

The Most Difficult Thing for American Bible Readers to Understand

The First Story in Genesis

By Jim Myers

Vocabulary Words

ADAM (ah-dahm)

Primary Guideline

My belief system will be large enough to include all facts, open enough to be questioned and examined, flexible enough to change if errors or new facts are discovered.

Linguistic Model

A word consists of symbols or sounds with an attached bundle of associations that provides meanings. The associations were acquired through the source's life experiences, beginning with culture.

First Goal

Discover the Source's (writer or speaker) meanings of words first.

Until I learned how to “stay in the box” and “let the ancient Hebrew text tell its own story,” I viewed the first story in my Bible as “The Creation of the Universe.” But when we – Dr. Ike Tennison, Rabbi Jeffrey Leynor and I – did those two things, the ancient Hebrew text revealed that it is a story about “The God That Wanted a Kingdom” -- which was the subject of my previous email. Take a moment to think. How does changing the title of the first story in Genesis affect how you view the story?

The Creation of the Universe

The God that Wanted a Kingdom

How does changing the word “universe” to “kingdom” affect you? Science has made it very clear that “universe” is a term that is beyond the ability of humans to understand. For American readers of the story today, the ancient meaning of **ADAM** is also beyond our comprehension. The reason that we can't understand what **ADAM** means is that our brains have a belief model which emerged in Germany in the early 16th century CE. The source of the belief model was Martin Luther and it was embedded in the new religion he created – Protestantism. The vast majority of members of the founding generation of the United States of America had been strongly influenced by Protestantism.

*The **ADAM** in the Creator's Kingdom is a human collective.*

The United States of America is a nation of individuals.

The importance of the statements above can be summed up in two ways of thinking:

*It's all about US.
It's all about ME.*

Now, let's take another look at the story about “*The God that Wanted a Kingdom*.” **ADAM** is an entity that consists of “1 male and 1 female human.”

*1 male human is NOT ADAM.
1 female human is NOT ADAM.*

Our English translations tell us that the first thing the god in Genesis created is “light.” The Hebrew word translated “light” has the following meanings attached to it – *light, the light of life, and enlightenment*. In this context, it means “*the light of life*.” Why did the god create the light of life first? *Because it is the basic requirement for **ADAM** to exist!*

Why did the Creator create the “solid dome-like structure,” named “**heaven**”? **ADAM** requires dry ground (named “**earth**”) to exist. Without the solid dome, *dry ground would not exist*. Without the solid dome, the sun, moon, and stars would not exist to provide the lights that the ADAM requires.

The dry ground brought forth an earth-soul for ADAM and the dry ground caused the foods to sprout that ADAM requires to survive – *grasses, larger plants, and fruit trees*. Are you beginning to see how the Creator viewed **ADAM**?

*All of the actions of the Creator in the first story are related to **ADAM**.*

A point that I repeatedly stress in these emails is “*the Creator uses the **TOV Standard** to measure the things that It created or made*.” The **TOV Standard** is about **ADAM**.

*Protecting and preserving **ADAM**, making **ADAM** more functional, and increasing the quality of life of **ADAM**.*

It meant the following to members of the ancient audience:

*Protecting and preserving **OUR** lives, making **OUR** lives more functional, and increasing the quality of **OUR** lives.*

For most modern readers today it is:

*Protecting and preserving **MY** life, making **MY** life more functional, and increasing the quality of **MY** life.*

“**Individualism**” is a very popular and addictive belief model, but it is pure fiction. *All individuals are embedded in human collectives; without those collectives – individuals would not exist or survive.*

- *The DNA in every individual came from two other people -- a male and female.*
- *Without other people, every newborn would die within a very short time.*
- *Without other people, how would you get all of the basic requirements of life?*

I will close by leaving you with this linguistic fact to ponder:

The idea of individual salvation does not exist in the Bible of the Jewish Jesus or his teachings.