

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha

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Adam

"AT LEAST MY
WIFE COULD NOT
COMPLAIN
THAT I NEVER
LISTENED TO HER."



Eve

"I MARRIED
WHAT USED TO
BE THE
PERFECT MAN."



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DAN LIETHA

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (38):
Job 27: Job declares his integrity before the Almighty, “who has embittered” him**
<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>





Congratulations Kate Spencer!



Kate Spencer won 2nd place
in state History Day competition in
OK City qualifying her for national
competition in Washington D.C. in
June 2012.

Please keep her
in your prayers.

Woo hoo !!!



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Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

Bible Doctrines

- Eschatology
- Thanatology
- Ecclesiology
- Israelology
- Dispensationalism
- Doxology
- Hodology
- Soteriology
- Hamartiology
- Natural Law
- Anthropology
- Angelology
- Pneumatology
- Christology
- Paterology
- Trinitarianism
- Cosmology
- Theology Proper
- Bibliology

Prolegomena P.R. for objectivity (15)

- Hermeneutics
- Linguistics
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Reality -Logic 32, Truth 32

This chart is my way to address the deep pathological "thinking" that is so ubiquitous in contemporary Christianity on so many crucial levels, most notably in regard to Truth and God.

Sacred Theology Book 2 (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Natural Theology Book 1 (Rom 1:18-20)

Broad and deep understanding of BD

1 Corinthians 2:9 but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.

Enough BD to be overcomer

1 John 2:14, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14, children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming

Mature Believer - Level 3- Metaphysical Maturity - Extremely powerful believer

- High abstract metaphysical understanding of BD; Esse, Evil, Good, attributes of God, natural law
- Enormous capacity for synthesis of BD and grasping of spiritual realities.
- Ability for sustained contemplation of the true nature of God, e.g., the simplicity and atemporality of God.

Young adult - Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization - Systematic understanding of --God's Word/Truth.

Baby believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Unable to apply doctrine or divine viewpoint to *all* the issues of life
- Fragmented understanding of truth.

Carnal believer lacks integration with God and Truth due to human viewpoint background

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-15

1. There are two categories of revelation: natural revelation and special revelation.
 - a. Both are objective (correspondence truth).
 - b. Natural revelation is a means whereby God can be known. This mediated knowledge gets through to all.
 - c. Natural revelation gives us natural theology: a knowledge of God that is derived through nature, Romans 1:20.
 - d. Natural revelation leaves man without excuse.
 - e. Natural revelation includes a very basic knowledge to extremely complex, sophisticated, and metaphysical *proofs* of the existence of God. It is there for all to read—for dolt and the genius.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-15

2. Due to over 100 years of rejection of natural revelation/philosophy, we have now reaped the fruits of living in the most anti-intellectual (not anti-academic) Christian age in Western Civilization. Yet this is not how we were created or who we are as human beings, Psalm 8.
 - a. The meaning of “anti-intellectualism.”
 - b. The extent of the pathology among God’s people.
 - c. Results:
 - ✓ Loss of Christian credibility.
 - ✓ Loss of Christian confidence in the power of reason as a tool from God to discover truth.
 - ✓ Loss of Christian understanding on the nature of Truth or God (sensatism, vicitimization)
 - ✓ Christian heresy. The thoughts they do possess are filled with heretical views of God and man.
 - ✓ Pastors who reject the hard work it takes to be accurate in Truth are the most culpable.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-15

3. Loss of Christian influence in society due to anti-intellectualism.
 - a. Loss of natural law as a principle of cohesion in jurisprudence.
 - b. Loss of restraint on evil in society.
 - c. Loss of intellectual confidence in society. Many Christians are intimidated by the world because of lack of intellectual credibility in contemporary Christianity. Less active and bold with the world due to “faith” in the idea that the tools of intelligence belong to the world.
 - d. Loss of relevance of Christianity on society.

PHILOSOPHICAL REALISM FOR BIBLICAL AND DOCTRINAL OBJECTIVITY-15

4. Pathological issues as a result from “Christian” anti-intellectualism.
 - a. The Christian man becomes less than what God created for him, Psa. 8. Man is one of three rational beings in the universe.
 - b. He possesses no developed view of the nature of man and its teleological trajectory. Lack of appreciation of different natural stages and desires of human beings.
 - c. He typically disdains knowledge that is not a direct result of being filled with the Holy Spirit and Special Revelation.
 - d. He possesses no developed view of government or warfare.
 - e. He possess no developed metaphysics of God or man.
 - f. He distrusts the intellect.
 - g. He is isolated and intimidated by the world.
 - h. He tends toward Fideism and existentialism.
 - i. He is left hanging out there in special revelation without being anchored in logic, linguistics, or correspondence truth. Without realizing it, he is filling in the gaps with pagan philosophy.

THE TWO BOOKS OF REVELATION

SPECIAL REVELATION – BY FAR THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT!

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

NATURAL REVELATION

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Psalms 19:1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David . The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

5. **Philosophical Realism: the cure for pathological thinking, the basis for objectivity in biblical interpretation and Bible doctrine, and the key to understanding natural theology and metaphysics.**

HERMENEUTICS: It is pathological for a Christian to have no desire for true understanding.

LINGUISTICS: It is pathological for a Christian to have no desire to understand how language works, specially with reference to God.

EPISTEMOLOGY: It is pathological and cultish for a Christian to believe something without any evidence or reason.

METAPHYSICS: It is pathological for a Christian to have no desire to know what makes up reality. Failure here means thinking like a pagan in metaphysical orientation regarding the world and God (anthropopathisms).

REALITY: It is pathological for a Christian not to great desire Truth, Total Truth, Correspondence Truth. Irrationality is not godly, it is diabolical. Truth and logic are essential for a good foundation. Consider the effects of the logical myth, namely, that one cannot prove a negative.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Church Age believer has the unique privilege of the inner ensuring ministry of God the Holy Spirit. While the Holy Spirit does *not* give us additional special revelation, it does provide illumination and inner assurance of the truths of Christianity.

John 14:16-17 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you (παρ' ὑμῶν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῶν ἔσται).

1 Cor. 2:12-15.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2. However, the ministry of the Holy Spirit can be resisted by the believer as well as unbeliever because of the noetic effects of sin and evil.

John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Ephesians 4:30 And stop grieving the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Stop quenching the Spirit;

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

3. There is no defeater for the reality and confidence in God and His Word that the Holy Spirit provides—except negative volition as expressed by the evil of quenching the Spirit and sin of grieving the Holy Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the unbeliever to know with certainty the truth of the Gospel. All that is needed is positive volition, 2nd order desire.

John 16:8 "And He, when He comes, will convict (ἐλέγξει) the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Acts 7:51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

5. Only because of the Holy Spirit can the believer live in the absolute certainties of God. Due to man's fallibility, he may always wonder in the back of his mind about the details of putting together certain facts. God has graciously provided the Holy Spirit for all so that our inner conviction does not need to *ultimately* rest on external evidence.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (πληροφορία πολλῇ); just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

1 John 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know (γινώσκωμεν) by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

JOB 27

Job's Declares His Integrity

1. The “mixed bag” of Job’s relationship with God, 27:1-6.
2. The prosperity and demise of the wicked, 27:7-23.

DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. Theodicy and the eternal state. Christians who do not live in light of their eternal state are pathological and are in a pitiful state of existence. If it is just about feeling good about self or some pragmatic matter (e.g. family or marriage), then why not be a Mormon?

1 Corinthians 15:19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied (ἐλεεινός, miserable state to be pitied).

2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary (παραυτίκα), light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

Col 3:1-2.

Matthew 6:19-34. The pathology of “giving away” your soul and eyesight for lesser goods. What do you consider the greatest good in your life? The answer is not easy to discover.