

# A BIBLICAL VIEW OF FALL: *QUESTION AUTHORITY! QUESTION AUTHORITY?*

Job 38:1-40:5; Genesis 3:1-7

**INTRODUCTION:** There are three central elements to any worldview:

1. **Creation:** *Where did we come from, and who are we?* This is addressed in Gen.1-2.
2. **Fall:** *What has gone wrong with the world?* This is addressed in Genesis 3.
3. **Redemption:** *What can be done to fix the world?* Genesis 3:15.

## **I. WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE GOOD WORLD THAT GOD HAD CREATED?**

- A. Mankind questioned God's authority. Mankind questioned God's authority to be God. To this day, the principle problem of the world is that mankind continues to play God, by questioning His authority.
- B. God did not explain why Adam and Eve would die when they ate of the forbidden fruit, nor did He need to explain Himself (Gen.2:16,17).

## **II. SATAN QUESTIONS GOD'S AUTHORITY** (Genesis 3:1-5)

- A. "I am the master of my fate;/I am the captain of my soul." (*Invictus*, William Ernest Henley [1849-1903])
- B. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was placed in the Garden to test whether or not Adam would image God faithfully as a prophet, priest and king.
  1. Would Adam be a **prophet** and listen to the will of God? Or would he succumb to the serpent's lie?
  2. Would Adam be a faithful **priest** by judging the clean from the unclean? Or would Adam become unholy and be driven out of the Garden?
  3. Would Adam be a faithful **king** and remove unclean and talking serpents from the Garden? Or would Adam be ruled by the serpent?

## **III. THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY IS ONE THAT WE ALL MUST ANSWER**

- A. *All* of the problems that we see in the world are the results of what happens when God's authority is rejected.
  1. What is wrong is that our first parents listened to the lie of the serpent.
  2. Adam and Eve made an independent judgment for themselves apart from what God had revealed.
  3. What is wrong with our world today is that people continue to live in rebellion against God's revealed Word.

(OVER **Z**)

B. We are led to believe that Jesus Christ is irrelevant for addressing the world's problems. But as Christians we must not turn our back on the cross and try to pretend that the cross is insufficient to save a nation, culture, and people.

1. What is fundamentally wrong with modern public education?
2. What is fundamentally wrong with the laws that Congress is passing?
3. What is fundamentally wrong with the modern sciences and "ologies"?
4. What is fundamentally wrong with criminals?
5. What is fundamentally wrong with morality in our nation?
6. What is fundamentally wrong with many so-called churches in our nation?

C. We live in a world that is bombarding us with the temptation to QUESTION AUTHORITY. But as Christians, we need to ask the world WHY QUESTION GOD'S AUTHORITY? (**Job 38:1,2; Isa.45:9**)

D. Submission to God's authority recognizes that the Bible is the Word of God (Matthew 7:24-27).

## **QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself, your family, the church and/or your nation. Remember that prayer consists in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (Feel free to use the outline for praying).*

*What is a worldview? What are the three central elements of a worldview?*

*Explain how the following statement stresses the importance of a biblical worldview, "The wide world is all about you: you can fence yourselves in, but you cannot forever fence it out." (Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*)*

*How was Job's suffering and Job's test related to the question of authority?*

*Does God need to give an account of His actions to anyone? Are there any areas of life that you feel that He should be held accountable?*

*Why is questioning God's authority playing God?*

*How was Adam's being made in the image of God tested by the forbidden fruit?*

*Do you believe that all of the problems that we see in the world are the results of what happens when God's authority is rejected? How does will this observation help you in your evangelism?*

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QUOTE:

“The wide world is all about you: you can fence yourselves in, but you cannot forever fence it out” (J.R.R. Tolkien wrote in his book, *The Fellowship of the Ring*).

ILLUSTRATION

Does anybody remember that last message that the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, left as his last message to the world before he was executed? McVeigh’s last message to the world was a poem by William Ernest Henley (1849-1903) entitled, “Invictus.”

Invictus is Latin for “Unconquered.” The author of *The Invictus*, William Ernest Henley was a militant humanist who hated the Christian faith. The author's intention in the poem was to shake his fist in defiance at the very thought of a sovereign God ruling over him.

You can hear the hatred of Henley for God in the concluding line of his poem:  
“I am the master of my fate;/I am the captain of my soul.”

What is Henley saying?

“**I am** the master of my fate;/**I am** the captain of my soul.”

Can you hear what he is saying in the last line of the poem?

“**I am** the master of my fate;/**I am** the captain of my soul.”

He is claiming that he is his own God. He is claiming that he is the sovereign helmsman of his destiny. But more than being the master of his own fate and the captain of his own soul, he is claiming to be God.

“**I am** the master of my fate;/**I am** the captain of my soul.”

In Hebrew, "I am" is the word for God -- (I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul). Moses and the burning bush, “I am who I am” (Ex.3:14). Henley is blasphemously claiming for himself the prerogatives of the divine name of God.

What was the serpent promising to Eve? YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD (v.5). When a person rejects the authority of God’s Word, they are placing themselves in the place of God. They are essentially saying

“**I am** the master of my fate;/**I am** the captain of my soul.”

Questioning God’s Word is to question His authority. When a person questions God’s authority, they make God after their own image. You see, The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was placed in the Garden to test whether or not Adam would image God faithfully as a prophet, priest and king.