

Kids' Chronicle

Adam and Eve disobey God

BY JOE SARNICOLA

God looked at the world he had created and he was pleased. It was full of light and of life. There was the sun for the daytime and the moon for night. The seas were filled with fish, birds flew in the new skies, and on land were animals and plants of many kinds. And in a place in the east was a garden, the most beautiful thing God had yet made.

But something was missing. God scooped up a handful of clay from the ground and formed it into a shape that was fashioned after his own likeness. "Man," he said.

Then he breathed on the form and it became alive.

God held out his hand and the man stood up.

"Your name is Adam," God said. "Rise and look around you. Everything you see I have made, and I give it to you."

"My only desire is to please my God who has made me," the man answered.

"You are to take care of this beautiful garden," God said. "You may eat from any tree in it except one. In the center of the garden is a tree of knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of the fruit of that tree, surely your death will be the result."

"I will not eat of that tree," Adam promised.

Then God decided it was not good for the man to be alone, so he commanded



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

him to sleep.

Adam fell into a deep sleep and God removed one of the man's ribs and formed a woman to be his partner. And he named the woman "Eve."

Now in the garden also lived a most cunning serpent. He said to the woman, "Has God told you not to eat from this tree?"

"He has."

"It is because you will be like him if you eat its fruit," the serpent said. "You will not die."

So the woman looked at the colorful fruit and she ate it. It was delicious. Then she went to Adam.

Bible Accent

After God had created the earth, he made a beautiful garden and gave Adam the responsibility of caring for it.

God made only one request of Adam, that he not eat fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

However, Adam was tempted and he chose to disobey God. Adam's disobedience is what the church calls "original sin," and as a result, all people thereafter were affected by this sin.

The word "eden" may have come from an ancient Hebrew word that meant pleasure or happiness, or a Sumerian word that meant fertile plain or field. Many biblical scholars and archaeologists believe the Mesopotamian region was a model for the garden described in the Bible.

St. Valentine

The mere mention of the name of St. Valentine brings to mind hearts, candy, Valentine cards and love. But the saint for whom Valentine's Day is named may have been one of two people, and the stories of both men are difficult to verify.

Another possibility is that the two people named Valentine may actually be one and the same person. One man was a doctor and priest in early Rome who lost his life as a Christian martyr around the year 269. The other was supposedly a bishop who lived near Rome, and who also was killed because of his faith.

Our concept of Valentine's Day as a day of romance is based on an ancient belief that birds selected their mates on Feb. 14. Regardless of the origin of the legends, St. Valentine is the patron saint of people in love, and we honor him on Feb. 14.

"Taste it," she said. "See, I am not dead."

Adam ate the fruit. Then immediately both of them were ashamed.

"God has not clothed us," they said.

They made garments out of fig leaves and hid when they heard God calling them. God was angry.

"You let the serpent trick you and you ate from the tree," God said. "From now on the serpent will crawl on its belly and the two of you and all who come after you will be banished from my garden. With hard work, you will have to toil for whatever you need."

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Genesis 2 & 3

Q&A

1. Out of what material was the man created?
2. What did God tell Adam and Eve not to do?



Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) answering this question:

How might the world be different today if Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God?

Send your essay - including name, home address, telephone number, school and grade - to **Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624**. Deadline for entries is Feb. 18, 1999. The winner will be notified and receive the savings bond by mail. In addition, the winner's essay will be published in the *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was **Muriel Paige Petersheim**, a second-grade student at St. Josaphat's School in West Irondequoit. In response to the question **Like Jesus and St. Angela Merici, we all lose people we care about. Who have you lost in your life and how has your faith helped you to deal with losing that person?** she wrote:

"I lost my Uncle Matt on October 30, 1998. He went to Heaven because he had brain cancer. I was very sad when he passed away. I prayed that my Uncle was happy and safe. I felt God heard my prayers because I felt lots of peace that my Uncle was with God and his brother Joe and God made them both angels with eternal life to watch over me and my twin brother and my whole family. Now I am happy that my Uncle Matt is an angel!"

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Puzzle

The book of Genesis contains the stories of some of the most famous Bible characters. Cross out the names in the list below of the four people whose stories are NOT told in Genesis. *Answers on page 3.*

Adam Paul Noah John Abraham
Stephen Lot Timothy Isaac Jacob

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