



WHERE ARE YOU?

FIRST QUESTION from Genesis 3:6-13 ...

QUESTION #1: "Where are you?"

(Genesis 3:9-10) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, **"Where are you?"** 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

ANSWER: I heard the sound of you in the garden, I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid from you.

Adam is now afraid and ashamed in the presence of God. God knew where Adam was, so why did he call to him and ask him where he was? At least two perspectives are in play as we examine our text.

Perspective One: The here and now for Adam and Eve. God pushes his now fallen, sinful creature to discover what has transpired. These four questions are diagnostic, not for God, but for Adam and Eve. God wants Adam to think through what has happened. We should remember that Adam and Eve are God's "very good" accomplishments in his creation of humans. God's design, God's craftsmanship. So, even though now alienated from God and fearful, Adam is probably still more brilliant than our greatest philosophers, so it is no stretch to think that God would want Adam to think through this next stage of life on the planet.

Perspective Two: The lingering effect and examination for all who follow. God is establishing a line of questioning which he had recorded for the benefit of all who will follow Adam and Eve. In other words, God wants us answering the questions also, six thousand years later, same four questions as God works his timetable for the redemption of humankind. God has not been surprised. He purposed these things as part of his great Creation/Redemption plan.

God's creation/redemption plan began before the foundation of the world ...

(Matthew 25:34 ESV) Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

(Ephesians 1:4-5 ESV) Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

(Revelation 13:8 ESV) And all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

(Revelation 17:8 ESV) The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

LESSON: What should we understand from this? Here are the basics. After the fall, all humans by default hide from God in fear and shame and, armed with our knowledge of good and evil, we exercise a measure of moral autonomy. We now decide for ourselves what is right and wrong. So we see the beginning of the longstanding war between God and man over this very issue—Who decides what is right and wrong?

(1 Corinthians 15:21-22 ESV) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

(Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.