

## WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #15

### **“Echoes of Eden”**

#### **Part 2**

We are in a war between 2 worldviews.

The foundation stones of the biblical worldview are set in place in the 1st 3 chapters of Genesis, where we discover the patterns and prototypes that will be repeated, over and over again, throughout human history.

In other words, world events and the days of our lives are merely "echoes of Eden".

As Solomon said...

**The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:9-10 KJV**

Solomon is not saying there won't be new inventions or new advancements; he is speaking of the basic nature of things.

**“We boast of new fashions, new hypotheses, new methods, new expressions, which jostle out the old, and put them down. But this is all a mistake: for there is no new thing under the sun. What is there in the kingdom of nature of which we may say, God's works were finished from the foundation of the world (Hebrews 4:3)”**

**Matthew Henry**

The New Living Translation says it this way...

**History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new. Sometimes people say, "Here is something new!" But actually it is old; nothing is ever truly new.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:9-11 NLT**

This means that we can best understand and interpret our “present” by means of fully understanding our “past”.

To do that we have go back to our “beginning”!

## I. Genesis is the Foundation Stone for a Biblical Worldview

### A. The Book of Beginnings

1. The Book of Genesis is the “Book of Beginnings”; a revelation of how the world began and how man came into existence.

a. The most important verse in the Bible is the 1<sup>st</sup> verse in the Bible...

**“In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.”**

**Genesis 1:1**

b. This is the most attacked verse in the Bible because everything that follows is founded upon this one truth.

c. This introduces the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, as God systematically separates the water and the dry land; creates the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, the plants and animals.

d. **Genesis is called the Book of “1<sup>st</sup> things**; because God creates living things with the “seed within itself”; so all the grass, trees, birds we see today are “echoes of Eden!

2. All living things are prototypes; originals that will be reproduced as long as the earth exists....

**“prototype”**

**An original model upon which something is patterned; a standard or typical example.**

**Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition**

3. What happens in Genesis, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 chapters, provide us with prototypes of things that have been and will be done again; history will repeat itself; human history will be filled with “echoes of Eden”.

### B. Genesis is the “Book of 1<sup>st</sup> Things”

**1. In Genesis 1-2-3 we find:**

- **The 1<sup>st</sup> commandment**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> words of Satan**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> sin**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> response of sinful man to God**
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> response of God to sinful man**

2. Each of these “1<sup>st</sup> things” provide us with prototypes of principles that will be repeated over and over throughout human history.

3. Even now, 6,000 years later, we hear “echoes of Eden”!

**a. God is still speaking**

**b. Satan is still speaking**

**c. Man is still sinning and responding to God the same way**

**d. God is still righteous and responding to sinful man the same**

**way**

4. There is nothing new under the sun; history is still repeating itself!

## **II. Five Echoes of Eden**

### **A. God is Still Speaking**

1. God created man and gives commandments to His creatures; here we have the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment.

**15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."**

**NASB**

2. There are still 2 “trees” in the Garden; there are still only 2 choices for man; our fate is still decided by which tree we will choose!

### **B. Satan is Still Lying**

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> recorded words of the devil are in Genesis 3:1...

## **“Hath God said...?”**

2. Here we have the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence spoken by the serpent; he questions God’s word!

3. And this is all he’s ever done ever since! All he’s done the past 6,000 years are “echoes of Eden”; the first sign of the serpent is to question God’s word; there’s nothing new under the sun with the devil; his 1<sup>st</sup> job is to make us QUESTION the Word of God!

4. Satan’ subtle strategy never changes! He is always *begins* by casting DOUBT: Did God really say that? He still starts here.

5. The second words of Satan are in the next verse: he moves from tempting us to doubt God’s word to an outright DENIAL of God’s word!

**And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die! For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**

**Genesis 3:4-5 KJV**

a. Notice the progression: once he gets us to DOUBT God’s word he sets us up to DENY God’s word; then he tops it all off by offering them DEITY!

**DOUBT > DENIAL > AN OFFER OF DEITY**

6. Nothing has changed! Whenever you have a thought that makes you DOUBT God’s word or hear someone DENY the truth of God’s word, you are hearing “echoes of Eden”.

a. If you fall for it, you have just become “as God”; you now sit in God’s seat, deciding what is good and what is evil for yourself.

**Review:**

**So God is still speaking, Satan is still lying, and man is still sinning!**

**C. Man is Still Sinning**

**And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.**

**Genesis 3:6 KJV**

1. The greatest sins are to DOUBT God's word, to DENY God's word, and worst of all, to "DEIFY" yourself as your own god.

2. Sin may good; it may taste good; it even might feel good; but it always cuts you off from fellowship with God.

3. Every sin ever sinned is an echo of Eden!

### **Review**

**So God is still speaking/Satan is still lying/Man is still sinning  
But there's more...**

#### **D. Sinful Man is Still Responding the Same Way**

1. You've heard many sermons on sin; but you may have missed something if you don't read the next verse...

**And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.**

**Genesis 3:7**

2. Sin makes you feel "naked". There is a difference between being unclothed and being naked.

a. Adam and Eve were created naked; Genesis 2:25 tells us that Adam and Eve were "naked and not ashamed"

b. But now they "know they are naked"; what does it mean?

3. If I am by myself, I may be unclothed; but if someone walks in the room walks into the room, I feel naked!

4. This is what happened here; before sin entered the world, there was no sense of nakedness; there was no shame in being naked because there was no sin. But when sin came in, suddenly they knew they were naked and were ashamed!

5. The 1<sup>st</sup> sign of sin is knowing we are naked and need to be covered; so they made “aprons” out of fig leaves...

- Question: Was the forbidden tree an “apple tree” or a “fig tree”? I think it was a fig tree because when we know we are naked we grab the first thing we can find!
- Question: Why did they make “aprons”? They felt no need to cover their heads; their faces; their hands; their feet. I think they made aprons to cover their genitals; the parts that reproduce; perhaps because they knew that they had corrupted their seed; they had lost their ability to reproduce a godly generation.

6. I believe the aprons of fig leaves represent man-made religion; man’s inner drive to “cover” his sinfulness with the works of his own hands. That all the religions of the world (other than the Christian faith) are just echoes of Eden; man’s inventions on how to “do” something that can allow them to live in God’s presence.

a. One more question: Does this explain why the tree Jesus cursed in the Gospels was a “fig tree”? Does the “fig tree” really represent Israel? Or does it speak of the trees of the world’s religions that can bear no lasting fruit?

Just asking...

7. There is nothing new; history repeats itself; as echoes of Eden...

### Review

**God is still speaking; the serpent is still lying; man is still sinning and responding by trying to cover himself with man-made fig leaves of religion; all echoes of Eden. But let’s close on a high note...**

### E. God’s Response to Sinful Man is Still the Same

1. Sinful man still knows he is naked before God and will grab the first thing he can to make himself feel covered.

2. But God did not like their “aprons”. He will not accept the works of man’s hands; anything we think we can do to be right before Himself.

3. Man, left to Himself, has no idea how to live in the presence of God; BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD PROVIDES A WAY....

**The Lord God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife and dressed them.**

**Genesis 3:31 NCV**

4. God is still rejecting the man-made aprons of the fig leaves of religion!

5. If man is to live before God, God Himself must provide the covering. And it can only be covered with the blood of an innocent!

- God kills an animal and covers man with the skins
- Question: was it a LAMB?

5. All of sinful man's efforts to cover himself, all the religions of the world, are rejected by God. God must supply the covering; through the blood of an innocent; which all points forward to the fulfilment...

**"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world..."**

**John 1:29**

6. Will you go the way of Cain or the way of Abel?

### **III. Conclusion**

#### **A. History Repeats Itself**

##### **1. Human history is filled with echoes of Eden:**

- God is still speaking
- The serpent is still lying
- Man is still sinning
- Sinful man is still responding to God with the fig leaves of religion
- But God is still responding to sinful man with the blood of an innocent

2. This is the biblical worldview of 1<sup>st</sup> things; the answer to the great questions of life;

**COMMUNION**