

Appendix C: Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

How did I come to this understanding that God created two races of humanity at two different times? I was raised in the church (Disciples of Christ tradition) from the nursery on up. I would describe it as a conservative evangelical upbringing at that time. When I started my senior year of high school, I decided that I should read the Bible from cover to cover. It was a casual pursuit, and it took several years but I stayed with it until completed. It wasn't long before I read the 6th chapter of Genesis. It told me that the sons of God took the daughters of men as wives and that some of their children were giants, the mighty men of old. As a seventeen-year-old, I said to myself: "This opens the door to the possibility that there might be some truth in the Greek myths." I also wondered who the sons of God were. I knew that Jesus was the only begotten Son of God. I knew that Redeemed Saints were called sons of God in the New Testament and angels were called sons of God in the book of Job. I also knew that Adam was called the son of God at the end of the genealogy of Jesus Christ recorded in Luke.

When I asked who the sons of God were in Genesis 6, I was told the traditional answer that they were fallen angels. I didn't dispute it, but it didn't sit well with me either. First, because I was aware of the story in the Gospels where the Sadducees told Jesus the story of a woman who had seven brothers in succession as her husband and asked Him whose husband she would be in the resurrection. Jesus answered that in the resurrection they neither marry nor are they given in marriage, but they are like the angels. I trust the testimony of my Lord Jesus that angels do not take wives. I also felt it implied that angels are asexual. Honestly, the whole idea of angels having sex with humans just disturbed me.

That's how it remained for about the next eighteen years. Then in the late 1980s, a man by the name of Dean Edmonds spoke at the men's breakfast at our church. Dean was and wasn't a member of our church. His family attended our church. His two sons were in the high school Sunday school class that I taught. Dean, however, had worked for the Department of Weights and Measures in Washington D.C. and had recently retired. Dean shared with us the theory he had developed to reconcile his religious beliefs with what he knew from science. It rested on the belief that the two stories of the creation of humanity were indeed two separate creations.

Because I showed acceptance and interest in Dean's theory, he invited me to his home to discuss his theory further. On the appointed evening, Dean and I sat at his kitchen table surrounded by boxes of research material. He was able to go into much greater detail as he pulled out articles, pictures of artifacts, and maps to support his full theory. At the end of the evening, Dean ask me to read his manuscript. Some chapters were third and some fourth revision. Dean eventually published a two-volume book entitled "Adam's Holy Mountain and the Four Rivers of Eden." I wasn't then and I'm still not knowledgeable enough to determine if Dean's theory is correct or not. I can say that, for me, it certainly solves a lot of problems.

Here is Dean's story as he related it to me. As a geographical bachelor living in Washington D.C., he wanted something to do to fill his spare time. He decided to see if he could develop a theory that would unify what he believed from religion and what he knew from science. For the first three years his efforts only produced frustration. So, he decided to set aside everything he believed or knew. Dean went to the oldest, most original sources he could find. His research took him across many disciplines. After seven more years he came up with his theory. He said he had spent the next twenty years trying to disprove his theory and he couldn't disprove it. Unfortunately, Dean passed away several years ago.