

CREATION

- The Creation account in the book of Genesis is more poetry than prose.
- The six days finishing with the Sabbath represents that of the Jewish working week.
- The author definitely intends to tell his fellow Jews that they must rest on the Sabbath just as God Himself is pictured as doing.
- What the author of the Creation account has in mind is not science but theology. He speaks of the world in non-scientific language.
- When the author of Genesis wrote this account the Israelites were living in the heart of very pagan surroundings in Babylon. (500 - 600 BC) The Babylonians also had a creation account in their literature. The author of Genesis was influenced by their stories.
- In the second chapter of the Book of Genesis tells us about the creation of man and woman. It is full of figurative language and symbolism. It's not that we are being told whimsical fairy

tales but that the author is teaching profound truths and humans in vivid and colourful language.

- There seems to be a circus like parade of animals before Adam. He names them as they pass but he finds none similar to himself. This was to teach us that man is Lord of the animal world and that he is the only rational animal.
- The garden is important because, for the Israelites it means wealth and happiness. The Garden of Eden represents the idyllic state of Man, before sin enters the world. It also shows man in terms of an easy and gracious familiarity with God. Man speaks with God directly.
- The serpent represents 'evil' - probably because the Canaanites used serpents in the crude fertility rites. Also serpents were crafty and dangerous. The serpent represents forces which are hostile to god.
- The 'sin' of our first parents was primarily that of Pride. The serpent told them they would be like gods knowing good from evil.

- The temptation was for man to live his life without reference to God. Man, himself, would decide what is good and evil and could be His own God.
- Man was seduced into claiming for himself moral autonomy, and thereby trapped into renouncing his proper role as creature.
- Isn't this the root of all our sins as well? By the way there is no mention that the 'forbidden fruit' was an apple.
- Satan had promised them knowledge; now they have it but it is not what they expected. Before the sin the bible tells us 'they were naked but not ashamed'.
- After the sin they cover themselves up with fig leaves. Love could easily turn to lust i.e. they could use each other for their own selfish pleasure. Hence they cover up. Man now tries to hide from God and sees Him as a threat, no longer a friend.
- The basic message of Genesis 1-3 is that everything made by God is good, because God is good.
- All the ills of man arise from man's own errors. He abuses his freedom. Man and man alone was responsible for sundering that bond of friendship and in succumbing to the Serpent the 'grim reaper' enters the stage of human history. A dark shadow it also cast over the whole of creation.
- But even in the Book of Genesis God promises a saviour or a 'second Adam' who would undo the work of Satan, destroy Death and set man on the right path towards the new Paradise of Heaven.