

Bible Text New International Version	Who are the people involved and what is the situation?	What traits of God are displayed in this story? What are the traits of the people?	In what ways do you see yourself in this story? How is God inviting you to respond?
<p>Gen. 2:15-25</p> <p>¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."</p> <p>¹⁸ The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."</p> <p>¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.</p> <p>But for Adam^[a] no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs^[b] and then closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib^[c] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.</p> <p>²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."</p> <p>²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Gen 2:20 - Or <i>the man</i> b. Gen 2:21 - Or <i>took part of the man's side</i> c. Gen 2:22 - Or <i>part</i></p>			

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<p>Gen. 2:15-25 - <i>continued</i></p> <p>²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.</p> <p>Gen. 3:1-24 The Fall</p> <p>3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"</p> <p>2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"</p> <p>4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."</p> <p>6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.</p> <p>8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"</p> <p>¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." (<i>continued</i>)</p>			

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<p>Gen. 3:1-24 - <i>continued</i></p> <p>¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”</p> <p>¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”</p> <p>¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”</p> <p>The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”</p> <p>¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,</p> <p>“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.</p> <p>¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring^[a] and hers; he will crush^[b] your head, and you will strike his heel.”</p> <p>¹⁶ To the woman he said,</p> <p>“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>a. Gen 3:15 - Or <i>seed</i> b. Gen 3:15 - Or <i>strike</i></p>			

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<p>Gen. 3:1-24 - <i>continued</i></p> <p>¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.</p> <p>¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.</p> <p>¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."</p> <p>²⁰ Adam^[a] named his wife Eve,^[a] because she would become the mother of all the living.</p> <p>²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side^[a] of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.</p> <p>c. Gen 3:20 - Or <i>The man</i> d. Gen 3:20 - Or <i>Eve</i> probably means <i>living</i> e. Gen 3:24 - Or <i>placed in front</i></p>			

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<p>Gen 4:1-15, 25-26 Cain and Abel</p> <p>4 Adam^[a] made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.^[b] She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth^[c] a man.”² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.</p> <p>Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.</p> <p>⁶ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast?⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”</p> <p>⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”^[d] While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>a. Gen 4:1 - Or <i>The man</i> b. Gen 4:1 - Or <i>Cain</i> sounds like the Hebrew <i>for brought forth or acquired</i> c. Gen 4:1 - Or <i>have acquired</i> d. Gen 4:8 - Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have “Let’s go out to the field.”</p>			

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<p>Gen 4:1-15, 25-26 - <i>continued</i></p> <p>⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”</p> <p>“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”</p> <p>¹⁰ The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”</p> <p>¹³ Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴ Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”</p> <p>¹⁵ But the LORD said to him, “Not so^e; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.</p> <p>²⁵ Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,^f saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” ²⁶ Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.</p> <p>At that time people began to call on^g the name of the LORD.</p> <p>e. Gen 4:15 - Or <i>have acquired</i> f. Gen 4:25 - <i>Seth</i> probably means <i>granted</i>. g. Gen 4:26 – Or <i>to proclaim</i></p>			

Reflections

In the beginning, God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed so they could live in peace, harmony, and gratitude to God. What do you think you need that God has not provided for you?

Think of a time when you believed you knew better than God. What happened? What did you learn?

The God Who Sees: a Study of Women in the Bible

Prayer Requests
