

ANTHROPOLOGY (31)

QUESTION #26 – What are the three main methods of interpretation concerning the fall of man found in Genesis?

(Interpretive Method #1) - Allegory - a figurative story or legend.

(Interpretive Method #2) - Myth - a folklore or fairytale to teach some truth or lesson.

(Interpretive Method #3) - Literal - a literal, historical, actual, factual event that occurred exactly as the Bible says. N.T. writers interpreted Genesis literally—Rom. 5:12-21; I Cor. 15:21-22; I Tim. 2:14; Jude 14.

The only acceptable method of interpretation that is consistent with facts and consistent with the rest of the Word of God is to interpret the Genesis account literally. It is a literal, historical, factual account of what actually happened.

One of the main reasons why some want to discredit Genesis is because men do not like to face themselves as sinners. The moment one concedes that Genesis is to be interpreted literally is the moment one must concede that he has a real problem with God. Many do not want to face this reality and therefore Genesis is explained as being an allegory or myth, but not factual reality.

It is imperative to realize that the entire Bible, not just Genesis, must be interpreted literally for this is the only method of interpretation that acknowledges that God says what He means and means what He says. It is the only method of interpretation that allows God to speak for Himself.

QUESTION #27 – What was the test given to Adam and Eve?

The real test given to Adam and Eve was basically this: Will you obey the Word of God. God told them they were not to eat of one tree, so the ultimate test is whether or not they will obey Him in conforming to His Word.

This is the same type of test that faces both the unbeliever and the believer. The real issue at stake in anyone's life is whether we will obey God and His Word. This is the issue pertaining to both salvation and sanctification.

QUESTION #28 – What were the results of the fact that Adam and Eve did not choose to obey God? (This outline taken from the doctrine notes of Mr. John Miles).

The results of Adam and Eve's disobedience were devastating and we may see them under two headings:

ANTHROPOLOGY (32)

Heading #1 - Immediate Results.

When Adam and Eve sinned, there were two immediate results of that sin:

(Result #1) - Immediate shame. Gen. 3:7-10

The shame that they experienced after sinning affected each other and it affected their relationship with God. They made clothing to hide their shame from each other and they literally tried to hide themselves from God.

When one is in disobedience to God's Word, there is an Adamic tendency to cover one's condition rather than admit it. There is also a tendency to hide from God, His Word, His church and His faithful people. All of this comes right out of Eden.

(Result #2) - Immediate fear. Gen. 3:10

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were afraid to face Him, so they hid from Him. When a believer disobeys God, there ought to be a healthy fear of facing God. But there should also be a swift running to God to confess the sin rather than fearfully running and hiding from sin.

The truth is, if we are hiding and not confessing our sin, we should be afraid of facing God. In fact, the thought of facing God should prompt each of us to obedience.

Heading #2 - Future Results.

When Adam and Eve sinned, there were at least seven, long-term, futuristic results:

(Future Result #1) - The implementation of death. Gen. 2:17

As we have already covered, there were three types of death implemented at the fall—physical, spiritual and eternal. (See pp. 11-13 of these notes.) Prior to this, death was nonexistent.

(Future Result #2) - The curse on the serpent. Gen. 3:14

The serpent was penalized by God and condemned to crawl upon his belly. This is a staggering picture of what happens when one sins. Prior to Satan's influence, the serpent apparently stood upright in posture, but after Satan's influence he was degraded to the lowest, most humiliating form of existence—crawl in the dust. The end result of satanic influence will always be the same. Satan will take something that is standing tall and will bring it to the lowest form of degradation. Satan will always leave one crawling in the filth and dirt of this world.

ANTHROPOLOGY (33)

(Future Result #3) - The securing of the judgment of Satan. Gen. 3:15

The judgment of Satan was completely secured and guaranteed in Eden. Satan's judgment includes at least three features:

- 1) No harmony ever between God's family and Satan's family.
"enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed."
- 2) Total future destruction.
"He shall bruise you on the head."
- 3) Partial wounding of Christ.
"you shall bruise Him on the heel."

The Hebrew word "bruise" is one that refers to lying in wait in order to attack someone so that one may crush the target (Gesenius, p. 811).

What is actually described in Genesis 3:15 is a futuristic perspective of Satan's work against Christ. Satan waited for Christ to come to this world and when He finally did come, Satan bruised Him on the heel by having His hands and feet nailed to a cross. Ultimately, it was the cross that dealt a lethal blow to Satan and cements the fact that he will be forever doomed and damned.

Through Christ's work on the cross, millions have been saved from Satan's power and destiny. What he thought was a great victory over Jesus Christ ended up being a crushing blow to his head.

(Future Result #4) - The judgment against the woman. Gen. 3:16

In the aftermath of Eve's sin, God placed a futuristic judgment upon women that would include suffering, sorrow and subjection. There are three specific judgments God has placed on the woman:

(Judgment #1) - There would be suffering in childbirth. Gen. 3:16a

We may rightly assume that prior to Eve's sin, giving birth to a child would have been a relatively painless moment. More than likely, childbirth would have been, for the most part, pain-free. Pain in childbirth for a woman can directly be traced to Eden and God's judgment against Eve.

(Judgment #2) - There would be struggle in the marital relationship. Gen. 3:16b

The Hebrew word "desire" comes from a root word that means to run after, to long for, to have an overflowing desire. The problem of interpretation is the exact meaning of the words "your desire shall be for your husband." This has been interpreted to mean at least three things:

ANTHROPOLOGY (34)

1. A woman will have a strong, physical attraction for her husband, even though it can place her in a childbirth situation that will be extremely painful. A woman would have a strong desire to become pregnant, even though there is a promised judgment of pain.
2. A woman will have a strong desire to dominate her husband against the established Word and will of God. A woman will not automatically desire to help her husband as God originally designed (Gen. 2:18), but will desire to usurp the authority of her husband, which has been given to him by God. In other words, a woman will always struggle with being subordinate to her husband as a direct result of God's judgment.
3. A woman will have a strong desire to coerce her husband to sin. As a result of the fall, there will be a natural tendency on the part of the woman to lure her husband away from a true, pure focus on God—including His Word and will.

We must remind women (as we must also remind men) that once one has come to faith in Jesus Christ, she has the power to live out from under this curse and in fact is expected to do so—Rom. 5:12, 19, 21.

(Judgment #3) - There will be subordination in the marital relationship. Gen. 3:16c

There are various levels of rank in God's structure of things. In the home, God has placed the husband as the head over the wife. Now obviously a woman may choose not to submit herself to her husband's rank and if she so chooses to disregard God's Word, there are at least two consequences:

(**Consequence #1**) - The wife's worship will not be accepted by God and she will not receive a positive testimony from monitoring angels. I Cor. 11:3-12; 14:34-35; Eph. 5:22-24

(**Consequence #2**) - The wife's children will be affected by her insubordination. I Tim. 2:11-15

Eve's rebellion brought major judgment to all women. I Tim. 2:15 has been interpreted to mean:

- A. If a woman is faithful to the Lord and subordinate to her husband, she will not die in childbirth. Problem with this view is that many faithful, submissive women have died in childbirth and many godless, unfaithful, unsubmissive women have not died in childbirth.
- B. If a woman is faithful to the Lord and subordinate to her husband, her testimony shall be preserved by the fact that Jesus Christ came through this kind of woman. Certainly there is a glory to every woman knowing that Jesus Christ was born of a woman. However, the coming of Jesus Christ was not due to the faithfulness of a woman, but due to the promise of God.

ANTHROPOLOGY (35)

C. If a woman is faithful to the Lord and subordinate to her husband, she will preserve her significance before God and will not be an insignificant woman.

A woman's influence will be seen and established in her own children. Her significance as a woman of God will be evidenced in heaven and on earth. In this case, the children have the responsibility to continue in the things they saw worked out in their mother and if they do continue in the faith and love and sanctity that was demonstrated by the mother, the preservation of the mother's influence and the power of God will be greatly seen in this family.

A woman of God who quietly and submissively hears and obeys the Word and does not attempt to usurp the God-ordained, masculine authority is one who will be greatly used by God. She will be a very significant woman in the world, in the church and in the home. She will make an impact for the glory of God.

(Future Result #5) - The judgment against the man. Gen. 3:17-19

Just as God placed a judgment on the woman, so also He placed one on the man. Prior to the sin of Adam, all of his work would have been enjoyable, problem-free and prosperous (Gen. 2:15). There would have been no difficulties, hardships or struggles. In the aftermath of his sin, that would all change. God informed Adam that from now on, he would have setbacks, obstacles, difficulties and problems. Prior to the fall, the process of cultivating and keeping the garden would have always been a positive and pleasurable experience. Adam would have never become weary. Everything about his job would have been positive and results would have come quickly. After he sinned this all changed. His work would be difficult. There would be problems and pressures. There would be thorns and thistles and positive results would not come quickly or easily. Furthermore, after the man has invested his whole life in his work—the end would be that he would die and be buried in the ground he had worked so hard to conquer. Man suffered a major setback in Adam's sin and the grind of employment is the proof of that reality.

(Future Result #6) - The judgment against the earth. Gen. 3:17-19

It is very clear that during the millennium the curse against the earth will be lifted (Is. 11:6-9).

(Future Result #7) - The judgment against everything.

Many judgments came as a result of the fall:

- 1) All men are sinners. Rom. 3:9-12, 22-23; 5:12
- 2) The whole world is guilty and condemned. Rom. 3:19
- 3) All creation was negatively affected. Rom. 8:22-23; Is. 11:6-9