

# THE PURPOSE & MEANING OF LIFE

## From Creation to the Cross

By Ken Ham

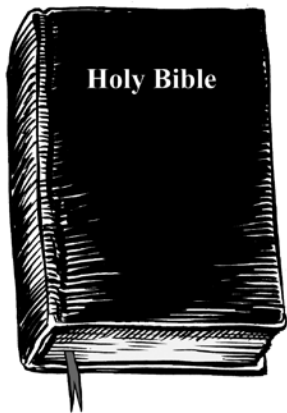
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**T**he only compilation of books in the world that gives a detailed history that enables us to fully comprehend the purpose and meaning of life is God's Word, the Bible.

Over three thousand times the Bible claims to be the revealed Word of the God who created the universe and all life, and who has made himself known to man. If this book really is God's Word, then it should explain the meaning of the universe and life—and it does.

Not only that, but observational science

continues to confirm the Bible's history as true. (See the inside back cover of this booklet for a list of other booklets in our series on the accuracy and authority of the Bible.)



Genesis (which basically means “origins”), the first book of the Bible, gives an account of the origin of life and the universe. It tells of the origin of matter, light, earth, sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, humans, marriage, clothing, death, languages, nations, and so on.

In Genesis 1:27 and 2:7, we read of the creation of the first man called “Adam.” Interestingly, in 1 Corinthians 15:45, the one born in Bethlehem is called “the last

Adam.” To understand the reason for the “last Adam,” you have to understand what happened to the “first Adam.”

## **The First Adam**

The Bible records that on the sixth day of creation, God made the first man and woman:

So God created man in His own image;  
in the image of God He created him;  
male and female He created them  
(Genesis 1:27).

We read more of the details concerning the creation of the first man in Genesis 2:7:

And the LORD God formed man  
[Adam] of the dust of the ground, and  
breathed into his nostrils the breath of  
life; and man became a living being.

We are later told in Genesis 2:21–23 that God created the first woman from the first Adam’s side. From elsewhere in the Bible, we learn that all humans who have ever



*In this scene depicted in the Creation Museum, the first couple are about to be tempted.*

lived descended from these two people (Genesis 3:20, Acts 17:26, etc.). Therefore, all humans today are related because we have the same first ancestors.

### **God's Instruction**

When God created Adam, He didn't make him to be a puppet; Adam had the ability to

choose and make decisions. God gave Adam an instruction to obey in Genesis 2.

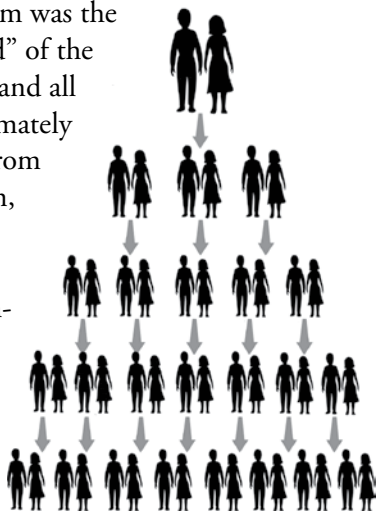
Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:15–17).

### **Adam’s Fall**

Adam, however, chose to disobey God by eating the fruit of the one tree God had told him not to eat from (Genesis 3:6).



Because Adam was the first or “head” of the human race and all humans ultimately have come from this first man, what Adam did affected all of humanity. When Adam disobeyed his Creator’s instruction



(resulting in his “fall” from his state of perfection), that was the first sin. And just as God had warned, the punishment for Adam’s sin was death—not only for Adam, but for all his descendants (including you and me) as well:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned (Romans 5:12).

Why are we punished for what Adam did? As the head of the human race, Adam represented each of us and because we all come from Adam, we have his nature, inherited from him. He sinned (disobeyed God), so we sin (disobey God). If it had been any of us faced with the decision to eat or not eat from the forbidden tree instead of Adam, the result would have been the same.

### **Oh! The Nakedness**

After Adam and Eve sinned, Genesis 3:7 states that “they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”



In sewing fig coverings, it wasn't just that they recognized that they had no outer clothing—they also saw that they were destitute of righteousness. Their innocence was lost. Adam and Eve were no longer perfect but were now polluted creatures in their hearts and their flesh. They were naked before the justice of God's law, and the fig leaves were attempts to cover what they had done.

However, no man or woman can hide their sinfulness from the sight of a holy God by their own doings. God sees us in *all* our nakedness and knows our impure, sinful, rebellious hearts.

The Bible says our attempts at covering ourselves (our “righteousness”) are but “filthy rags” to the Creator (Isaiah 64:6). No ceremonies, rites, or attempts at keeping the law can change this. Our works cannot take away our sin because our hearts are impure (Jeremiah 17:9). We cannot make ourselves acceptable before a holy, pure God



because of the gross imperfection of our very nature—just as Adam and Eve’s fig-leaf coverings could not help them.

How can we ever be reconciled with a holy God? This is an important question since we are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and as such, even though our bodies die because of sin, our soul (the “real us” that inhabits our bodies) lives forever. As sinners, we can’t live with a holy and righteous God, nor can we make it to heaven by our own works—we would be separated from God forever and live in our evil, sinful states for eternity. What a horrible existence that would be.

As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 7:24, “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

### **The Promise of the “Last Adam”**

In Genesis 3:15, God made a statement that actually sums up the message of the entire

Bible and provided hope to Adam and Eve and their descendants (us!) that there was a way to be saved from the effects of sin. This declaration summarizes what Christ's earthly ministry was all about; in fact, it is the whole meaning of why we celebrate "Christmas":

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

What does this mean?

Genesis 22:18 gives us further clues about the identity of the promised "seed" of the woman who will bruise the head of the serpent:

And in your *seed* all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; because you have obeyed My voice. [emphasis added]

And Paul clarifies things in Galatians 3:16:

Now to Abraham and his *Seed* were the promises made. He does not say,

“And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.  
[emphasis added]

Paul builds upon the use of the singular “seed” in Genesis 22:18. Here we see the extent of the infallibility of Scripture, down to the use of singular and plural words.

The words “her seed” are actually a prophecy concerning the One who, conceived by God



*Eve is “with child” in this Creation Museum diorama, watching her husband Adam work the ground.*

Himself, would be born of a woman (actually a “virgin”): the baby who was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago—the last Adam.

### **The “Head” and the “Heel” of Genesis 3:15**

It is a great mystery to fallible, created human beings like us that the Creator God (Colossians 1:16) became flesh (John 1:14) so that as a perfect Man, He could become “sin for us” (2 Corinthians 5:21) by dying

on a cross to suffer the penalty for sin (the meaning of “bruise his heel”). But, because He is the infinite Creator, He has ultimate power, and thus He rose from the dead, overcoming the Curse.



“Bruising the serpent’s head” speaks of the mortal wound Satan received through Christ’s victory over him at Calvary. He is a defeated foe. His operation now is like the pockets of Japanese soldiers of World War II fighting after the surrender in August 1945—they could still instill casualties and do much harm, but they could not win the war.

Jesus came to take away sin and conquer the power of the grave—death.

### **Clothed by God**

God illustrated what needed to be done to Adam and Eve by a particular act. In Genesis 3:21 we read:

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD  
God made tunics of skin, and clothed  
them.

God killed at least one animal—the first blood sacrifice—to provide the garments as a covering for their sin. It was a picture



of what was to come in Jesus, who is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

It is only the covering provided by God which can cover man’s “filthy rags.” The righteousness that enables a sinner to stand “just” in the sight of God is from God. No human being can put on the righteousness of Christ, for this can only be done by God (1 Corinthians 1:30). We can’t rely on our

good works (our “aprons of fig leaves”) or on sacraments (e.g., communion, baptism) to stand just before God. It is only what God does for us that enables us to be clean before our Creator.

## **How Can We Be Clothed?**

Now, if it is only God who is able to clothe us in righteousness, how can we obtain that clothing?

The Bible makes it very clear in Romans 10:9:

. . . that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

When we acknowledge that we are sinners before God, repent of our sin and confess the Lord Jesus, acknowledging that He died and rose from the dead, we receive the free

gift of salvation from our Creator and will spend eternity with Him.

## The Two Adams

The first Adam gave life to all his descendants. The last Adam, Jesus Christ, communicates “life” and “light” to all men, and gives eternal life to those who receive Him and believe on His name—giving them “the right to become children of God” (see John 1:1–14).

The first Adam experienced the judg-

Jesus Christ  
“The Last Adam”  
1 Corinthians 15:45



For as in Adam all die,  
even so in Christ shall  
all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22



“The First Adam”  
1 Corinthians 15:45



ment of God. He eventually died and his body turned to dust. Because of his sin, death came upon all men, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

The last Adam, Jesus Christ, also experienced the judgment of God—not for His own sins (He lived a perfect life), but for the sins of mankind. He died on the Cross to atone for sin (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9). But He did not stay dead, nor did His body “see corruption” (Acts 2:27; 13:35–37). On the third day, He rose again, thereby overcoming the devil and the power of death for all people who believe in Him (Hebrews 2:14), and bringing resurrection from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:22–23).

This is the message of the Babe born in Bethlehem. It starts with the creation of a perfect world, and then, because of our sin in Adam, leads to our need of a Savior—



*The Last Adam theater in the Creation Museum.*

which is why Jesus stepped into history to become flesh 2,000 years ago.

### **What Is Happening to Today's Culture?**

Throughout the world, generations of young people are being educated in schools, colleges and by the media with evolutionary ideas about our origins.

Sadly, they are being brainwashed into believing that the history in Genesis concerning the first Adam and the entrance of

sin is not true. Logically then, they begin rejecting the truth of the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

If the history in Genesis concerning our origins is not true, and if there really is no absolute authority, then there is no ultimate purpose and meaning in life.

The erosion of Christianity in society is directly linked to the attack on the history of Genesis and the increasing indoctrination in



*In this striking room in the Creation Museum, guests are shown the connection between evolutionary thinking and some of the social ills of our day.*

a false history that has permeated the culture: that man is a result of millions of years of evolutionary processes.

The message of the two Adams is what life is all about. But if we want people to understand this message, we need to ensure that we show them clearly that the history in Genesis is true, for otherwise, they will not fully understand or listen to the Christian message.

## HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS

Answers in Genesis seeks to give glory and honor to God as Creator, and to affirm the truth of the biblical record of the real origin and history of the world and mankind.

Part of this real history is the bad news that the rebellion of the first man, Adam, against God's command brought death, suffering, and separation from God into this world. We see the results all around us. All of Adam's descendants are sinful from conception (Psalm 51:5) and have themselves entered into this rebellion (sin). They therefore cannot live with a holy God, but are condemned to separation from God. The Bible says that "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23) and that all are therefore subject to "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thesalonians 1:9).

But the good news is that God has done something about it. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Jesus Christ the Creator, though totally sinless, suffered, on behalf of mankind, the penalty of mankind’s sin, which is death and separation from God. He did this to satisfy the righteous demands of the holiness and justice of God, His Father. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice; He died on a cross, but on the third day, He rose again, conquering death, so that all who truly believe in Him, repent of their sin, and trust in Him (rather than their own merit), are able to come back to God and live for eternity with their Creator.

Therefore: “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

Jesus Christ, the baby in Bethlehem . . .  
what a wonderful Savior . . . and what a  
wonderful salvation in Christ our Creator!

Please see the back cover for our contact  
information, or contact a Bible-believing  
church in your area, where the pastor  
accepts the accuracy and authority of the  
Bible from its very first verse in Genesis  
(including the Genesis accounts of a recent  
creation and a global Noah's Flood).



# CREATION MUSEUM

Prepare to believe.

The Creation Museum presents a “walk through history.” Designed by a former Universal Studios exhibit director, this state-of-the-art 70,000 square foot museum brings the pages of the Bible to life while providing a fully engaging, sensory experience for guests.

Murals and realistic scenery, computer-generated visual effects, dozens of exotic animals, life-sized people and dinosaur animatronics, and a special-effects theater complete with misty sea breezes and rumbling seats are just some of the impressive exhibits that everyone in your family will enjoy.

For ticket and exhibit information, visit [creationmuseum.org](http://creationmuseum.org).  
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