

## Did Adam and Eve Really Exist?

I have a friend who is dealing with some difficult issues in his life. There are some critical illnesses in his family which are making him reflect on the meaning of life. Additionally, the Mel Gibson movie about the crucifixion rekindled his interest in religion. He was talking to me recently about his desire to reconnect with his faith. He expressed his need to have a greater focus on God and on the Bible. He asked me if I thought that the entire Bible was factual, or if, for instance, the stories about the flood, the fate of Lot's wife and the forbidden fruit episode in the garden of Eden were allegories and parables.

I thought for a minute about his question and then the answer came to me. I realized how I could prove to him that Adam and Eve, Noah, Lot, and all the other characters of the Bible had really existed and had the experiences with which we are so familiar: That they aren't fables or fairy-tales from the Old Testament. I would like to tell you how you can answer this question, when you are asked by a person having a Christian background and some understanding of the Bible.

Ask the person if he or she believes in Jesus Christ. Ask if Jesus is the Son of God. Ask if Christ is believable: Does He have credibility? Ask if the person believes what Jesus Christ believed. If you get four "Yes" answers, you are going to be able to help your friend understand. The key is in one of the Gospel accounts of a confrontation between Christ and the Pharisees. Look up this conversation in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Matthew's gospel. Christ is about to accuse the Pharisees of murder.

*MAT 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees...[Christ speaking]*

When you are saying, "Woe unto you", what tone of voice are you using? When you accuse someone of murder, is it in a conversational tone? No! You are using the kind of voice that has a pretty hard edge on it. We don't have a recording of the tone and inflection of Christ's voice during this speech, but we can make a good guess about how He said it! He continues:

*... hypocrites! because you build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous,*

When you call someone a hypocrite, you are likely to spit out the words in disgust. Perhaps this was the manner in which Jesus was speaking at this point.

*30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. 31 Wherefore you are witnesses against yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. 32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. 33 You snakes, you brood of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?*

Christ is literally giving the Pharisees "Hell". He asks them how people of their hatred and hypocrisy can avoid condemnation.

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*34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall you scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:*

Now listen to this: Christ is about to tell them that they are blood-guilty because of their attitude of murder:

*35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth,*

These Pharisees are going to have to answer and account for the blood of the righteous!

*from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. 36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.*

Please read that again!!!!

*from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar."*

Zacharias was a real person whose murder is recorded in 2Chronicles 24:20-21. Christ mentions this prophet in the same breath as Abel, the second son of Adam and Eve. Christ is going to hold the Pharisees accountable for the blood of Abel!!! Can Christ hold them accountable for the blood of a fictional character of a parable? No, He can't. Christ would have been absolutely foolish to accuse the Pharisees of the murder of a man who never lived.

This proves that Jesus Christ, God incarnate, believed Abel existed! Jesus Christ received offerings from Abel. He not only believed in him, He knew him. He accused the Pharisees of the blood of Abel. They murdered His friend. Christ was passionate and angry about it. He couldn't have been worked-up in that way about a character in a fantasy. Therefore, Abel was a real person!!!

We have established that Abel existed. This fact validates the Genesis account:

*GEN 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. 2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*

Therefore, if Abel existed, as demonstrated by Christ's testimony, then Adam and Eve existed! The ones who bore him! This should be sufficient evidence to convince a person who believes in Christ. The rest of the account in Genesis must be true as well.

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Christ's reference to His involvement in and witness of other miraculous events can validate many other Biblical accounts and answer questions like these:

- "I believe in God, but do you think there really is a devil?"

LUK 10:18 And he said unto them, I [Jesus] beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

- "Did Sodom and Gomorrah really exist, and were they destroyed by fire?"

LUK 17:29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

- "Was Lot's wife really turned into a pillar of salt?"

LUK 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

- "Did God really destroy the earth in a flood?"

LUK 17:26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. 27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

We can see that Christ believed in and validated the stories about Adam and Eve, Sodom and Gomorrah, the Flood, and Lot's wife. We see that Christ believed in the existence of Satan.

We, on the other hand, live in a world with an anti-supernatural bias. People try to find natural explanations for the miracles recorded in the Bible. Some seem prepared to believe in God, but are reluctant to believe that the historical accounts in Genesis are anything but fairy tales.

If you are questioned in this manner, by a person with basic faith and belief in Jesus Christ, you can, using the witness and testimony of Jesus Christ, persuade this person that the stories of the Biblical account are literally true.