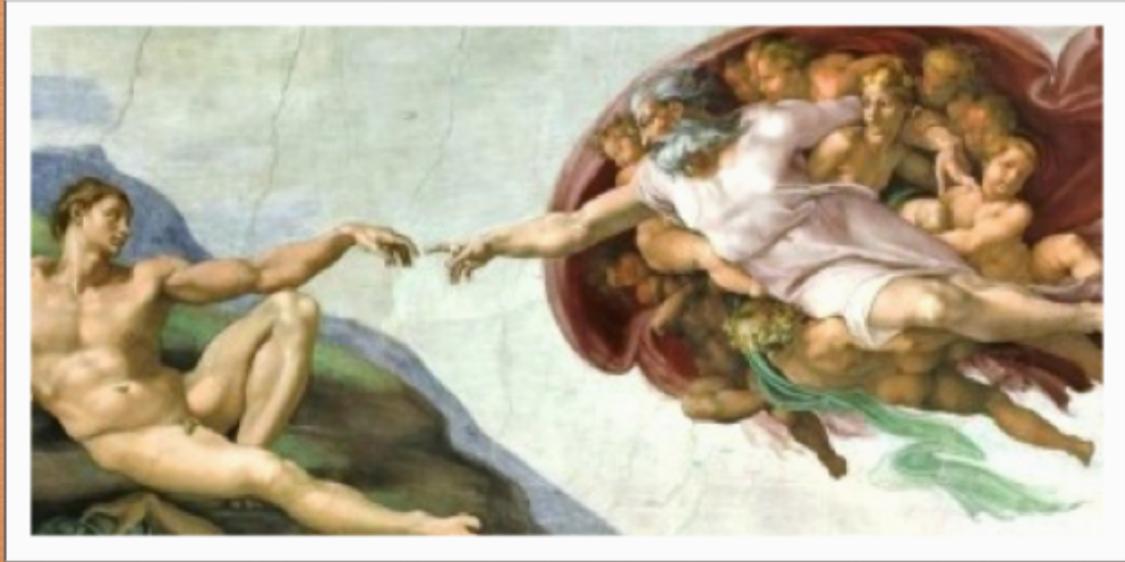
- Light from Darkness, Day & Night
- Dome: Heavens separated from Earth
- Waters from land
- Vegetation and plants
- Sun, Moon, seasons
- Fish, sea monsters, birds
- Other living creatures
- Humankind

The 6 Days of Creation

- * Day 1: Light from darkness, Day & Night
- * Day 2: Dome: Heavens separated from Earth
- * Day 3: Waters from Land/Vegetation from plants
- * Day 4: Sun & Moon, Seasons
- * Day 5: Fish, Sea Monsters, birds
- * Day 6: Other living creatures; Humankind
- * Day 7: Sabbath; God rested, hallowed 7th Day for SABBATH

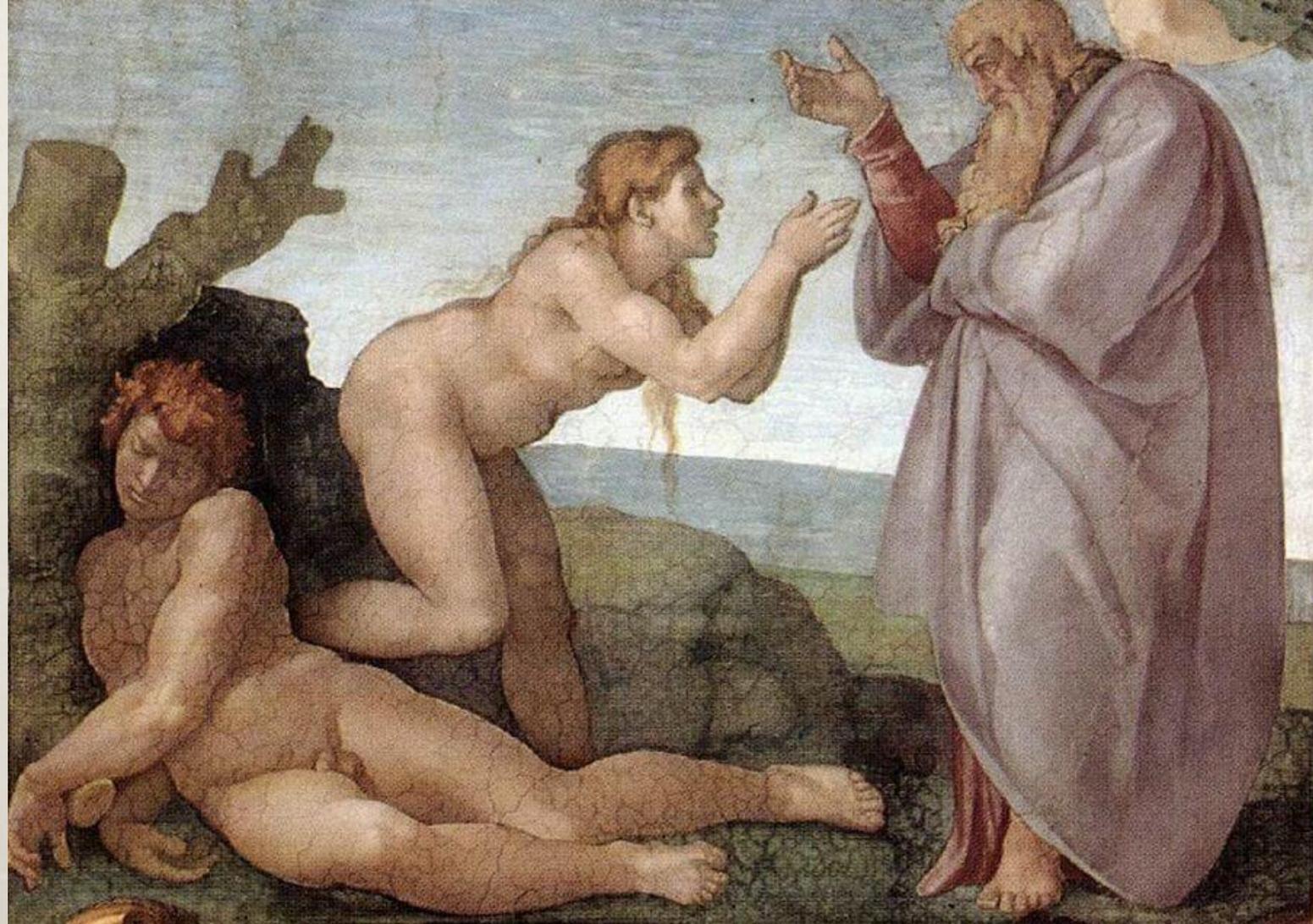
In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth, and no herb of the field had sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. (Genesis 2:4)

We believe that Scripture is a dynamic vehicle of the Holy Spirit, and so its language *invites imaginative speculation*, differences of opinion, and ultimately, insight and transformation.



The Creation of Adam









So, what does Michelangelo's depiction of Adam and Eve teach us?

1. That we were made for love. We were made out of love, and we were made for love.
2. That real love is gentle. The gentleness with which God awakens Adam is a powerful expression of how we are supposed to love. Not a forceful, 'Come here, do what I say,' but the gentle giving of ourselves. God gives of himself to awaken Adam, then Adam gives of himself to awaken Eve.
3. Finally, that real love is about redemption. That's what happens when Adam and Eve leave Eden. They learn that they are incomplete without each other.

Love is not a brief flash of pleasure. Nor is it a long, dutiful trudge. Love is an opportunity to find a situation with another person that will lead you to greater holiness. Ultimately, you're trying to build on the INSIDE what Michelangelo depicts on the OUTSIDE: two people, equal in size and stature, that with the grace of God are growing into something that's more like God, something that's very good. (p.72)



“Religion is the state of being grasped by an ultimate concern, a concern which qualifies all other concerns as preliminary and which itself contains the answer to the question of a meaning of our life.”

— Paul Tillich

The Two Great Realities of Human Life

#1. We have these thoughts, these ideals that we believe we ought to live up to.

#2. We do not live up to them.

Essence

Existence

Tillich's interpretation of the "Fall":

From "Essence"

Into "Existence"

*In Baptism, we begin the
journey to “Become Who We
Already Are”*

John Westerhoff