

The Nature and Character of God, the Creator. – Elizabeth Jordaen

God's intention with creation was always to have a relationship with humans.

- "For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]" (Eph.1:5 AMP)
- God loved the world (humans) (Joh.3:16)
- God demonstrated His love for us while we were yet sinners (Rom.5:8)
- God is rich in mercy and great love (Eph.2:4)
- God manifested His love for us by sending his Son (1Joh.4:9)

God loves people and He wants people to love Him.

For this love relationship, God created humans in His image and likeness, and gave them the earth as their home (Ps.115:16). The Garden of Eden was the centre of that home, a place where heaven and earth met, where God fellowshiped with Adam. The loving care and special attention God demonstrated when He sculpted Adam's body from the clay of the earth, and breathed the breath of life into Adam's nostrils, testify of the great love in His heart for this very special creature, the one who would bear His image and likeness. No other created being in heaven or earth was made in the image and likeness of God. No angel or animal had this privilege. The care with which God prepared a home in the Garden for Adam, is another testimony of His love.

God also expressed His love for Adam by naming him (Gen.5:2). Giving someone a name, indicates the type of relationship one has with that person. It expresses ownership, value, meaning and purpose of a relationship, and also reveals a claim that the person belongs to you.

- "...I have called you by your name; You are Mine." (Isa.43:1)

Adam's name means "red earth", an apt description of Adam and indicating that he had an earthly body, not a heavenly one like the angels. His body was made of red clay "from the earth". The red clay God used for Adam's body was rich in Iron. This iron-rich soil makes up a large component of the earth's crust. A most amazing thing is that our bodies have two iron-rich proteins that enable us to be alive. Haemoglobin in our red blood cells carries oxygen to our cells, and myoglobin, a protein in our muscles and heart supplies oxygen so that our body can move and function and makes our hearts pump blood. The red colour of our blood and muscles shows that we have the same bodies as Adam, and that God made our earthly bodies with the ability to be alive.

- "For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance" (Psalm 139:13-16)

The Hebrew word for God is Elohim, the plural of Eloah. It means "the Mighty" or "the Supreme" and refers to God's power and authority as Creator of the heavens and the earth.

- "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (divine nature and supremacy), so that they are without excuse," (Rom.1:20)

Adam knew God as Elohim, as did all the people living before the Flood and afterwards. It was only much later that God revealed more of Himself to Abraham and Moses.

God ordained Adam as the ruler of the earth (Gen.1:26,28), and blessed him to fulfil his task:

- Be fruitful.
- Multiply.
- Replenish and fill the earth.
- Subdue the earth.
- Have dominion over all the fish, the birds, and animals.
- Eat any seed-bearing plant or fruit.
- But...do not eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The day you eat of it, you shall die.
- Tend and keep the Garden.

Adam set about his task. God brought all the animals to Adam to see what he should name it. Adam named every animal, and that simple act, established him as their master and ruler. And whatever name Adam called the animals, that was their name. Adam, however, did not find an earthly companion for himself. God recognised Adam's loneliness, put Adam to sleep and performed an operation on him. God took a rib from Adam's side and built a female Adam whom He brought to Adam after he woke up. Adam was enraptured by this new creature that looked exactly like him, and he immediately named her – woman – for, he said, she was taken from man, and she is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh. There was a profound mystery hidden in this act of God, a mystery so deep that it would take the death of the Son of God to reveal it.

God's love for Adam was expressed every day as God came to fellowship with him in the garden (Gen.3:8). Both Job and David described it so beautifully:

- "What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him, that You should visit him every morning...?" (Job 7:17-18)
- "What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?" (Psalm 8:4)

But the deepest depths of God's love were revealed on that most awful day in the Garden, when Elohim arrived for his fellowship with Adam, and Adam was not there to meet Him. God's grief-stricken cry still echoes through time:

- "Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (Gen.3:9)

We as humans cannot fathom the deep love that God has for us as humans, and his deep longing for fellowship with us. The Bible is full of God's thoughts about humans. He has set his heart on us! He waits for us every day to fellowship with Him. He has made it easier by giving us His Son, and His Holy Spirit. The only thing that we have to do, is show up for fellowship. Is it asked too much that you set aside regular time to spend just with Him, for Him, about Him, not about your needs, your business, your ministry, or even your work? Let us do it right now.

PRAYER: Father, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, Elohim, Creator of heaven and earth, my Creator. Here I am to fellowship with You. I love You. I give You my heart. It is my desire to know You.