

EVANGELISTIC BASICS:

DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF “ORIGINAL SIN” IN THIS MODERN WORLD

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One of the most important points that we must take great care in all biblical study is the one that says all biblical doctrines, and thus all biblical studies, must have total balance and total agreement with all other doctrines and to have total integration in the final interpretation. Anything that contradicts, or denies, one other doctrine is wrong in some way. This is so very crucial to understanding the basics of the intrinsicity of God's one message, as well as the harmonics of this message to all of mankind. To even begin to accomplish this total harmonization of biblical thought and doctrine, we must carefully put the “*Yareh Protocol*” to work in our personal biblical study routines.

At the start, we have to have a common point, one that is known and accepted, to be ‘universally true’. In my mind, if true truth is ever to be known, and then to ever be communicated, without any hint of corruptions, we have simply got to accept and embrace the fact that “God is and He never changes His intrinsicity.”

God must be, just to be God, never wandering from the base-truth's that have been set down there all along, fundamentally, in the underpinnings of all of His revealed will, from the creation, through to the present day, and which will continue to be so until the end of all time. What we see in the beginning must balance with what we see in the middle-view as well as in the end-view. God simple never changes who, and what he is. This is **fact number one**. [*Now, He may change a view or an action, to make a bigger point latter on, but never against His nature or against His wisdom and all seeing self. Then, if a given adjustment and alteration is made for mankind, it is then forward with the very fundamentals that were there as He began this long walk towards the salvation of all of believing mankind, anyway.*]

FACT NUMBER TWO: God never lies, and He never has. Now, we have, admittedly, misunderstood Him grossly at times, like Eve did back in the Garden, but God Himself remains ever true and ever truth-filled within His fundamental nature, to

Himself and to His one, singular, common plan and its interlocking truths, given for all mankind, to be fulfilled for all time in Jesus.

So, we can rely on the fact that God is equally true and steady, always, in every age. Furthermore, He constantly brings us, His children, forward, educationally, step-by-step, on into the light of His fundamental nature, by the slow and constant revealing of fundamental truth by a simple step-by-step basis in this unfolding of the full church. It is all like learning mathematics really. We start with simple arithmetic and latter progress to geometry, algebra, and calculus, using the basic's properly. We do not start helter-skelter in the middle module. We go at things methodically, and with increasing understanding and application of the Biblical revelation, once given.

After we have had time to learn the first module of His lesson-plan, He then moves us on, one more step, deeper into the intricacies of His mind and will. This fact of a slow and deliberate teaching plan is particularly well observed in the matter of 'inherited sin', -other-wise called 'original sin', or 'ancestral sin', a subject that touches all of the six major Catholic religions, and all of the various 400 plus Calvinistic religions, as well as a host of the conservative religions, thus touching the vast majority of the entire Christian landscape of today. There are very few groups that do not have any "original sin" points to make in their general teaching, really.

If we could just get this one point correct, so much of Christianity would become much clearer and far more concise, and much closer together, theologically. But because we do not tend to seek a full harmonic scale in all of this, we place ourselves at a decided disadvantage, starting out in the middle modules rather than at the beginning module, placing ourselves behind the filters formed by the thoughts and teachings of our cherished heroes in the faith. What is so great and wonderful, however, is that we can correct our responses and grow so much closer to Him in every aspect, if we start and work in the way that God has revealed Himself to us. Genesis 2 and 3 must then agree with Ezekiel 18 and Romans 3 through 5. The key part is the one in Ezekiel 18, which says, under Old Testament law, that an individual only needs to worry about his / her own personal sins. This alone is burden enough.

So, where do we begin? Why not start back at the Garden and bring some crucial historical context to this discussion. This way we follow God's teaching module as He, the "all knowing and all wise-one", followed with all of mankind as the ultimate "master teacher". nnn-**Sounds like a plan ???** – **-Sounds like a plan to me !!!-**

The Genesis 2 Legacy:

So, the history of the doctrine of original sin has its beginning way, way back, -at the Garden of Eden, where Eve ate of the forbidden fruit after being swayed in that direction by the logic of the Devil. He, Satan, told Eve that she was wrong in her belief / understanding that she would physically die if she ate the fruit right there and then, just as He said. Yes, He said she would not physically die, and she did not drop dead right there and then, so He was correct in a minor degree of deflection of meaning. She did not die physically, but she did lose her innocence and her purity, thus becoming fully rebellious to the teaching of God. We can see this in her desire to hide from God, because of her nakedness.

She had gone further and complicated her rebellion by enticing Adam to likewise eat the fruit. In this way, both did die, but not in any immediate physical sense, but in a moral and ethical sense - they died to the purity of their previous situation which was itself a very bad dealing of the cards in this game of morality by Satan.

God, being all knowing, and all wise, knew before the actual crossing of the line, that these two would commit this offense. It was all part of the foreknowledge of God at work. God was now required by his intrinsic nature to turn them out of the Garden, and He did so. He did so because they disobeyed and committed the act that He expressly told them not to do. Sin, as a common obstacle thus entered the world because they committed wrong. The key terminology here is "they committed wrong". They did not inherit it, they committed it. Ever since that encounter with the old crafty serpent, man has been blaming it on the snake. But the real culprit was Eve, and then Adam, themselves. Man wants to blame some outside point other than himself, always. But simple facts are still facts and they were adjudged to be guilty by the Supreme Lord for having committed an act of rebellion against the Lord and stepping up a notch or two to do so, defying God. This defying of God is at the heart of each and every sin, and always has been.

In the case of original sin, we are actually wanting to be able to say it was my parent's fault that I am a sinner, not my direct fault. I cannot thus help myself once they had sexual intercourse, conceived me, and conveyed upon me the germ of sin. It is a desire to deny sin in me by whatever method that works. This denial of responsibility is at the heart of most human actions, even today, so many centuries past the Garden event. We still want to be able to say that "the devil made me do it," when in reality it was my choice to assume the role of the new definer of all

morality that exercised my free will equally demeaned God. I have no door behind which to hide. I am the sinner.

This desire to find an excuse by which I can reduce the implication of my error has long been a factor in the human psyche. It reached a point in Ezekiel's day that God had to inspire Ezekiel to tell the people there that they cannot hide any longer behind such excuses such as "it's all the king's fault." The people were responsible for their own soul's status. They could not say then it is my parent's fault that I have to bear this burden of sin. They could not say that it was the devil's fault that I chose to rebel. They cannot say that it was some esoteric disease like Asperger's Syndrome or Tourette's Syndrome that is the culprit. We cannot hide behind such foolishness. The hard fact is, is that it is me and what I have chosen and then what I have gone out and actually done, personally, that is the basis for my sin own filled state. Why did Peter not find a safe and secure cove for the people to hide in there on Pentecost when he in point blank, direct and the most painful of all declarations, told the crowd that it was their sins that sent Jesus to the cross....all of their sins and not just those done there in Jerusalem in the last few days as they wailed for Barabbas to be released, and stood by when the cocks were all a-crowing; himself included.

The fundamental fact is, is that I do have free will and any answer that demotes that the existence of that free will, will eventually make God the one who is ultimately "at fault" for my sinful nature. Stop and think for a second, "If it is the sexual act and thus the transference of sinfulness by natural associated consequences of that act, an act that God specifically commanded mankind to do, by the way, then the whole "fault" calculation goes back upon God's shoulders for He commanded man to multiply and fill the earth. How can God command man to go out and sin?????" (Read **Ezekiel 18:1ff.**) God says through his prophet that each man is responsible only for his own sins and not for anyone else's, nor for his ancestors. **End of story!**

-and **end of original sin**, and this done way back in the Old Testament period of time, - where one would least expect it to be declared with such clarity.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CODICILE

Jesus even, God's very own son even told us to consider the little children and to allow these pure and innocent ones to come to Him, because the kingdom belongs to **such as these.** (read **Matthew 18:1-10**) If Jesus can call these children

'examples for the rest of us', then we have to understand that Jesus did not condone their naughty behaviour in this statement but He did commend their retention of purity before the Lord most empathically. No "original sin thoughts" in His thinking, -is there? They are pure and innocent, --- or else Jesus just resigned and vacated his seat among the 100% pure lambs at this table of "The One and Only Pure Ones". If He can call these children the ones to whom the kingdom belongs 'righteous', as He does, then when they are born in sin and thus destined to the fires of Hell from their conception, He is drastically mistaken and error prone, for how can one who is called righteous, innocent, and good, be classified as no less than a divinely accepted example to which we all must strive to be, ourselves? He, Jesus, cannot be the sacrificial lamb of God in such a case any longer in this case. Harmony, harmony, harmony. Original sin is a denial, in fact, of His perfection and His salvific work on the cross. To believe in 'original sin' is to disbelieve in Jesus power to save!!! I do not think so!!!! Totally out of the "yareh protocol" harmony's basic thought pattern, isn't it? !!!!!. **"Yep, tis."**

Historically and psychologically speaking, the heart of the whole original sin idea was to counter-balance the horror of having to deal with infant mortality. So many children died in early infancy in the ancient world. That is the historical fact, with one in three children dying before the age of two years, and one in five before their seventh year. This naturally upsets parents greatly. When they were told that only through the sacrament of baptism was there any hope of salvation for these little ones of their families, they saw a hope and grabbed it. They saw the picture that was laid out for them there on the table and believed what was told on the side without checking the true source, just like Eve did. She too did not ask God any questions, but just took Satan at his given word. Infant baptism was born as was the original 'Dracula', "original sin". All in one single step of false teachings and fear-mongering. This produced disharmony and distrust which led to outright rebellion. It was a state of fundamental disharmony and enormous fear. A world based on fear is a very poor world for anyone to grow up in, for the parents and the children.

It is in the light of such disharmony, that there was born the Catholic and Protestant shield of infant baptism. Thereby the answer to the ultimate consequences of natural sexual behaviour was also mitigated by the minds of poorly trained priests and pastors. Here is the "rub": infants do die. But God says, "those who die in sin will perish in the fires reserved for Satan and his angels." Conundrum time. -- My child died in infancy and was not yet a baptized believer ... aw-oh, "trouble point ariseth." -- so, the bright minds of the day organized an answer to meet the challenge of infant mortality. They took the very true adage "Get the whole

harmonic scale right at the beginning and all will go a great deal better latter on.” and amplified it in a manner similar to what Satan did with Eve, out of all understanding to a point of absolute falsehood. The problem was that people forgot Ezekiel’s teachings, if they ever even knew that it existed. Now, that adage is correct if we use the whole text of God’s revealed will, Ezekiel included.

[Well over one half of all Catholic and Calvinistic doctrine fails with the collapse of the various doctrines associated with ‘original sin’. This is not some little thing we are talking about.]

There are some other passages from the bible that need to be touched on, before we move a bit farther down the road with this study.

The first of these is in **I Corinthians 15:21-22**. Here Paul says, “...For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive...”.

The first problem that we all have to negotiate here is one of **association**. Because of the very persuasive nature of past Catholic teaching, and Protestant acceptance of that teaching, our minds have been trained to **associate** the death statement here with the action of Adam and Eve at the tree. Yet they did not drop dead, right there and then, with the first sinking of a tooth into that forbidden fruit.

We tend to associate freely the theological idea of having eaten the fruit with this textual statement as interpreted by the ill-informed clergy of our day. In reality, we need to associate it with God’s action of expelling these two from the protected world of the Garden, whereby they now are to live in the temporal world outside of the Garden, with work disease, and eventual death.

Here in the Corinthian letter, this is Paul telling the people there in the Roman city of Corinth, some thousand plus years in the future, that the idea of “life”, on a day-to-day basis, is not eternal and protected any longer. Here, realistically, outside of the Garden. people and animals, even life itself, changes and things do die. So be prepared.

It is true that we all are now bound by the **laws of temporality**, so from the actions of one man, the world of the eternal was forfeited, and yet it is through the life and sacrifice of one man, Jesus, that all mankind has the possibility of

eternal salvation and preservation once again. The temporality factor is that there is a future after death.

The fact is by one man, Adam, came the change from the Garden to the time-bounded, temporal, world of reality which is governed by a whole different set of natural laws than “Garden-time”. By the same simple process, by one man, now, came salvation, again by one simple man, doing one simple thing, that no other man could have done, before or since. It is this Jesus that we are to focus our faith on, and no one else. This is “eternal-focused time”. “Paying attention to the one who brings life”, is good advice, and should have been better understood and communicated back there in the early middle ages so we do not have human logic and perception cluttering up the clear message of God any longer. God inspired / “God-breathed”, the apostles to write this message.

This new and clear message is then, the new set of laws that govern the coming eternal world which Jesus is preparing for His own. Ancestral sin is not part of this new paradigm: we go from the perishable to the imperishable, yet again, in the completion of God’s salvific work, done at judgement.

No statement is made here in the Corinthian letter that ties this new paradigm with the sins of inherited, ancestral commission! What is made here is a statement that changes our perspective from sin to joy, from doom to hope, from earthly to heavenly, from the temporal to the eternal, and nothing more.

To amplify this in the manner that was chosen so often in the middle ages, is to go beyond Paul’s actual words and to invent a connection that is not there in the scope of Paul’s actual words in this letter. Remember, God is inspiring Paul’s letter to put down exactly what is in God’s mind and nothing more, then needs to be amplified or explained for God has already explained it back in **Ezekiel 18**. Yes, “Harmony, harmony, harmony!”

Paul says much of the same thing over in **Romans 5:12-21**. Here in The Letter to Rome, he says that death has spread to mankind because of the place where mankind now dwells, which is this world, the temporal world that is outside of the Garden’s protective sphere. This has affected those who rebelled against God in other ways from the way that the first two rebelled. They paid for the bite: we pay for our own acts of rebellion.

The plain fact of God’s own statement is, is that if a man sins, then he will face the same reality as did the first two. This too is based in the same logic of **Ezekiel**

18: “He who sins will pay for those sins that he / she has committed, and only for those sins which he / she has committed.” This is the consequence of my having committed any act of rebellion. **It is not one of my having inherited a sentence of death from a sin that my ancestral father committed and it never has been that way !!! God says so, directly.**

Yes, we have had an idea placed in our minds by the teachings of the massed forces of false religion, that this is all to be connected back to some original first sin, done by our very distant relative Adam and his wife, Eve. We looked at the picture supplied alongside the discussion and then took the whole thing to be true. Classical act of sleight-of-hand, misdirect logic and shenanigan, magic.

In reality, we are held responsible for what we are personally responsible for having done, and nothing more. Yes, we do have to live in a temporal world now, and face the challenges of this temporal world and its limitations, such as infant mortality. But we only face the court of the Most-High God because of our individual actions in this world we live in. If we have not sinned, at all, ever, -then we are like those little children that Jesus held up as an example of humility and innocence. It is the verities of “committed sin” versus “no committed sin” that we face that court.

I used to really like the way that The Message translates **Psalm 51:5-6** in this regard. Then I hit a snag....

“...You’re the One I’ve violated, and you’ve seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil. **You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair. **I’ve been out of step with you** for a long time, **in the wrong** since before I was born. What you’re after is truth from the inside out. Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life...”**

NOTE: This is a general statement of a poet. The phrase, “...in the wrong before I was born...”, is the catholic interpretation-understanding that ‘proves’ original sin to be true, but it is out of harmony with Ezekiel 18. This is the snag. There must be harmony and so one of these must be re-examined. We must go back, now, and examine the translator’s theology and the original text. Peterson, the translator, is a Roman Catholic priest. That says a lot. [The NIV follows this line, by the way.]

The term “in” here can be translated, “in” and it can be translated “into”, as one would see in an immersion into a world where sin already exists. This puts the translation of **Psalm 51:5-6** into a state of harmony with **Ezekiel 18**. A Hebrew language reader would automatically agree with this simple interpretation upgrade. God is then taken out of a state of “challenge” and defended as the one, overseeing Lord of all scripture.

So, to the real point here: “To understand any sin, we must first understand a bit about God, himself.” We have come to the “Yareh Protocol’s” intrinsic center. To understand the concept of original sin”, we must understand even more about God, on the fundamental, intrinsic level of Who and what God is all about, thus avoiding mis-readings and dales interpretation on this one singularly important point. {We could go the route of re-looking at the whole of Ezekiel 18, but the bigger the passage, the more credible the probability of accuracy in interpretation, where a one-word divergence is more likely the one that needs to be focused on, so the prejudices and biases from theological underpinnings do not get in the way of the larger picture.

God is The Creator, The Supreme Lord, The Giver of Life and the Educator in all Righteous. That is very prestigious indeed, and we stand on it. Nothing is higher than “God”, nor can it be. God is the greatest idea that mankind can ponder and contemplate. He cannot be ignored or relegated to the insignificant pile of non-entity. He is always clear, simple, and correct. Man is not so well endowed, “me” included.

All attempts to demote God, in any way, is to rebel against God and against all Godliness. Many people think of themselves as good people, as perhaps even God-like, but no one can reach so high as to challenge God, as God, in His perfection, love, and power: -no one! Those that attempt to say that they can are grossly mistaken and demeaning of God in all respects. They are evil and their teachings are, in an over-all sense, false.

We can all agree that the writer of this Psalm sees things as they are. He sees himself as one who has challenged God, the one whose pretence can no longer be tolerated, at all. That is the position that the writer finds himself in and that is the point from which he wants to erase the barriers that exist between himself and the awesome and totally holy

God. He was born into a world where sin exists to tempt every man, and he has fallen, of his own choice and actions.

The writer further understands and recognizes the very basic truth that God knows him intimately and totally, even down to the thoughts that pass through his head...He knows that he cannot pretend to be better than he really is. So, what to do? Go back, and with humility, bow before God from deep in your soul and get back in step with God while seeking His forgiveness everyday as the way of life.

This is his, David's life just after Nathan's visit, a life before God that needs to be tended to, not the life of Grand-pa Adam, nor of Aunty Eve. It is his own life. That is what he recognizes and that is what a true will, will try to do, in every part of his being and demeanour. He is discussing the origins of personal sin in his life, not an ancestor's sins, and he is profoundly sorry.

The arrogant, and the fool's family, will continue to build a place from which to hide, but God will find every hidey-hole and will know every dodge we all may make. You cannot fool God, even slightly; ask Cain ... ask Peter ... ask Grand-pa Adam. They all can testify to the supreme sovereignty of God.

This is where we begin our knowledge of God. To try to fool God, even in small ways is to deny His Lordship, fundamentally. to deny His Lordship is to set yourself on a course to the infernal regions, and it always has. Be like David, like Peter, and humble yourself before Him. Be like the writer of Psalm 51, and recognize God as the supreme one, coming back and bowing down in humility before His perfect forgiving love. This is the answer to all sin. [Isn't it more important to get the relationship right than to worry about little things like "original-sin" ??? **[FACT: All sin kills be it venial or mortal, or otherwise.]**