

The Adam Cycle (Genesis 1:1-6:8)
Genesis: The Foundations of Our Faith – Adult Sunday School
March 10, 2024

1. Review

2. Opening Prayer

3. Introduction

4. The Structure of the Adam Cycle (Gen. 1:1-6:8)

A. Creation of the Heavens and the Earth (1:1-2:3)

B. “These are the Generations of the Heavens and the Earth” (2:4-4:26)

1. Narrative: The Fall of Adam and Its Generational Consequences (2:4-4:16)

- a. The Creation and Fall of Adam and Eve (2:4-3:24)
- b. The Fall of Cain (4:1-16)

2. Genealogies (4:17-26)

- a. Genealogy of the Seed of the Serpent (Cain) (4:17-24)
- b. Genealogy of the Seed of the Woman (Seth) (4:25-26)

C. “This is the Book of the Generations of Adam” (5:1-6:8)

1. Genealogy: The Seed of the Woman (5:1-32)

2. Narrative: The Fall of the Sons of God (6:1-8)

5. Overview of the Adam Cycle

A. Creation of the Heavens and the Earth (1:1-2:3)

1. Key Repetitions:

- a. “And there was evening, and there was morning, the *n*th day” (x6)
- b. “God said” (x10)
- c. God “called” (x5)
- d. God “blessed” (x3)
- e. Multiples of seven
 - 1. 1:1 = 7 words
 - 2. 1:2 = 14 words
 - 3. 2:1-3 = 35 words
 - 4. “God” x35
 - 5. “Earth” x21
 - 6. “And it was so” x7
 - 7. “God saw that it was good” x7

2. Sabbath Day and God’s Cosmic Temple

B. “These are the Generations of the Heavens and the Earth” (2:4-4:26)

1. Why two creation accounts?

Gen. 2:4 as transitional bridge

2. Structure of Gen. 2:4-3:24¹:

- A. 2:4-17: Creation of the Man (From Outside to Inside Garden)
- B. 2:18-25: Creation of Woman, Animals
- C. 3:1-5: Dialogue about Eating the Fruit
- D. 3:6-7: Eating the Fruit** (Center of the Garden)
- C’. 3:8-13: Dialogue about Eating the Fruit
- B’. 3:14-21: Punishment of Woman, Man, Serpent
- A’. 3:22-24: Expulsion of the Man (From Inside to Outside Garden)

3. Temple Imagery

“Guard the Garden!” (2:15)

4. Adam and Eve’s Double Role:

- a. Persons from history
- b. Paradigms of humanity

5. Genesis 3 as a “Template of Temptation”²:

- a. Disbelief
- b. Doubt
- c. Desire
- d. Disobedience
- e. Denial

6. The Consequences of the Fall and a Note of Grace (3:14-19)

God’s first promise (3:15)

7. The Fall of Cain (Gen. 4)

- a. “Like father, like son” – generational sin (4:1-24)
- b. Where is the righteous seed? (4:25-26)

6. **Typology** in the Adam Cycle

Genesis 2

Genesis 3

Genesis 4

Genesis 1

7. Closing Prayer

*For Next Time: Read Gen. 6-11

¹The following outline of Gen. 2:4-3:24 has been adapted from Jerome T. Walsh, *Style and Structure in Biblical Hebrew Narrative*, 21-22.

² The content that follows has been adapted from Richard E. Averbeck, “Creation and Corruption, Redemption and Wisdom: A Biblical Theology Foundation for Counseling Psychology.” *JPC* 25.2 (2006): 111-26.