

Episode: God and His Family No. 02

Narrator: Adam

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 2:4 – 3:24

Story Summary: The importance of knowing God

Location: East of the Garden of Eden

Time: In the time of Adam and Eve

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 3:6

Genesis 2:5 says that after the Lord God made the earth and heavens there wasn't any plant life, and strongly suggests God did not let plant life grow until there was someone to work it. That is seemingly one of the reasons God made Adam, as described in Genesis 2:7. Thereafter, in Genesis 2:8, God plants the garden in Eden. In Genesis 2:15, God places Adam in the Garden to work it and take care of it. After that, God has Adam name all the animals, God creates Eve, and the serpent deceives Eve and Adam.

There is no indication of the number of days, years, centuries or eons that Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. The indication in Genesis 3:8 is that it was common for God to walk in the garden and be with Adam and Eve. The high likelihood that Adam and Eve had a close relationship with God is reflected in Luke 3:38 where it says Adam was the son of God. The Bible does not give any indication of the type of relationship Adam and Eve had with the serpent.

When the serpent deceived Eve, Adam was standing by her side. He did not say anything or do anything to keep Eve from being disobedient to God. He did nothing to show that he trusted God or wanted to be obedient to him. Adam and Eve were easily tempted by the serpent.

Apparently, Adam and Eve did not know God well enough to trust and obey him. They wanted to have their desire met more than they wanted to obey God. The serpent made it easy for them to have what they wanted by misrepresenting the penalty involved. If they had known God better, they would have realized he would keep his word. So, they did experience a death, a spiritual death.

The person who knows God the best is Jesus. He was with the Father before time existed. Jesus pointed out several times the importance of knowing God. Near the time of his death, he prayed to God and said, "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." (John 17:3)

There is no doubt that Christians are to study, read and know the Bible. Unfortunately, this emphasis can sometimes lead to the action of knowing *about* the Bible. Similarly, it can be easy to slip into only knowing *about* God, rather than entering into a relationship with God. Perhaps that is what Jesus was alluding to when he questioned Philip in John 14:9, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?"

This is especially an issue for people of the Americas and Western Europe who grow up with a Western mindset that emphasizes the importance of scientific knowledge and factual evidence rather than the importance of relationship. Adam and Eve didn't need more accurate information. They just needed to rely on trusting in God.