

The BEACON

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What Did Adam & Eve Look Like?

Dan Richardson

Recently, this question was dealt with on an email list I subscribe to. It was answered from the perspective of race. Upon further reflection of this question, it became apparent that God reveals other answers that need consideration today. What did Adam and Eve look like?

THEY LOOKED LIKE A MAN AND WOMAN.

"And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (**Gen. 1:27**). God created man said, "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a help meet for him" (**Gen. 2:18**). No such companion could be found among the animals (**vs. 20**), so God took a rib from Adam and created woman, "because she was taken out of Man" (**vs. 23**). Not questioning God's ability to make from Adam's rib anything He wanted, the simple truth remains that God made a woman for the man (cf. **1 Cor. 11:8-9; 1 Tim. 2:13**). God didn't make for Adam another man. Homosexual relationships are declared to be "against nature" (**Rom. 1:26**), and "unrighteous" (**1 Cor. 6:9-11**).

THEY LOOKED LIKE A HUSBAND AND WIFE.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (**Gen. 2:24**). With this first man and woman, God instituted marriage. Because it is of divine origin, it must be viewed as good for mankind: "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and

adulterers God will judge" (**Heb. 13:4**). Only within the bonds of marriage can a sexual relationship be pleasing to God; outside of marriage it is called fornication and adultery. Paul said, "Because of fornications, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband" (**1 Cor. 7:2**). The ungodly in society mock and ridicule marriage as old-fashioned and obsolete. Many are choosing to disregard it altogether and choose to simply "live together". But God's warning is clear concerning fornicators: "their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death" (**Rev. 21:8**).

THEY LOOKED GUILTY.

"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (**Gen. 3:11**). God had given Adam and Eve his law, forbidding them to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (**Gen. 2:16-17**). They both transgressed God's law and sinned - first Eve, and then Adam (**3:6**). Adam's response, when confronted of his sin, was to blame his wife and, by implication, God who gave her to him. When man yields to temptation resulting in sin, it is a personal choice of which he must bear the burden of guilt before God: "each man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is fullgrown, bringeth forth death" (**James 1:14-15**). Furthermore, scripture teaches that all accountable people are guilty of sin (**Rom.**

3:23). Therefore, repentance is required of all to please God (**Lk. 13:3-5; Acts 17:30**).

THEY LOOKED MODEST.

"And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them" (**Gen. 3:21**). With the entrance of sin into the world came the knowledge of their nakedness, and sense of shame, and the conscious need for clothing: "and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons" (**3:7**). God saw fit to replace their aprons with coats. The necessity for modesty was here established. Jesus later warns, "that every one that looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (**Matt. 5:28**). He also taught, "The lamp of the body is the eye ... if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness" (**Matt. 6:22-23**). The "lust of the eyes" is part of the sinful world we must not love, and learn to put away (**1 John 2:15-17**). Scripture describes those so depraved as having "eyes full of adultery" (**2 Pet. 2:14**). Paul teaches, "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety" (**1 Tim. 2:9**). One's appearance must not be guided by comfort nor fashion, but God's will. There is clearly a connection between clothing and one's morality.

THEY LOOKED LIKE A FATHER AND MOTHER.

Because God created the woman for the man, and because of the institution of marriage, Adam and Eve were blessed with children (**Gen. 4:1-2**). Being parents is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to us: "Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be put to shame, when they speak with their enemies in the gate" (**Psa. 127:3-5**). God's wisdom includes both a father and mother for bringing up children, and

they both are responsible as parents. A tragedy of divorce, often not considered, is the devastation felt by children who are involved. Parents should seek God's guidance in the Bible for this awesome task: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and even when he is old he will not depart from it" (**Prov. 22:6**). Again, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord" (**Eph. 6:4**). It doesn't take a village to raise children; it takes their father and mother.

Speaking as Oracles of God

by John M. Duvall

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different religious groups in the world today? The answer is simple. Some people do not understand what it means to speak as oracles. The same reason applies as to why there are differences among certain churches of Christ. An enormous amount of damage has been caused by people not speaking as oracles.

Peter gives the admonition to speak as an oracle of God. "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God." (**1 Pet. 4:11, NKJV**) **1 Peter 4:11** "warns that the teacher of Christian truths must speak as one who utters oracles of God—a message from God and not his own opinions." (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary) The word oracle is translated from the Greek word *logion* and means, "a diminutive of *logos*, 'a word, narrative, statement,' denotes 'a divine response or utterance, an oracle'; it is used of... (d) the utterances of God through Christian teachers, **1 Pet. 4:11**." (Vine's)

To speak as an oracle of God is a very demanding responsibility. In order to speak as an oracle of God, you must make certain that you have book, chapter, and verse for what you are teaching. Unfortunately, there have been several who have not taken this teaching very seriously. Because some have forsaken their responsibility to speak as an oracle of God, we have before us today many

differing religious beliefs. Consider one very simple illustration. To speak as an oracle of God would be to teach that if one believes and is baptized, he will be saved. (Read **Mark 16:16**) Many have rejected this simple teaching.

Consider another example of others forsaking this sacred duty of speaking where the Bible speaks. The 1904 Methodist Discipline reads, "No divorce, except for adultery, shall be regarded by the Church as lawful; and no Minister shall solemnize marriage in any case where there is a divorced wife or husband living; but this rule shall not be applied to the innocent party to a divorce for the cause of adultery, nor to divorced parties seeking to be reunited in marriage." (paragraph 66, pg 55) This seems to be in line with **Matthew 5:32** and **19:9**. Now, let us take notice of a big change in belief. In the 1972 "Book of Discipline", you will find, "In marriages where the partners are, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce and the right of divorced persons to remarry,..." (Para. 72, pg 85-86)

Did you notice the change? Unfortunately, I do not know what the most current "Book of Discipline" says on this matter. However, this 1972 change is a good example of people departing from the practice of speaking as oracles of God. Anytime a religious group denies a Bible teaching or adds a teaching to the Bible, then they are not speaking as oracles of God.

Within some churches of Christ some have abandoned the practice of speaking as oracles. In order for a local church to establish authority for itself, it must consider any commands, examples, and inferences referring to the work of the local church. These commands, examples, and inferences must all be viewed as oracles. Sadly, some have chosen not to view all necessary examples as oracles, but simply guidelines. Allow me to give you a simple illustration. In **Acts 11:27-30**, we see a specific example of the saints in Antioch taking up a collection to send to Jerusalem to aid the

***** IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
REGARDING THE
BEACON *****

During the past few months the Beacon's mailing list has been corrupted, lost and replaced, due in most part from trying to change formats from an Access Data Base to a standard Excel Data Base. With all these changes and modifications a lot of names have been lost, names that have been asked to be removed have once again been added and several names have been added to the list who have not specifically asked for the bulletin. I want to take this opportunity to express my apologies to those who have received this bulleting in error and those who have not received this bulletin over the past several months.

This is where I need your help.

**IF YOU WANT TO
CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
THE BEACON - PLEASE CUT
OUT THIS BOX AND MAIL IT
BACK TO US.**

- **Yes, Continue To send the Beacon.**

- **No thank you, PLEASE remove my name from the list.**

I will run this for **2 MONTHS ONLY** after that anyone who has not replied will not be in the 3rd Months publication. Please cut on center line!

needy saints. The text reads, "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea." (**Acts 11:29**, NKJV)

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ST JAMES CHURCH RD. AND GLENDALE AVE.
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EVANGELIST: JOHN CRIPPS
OFFICE PHONE: (828) 465-3009

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Some teachers and preachers have taken this example and turned it into "another example." Some say that this is an example of one church sending money to another church for the elders to do with as they please. However, the text clearly shows a purpose behind the sending of money. The true example, the oracle, shows us that one congregation can send money to another congregation if the money is for the purpose of helping needy saints. Nothing else can be pulled from this passage.

The question that you must ask yourself is this: When you speak of Bible things, do you speak as an oracle of God? Do you accurately represent what the word of God has to say? I have given you three examples of how people, even members of the church, have ceased to speak as the oracles of God. Please take it upon yourself to study faithfully the Word of God so that you will be able to speak only as the Bible speaks.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



In our adult bible study class we have just begun a study of the "Beatitudes". This is a study designed to challenge us in our understanding of the Scriptures and to see how valuable an application can be made from the Sermon on the Mount. Here are just a few thoughts from the first lesson.

The Jews used beatitudes to express the way to happiness, the attitude or character that brings the good life. Forty-five beatitudes occur in the Old Testament (e.g., **Deut. 33:29; Psa. 1:1-2; 2:12; 32:1-2; 40:4; 119:1-2; 127:5; 146:5-7; Prov. 8:34**). The majority of these Hebrew beatitudes are found in the Psalms and are meant to teach and exhort the hearer in the proper conduct by promising that certain conduct will result in blessedness. A well known example of an Old Testament beatitude is found in the opening Psalm, the first three verses of which make up the beatitude, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat

of the scornful . . ." (**Psa. 1:1**).

Bible Study 9:30am

Worship 11:00am

Bible Study 7:00pm