

The Historical Adam

The Bible portrays Adam as a real, historical person

- Genesis 2:5-5:5 is part of a historical narrative (although the Bible contains other literary genres)
- Adam appears in genealogies with other historical people

When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.... When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh.... When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan.... Noah fathered Shem.... Shem fathered Arpachshad ... Terah fathered Abram ... (Genesis 5:3, 6, 9, 32; 11:10, 27)

Adam, Seth, Enosh... (1 Chronicles 1:1)

Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli ... the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:23, 38)

Enoch, the seventh from Adam... (Jude 14)

A real, historical Adam is theologically important

- Our creation *in God's image* is grounded in our connection to Adam
- Adam is the one through whom sin and death entered the world. If we remove this step then God made something bad.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned death reigned from Adam to Moses... (Romans 5:12-14).

I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor (1 Timothy 2:12-14).

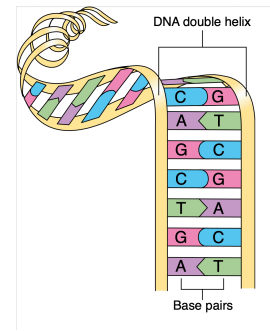
- Adam is a type (i.e. pattern) of Jesus, the covenant representative of a whole race

Adam... was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through **one man's** trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that **one man** Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that **one man's** sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of **one man's** trespass, death reigned through that **one man**, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the **one man** Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the **one man's** disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the **one man's** obedience the many will be made righteous." (Romans 5:14-19)

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven." (1 Corinthians 15:44-49)

A real, historical Adam is scientifically plausible

- Two human ancestors could between them represent all genetic diversity, since there are only 4 letters in the DNA alphabet (C, G, A, T) and each parent has a pair of letters at each site on the chromosome
- The idea of a DNA bottleneck in the human population is consistent with low mitochondrial DNA variability (hence popular talk of “mitochondrial Eve”)
- Homo arguably explodes onto the fossil record as a biological “big bang” without the supposed intermediate hominids



Further reading

<https://www.reformation21.org/articles/adam-and-eve.php>

<http://richardbuggs.com/2018/04/18/adam-and-eve-lessons-learned/>

https://evolutionnews.org/2012/08/a_big_bang_theo/