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THE FALL AND ANCIENT PAGAN DOCUMENTS

1. Read the very first paragraph and explain to me why we are doing all this? (Why are we going through all these historical events and anchoring doctrines to these historic events and going into apologetics against the other side?)
 - We are doing this in order to help us apply the faith-rest drill. This way we are able to encircle our circumstances with the word of God as a network and walk by faith. This also guards us from slipping into paganism. The grass really isn't greener on the other side.

2. What is the first major historic event in Scripture? What are the major doctrines that fall out of that event?
 - Creation
 - God, man, nature

3. Why do we compare the Bible to ancient pagan myths? Why are we doing that? What value does that have for your spiritual life?
 - To see where the pagan mind twists, distorts the truth. This is where our carnal mind also tends to distort, twist truth. In other words, there are patterns to how the pagan mind works.
 - It helps us stay out of idolatry. It helps insulate us against paganism since we can see it clearly, openly, for what it is.

4. People want to mythologize the event of the Fall. How would you explain to them that if we explain away the Fall we explain away the cross of Jesus Christ? What does this tell us about our God?
 - If the problem, sin, is erased then the answer, the cross, is not needed. If there is no disease there is no need for medicine. If Adam is a fantasy then Christ is a fantasy since He is the second Adam. It tells us that our God is a coherent thinker, that every thing God says is connected to everything else He says.

5. You are on an archaeological dig. You find an ancient tribal text that, when translated, resembles the Fall. How do you account for that? How does the pagan world account for that?
 - By showing that all people are the descendants of Noah and as such had the Noahic Bible. Some of the truths of the Noahic Bible were preserved in these tribes by the Holy Spirit. Also, see Isa 40:21.
 - The pagan world claims that the Bible stories are distortions of the myths but we say that the myths are distortions of the Biblical truths.

6. What is the first major difference between the biblical story of the Fall and pagan myths? What does this show us about the pagan mind? the carnal mind?
 - Bounded vs Eternal Evil. That the pagan mind erases the origin of evil, tends to think of it as an eternal property.

7. What is the drug culture all about?
 - Escaping evil. Escaping the inescapable. The same thing as alcoholism. Also, eastern religions, Nirvana, a drop in the ocean. Evolution, death is the end.

8. Diagram the difference between the pagan view of good and evil vs the biblical view of good and evil. Think of some practical illustrations of this diagram in your own Christian life and the lives of others.
 - Hope. There is no hope in a universe of eternal evil. There is hope in a universe of bounded evil. Mercy. There is no reason to be merciful to others (higher than selfish interests) in a universe of eternal evil. There is a reason to be merciful to others in a universe of bounded evil. Evil, suffering and death are normal in a universe of eternal evil. Evil, suffering and death are abnormal in a universe of bounded evil. If evil is eternal then why not live a life of hedonism?

9. A teenager comes to you complaining about an incurable disease they have, saying, "I can't believe in a god that would allow this to happen to me. If God is good then why is there evil and suffering in the world?" Give some possible responses? (Various lines of reasoning).
 - God is not the cause of evil. Man is.
 - God has a good and sufficient purpose for the evil He permits.

- If they are a (materialist) then challenge them to give an account for moral judgments. Is matter good or evil? Does matter have a moral bent?
- Only in a universe created by God there an answer for evil. Man brought it into this realm and God sent His Son to remove it. One day good and evil will be separated forever.

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