

IN THE BEGINNING WAS ADAM

Stories of Creation and Birth

The first five chapters of Genesis are scarcely a preface to the events that actually took place during the first thousand years of this earth's existence. They are probably the most incomplete and mysterious chapters of the Bible. Vast amounts of historical knowledge have been lost pertaining to the creation and beginning years of man and his surroundings on this earthly sphere.

The great men who lived during that time walked and talked with God, and they knew many secrets of life--many untold secrets of the universe. They must have been near to immortality, because we read that Enoch "walked with God" (Gen. 5:24) and Noah "walked with God" (Gen. 6:9). They knew the secret of long mortal lives, for during that period of time men lived to be nearly a thousand years old. Seth lived to be 912; Enos was 905; Cainan, 910; Mahalaleel, 830; Jared was 962; Methusaleh lived 969 years; Lamech, only 777; and Enoch fell behind with a mere 365 years of age. It is interesting to imagine the tremendous knowledge of these Godly men regarding the creation of earth and man, whereas now we have only a few clues.

A little further light on the creation is available from the New Testament. We read there a different story of Adam's creation, for it says he was "the son of God" (Luke 3:38)--hardly fitting the description of a man who was made like a mudball. Either the story of an adobe-man creation is symbolic, or Luke, a disciple of Christ, didn't know what he was talking about.

However, it stands to reason that Adam had a Father. Furthermore, the "fall" was planned before the creation, and Christ would make an atonement for that fall. The scriptures say that Christ was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8); therefore, his atonement was planned and instituted before the fall of man. This fall and redemption hinged upon the work of both Adam and Christ.

Only through the light of revelation can the mysteries of the ages be recovered. The suppositions, philosophical meanderings, and man-made doctrines presented by over-enthusiastic ministers today leave us more confused and in the dark than ever.

But regarding the Genesis account of creation, we need to keep in mind the type of people and conditions existing at the time Moses wrote this early portion of the Old Testament. The children of Israel were then ignorant and idolatrous and certainly not ready for the "pearls" of the real Gospel. These people were hardly capable of thinking for themselves, so Moses could give them only an abbreviated and symbolic story of the creation. This is somewhat the same as when Christian parents tell their children that a stork brought them, satisfying them for the present.

For many centuries the children of Israel had been slaves in Egypt. Their religion had been reduced to the same level as that of the Egyptians--worshipping statues and cows. It was a primitive religion, yet it still persists in India to this day. As ignorant as they were, Moses tried to give them something they could understand that would elevate their thinking about the true God. He began with the creation, and wrote Genesis in hopes they would turn from idolatry because of this new understanding of their relationship with the Creator.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.***