

**NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**Sermon – The Inerrancy of The Bible, Pt 1**

**In the Beginning**

**Scripture: Genesis 2:16–17**

**02-26-2012**

**Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

I would like to try for a few Sundays something that I trust will be of interest to you and help us all in our understand of God's word thereby having a greater understanding of God and strengthening our faith.

I plan to speak to you on some of the more difficult passages in the Bible. Passages that will answer some of the questions proposed to Christians that make them uncomfortable and unsure.

Many of these passages were unclear to me for a long time and I only came to understanding over time and good teaching.

Let me answer a very common question often asked, “which came first the chicken or the egg.” To the believer it is easy to answer. The chicken came first.

*Genesis 1:24–25 (NKJV) <sup>24</sup> Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*

Just as God could make man out of dust, He could also make animals out of dust to which they return also.

The next one we will deal with concerns the question by non-believers that asks "if God created man, and Adam and Eve had children, who did their children marry?"

**Genesis 4:17–19 (1901 ASV) <sup>17</sup> And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. <sup>18</sup> And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methushael; and Methushael begat Lamech. <sup>19</sup> And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.**

This verse records the 3rd generation of mankind. Adam and Eve being the first. Their children which included Cain, Abel and Enoch became the second and so on.

There is only one logical way these births could have taken place and that was for the children to first marry their sisters and brothers and later they had more choices among their cousins and so on. Then the other comment and stumbling block for Christians is that if that is the case then, why did God allow incest?

In our society we don't think incest is right, it is repugnant and in most places it is illegal.

When we read the Bible, we cannot stop there we must move on to the study of the Bible understanding the author, the recipients, the social culture, the times and the purpose.

Even today incest can be illegal or legal depending on the jurisdiction. Incest is legal or has no criminal Punishment in:

Argentina

Brazil  
France (only engaged with minors)  
Portugal  
Japan  
Turkey  
Israel  
And in the US

In the United States, every state and the District of Columbia have some form of codified (common law) incest prohibition.<sup>[25]</sup> However, individual statutes vary widely. Rhode Island repealed its criminal incest statute in 1989,<sup>[25]</sup> Ohio only targets parental figures,<sup>[25]</sup> and New Jersey does not apply any penalties when both parties are 18 years of age or older.

You know I am one that puts lesser value on man's law but place God's law above all as I think all Christians should. Here I think I should also say that I am not about to justify incest. Keep in mind the non-Christians needs to know that you know why you believe what you do.

There is support for that belief in the Bible. Over 2,000 years from Adam to Noah. Nearly 3,000 years from Adam to the Exodus. Just as what we call "insect" was active during those years among all peoples. The only thing that restricted one was their conscious.

God, the master Law giver gave no prohibition against "insect" until Israel came out of Egypt and it is recorded in the book of Leviticus.

*Leviticus 20:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> 'If a man takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a wicked thing. And they shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness. He shall bear his guilt.*

*Leviticus 20:19 (NKJV) <sup>19</sup> 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister (aunt) nor of your father's sister, (aunt) for that would uncover his near of kin. They shall bear their guilt.*

*Leviticus 20:20 (NKJV) <sup>20</sup> If a man lies with his uncle's wife, (aunt)he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness. They shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.*

So, in response to the question, who did Adam and Eves children marry, the answer is they married each other. How else would the people multiply. (Be fruitful and Multiply).

Just as Israel was allowed to eat all kinds of meat, it did not become a sin to eat certain meat until God made it so and even that was changed in the NT. The same was with marrying close kin.

It's like our change in the speed limit, Last year you could not go 70 miles an hour on some major highways, now they are changing the signs so you can go 70.

We must be careful in our condemnations of others because they do not think like we do or share our social standards. It is God's standards. Countries and people that engage in insect is the lesser problem to the problem that they do not know or obey God. His law is not to deny us any good thing but to bless us abundantly with joy and prosperity.

I would like to do one more for today. This is found in our focus passage.

**Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”**

The comment of many non-believers is to say that "God said that if they ate of the forbidden tree, that day they would die." They didn't die as we understand death that day.

We have to step outside our box and look under the words. God cannot lie so we have to search for God's truth some times.

We must understand that man consist of a mind, a body and a soul. The bible teaches that after the body is dead the thinking soul lives on.

Let's begin with a simple question to you. Did Adam and Eve die physically? You may say yes but they didn't die that day. I believe they did, if for no other reason than that God said they would. A non-believer won't accept that answer and we should look further.

The opposite of the statement "to die" is the statement "to live".

I believe that they died that very day. On the same day Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree God acted. *Genesis 3:22–23 (NLT) <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” <sup>23</sup> So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden,...*

**2:17 surely die.** To “die” has the basic idea of separation. It can mean spiritual separation, physical separation, and/or eternal separation. At the moment of their sin, Adam and Eve died spiritually, but because God was merciful, they did not die physically until later (5:5)<sup>1</sup>

A piece of coal dies when it is separated from the other coals. In our physical world, when we die physically, we are separated from the physical living. In our spiritual relationship with God. when we are separated from God we die spiritually.

Quote: “If we are born only once we will die twice, if we are born twice we will die only once”.

When we die, we experience death, it can also be said that when we experience death we die. It wasn't the physical death that occurred but their spiritual relationship with God that died. Man’s physical death was addressed later when they were banished from the presence of the tree of life. Then they became mortal and began to die physically.

*Genesis 3:21–22 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, **and live forever**”—*

Let me ask you, is God concerned about our physical relationship or our spiritual relationship? Did Jesus come to die for us to give us eternal physical life, I think not.

When we are born, because of Adam, we automatically earn death. (*Romans 5:12–19*) we have died spiritually as soon as we are born. because we are separated from God by sin.

*Psalms 51:5 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, J. J. (1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ge 2:17). Nashville: Word Pub.

*Romans 3:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*1 Corinthians 15:22 (NKJV) <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

Christ did not come to save us physically, that is another issue. He came to make us alive again into a spiritual relationship with God.

That concept was taught way back in the book of Ezekiel

*Ezekiel 18:21–23 (NKJV) <sup>21</sup> “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; **he shall not die.** <sup>22</sup> None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, **he shall live.** <sup>23</sup> Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”*

*Romans 6:23 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*John 8:21–<sup>21</sup> Then Jesus said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come.” <sup>22</sup> So the Jews said, “Will He kill Himself, because He says, ‘Where I go you cannot come?’” <sup>23</sup> And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> **Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**”*

Remember the makeup of man, mind, body and soul. Any one of them can die and the other two will still exist. It is almost like a person who is classified as being "brain dead" the body and the soul goes on.

We have already died. But we can live again, be resurrected again. Or "Born again"

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