

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF FALL

The Question of Knowledge

Matthew 4:1-11; Genesis 3:1-7

INTRODUCTION & REVIEW: 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. HATH GOD SAID? GOD COULD SPEAK FROM HEAVEN AND SAY, “THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS OF THE BIBLE ARE THE INERRANT, INSPIRED, AND INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD” AND PEOPLE WOULD STILL QUESTION GOD.
(Gen.3:1; cf. Luke 16:27-31).

- A. Three times in the ministry of Jesus, the heavens opened up and God said, “This is my beloved Son,” and yet the Jews still crucified Him (Matthew 3:17; 17:5; John 12:28; cf. Ex.7-11; Psalm 95:8-11).
- B. God spoke directly to Adam commanding him not to eat of the forbidden fruit. Adam was in Paradise and Adam still ate (Gen.2-3).

II. THE QUESTION OF KNOWLEDGE (Gen.3:1)

- A. The basic *question* that the serpent asked of Eve, “How do you know that you will die if you eat of the forbidden fruit?”
 1. Have you ever wondered how you can know that you know?
 2. Have you ever wondered if there was a reason why we should believe in reason?
 3. Philosophers have asked these kinds of questions for centuries.
 - a. In the 5th century B.C., the Greek Sophists questioned the possibility of reliable and objective knowledge.
 - b. The Greek philosopher Plato tried to answer the Sophists by proposing the existence of a world of unchanging and invisible forms.
 - c. Aristotle maintained that all knowledge is derived from experience, either directly or by deduction in accordance with the rules of logic.
 - d. Today there is an increasing skepticism about truth, knowing, the reliability of experience and observation (Postmodernism).
- B. Many people answer the questions about knowledge by saying that they know things based upon cultural norms, experience, and observation. But none of these are sufficient to answer the lies of the serpent.
- C. We live in a postmodern culture that believes that good and evil are not rooted in truth nor reason, but in the will to power (Might makes right or Majority rules).
- D. The questions and answers philosophers have been seeking for thousands of years are found in Genesis 2-3.
 1. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a judgment tree. Would Adam and Eve listen to God because He was God?
 2. Would Adam and Eve reflect God’s image by thinking God’s thoughts after Him? Or would they try recreating and reinterpreting the world God created? Would they try reinterpreting the Word God spoke?

E. No one can become like God by disobeying God.

F. Eve's answer to the question of knowledge (Gen.3:6).

III. KNOWLEDGE ABOUT KNOWLEDGE AND THE FACT ABOUT FACTS: IT'S A GOD-GIVEN FACT THAT THERE ARE NO "BARE FACTS" INDEPENDENT FROM GOD

A. The Bible teaches that facts are what God says about something. Facts do not exist independently from God Who is the Creator and preserver of the world we live in.

B. If we are to understand anything that is fundamentally true about this world, we must first acknowledge that every fact belongs to God. If we reject this then we are left with nothing but fairytales, lawlessness, and contradictions.

1. The modern day theory of evolution is a fairytale based on impossibilities and contradictions.

2. The modern day view of law is really lawlessness because it does not believe God.

3. Our public educational system today is not based on truth, but suppression, censorship, propaganda, and indoctrination. It's a type of brainwashing.

IV. THE ONLY WAY THAT SATAN CAN BE RESISTED IS BY THE WORD OF GOD (Matthew 4:1-11; Eph.6:10-17).

A. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7)

B. The Word of God teaches that it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord (1 Kings 11:1-13; Malachi 2:11; 1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor.6:14; cf. Gen.24:1-4; Deut.7:2-4; 1 Cor.9:5).

C. Sexual immorality is another variety of forbidden fruit.

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 difference would it make in the lives of people if God were to speak directly to mankind and say from heaven, "The sixty-six books of the Bible are the inerrant, inspired, and infallible Word of God." Explain your answer.

What explains unfallen man's Fall into sin? Is God in any way to blame for Adam and Eve's unbelief?

How can you know that you know something?

How do your friends know anything? How might this sermon help you in talking to them and challenging their worldview?

What did the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent? How are the same questions that Satan asked Eve asked of you?

Why isn't there any such thing as a bare fact?

Biblical Christianity is often referred to with words like "fairytale." Explain why this claim is an absolute lie.

Why is it so hard for us to take God at His Word?

ILLUSTRATIONS

Have you ever wondered how you can know something? Have you ever wondered how you can know that you know...? Have you ever wondered if there was a reason why we should believe in reason...? This was the basic question that the serpent asked of Eve, "How do you know that you will die if you eat of the forbidden fruit?"

Philosophers have asked these kinds of questions for centuries. We know that as far back as the 5th century B.C., the Greek Sophists questioned the possibility of reliable and objective knowledge. One famous Sophist was a man by the name of Gorgias (485?-380 BC). Gorgias' philosophy can be expressed in three propositions:

Nothing exists; if anything does exist, it cannot be known; and if anything exists and can be known, it cannot be communicated.¹

Now, I find it fascinating that Gorgias was a teacher and he wrote books. But if there cannot be communication of what exists then why teach or write? This man claims to believe one thing, but could not live it out consistently.

The Greek philosopher Plato tried to answer the Sophists by proposing the existence of a world of unchanging and invisible forms about which it is possible to have exact and certain knowledge. Aristotle maintained that all knowledge is derived from experience, either directly or by deduction in accordance with the rules of logic.

To this day, unbelieving philosophers still have not answered the most basic questions about knowledge and truth. In fact, there has been an increasing skepticism about truth, knowing, the reliability of experience and observation. There is even a growing skepticism about logic.

Almost Seventy-five years ago, two college students, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, murdered a 14-year-old boy. Their defense lawyer, the infamous Clarence Darrow, made a dramatic appeal saying that Leopold had simply applied what he had been taught at school. "Your Honor," he said, "it is hardly fair to hang a nineteen-year-old boy for the philosophy that was taught him at the university."

In other words, Darrow was saying, since this boy was taught that there are no absolutes, then why should we hang him? He was just carrying out this philosophy to its logical ends.

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