

Scriptural
Apologetics

100

Salvation



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Scriptural Apologetics 100

Salvation

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Foreword

The scriptural doctrine of Salvation is the most important doctrine in our Holy Bible; get that one wrong and none of the rest matter.

Every soul is precious to God, whether that soul is in a meth lab, a prison cell, a throne room, or out on the street. Some might say God doesn't love everyone because He said He hated Esau. (Romans 9:13 Malachi 1:3). You can love someone while hating them because the opposite of hate isn't love. The opposite of hate is like. That's why you can respect someone you hate, but you can't like them.

Love's opposite is apathy; Love is passion and concern; apathy is the lack of concern or passion. That's why God is love.

The purpose of this book is to equip the reader for those questions the unsaved have concerning salvation: who needs it, why they need it, what it is, and even what it isn't.

Sometimes the questions are genuine, but sometimes they're accusatorial. The word of God is both a sword and shield. Treat all questions as genuine because you are an ambassador for your king, even when it isn't convenient.

You should sound confident when you speak with someone about their soul. Your conversation might be the most important one in their entire life, so never shrug it off or belittle them or their questions.

Study to show thyself approved.

All scripture in English is from the King Version of the Holy Bible.

Sin's Curse

Introduction

There are three requirements for a curse; a stipulation, an evocation, and an executor: an event that is spelt out, an occurrence that acts as a trigger, and someone to ensure the fulfillment of said curse. Lacking any of these three, you simply have water cooler conversation.

When a curse is mentioned, usually a pharaoh or a voodoo priest is thought of. Whether we believe in curses or not, there are a lot of coincidences that seem to happen to those that ignore them.

Sometimes these curses are just traps set up to protect a burial site, but as well there are times something supernatural appears to be involved.

A curse is many times interpreted as something evil because no one has ever been cursed with riches, unless you ask some foolish lottery winners who didn't realize their money wasn't limitless.

The purpose of a curse is to prevent someone from doing something; a particular something. If that *something* isn't done, that curse doesn't go into effect. To the person making the curse it is a method of protection, a good thing.

Sin's Curse

Only those who violate the conditions of the curse see it as inherently evil.

With that in mind, let us take a look at the defiance that started it all: the curse of sin. It began with a stipulation: *Don't eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil*. It also contained an evocation, that *you shall surely die*, and an Executor, the Lord God Himself.

Let us examine the results of what transpired when this curse was activated.

The Pronouncement of the Curse

In cinema, a curse can lie dormant for thousands of years before it is triggered, and it still goes off without a hitch; a lot of the remainder of the movie is spent trying to rid those cursed of its chronic effects if they aren't killed instantly.

Genesis 2

16 ¶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

We don't know if Genesis 3:1 is the first temptation that the devil tested mankind with; it was at least the first time he was successful; the devil always has a backup plan. He would have to use an animal, the serpent, because he lacked a body, and it lacked a spirit.

The events recorded here didn't seem out of the ordinary to the woman later called Eve. Were a serpent to

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come to me and ask me anything, an answer would not be the first thing out of my mouth. I'd probably do a mental inventory of everything I'd consumed in the last few hours, and plan to revisit them later.

She didn't question the fact that she was conversing with an animal; it is possible that a perfect creation would be able to talk with each other, but we don't know this.

The serpent is described here as עָרֹם ('ā·rūm) or *crafty, sneaky, and more cunning* than the rest of creation. I grew up in a family paranoid of snakes, so it seems surreal to me that Eve didn't have any sense of concern with this encounter. Replace Eve with my father or younger brother and we'd still be in that garden.

The serpent asked a question that seemed benign at the time: "hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

The world was new; innocence and trust abounded at this point. Eve's innocence allowed her to see the question the serpent asked as genuine, as if she were being asked what the food stipulations were.

If this were a third or fourth generation serpent, it might be asking as one new to Eden. But for whatever

Sin's Curse

reason, Eve thought this was a legitimate question, and simply answered it.

Some would say Eve lied here; she didn't: she simply expanded on what God had said. Her response was "We can't eat it; we can't even touch it."

Just as Jesus said that lusting after a woman is the same as adultery; as James said hating your brother is the same as murder, Eve knew that touching the fruit was the first part of consuming it.

The devil responded by introducing doubt: "Ye shall not surely die". Eve had never heard a lie before and had probably never been confused before. This was in direct opposition to what she had heard, so she began to try reasoning this out in her mind.

When her forehead scrunched as she tried to process this contradiction, the devil went into an information overload mode.

Sin can be broken down into three categories: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. The serpent gave her all three prongs on this assault of mankind. He began by giving what appeared to be a reasonable explanation as to why God would supposedly lie to them.

Sin's Curse

“If you eat the fruit, you’ll be like Him, and know good and evil.” This actually wasn’t a lie because evil only existed in the fallen angels at this point, and good was all she knew.

The potential for evil existed simply because God had created free will, and the only way to exercise free will is to be given a choice.

Both Adam and Eve had been exercising free will of course, which fruit for dinner, which part of the garden to dress today, and what to do with these orange peels.

But when God said, “Don’t eat”, this was free will at a completely different level. And Eve was being exposed to that level; from what she now considered blind obedience to a very tempting choice.

She saw that the fruit was good for food; this is the lust of the flesh. It’s possible that she had previously never gotten too close to the tree before, but it was now the center of her attention.

It was pleasant to look on (the lust of the eyes); at this point she might have picked the fruit, turning it around in her hand. She possessed it, and the thought of what she was doing possessed her as well.

Sin's Curse

By this point the devil knew he had won: she was holding the fruit, perhaps the dew of the morning was still on it, and she was considering her pride of life issue, being like God by knowing good and evil.

And this was fulfilled when she ate that fruit and offered it to Adam who ate also. She now fully understood good and evil; her disobedience of God's command had rendered her evil, and the innocent state that she had lost was its opposite: good.

Eve had been tempted by the devil himself; she had been introduced to doubt and uncertainty, deceived by being told she would be like God Himself, and encouraged and indoctrinated by a force she had never encountered before.

Adam just ate what Eve offered him: no temptation.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

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The Performing of the Curse

Not only was the stipulation concise and clear, but the Executor is also revealed, having the power to follow through with the enacting of the curse: “thou shalt surely die.”

Not to beat a dead horse, but Adam did die that day because death is simply separation, not just of body and soul.

Adam's death was actually two-fold; his spirit died, and his relationship with God died as well. His physical life went on for hundreds of years more, but inside, he was a dead man.

And we inherit this death sentence from Adam: this curse is still in effect, and the larger the population grows, the wider its impact is visible. No one under this curse has ever slipped through its cracks because there are no cracks.

For those who believe in the immaculate conception, we have to bust your bubble here; Mary was a sinner just as we all are. The curse of sin is passed on, not from our mothers but from our fathers. If embarrassment were possible in heaven, Mary, Peter, and Jude would be in a contest to see who could turn the deepest shade of red.

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