



CREATION FOR KIDS

By Russell Grigg

Adam's first task: Naming the animals

AFTER God created Adam on Day 6 of Creation Week, He had a very special task for Adam to do. It was to name the birds and some of the land animals that God had created before He made Adam.

Adam lived in a wonderful

parkland called the Garden of Eden. Eden means 'a beautiful place'. Nowadays we don't know where this was, because it was later destroyed by Noah's Flood. There were all kinds of fruit trees and plants there, which provided delicious food for Adam and the animals.

Adam lived in a very different world from what we see today. All the birds, which God had created on Day 5, and all the animals, which God had created on Day 6, were harmless. This included the dinosaurs. The

animals ate fruit and vegetation and did not fight or kill each other.

God created them to be like that. Wow! Fancy living with a friendly tyrannosaur-like dinosaur!

When God told Adam to give names to the animals and birds, Adam didn't waste any time. In fact, he finished this task on the

very same day in which God had created him. Some people have asked: 'How could Adam have done all that in less than a day?' Well, for one thing, Adam didn't have to search for the animals. The Bible tells us that God 'brought them to Adam to see what he would call them'.

At that time none of the animals was wild. They didn't kill each other for food. They had no reason to fear each other or to fear Adam. And Adam had no reason to be afraid of them—even of the dinosaurs.

'Kinds' of animals

The Bible uses the word 'kinds', rather than 'species', to describe the different birds and animals. Today there are several species of dog (wolf, jackal, coyote, dingo and the domestic breeds) within the dog kind, and several species of bear (black, grizzly, polar, and brown) within the bear kind, and so on. So Adam did not have to name millions of animals. Naming each kind was enough. Adam had to name only:

1. The livestock, like sheep, cattle, pigs, rabbits, horses and camels. Probably less than a dozen kinds.

2. The birds. There are about 2,400 species of birds, which scientists group into 165 'families'. (A bird 'family' is probably the same as a Genesis 'kind'.) This includes all those living today and those known from fossils to be extinct. One of these 'kinds', the parrot family, today is made up of over 300 species. So if Adam named each group with its general name, such as 'ducks', 'gulls' and 'owls', there would have been fewer than 200 kinds of birds for him to name.

3. The beasts of the field.

These probably lived in open country. Adam wasn't told to name all 'the beasts of the earth' mentioned in Genesis 1:24, but just 'the beasts of the field' (Genesis 2:19). He did not have to name any creepy crawlies, or any fish. Did you know that only 2% of all creatures are animals with backbones? (And most of these are fish.) They are called 'vertebrates'.

In all, Adam had to name at most about a thousand kinds of animals and birds. If he named one every few seconds, it would have taken just three or four hours. Surely a pleasant morning's work, with lots of time left that day for any other big adventure.

Was Adam equal to the task?

Adam was not a stooped, dim-witted, grunting ape-man that God zapped to make into the first human being. How do we know? The Bible does not say that man evolved from apes or any other animal, but God took some dust and made the first man.

Also, it says that among all the animals there was not one that was a suitable helper, or mate, for Adam. Not one was like him, because God had made him in God's own image, not in the image of an ape. This means that Adam was a person. He had a spiritual nature—he was able to talk to God, and understand God when God talked to him.

At the naming parade, Adam used the language God had programmed him to speak. With his high intelligence, he could have said one or two words to describe each animal, without confusion or repetition, and without forgetting what names he had already used.

You too have a spiritual nature. This means that you can talk to God in prayer. God wants you to do this. He has things He wants to say to you, too. Every day you can read what God says to you in the Bible. Why not read it today?

