

# Fallen Image

## Pre-Fall

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## Fall

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- Women to blame?
- Did God know the Fall would occur?
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- What if it had been Us?
- Curses to Man and Woman?
- Immortality Prevented or Avoided?

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- Treatment of nature?

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## Pre-Fall

### Created in God's Image?

Genesis 1:26: *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

A little lower than the angels:

Psalm 8:4-8: *what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?*

*You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.*

*You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:*

*all flocks and herds,*

*and the animals of the wild,*

*the birds in the sky,*

*and the fish in the sea,*

*all that swim the paths of the seas.*

- Tselem = image (shape, resemblance, figure, shadow) = eikon (Greek)
- demuth = likeness = homoiosis (Greek)

Image/Likeness of God:

- personal touch
- unique in creation i.e. Having material body and immortal soul/spirit
- a likeness mentally, morally, and socially
- ability to reason and chose
- a reflection of God's intellect and freedom
- a reflection of God's holiness, righteous and perfect
- created for fellowship
- we have but a taste of God's attributes
- we are distinct from the animals
- con-created holiness?

...“image” and “likeness” are synonyms. We are made in the image of God—as a shadow or a sign of the greater reality. The word is related to the Hebrew term tselem which means to “cut off, chisel”—as a statue. A statue is an image, both like and unlike its original—and it is dependent on that which it images. Likewise, we are god-like but limited/flawed; we are god-like but we appear just after the animals. As Kass notes, “Man is the ambiguous being, in between, more than an animal, less than a god.”

“Adam named Eve after G-d expelled them from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:20). Earlier, he had simply referred to her as "woman", having being made from "man" (in Hebrew the term for woman is "Isha", a derivative of the name for man "Ish"). That name defined the TYPE of being she was- a woman. The name he later gave her, Chava (in Hebrew), means "giver or source of life". At that time, Adam identified the ROLE that Eve/ Chava would have, namely to be the mother of all humankind.”

*Genesis 1:27: So God created human beings in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.*

- ha-adam = human
- zachar = male
- nekevah = female

*Genesis 2:7: Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.*

- ha-adam = human
- ha-a-da-mah = ground

*Genesis 2:23: “At last!” the man exclaimed.*

*“This one is bone from my bone,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
She will be called ‘woman,’  
because she was taken from ‘man.’”*

- Iysh = Man/husband
- Ishah = Woman/wife

*Genesis 3:20: Then the man—Adam—named his wife Eve, because she would be the mother of all who live.*

- Ha-adam = Man
- A-dam = Adam
- Chavvah (“life”) = Eve (latin = eh-vah)

### **Our Pre-Fall State?**

- Were we innocent, or were we holy, before the Fall?  
 “And so it is not right for us to say that man was created innocent...That is, Adam was created with holiness. He did not attain to holiness. He was created with holiness.”
  - Adam was created holy for; in the first place, his maturity demanded it
  - The idea of the will demands that Adam be created perfect, not in innocency, in holiness, not in innocency
  - If holiness is not created by God in Adam, then the creature would be improving the creator’s work

### **Soul vs Spirit vs Body?**

*Genesis 2:7: Then the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living person.*

- Hayah = living
- Nephesh = soul (being)

*Genesis 2:19: So the LORD God formed from the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and the man chose a name for each one.*

- Hayah = living
- Nephesh = creature (being)

*Matthew 16:26: And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?*

- Psuche = soul (living being)

What about 'spirit'? Is it different than 'soul'? Is it immortal?

- ruach = spirit/breath/wind
- pneuma = spirit/breath/wind

Dichotomous vs trichotomous

## **Purpose of Mankind**

*Genesis 1:26,28: Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, [a] and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ...God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

*Genesis 2:15: The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

kabash = subdue (bring under control)

radah = rule/dominion (benevolent)

Genesis 1,2 purposes:

- Rule over all living creatures
- Be fruitful and increase in number
- Subdue the earth
- Name all living creatures
- Take care of the Garden of Eden

“This was all given to Adam and Eve in the [Garden of Eden](#), a beautiful place. God let them and us know that as beautiful as the Garden was, it would not stay that way. It was subject to natural law and was going to degenerate. The Garden needed to be maintained, cultivated, dressed, and kept. That required a great deal of work. Man was not only to preserve, control, and direct it, but also to strive even to ennoble the Garden of Eden through work.”

Other purposes:

- Worship Him
- Serve the Lord with gladness (Ps 100:2)

## **Why did God create Mankind?**

- God is love
- God wants to (but does not need to) share this love
- Mankind (created in His image) was the best way to provide this opportunity

Westminster Confession of Faith : *Man's chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.*

### **Role of Eve?**

Genesis 2:18: *Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."*

Ezer = helper (complement not subordinate)

### **Trees in Eden?**

Genesis 2:9: *The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

The trees were:

- Tree of Life
- Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil

Other questions:

- Which one did Eve and Adam eat from? Only the forbidden one.
- Which one was the good tree and which one was the bad tree?  
 “The tree is a gift. It’s God’s gift of free choice to mankind. It’s God giving man the ability to choose God (good) or NOT God (evil).”
- What is wrong with knowing good and evil?

### **Was Eden Perfect?**

Nope: Re-read the listed functions of mankind. Also, God said that His creation was “good” (and finally “very good”), but not “perfect”.

- meod = very/exceedingly
- tob = good/beautiful

“The Bible, however, reveals that God created man as a vessel to contain Him as life so that man may express Him in His divine attributes and represent Him to rule over the earth. Thus, it reveals not only God's creation of man but also God's desire to live in man so that man may live in Him, resulting in an absolute oneness of God with man. “

- What about outside the Garden of Eden?
- Why was Satan present in the Garden?

### **Death Before the Fall?**

Yes, probably. At least:

- Cell death
- Plant death

However, if the Earth is actually very old (4.5 billion years) then animals (e.g. Dinosaurs) lived and died for millions of years before the creation of Adam and Eve. Were animals created immortal? If so, their populations would very soon overwhelm all resources.

### **Vegetarianism?**

*Genesis 1:29: Then God said, "Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food.*

- Does this imply that animals were also herbivores? Perhaps, depending on one's beliefs re: age of the Earth, death before the Fall, wild animals (*chaya* = wild animal), etc.

### **Proto-Humans?**

- Did other humans exist along with, or before Adam and Eve?
- Did proto-humans exist before Adam and Eve?

### **Life without the Fall?**

- No need for Jesus to become incarnate
- No need for sacrifices

- Perfect health
- Direct fellowship with the Creator
- Incredible technology
- No poverty or war
- Healthy environment
- Immortality (it depends...)

## Fall

### Origin of Sin?

- When did sin originate?

Isaiah 14:12-14: *“How you are fallen from heaven,  
O shining star, son of the morning!  
You have been thrown down to the earth,  
you who destroyed the nations of the world.  
For you said to yourself,  
‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars.  
I will preside on the mountain of the gods  
far away in the north.  
I will climb to the highest heavens  
and be like the Most High.’*

### How did we Fall?

Genesis 3:6-7: *The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.*

“To put it simply, it is the perfect knowledge of what is good and what is bad, it is perfect wisdom. And here Adam and Eve, God’s image has to decide between 2 exclusive options: (1) to let God be the source of wisdom, which is perfect or (2) to take on the knowledge of good and evil themselves, albeit imperfect. Adam and Eve chose the imperfect. They wanted the wisdom to know what is good and what is evil so that they can become their own destiny, they can become their own gods, they want autonomy, personal independence but sadly, it is to be imperfect. And when they ate it, as God has said it, they will surely die.”

### Women to Blame?

“Do you not know that you are [each] an Eve? The sentence of God on this sex of yours lives in this age; the guilt must of necessity live too. You are the Devil’s gateway: You are the unsealer of that [forbidden] tree: you are the first deserter of the divine law: you are she who persuaded him whom the devil was not valiant enough to attack. On account of your desert—that is, death—even the Son of God had to die.” (Tertullian, early church father)

### **Did God know the Fall would occur?**

Yes, unless one subscribes to 'Open Theism', which holds that God cannot know (or determines not to know) the future decisions of humans, to preserve their free will.

- So why create humanity with the choice to fail, and the knowledge that they would fail?

“There are many aspects to this question so we will simply give a few points to ponder. First, God did foresee our sin and the suffering we would cause. However, this same foresight allowed Him to see that in order to redeem us (even though we do not deserve it), He would have to become man and be cruelly put to death. So at the same time he saw our suffering, He also saw His own greater suffering and chose to create anyway – even though He enjoyed perfect happiness without us. He loves us that much.”

“God didn’t create the world primarily for our benefit, he did it for his glory. He created a world that would display his glory most fully and most perfectly. That is to say, every aspect of God’s character could be shown in its most extreme form. If God had created a world in which no one sinned, what aspects of his character could he have shown? His creative power, his loving-kindness, his provision for his people. But what about his mercy? Or his justice? Or his wrath? And would we have seen even his creative power to its fullest extent if there had been no death and therefore no resurrection?”

### **What if it had been us?**

#### **Curses to Man and Woman?**

Woman:

Genesis 3:16 *Then he said to the woman, “I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.”*

Alternative: “...as part of her curse God implanted a particularly intense drive to want to have a husband and a family. “

Man:

Genesis 3:17-19: *And to the man he said,*

*“Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree  
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,  
the ground is cursed because of you.  
All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it.  
It will grow thorns and thistles for you,  
though you will eat of its grains.  
By the sweat of your brow  
will you have food to eat  
until you return to the ground  
from which you were made.  
For you were made from dust,  
and to dust you will return.”*

### **What Death Occurred?**

Genesis 2:16-17: *But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”*

- What is wrong with knowing good and evil?
- Physical or spiritual death?
  - Instantaneous spiritual death
  - Delayed physical death (perhaps...)
- What happened?
  - Severed relationship with God
  - Degraded nature
  - Death sentence
  - Cursed environment

### **Immortality Prevented or Avoided?**

- Were we immortal in the Garden of Eden before the Fall?

Genesis 3:22-24: *Then the LORD God said, “Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” So the LORD God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. After sending them out, the LORD God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a*

*flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

“Since physical death is a result of sin, it seems probable that the humans were created with the possibility of living forever. They were not inherently immortal, however; that is, they would not by virtue of their nature have lived on forever. Rather, if they had not sinned, they could have partaken of the tree of life and thus have received everlasting life. They were mortal in the sense of being able to die; and when they sinned, that potential or possibility became a reality.”

- Is this a curse, or a blessing?

## **Post-Fall**

### **How has our nature changed?**

- How are our natures different since the Fall?  
“The choice of Adam and Eve to sin against God resulted in drastic changes, physically as well as to their natures. They and their progeny would now have a sinful nature - their proclivity would be toward sin - and they would become dull to the things of God.”
- What does it mean to be totally depraved? It does NOT mean:
  - We are as wicked or sinful as he could be
  - We are without a conscience or any sense of right or wrong
  - We does not or cannot do things that seem to be good
  - We cannot do things that seem to conform outwardly to the Law of God
- Instead, it means:  
“every part of man—his mind, will, emotions and flesh—have been corrupted by sin”

### **Calvinism vs Arminianism?**

What are the two basic orthodox/legitimate views of our fallen condition in regards to God's sovereignty, our free will, and salvation in protestant beliefs?

Calvinism:

- Total Depravity
- Unconditional Election
- Limited Atonement

- Irresistible Grace
- Perseverance of the Saints

Arminianism:

- Freed by Grace (to Believe)
- Atonement for All
- Conditional Election
- Total Depravity
- Security in Christ

### **Arminianism**

All people are floating in the water *dead* in their natural condition (total depravity). They are born dead because that has been the condition of humanity since the first man and woman jumped into the water and died (original sin). Death begets death. There must be intervention if they are to be saved. God uses his power to bring *every one of them* back to life (prevenient grace), but they are still in the water and in danger of drowning. With the regenerated ability to respond to God, now God throws the life preserver to them and calls on them all to grab hold of it. They then make the free-will decision on their own to grab a hold of the life preserver (faith) or to swim away. If they grab a hold, they must continue to hold as God pulls them in (synergism). They don't need to do anything but hold on. Any effort to swim and aid God is superfluous (*sola fide*). They can let go of the preserver at any time and, as a consequence, lose their salvation.

### **Calvinism**

All people are floating in the water *dead* in their natural condition (total depravity). They are born dead because that has been the condition of humanity since the first man and woman jumped into the water and died (original sin). Death begets death. There must be *radical* intervention if they are to be saved. While God calls out to all of them (general call), due to his mysterious choice, he brings back to life (regeneration) only certain people (election) while passing by the rest (reprobation). He does not use a life preserver, but grabs a hold of the elect individually and immediately pulls them onto the boat (monergism). They naturally grab a hold of God as a consequence of their regeneration (irresistible grace; *sola fide*). They forever stay on the boat due to their perpetual ability to recognize God's beauty (perseverance of the saints).

### **Human rights?**

- What effect has the Fall had on human rights?

The Christian response to human rights:

- Recall from Genesis that we are created in God's image and likeness
- Murder is a most heinous crime:

Genesis 9:6: *If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image.*

- The Ten Commandments contain prohibitions against murder, theft, coveting, adultery, and bearing false testimony. These five laws promote the ethical treatment of our fellow man.
- Other examples in the Law include commands to treat immigrants well, to provide for the poor), to grant interest-free loans to the poor.
- God does not discriminate or show favoritism
- Every person is a unique creation of His, and He loves each one
- We should not discriminate based on race, gender, cultural background, or social standing
- We are to be kind to all
- We are to help whoever is in need
- We serve God most when we serve others

### **Abortion?**

- When does life begin?
- Does God or Man create a soul/spirit?

### **Power of Satan?**

### **Fallen Nature?**

- Has nature suffered as part of our Fall?
- Creation groaning?

Romans 8:19-22: *For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

- What is meant by this?

“The groaning of creation is the result of man's sin. Adam did not consult with the animal world nor did he involve the rest of creation in his decision to disobey God. Innocent though it was, all creation suffers the backwash of Adam's sin. Creation suffers not only due to the initial sin of Adam, but creation also sufferings from the on-going sin of mankind. Pollution is but one evidence of man's sin which causes the suffering and groaning of creation.”

“The groaning of the creation is due to a divine sentence of corruption and futility. Creation has

been in the process of deterioration since the fall of man. Our own bodies bear testimony to the process of corruption...Creation groans because of the irreversible process of deterioration and decay. In essence, like men, the earth is dying. Corruption and deterioration results in a life characterized by futility. Futility is the opposite of hope. Futility means that no matter how hard we try to resist or reverse the process of corruption, it is inevitable. “

Also, some speculate that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermodynamics was increased after the Fall to make deterioration faster, but not so drastic as to dishearten us from trying.

### **Treatment of animals?**

- How has the Fall affected our treatment of animals?
- Vegetarianism? It lasted till after the Great Flood:

*Genesis 9:1-4: Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. All the animals of the earth, all the birds of the sky, all the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the fish in the sea will look on you with fear and terror. I have placed them in your power. I have given them to you for food, just as I have given you grain and vegetables. But you must never eat any meat that still has the lifeblood in it.*

Possible negative uses of animals:

- Animal testing?
- Hunting animals for sport?

Our responsibilities:

- We are to control the numbers of animals so disease and sickness do not kill them off
- we are to use the animals for our needs
- we are to control animals in a manner in which they are not harmful to humans
- we should protect them from over-killing and abuse.

“The problem lies in the fact that many do not understand this balance and tend to over-protect or under-protect animals. Animals were created for us to enjoy, so protecting a remnant for others to enjoy is also proper. ”

C.S.Lewis “The Silver Chair”: The children eat the venison of a talking stag without knowing it, and are horrified when they find out.

### **Treatment of nature?**

- How has the Fall affected our treatment of nature/environment?
- What should be our approach to nature and the environment?
- Recall purpose of mankind from Genesis 1,2:  
 “Because they were created in His image, God gave men and women a privileged place among all creatures and commanded them to exercise stewardship over the earth. Stewardship implies caretaking, not abusing. We are to intelligently manage the resources God has given us, using all diligent care to preserve and protect them. “
- We need to be careful not to distort God's design:  
 “...the earth we inhabit is not a permanent planet, nor was it ever intended to be. The environmental movement is consumed with trying to preserve the planet forever, and we know this is not God's plan...rather than trying to preserve the earth for thousands or even millions of years to come, we are to be good stewards of it for as long as it lasts, which will be as long as it serves God's sovereign plan and purpose.”

## Eternity

### Paradise restored or Heaven?

- Is Heaven/Eternity a return to the Garden of Eden?
- More evidence that Creation was not 'perfect'?

### Free choice removed?

- Will our natures be restored to the same as they were in the Garden of Eden?
- If God values our free will and unforced love to Him, what about our free will in Heaven?
  - Answer 1: There is NO free will heaven. The saved are immutably good and have no choice nor temptation to sin.
  - There IS free will in heaven--we have the capacity to choose evil. But in our glorified body and regenerated nature, we abhor evil (no evil desire), and therefore never choose it.
  - There is NO free will in heaven. However, we can not consider heaven in isolation from the earthly decision that led to eternal life. We had free will on earth, and God simply permanently cemented that freely chosen (salvifically efficacious) decision to accept Christ upon mortal death.
- Won't there be a risk of another rebellion?

Romans 6:4-7: *For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since*

*we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.*

“When we're saved and choose to be baptized, we die to ourselves and receive a new nature. This nature is in conflict with our old fleshly nature. When our bodies die, that old nature perishes completely as well, leaving the divine nature alone. ”

“Free will is the ability to make choices. We do not know exactly what heaven will be like, but the condition of heaven and its greatness does not mean we won't be able to make choices. We are, after all, made in the image of God which includes the ability to freely make choices. Therefore, since the image of God in us is retained in salvation, it is safe to say that we will have the freedom to make choices in heaven as well. Of course, being in the presence of God and his Holiness, and also being in resurrected, glorified bodies, our choices will always be good.”

- If angels rebelled in Heaven, why won't/can't we?

### **How will we be like Him?**

- What does it mean that we will be like Christ in Eternity?

*1 John 3:2: Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is.*

“The short answer is that “glorification” is God's final removal of sin from the life of the saints (i.e., everyone who is saved) in the eternal state. At Christ's coming, the glory of God – His honor, praise, majesty, and holiness-- will be realized in us; instead of being mortals burdened with sin nature, we will be changed into holy immortals with direct and unhindered access to God's presence, and we will enjoy holy commune with Him throughout eternity.”

“We will be perfectly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus and be like Him in that our humanity will be free from sin and its consequences.”