Bible Study 89

August 9, 2023

“The Women of the Bible” (continued)

EVE:

On the Sixth Day God created man in the biblical story to be found in the Book of Genesis. Adam and Eve are made in the image of God. They are given a place in the Garden of Eden.

The Genesis story answers an age long question: “Where does sin and evil come from?”

“Why do we suffer pain?”

“Why do we live and then die?”

“Why do we need to toil and work to stay alive?”

“Why is their a division between ourselves and God?”

The role that Eve plays in the story is ambiguous to say the least. Man and Woman in Genesis are created and live as equals. They are given authority and charge of everything in the Garden.

They are forbidden to eat of the two trees at the center of the garden; the “Tree of life” and the “Tree of Knowledge.”

God places a wise and subtle serpent in the garden? Why? If God’s creation has ‘Free Will’ why put the Tempter in their midst? Why does God allow the serpent this advantage to tempt and seek the “Fall of Man?”

The serpent convinces he woman that if she eats of the Apple her eyes will be opened and she will see all as God sees. The story really says ‘Fruit’ and not ‘Apple.’ She takes a bite and gives it to Adam.

Is a piece of ‘Fruit’ really the cause of “The Fall of Man?”

Scholars for centuries have debated this. St Augustine taught that it was not fruit but sex. In disobeying God Mankind had created Original Sin by taking possession of the cardinal knowledge of sexual intercourse.

Here is the question I would ask: “Where are we if Adam and Eve do not eat the fruit nor gain knowledge of good and evil? They are two people living forever, never die and never procreate!

Hebrew people only have the condition that the find themselves in. It is a life of toil, work, pain. Suffering. Childbirth, conflict, hunger, war and death. They ask themselves the question: “What went wrong?” Genesis answers their question.

The Book of Genesis was written at the time of the Kingdoms. It has stark lessons for that generations surrounded by enemies, cultures and pagans on all sides.

Where was the garden mean to be?

God commands the serpent to crawl on its belly. What was it doing before?

Why are snakes so hated?

Was Eve really to blame?

What do C.S. Lewis write about Adam and Eve?

What does the story tell us about man’s true nature?

Can we ask ourselves the question: “Do each of us come to a moment like Eve’s ‘Bite the Apple, or just be Good?’

50 years ago in Ireland no one would first have sex; live together have two babies and then after eight years get married in a big family wedding! Never happen.

Today it is the NORM.

Has our morality changed?

Fr. Bill