Why Adam Matters

- Your “theology of Adam” becomes your anthropology, that is, your theology of mankind.
- Your anthropology determines much of your view of soteriology, that is, your theology of salvation.
  - Is mankind eternal?
  - Is mankind in need of salvation?
  - Is mankind capable of saving himself?
- Your anthropology also determines much of your view of ecology – your doctrine of mankind’s interaction with the environment.
  - Is mankind an animal or of a separate order?
  - Is mankind in a position of dominion or equality?
- Your anthropology also determines much of your view of sociology – your doctrine of mankind’s interaction with other men and women.
  - Is there a morality of sexuality?
    - Is gender fluid for fixed?
    - Are sexual relations morally limited?
  - Is there a created order between the genders?
    - Is marriage an anthropological matter?
    - Is there an ordained head of the house?
- Your anthropology is affected by two other doctrines:
  - Theology – your doctrine of God
  - Creation – your doctrine of origins

Adam’s Name | What Does It Mean?

- The name Adam has been used to deny the origin of mankind in one single individual.
  - אדָם [adam] is translated man, mankind, or some other general term for the human race 533 times in the Hebrew Scriptures.
  - The word is Transliterated Adam, as a personal name, 12 times.
- Many have made the false conclusion that the personal name Adam is symbolic and that there was no single individual who was Adam.
- To do this requires a non-literal hermeneutic to be adopted from the very first pages of Scripture, setting the stage for future non-literal interpretations of the text.
- The interpretation of Adam as a historical figure or a mythical figure was one of the key points separating modernists from fundamentalists in the early 1900s.
  - The Hebrew אָדָם [adam] has the same root as אֲדָמָה [adamah], which means earth.
    - Adam was created from the adamah, the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7).
    - Adam’s sin led him to return unto the ground from which he had come (Gen. 3:19).

The Biblical Adam

- Was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
- Was given dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:28), a dominion that was expressed in his naming of the animals (Gen. 2:19-20).
- Was created on the sixth day, and was fully developed both physically and intellectually (Gen. 1-2).
- Was given a single prohibition: do not eat from the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, with the penalty of death (Gen. 2:17).
- Was given a female help meet for companionship, marriage, and sexual relations (Gen. 2:20-25).
- Ate of the forbidden fruit and thus introduced sin and death into the world (Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12).

Our Adamic Problem

- Because we are decedents of the original couple, we are born into separation with God and are in need of a Savior (who doesn’t have the same problem we do).