



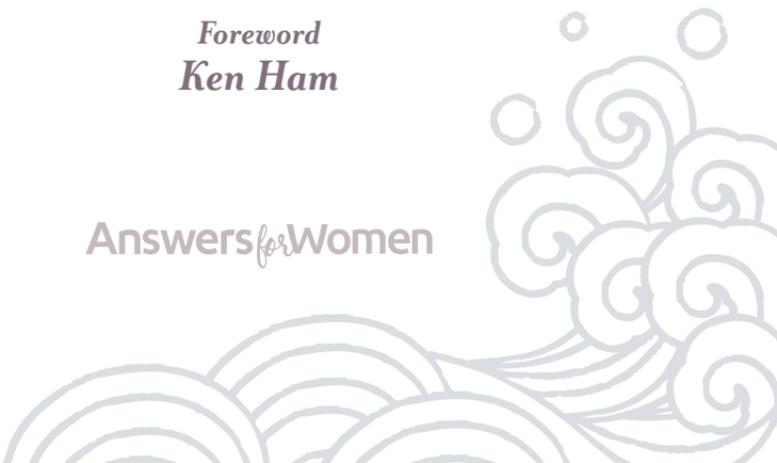
# ANCHORED

*40 Devotions  
to Ground Women  
in the Word*

*General Editor  
Lita Sanders*

*Foreword  
Ken Ham*

Answers *for* Women



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# *Our Identity Is Found in Genesis*

“Who am I?”

This question haunts the current generation. Social media, pop culture, and armchair psychologists all challenge us to understand who we are and live as our authentic selves. And according to these sources, how we discover who we really are is by looking deep down inside ourselves, finding our passions, and following them wherever they lead. But as Christians, we know this is another insidious lie from our enemy: “*You can be like God. . . . You can decide your identity for yourself.*” Really, it’s just another battle for truth.

And to fight in this battle, we must be equipped with God’s armor—and that comes from knowing, believing, and meditating on the Word of God, beginning in Genesis!

Throughout this devotional, you will notice many references to Genesis (and I’m sure that won’t surprise you, given the publisher is Answers in Genesis!), and that’s intentional. Genesis 1-11 is the foun-

dational history for Christian doctrine, theology, worldview, the gospel, and well, everything!

When it comes to identity, in every stage and circumstance of life, the answers are found in Genesis. From the beginning, God designed humans as male or female, made in his image, with the task of filling the earth and exercising dominion over what God made. Here's a summary of that foundational history and how it ties in with the gospel message, summarized as the 7 C's of History:

- **Creation** (Genesis 1-2): God created everything in six literal, 24-hour days approximately 6,000 years ago (this age for the earth comes from believing in six literal days of creation and a straightforward reading of the Genesis genealogies). God's original creation was "very good," with no death, suffering, or disease. Adam, the first man, was created first from the dust of the ground and his wife, Eve, from his side. This was the first marriage, and it's a pattern for how marriage is to be (one man for one woman for life). Marriage was necessary for man not to be alone (the only "not good" thing about the original creation) and for mankind to fulfill God's commands to "be fruitful and multiply" and "have dominion" over the world and creatures that God had created. This is

still our calling today—to honor God as wise, careful stewards of his creation and raise godly generations.

- **Corruption** (Genesis 3): God had given Adam and Eve a command, and they chose to rebel, elevating their own wisdom above God’s clear Word. Since that first act of rebellion, mankind has struggled with this very temptation—will we trust God or our own wisdom? This battle over the authority of God’s Word manifests itself differently in various eras, cultures, and generations, but it’s the same old battle over and over again—“did God actually say?” and “you will be like God.” It’s because of the fall that our world is filled with pain, disease, suffering, natural disasters, abuse, deception, struggles, and sin. All suffering traces back to Adam’s sin and our continued sin.
- **Catastrophe** (Genesis 6–9): Wickedness increased after the first sin, and within just a few generations, it had reached the point at which every thought of mankind was only evil continually—except for Noah, who was righteous. God always judges sin, and this time he judged sin with a global flood. God spared Noah by commanding him to build an ark. This massive ship housed two of every kind of land animal (seven pairs of some),

Noah and his seven family members, and enough supplies for the yearlong, worldwide flood. This event explains the rock layers and fossils we see around the world today.

- **Confusion** (Genesis 10–11): After the flood, God commanded mankind to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. In direct rebellion against God’s command and to feed their own pride, all of mankind gathered together to build a city and a tower. In judgment of their sin, God confused their language, forcing them to spread out and fill the earth, just as he had commanded. This event explains why there aren’t various racial identities. We’re all one race, descended from Adam and Eve, through Noah and his family and then the families at Babel. After mankind was scattered, various ethnicities (with slight physical variations based on God-created genetic variability) arose along with distinct cultures. But we’re all one race.
- **Christ, Cross, and Consummation:** Genesis (and the rest of the Bible builds on this theme) explains mankind’s biggest problem: the sin that separates us from a holy God. And the solution is found in Jesus Christ and what he did for us on the cross. Jesus, fully God and fully man, stepped into this

world and lived the perfect life we can't live. He perfectly obeyed God, fulfilled God's law, and chose to die on the cross in our place. He then rose from the dead, defeating sin and death, ascended to the Father's right hand, and will return someday.

Yes, it's Genesis that gives us the answers to the biggest questions of our day and points us to the hope we can have in Christ Jesus, who takes a sinner and makes them a new creation.

As a Christian, that's your ultimate identity—a new creation in Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ham". The letters are fluid and connected, with a cursive style.

FOUNDER AND CMO OF ANSWERS IN GENESIS,  
THE ARK ENCOUNTER, AND THE CREATION MUSEUM



# *God Is the Authority over Everything*

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*In the beginning, God created the heavens and  
the earth.* GENESIS 1:1

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Nothing made itself.

Think about that for a moment—neither the earth, atmosphere, seas, dry land, plants, sun, moon, stars, flying creatures, swimming creatures, land animals, nor mankind made themselves. God created everything—including space, matter, and time—as summarized in the opening statement of the Bible.

And that is profound. If God made everything, then everything is under the authority of God. Heaven and earth, nature, and every one of us—including all rulers, governments, and societies—sits under the authority of the Creator, whether they recognize it or not.

You and I are both under the authority of God. But our sinful nature does not want it to be this way. The human condition, in a sin-cursed world, causes us to want to be our own gods and to decide truth for ourselves. Consider the temptation in the garden: “Did God actually say . . .” and “you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:1, 5).

And God promises that Satan will use the same attack on you and me that he used on Eve 6,000 years ago:

*But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

2 CORINTHIANS 11:3

In other words, Satan will encourage you to doubt the authority of God’s Word in big and (seemingly) small ways.

As humans, we constantly try to seize authority from God and decide truth for ourselves based on our own thoughts, opinions, or feelings (or those of the people around us). But despite our efforts, God remains God, and we remain vessels of clay in the potter’s hands.

As Christians, we must submit to the authority of God’s Word in all areas, whether this means believing what he says about creation in Genesis,

honoring his definition of marriage, or choosing his wisdom over our own “wisdom” in day-to-day decisions. When we honor God as the authority, we are modeling humility and reflecting the truth that God is God. He is all-wise, all-knowing, and all-good, and we are not.

I often remind Christians that, as humans, we think we’re so knowledgeable and smart, but we know *nothing* compared to the infinite God of the universe, who simply spoke and all this complexity jumped into place. God is worthy of his authority and of our humble submission to it.



### *SUGGESTION FOR PRAYER*

Ask the Lord to help you recognize areas in your life in which you aren’t fully submitted to his authority. Pray that he will help you grow in submission to his commands revealed in his Word.

## *Created Male and Female*

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*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* GENESIS 1:26

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God created the first man and woman in his image. Since we all descend from this original pair, we all bear God’s image. However, as men and women, we reflect that image distinctly. To this end, God uniquely designed men and women at anatomical and physiological levels. Did you know that our distinct biology is related to our distinct image bearing?

One of the ways in which women reflect God’s image is through the gifts of cultivating relationships and caring for those around us like our co-workers, friends, and family. God, too, cares for

people, and we see this reflected in Scripture, which compares God's care to that of a hen with her chicks and a mother with her nursing child.

We live in a fallen world, and all these wonderful social interactions expose women to germs that cause sickness. Our wise and omniscient God designed women with immune responses that are more robust than men's. This allows women to interact and care for those around us without easily getting sick. (However, this also means that "man flu" may be a real thing!) We clearly see a beautiful correlation between God's biological design and his design for our image bearing.

Both men and women are given the special honor of being made in God's image. We are equal but also wonderfully distinct. May we as men and women celebrate our differences and glorify God as witnesses to the truthfulness of Genesis and ultimately the gospel before a lost and dying world.



## *SUGGESTION FOR PRAYER*

Young people are very confused about sex/gender and the distinct functions of men and women. Ask God to help you live out these biblical truths and be an example to the next generation.

# “Mother of All Living”

## *A Role, Not an Identity*

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*The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* GENESIS 3:20

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In Genesis 1:27, God creates mankind and gives them the mandate “Be fruitful and multiply . . . and have dominion.” Later, Adam names his wife Eve, reflecting her role as “mother of all living.” Motherhood was central to Eve’s role as the first woman charged with bringing the first baby into the world. From her womb would come all nations and, eventually, even the Messiah, who would crush the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15).

But in Genesis 4:8, tragedy strikes: Eve’s first son (Can you imagine how much she must have loved him? The first baby *ever*?) jealously murders her younger son Abel and is exiled by God for his wickedness. In just one day, Eve loses both sons—along with Cain’s wife (Eve’s daughter or possibly

granddaughter), who went with him. I can't imagine the crushing pain Eve and Adam must have felt as they grieved.

I wonder if Eve felt like a failure. First, she falls into temptation, then she leads her husband into it, and then she becomes a mother (something she praises God for in Genesis 4:1) only for her firstborn to grow into an angry, jealous murderer.

Here in Genesis, we mothers see a good reminder: Motherhood is a role the Lord graciously gives some women, but it is not who we are.

Eve was the mother of all living, and her name reflects that honor. But first, she was woman: a female human being made in God's image. Her identity is unshakably grounded in her creation by God in his image. And that's why "failure" as a mother shouldn't ultimately discourage her . . . or us.

Think about it: One of her sons was a murderer, yes, but another son was commended by his faith as righteous, and he "still speaks" to us today (Hebrews 11:4). One of her two eldest sons was faithful; one was not. But the former should not be a source of pride any more than the latter should be a source of shame because we are called to be faithful, not "successful."

We cannot control the choices our children make or the state of their hearts. We can only be, by God's grace, faithful—faithful to plant seeds;

faithful to water them; faithful to discipline in grace and love; faithful to teach truth; faithful to lead our children to Jesus in every situation; faithful to pray; faithful to model obedience, repentance, trust, and dependence; and faithful to open the Scriptures. None of us will do this perfectly (but praise God our children have a perfect heavenly Father to look to, and our failures give us daily opportunities to point them to his perfection). But we can do so faithfully. Then we leave the results up to our sovereign God who works all things according to his will and who loves our dear children more than we ever could.



### *SUGGESTION FOR PRAYER*

Ask the Lord to help you be faithful in your mothering, in the big and the small, and not cling tightly to results but rather trust your dear little ones to his providence and sovereign care.