



The Adam Syndrome

By Robert A. French

About the Author

Robert (Bob) French has been in the ministry for over fifty years and during that time he has been an evangelist, a pastor, and missionary and has ministered in many countries and islands of the sea. He is now pastor of Balanced Life Christian Fellowship in the city of St. Charles, Missouri. Through the years Brother French has conducted tent and auditorium meetings as well as speaking in hundreds of churches. He has pioneered ministries in several places including the island of Puerto Rico where he and his wife spent three years in the San Juan area. Brother French has spent a great deal of time working in Mexico along with his oldest son Brian French. He spends most of his time these days ministering to his local congregation and writing.

The Adam Syndrome

To understand the story of Adam and Eve found in the book of Genesis, we must first decide how we are going to view the information given. The first thing to be decided is whether the narrative is an allegory or a fact. Many Christian denominations and theological schools hold to the opinion the Genesis narrative is simply an allegory and did not necessarily take place as written. The second decision is how we are going to view who or what the serpent was, and what the real meaning of the words used here meant in ancient Hebrew. Only by ascertaining the real meaning of these words can we begin to understand what really took place. The third view we must decide on is how we understand the two trees that were in the garden, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil which I dealt with in the booklet titled "The Genesis Narrative."

In my opinion, the understanding of the Genesis narrative is absolutely essential to how we view the rest of the Bible. It is not a fairy tale, or an allegory, although many have believed it to be exactly that, sending some in the middle ages looking for the fountain of youth etc. When we examine the text carefully we see the simple truth of the events unfold. It is rational, logical, and understandable, bringing understanding to other parts of Scripture heretofore difficult to explain. In the booklet, I will attempt to give a reasonable explanation, based on the real meaning of the words used, on these three viewpoints in a concise manner.

Allegory, Fact, or Fairytale

The narrative in Genesis chapter three has long been debated by scholars, theologians, and laity, as to whether it is allegory, fact, or fairytale. I have always been of the opinion it is fact, albeit I did not understand the logic or reason behind it. I was told, you just take it by faith whether you understand it or not. I never found that to be a satisfactory explanation, but for the lack of a better one, it is what I did. However, several years ago, I began an in-depth study of the first few chapters of Genesis and what I found was astonishing. I found some sources for ancient Hebrew that shed new light and understanding on these chapters which I will share in the following chapters.

First, let's deal with the idea that it is an allegory. I give here Webster's definition of the word allegory: "AL'LEGORY, n. [Gr. Allegoria, description of one thing under the image of another; from allos, other, and agoreuein, to speak in the assembly; agora, a place of assembly.

1. A story in which people, things, and happenings have another meaning, as in a fable or parable: allegories are used for teaching or explaining.

Adam Clarke, in his commentary of the Bible, Genesis, chapter three, verse one, inserted here: "The whole account is either a simple narrative of facts, or it is an allegory. If it be a historical relation, its literal meaning should be sought out; if it be an allegory, no attempt should be made to explain it, as it would require a direct revelation to ascertain the sense in which it should be understood, for fanciful illustrations are endless." I agree with Mr. Clarke, that it is a simple narrative of facts, however, in most of the major denominations and theological schools it is viewed as an allegory. Mr. Clarke finishes his statement by saying: "Believing it to be a simple relation of facts capable of a satisfactory explanation, I shall take it up on this ground; and, by a careful examination of the original text, endeavor to fix the meaning, and show the propriety and consistency of the Mosaic account of the fall of man. The chief difficulty in the account is found in the question, who was the agent employed in the seduction of our first parents?" The closest thing to an allegory in this chapter are the two trees in the garden, other than that I see nothing else.

If this is a factual account, then how are we to understand it, especially the two trees, one representing life, and the other knowledge. Are we to assume that by eating a piece of fruit, knowledge was supernaturally imparted to Adam and Eve, and they were suddenly made wise. I must confess, it does sound like something out of a fairytale. Therefore, many discount the story as just that, a fairytale or mythology. I do not have space here to go into the full subject of translation, but suffice it to say, that is where the problem lies. For a full explanation of the meaning of the trees refer to the booklet "The Genesis Narrative"

Jesus and the apostle Paul spoke of the importance of foundations. Jesus using the example of the one who built his house on the sand. Paul stating there is but one foundation, and that is the Christ upon which we can build. The most important part of any structure is its foundation and, in concordance, the most important part of human existence. Without the proper foundation, the house will fall down, which is also true of our lives. Genesis is the foundation of the Bible and of our faith. It is the book of the beginning, and gives us the first glimpse of our Father as he created all things in heaven and in Earth. Without Genesis, the foundation, we cannot build a true view of our Father and his creation. Therefore, it is imperative we understand it and believe it, for it is the foundation of our faith. Also, without a foundation or origin we cannot know where we are going.

I believe, in order to understand the plight of man up until this very day, we must have a full comprehension of what Adam did in the Garden. First let me say, I believe that the seduction of the adversary went on much longer than the few verses we have, and it happened more than once. Over a period of time I believe Eve was seduced into believing the lie of the adversary and eventually convinced Adam into believing it as well. The most powerful part of the seduction was in the statement: "you will become as God knowing good and evil," or as the words actually mean, function and dysfunction. But, was there more to it than just what appears on the surface? I think there was. First, we have to find out

what is entailed in being like a God yourself. What was it about Adam's decision that angered Jehovah to the point of putting Adam and Eve out of the garden? I do not have room, in a booklet such as this, to cover all the aspects of Adam's decision, so I am going to deal with what I think is the major one. He was deceived into thinking the earth could be his, that it belonged to him. This was a major mistake. This was the focus of the seduction used by the Serpent. In order to understand this fully, we must first find out who or what the serpent was and it was most certainly not a snake. The word used here is the ancient Hebrew word nachash, pronounced naw-khash', and according to Jeff Benner's dictionary of ancient Hebrew the meaning is this: "A primitive root; properly to hiss, that is, whisper a (magic) spell; generally to prognosticate: - X certainly, divine, enchanter, (use) X enchantment, learn by experience, X indeed, diligently observe." The foregoing is the general meaning of the word. The following is the meaning as it is used in Genesis 3:1 "Divine: To learn something through divination. [Unknown connection to root;] [freq. 11] (vf: Piel) [kju: enchantment, divine, enchanter, indeed, certainly, learn, experience, diligently, observe] {str: 5172} ... So, whoever or whatever this creature was, he was a diviner, enchanter and most of all a deceiver. Adam Clarke in his commentary agrees with this assessment. "It signifies to view or observe attentively, to divine or use enchantments, because in them the augurs viewed attentively the flight of birds, the entrails of beasts, the course of the clouds, etc.; and under this head it signifies to acquire knowledge by experience," (To read the full account by Clarke on this verse refer to his Commentary on Genesis 3:1). By this we see that what went on here was a seduction of the minds of Adam and Eve. It wasn't simply eating a piece of fruit which would have done nothing but sate their hunger. Their error was in believing what this creature was telling them rather than what Jehovah was teaching them. What's new, mankind for the most part, has done that very thing from then until now. He has fallen prey to the same deception as Adam, believing he can carve out of the earth his own existence without the blessing of the Father, Jehovah.

Shortly after the ark settled on the mountains of Ararat, and men began to multiply upon the earth, they applied themselves to building kingdoms. Nimrod built cities and even tried to build a tower so high God could not drown them again. They did all of this in defiance of the God Jehovah they knew existed. They were not atheist, they knew exactly who the Lord was, but still defied him in their arrogance. The Adam syndrome was alive and well, the deceiver had instilled the lie into their minds so deep they still believed they could create their own existence outside their creator's plan for them. Even after the Lord confused their languages at Babel, and scattered them over the earth, they never stopped striving to carve out their own existence. All the kingdoms created were thought, by the ones who made them, to last forever. But it never happened; a kingdom would rise and another would come along and destroy it, and on and on it went. We have much the same today, only instead of calling them kingdoms we call them nations or countries. Hitler thought he could resurrect the Roman Empire with his dream of a thousand-year Reich, which in reality, lasted less than ten years and cost several million lives.

Adam's temptation was to make his own destiny. He was told "you will be as a God," which is the only way there can be a real destiny. Without immortality destiny fails. Men understand this, but we still refuse to turn to the creator of all things and serve him in his kingdom, which is the only true and everlasting kingdom. To understand who we are, why we are, and what our purpose is, we must know where we began and for what purpose we were created. Instead of humbling ourselves before Jehovah

and recognizing him for who he is we continue in our rebellious state, to the extent we even deny he us or anything else. We have turned to science as our answer, creating the theory of evolution as our beginning, or the theory that alien species put us here, as in Chariots of the Gods. The one thing neither of these theories solve is the destiny or purpose of mankind. The question has been asked throughout the ages, why are we here? For what purpose were we created? The only satisfactory explanation is the one given in the Bible- we were created in the image and likeness of Jehovah, and he has an eternal purpose for his creation.

The adversary used the same strategy on Jesus that he used on Adam and Eve. When Jesus had ended his fast in the desert, the adversary came to him tempting him with three things, one of which was what all of them encompassed. Showing him the kingdoms of the world he said, if you will fall down and worship me I will give you all of these. In essence, this is the same thing he first said to Eve, you can rule the earth and carve out your own kingdom and create your own existence. How different the destiny of man might have been if Adam had just said no. Jesus, the second man Adam, answered correctly; it is written, you will serve the Lord God and only him. This is why the voice came from heaven as Jesus was coming up out of the water saying, this is my beloved son, listen to him. He understood who the kingdom really belonged to, it belongs to the Father. Answering Pilate, he said, my kingdom is not of this world, meaning, it is not like the kingdoms of men, it is an everlasting kingdom and Jehovah is the king.

The Adam Syndrome is stronger today than it has ever been, even the so-called church believes that civil government is the solution to all the problems facing man. If we can just vote in the right man or woman we can bring about God's kingdom on earth. I am not sure many of the Christian denominations really believe Jesus is returning to the earth. Man does not have the solutions to his problems, or the will to solve them even if he did. We have tried Republics, Democracy, Communism, Marxism, Kings, Dictatorships, Socialism, Fascism, etc., and to be sure a couple of these are much to be desired over the rest, but none of them have solved the ancient question, of who are we, why are we here, and what is our destiny? Only the Bible gives the answer to these questions and is made a reality through Jesus the son of Jehovah.

Ministry

Robert A. French established RAF Ministries to bring the light of the good news of Jesus the Christ, not built on tenants of an organization or denomination, but from the Word of God alone. Our goal is to work with those of likeminded followers of Jesus in bringing the message of life in the hope of our salvation while we are reconciled through Jesus to the one true Father of creation. We will use every forum available to bring the message of Jesus to the lost and to those searching for truth and fellowship to bring fulfillment to their lives.

Brother French has worked in and out of the United States throughout his ministry and we are committed to helping those who continually bring the message to people in other countries, including his great friend for many years Brother Jack Harris. Everything we can do to help men reach out into the world, we will put our hands, prayer and resources to further the gospel in these countries.

RAF Ministries is focused on spreading the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. Not on our personal views of God and scripture but based on the life and teachings of Jesus and his work of reconciliation and salvation.

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