

MAN
(Part 5 of 7)

The fall of man and the validity of the account has been classified into three categories.

(1) Legend. Which means that the facts are not true, but fabrications. In 1895, a man by the name of Hermann Schultz promoted this idea in his work of “Old Testament Theology”. He said, “That such sketches cannot possess the value of historical accounts is evident from the whole style of the narrative. It is a general picture of religion and morals in the light of a later period. But for giving a knowledge of those primitive days it is not by any means, on that account, wholly valueless.”

(2) True Myth. In 1954, A. M. Hunter calls it a “true myth”. He went on to explain what he meant by a true myth when he said, “Unless we are invincible fundamentalists we know that Genesis 3 is properly to be regarded as ‘a true myth’ --- that, though Eden is on no map and Adam’s fall fits no historical calendar, that chapter witnesses to a dimension of human experience as present now as at the dawn of history --- in plain terms, we are fallen creatures, and the story of Adam and Eve is the story of you and me.”

(3) Actual Truth. To refute positions one and two C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch said the fall of man “is factual and historical truth”. They went on to prove that, “The account of the creation, its commencement, progress, and completion, bears the marks, both in form and substance, of a historical document in which it is intended that we should accept as actual truth, not only the assertion that God created the heavens and the earth, and all that lives and moves in the world, but also the description of the Creation itself in all its stages.”

It is this position (3) that true Christianity holds.

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