

The FALL – “So, What's Your Problem, Anyway?”

Genesis – Historical Insights!

March 30, 2025

Remember—Getting Genesis 1 & 2 is KEY to Getting the Story of 'Me'!!—"Origins Matter"!! ...the "Human Headlines" of the CREATION CHAPTER - **"Humanity Gets Definition & Direction for Life and Life Abundantly!"**

"This is the first step toward the reenchantment of humanity. By rediscovering the theological nature of humanity in the biblical text, ... Mankind is not an accident; mankind is the special creation of almighty God. By recapturing the biblical account of human origins, we recapture human dignity, human worth, and our own identities." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 50

Genesis 3

"There is no tragedy like the tragedy of the historical fall of the human race. Biblical Christianity brooks no rivals when it comes to this momentous event. The fall of Adam and Eve following the creation of the world is symphonic in its terribleness. Man throws himself from the highest peak, becoming a transgressor in actuality and in nature by his disobedience. ...We take the fall for granted in Christian circles, perhaps. Other worldviews and belief systems contain no such epic event. ...The Christian story of the world allows for no such murkiness. With a bang, the Bible introduces us to a serpent, a wavering couple, and a real and destructive fall of the human race." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 52

...Physiology, Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Philosophy, Political Science, ...ALL Should Have Genesis 1-3 as their Starting Point ...?? – Where Do YOU Start Your Search for “Why Things are the Way Things Are?”

The Fall is both an "Historic Moment" AND an "Ongoing Condition" ...it answers the question--"So... What's Your Problem, Anyway?"

HISTORIC HEADLINES: "Humanity Has FALLEN!"

"The Shot Heard Round the World" ...Thought: "democratic, representative government by the people for the people" was in man's best interest—Leading to an Age of Revolution (American, French, Bolshevik)

Declaration of Independence:

"... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

...the Garden had such a scene! ...

"In Genesis 3, the issue is not primarily the content of the knowledge that humans would appropriate by disobedience but the manner in which they would obtain. ...By violating the command of God and eating of the tree, they would make themselves like God in the sense that they would position themselves outside and above the law and, like God, determine and judge for themselves what good and evil was. ...The issue in Genesis is indeed whether humanity will want to develop in dependence on God, whether it will want to have dominion over the earth and seek its salvation in

submission to God's commandment; or whether, violating that commandment and withdrawing from God's authority and law, it will want to stand on its own feet, go its own way, and try its own "luck." [7] When humanity fell, it got what it wanted; it made itself like God, "knowing good and evil" by its own insight and judgment. Genesis 3:22 is in dead earnest. This emancipation from God, however, did not lead and cannot lead to true happiness. For that reason, God by the probationary command forbade this drive to freedom, this thirst for independence. But humanity voluntarily and deliberately opted for its own way, thereby failing the test." **Herman Bavinck**, "Reformed Dogmatics", vol. 3, p. 41

... THIS is a massive issue! ...We were just introduced to the "Design/Engineering" of the Human Being—He's an "IMAGE BEARER" of Another! He's NOT the Original! He's NOT the Source! ...He NEEDS to Take His Cues from Another! He Needs Another to Make Knowledge Make Sense!!

2025's Bible Project: We're Traveling Through the Bible—Primarily Seeking to Understand the Main Points! (ie, "Biblical Theology"). THIS... is a MASSIVE MAIN POINT!! ...in the Bible's Presentation—&—Our Human Experience ...It Answers the Haunting Question of History—"What's Wrong with This Place?"

"So, What's Your Problem, Anyway?"

... This is No Small Matter in Life!! **...the Way You Explain Your "Problem" will Inform the Way You Seek a SAVIOR!!**

...5 Problems that the Word of God Reveals to Us—as We Seek to Figure Out—"What's Wrong Around HERE?"

"Houston... We've Got a Problem"

I. The Problem of "Sin"

Rom 5:12 "...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned"

- **Sin = missing the mark; imperfection;** ...which carries with it the implication that there is an absolute, an ultimate that determines what is ultimately "RIGHT"

"So, what is sin? It is, essentially, *any lack of conformity to the perfect will and character of God.*" ...Sin is any deviation from God's perfect will and character. It is anything that is out of step with who God is. ...Sin is the opposite of God. It is very important that we ground our definition of sin in its relationship to the perfect character of God. He is the creator of the universe; his character is the standard for what is good, right, true, and honorable." **Jon Nielson**, "Knowing God's Truth", p.95

Rom 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Rom 14:23 "...For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin."

...God created all things with a purpose. That purpose was related to His Glory. ...Man engages GOD by faith—so, a human life that is NOT lived out of submission, obedience, faith/trust/hope in God—Is SIN!

...Marginalizing or minimizing God is the OPPOSITE of WORSHIP. Man's failure to WORSHIP God is Sin.

- **Sin = a "Viral-Like Presence"** ...It is NOT merely a "Math Error" ("Falling short" or "missing the mark") ...it is something that is "functioning" or "at work" in our members & our world—It "Actively exerts some kind of force in creation." (It's the "Dark Side of the Force" ...the "Ring's Corruption")

Rom 6:6-7, 12, 20 ⁶...so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ...¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ...²⁰ you were slaves of sin,"

...Humanity didn't leave Sin in the Garden of Eden! ...It is NOT merely an "Event" that happened a long time ago!

Jam 1:13-15 ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

...Sin gets presented as something that is growing, spreading, and has ongoing "dynamic" to it!

1 Cor 5:7-8 ⁷ Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

...**So, What's Your Problem?** ...Well, it's my spouse ...it's the unfairness of the system ...it's my poor education—No doubt, these things are on our radar—But are you thinking about how to solve the "SIN-PROBLEM"??

II. The Problem of "The Flesh"

"It is not just that some parts of us are sinful and others are pure. Rather, every part of our being is affected by sin—our intellects, our emotions and desires, our hearts (the center of our desires and decision-making processes), our goals and motives, and even our physical bodies. Paul says, 'I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh' (Rom. 7:18)" **Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology**, p. 626

- o The "flesh" is a term often used to describe an aspect of our "personhood" that receives and experiences the corruption of the fall in very noticeable and experiential ways.

Gen 2:23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." ...Gen 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." ...Gen 6:12 And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Acts 2:17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, ...

Rom 7:5-6 ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Rom 7:14-19 ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the

desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

○ **This is a Powerful Lesson in "HUMAN NATURE"!!**

...If I get this about myself--I am within "arm's reach" of the GOSPEL!! ...I am aware that there is a "CORRUPTION" in me that can't be "medically or surgically cured" ...it can't be "undone by Education" ...there's No "Gov't or Social Program" that can fix this!!

...But the GOSPEL HOPE is found in Rom 7:6

It introduces me to the concept that the only way to Change This Condition of Natural Fallen Corruption ...is for me to DIE...&...GET A LIFE—a NEW Life!!!

...The Gospel Begins to Truly be "GOOD NEWS" when I realize that the "Nature of My Problem" is NOT SOLVABLE by any form of "better-living-human-effort"!! ...My "Corrupted Creation" NEEDS a "New-Creation"

"The same Scripture that tells us we have infinite worth also tells us we have lost God. Christianity does not speak of only one side of mankind, affirming it as without blemish or failing. We build out a comprehensive doctrine of the human person from all of Scripture, and thus all of theology. This means that we must simultaneously savor the significance of man as the image of God even as we square with the sordid sorrowfulness of personal depravity. ...We cannot leave our terrible state by positivity alone. We must know the truth about ourselves. If we would rise from the ashes, then we must know why we are here and why we are so innately sinful and selfish, and thus position ourselves to marvel at the mercy of God in Christ." **Owen Strachan**, "Reenchanting Humanity", p. 53

So... What's Your Problem, Anyway?

... "we build out a comprehensive doctrine of the human person from all of Scripture" ...Gen 1-3 is the starting point of understanding my problem! Carefully Investigating the Word of God informs me that I have a 5-Fold Problem: (1) Sin ... (2) "the Flesh" ... (3) The Devil ... (4) The World ... (5) The Curse/Judgment of God

CLIFFHANGER!!