

# Politics and Christian Civilization

## Politics in the Garden of Eden: Class Two

### PART II GARDEN OF EDEN

Satan probably had foreknowledge of the woman and mistaking her for Eve went right to work. He knew if he could turn man from God he could subject him to slavery rather than serve him as God planned, so he tempted Eve as he had tempted other angels to follow him into rebellion.

He was not aware of the Messiah; in no way would God debase Himself like this in a way that not even an angel was willing to do: this was not revealed until after the fall. When God revealed that He intended to rescue man through the instrumental cause of a woman.

When he does, the war between the two seeds (Gen 3:15) begins the drama of history and heightens the story of law and politics relative to life in society in pursuit of happiness.

**Messiah will be born of the seed that keeps the word of God from Adam through Noah from Noah through Abraham, Abraham to David and David to Jesus.**

**Let's consider the issue a little further.**

God's Eternal Law is manifest in all created things. Adam knew God better than Aristotle did; his mind was unclouded and thus had perfect knowledge of the natural law, which was operative in the Garden.

With this mind, Adam had knowledge of all forms and knew the essence of all things. Thus, he could name all animals (Gen 2:20). He knew each species and about propagation but no such possibility for him. God said, ***“And the Lord God said: It is not good for man to be alone: let us make him a help like unto himself” (Gen. 2:18).***

**It is not good because man is created in God's image and God is not alone.**

Thus, EVE was taken from his side as Jesus taken from essence of the Father. God from God, woman from man. So Adam said:

***"This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man" (Gen 2:23).***

But both naked and not ashamed = no inordinate concupiscence = total control of their members. They existed in a state of natural perfection possessed both **intellectual** virtue and **moral virtue**.

Moreover, God intended increase of human race even in paradise (1:28) "**Be fruitful and multiply**" was uttered before the fall.

God not only imaged the mystery of the Trinity in taking Eve from Adam, He further imaged it in the insistence that they become one. For this purpose, He instituted marriage as he ordinary and sacred means for propagation.

***Wherefore a man shall leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they shall be two in one flesh" (Gen 2:24).***

From the one (Adam) comes two and from the union of the two united in love comes a third person who reflects their mutual self-giving love.

In this state they had Permission to eat of all trees including **Tree of Life** but not the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**.

Here the first prohibition is instituted: If they should eat of second tree they would "**Die the death**" (Gen 2:15) = become a mortal subject to death which you are not now. Adam was intended to live forever = Tree of Life. But before he could reach out and eat of this tree, he had to be tested. So God permitted Lucifer to tempt him.

To better grasp the dynamics operating here we must ask 3 Questions

- How could a being so perfect as Adam fall?
- Why does this fall have such broad ramifications?
- How are the fall of Adam and Lucifer different

The Divine Prohibition could **not** be grasped by Adam's natural intellect. It seems an imposition of the will with no reason other than God said so. Adam who knew the natural law and the essence of all natural things could not give immediate obedience to the law because it was not in his reason to grasp it. This theological fact, coupled with his love for Eve helps accounts for it.

Prohibition gives knowledge of sin. But as Aquinas says, prohibition encourages sin and more willing to commit an act because it is prohibited. Body craves for what is denied.

Question is did Adam or Eve understand reason for prohibition? The only reasonable answer: it was wrong simply because God prohibited it.

Thus, he could not naturally adhere to it as a dictate of reason because this act is not wrong in itself, *malum in se*, but only wrong because it was prohibited, *malum prohibitum*, thus more appearance of the will and arbitrary.

In this way Adam could be tested for he did not know the reason for it. It was beyond his natural reason as the Divine Law was beyond intuition of Lucifer; it thus appears to be a whim of the Legislator whom Adam knew to be good, the Creator and worthy of honor, praise, and worship, yet he had no knowledge caused by faith or beatific vision, nothing beyond the natural intelligence of a rational soul able to know all natural things.

This accounts for both his temptation and for the severity of his punishment. Why a fall = **gravity** of a sin is measured **by the act, circumstances** and **dignity of person** committing the act.

Adam = act of *disobedience* and Lucifer = act of *rebellion are different species of sin*. Adam was tempted, Lucifer was not. Lucifer is a rebel, Adam merely disobedient on a point, not a rebel against law.

True obedience does not ask why but submits. Jesus in Garden (“Not my will, but...”) and fiat of Mary. Both obedient even unto death out of love for Father.

The issue becomes clear when consider the problem caused when a person is commanded to do something that will cost them and they ask why and receive no answer or an unsatisfactory one. Then obedience really tested easier to do if makes sense, more difficult if taxed to your limits because you know and understand a better way.

Mary did not ask why, she asked how is this to be.

*“And Mary said to the angel: How shall this be done, because I know not man?” (Luke 1:34).*

**Crime or sin of disobedience** brought the punishment of death caused by separation from God who is Life, the fruit had no power, everything rested on the act.

Can be no life until man is forgiven and able to have communion with God, which Jesus will restore through incarnation, death and resurrection.

Man had separated himself from God by refusing his love or refusing to trust him by whom he is loved.

Neither Lucifer or Adam trusted or obeyed as Jesus and Mary did and as each person is asked to do in adversities of life

Thus man lost access to **Tree of Life**, if no fall man would have lived forever = but cannot receive until the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus. If no fall man would have presumably experienced deeper union with God through reception of the Eucharist symbolized in Tree of Life.

As it is, he could not receive communion in a worthy state and thus cannot be remedied until Jesus instituted reconciliation by His death and resurrection

The Eucharist can only be received by men made worthy by cleansing blood of lamb which had not yet been shed for the world. Thus, they were barred from Tree of Life:

***“And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life” (Gen. 3:22).***

**Key words:**

***Rebellion***

***Disobedience***

***Eternal Law***

***Natural Law***

***Divine Law***

***Intuition***

***Reason***

***Malum Prohibitum***

***Malum en Se***