

GRANDPA ADAM

THE OUTSIDER:

Why is the story of Adam so very important?

The bus stopped along the curb a little past the front doors to the church, & we piled out. We were dressed in our white church uniforms with Sunday straw hats. If our hair was longer than our collars, it was confined together with ugly dark green ribbons! We lined up along the curb towards the entrance to the church door, carefully holding our little blue Presbyterian hymnals & one shilling (a ten cent piece), & nothing else, as we weren't allowed to carry purses or any sort of bag. We chattered quietly, but none of us made any loud noises because we'd be given detention if we had. We waited until the order was given to enter the church. When that happened, nobody talked out loud. [The only conversation that happened after that point was by sign language if you could speak it. Most of us couldn't.] We had to attend church for both morning & evening services every Sunday.

The grounds were beautifully kept & immaculate. The church building itself was a beautiful piece of architect. At that time it was well over a hundred years old. It was some kind of masonry type of building with beautiful stain glass windows and a vaulted ceiling. Inside, behind the pulpit, stood a majestic organ with massive floor to ceiling pipes almost across the whole of the front of the church. The girls sat on the right side of the church in order of grade level, with the lowest grade closest to the front. From the back of the church one could see a sea of hats moving in all directions! By the time we were seated, the bus was returning with the boys from our brother school. In the warmer months, they worn the school uniform pants above the knees with knee high socks & black shoes, shirt , tie & pull over or blazer. They too carried shillings & hymn books & nothing else, unless it was a stray Bible carried by one of the seniors [11th & 12th grade]. I was the only student who had a Bible that anyone could understand. Sometimes the Seniors would borrow it, if they were asked to read the scripture portion in front of the church. [It was a Good News For Modern Man New Testament. I slept with it under my pillow each night & it was getting a little 'weathered' from occasionally falling to the floor!]

Usually the Minister, along with other adults, entered the front of the church through a door just past the organ pipes. The speaker always wore a black robe, like a judge's robe.

When they entered, we all stood with a hushed silence, & gave them our undivided attention. The prayers were formal, & not to a personal, real God. Four hymns were always sung to the accompaniment of the majestic pipe organ (usually played by our Geography teacher). They were beautiful, & most of us enjoyed singing them, but for the most part we had no idea what we were singing about, & nobody ever took the time to explain the words to us. We had no idea what 'Cherubim' or 'Seraphim' were. Nobody explained the meaning of 'holiness' to us. We would sing 'Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty', but we had no idea about the meaning of those words! And what about the line that says, 'though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see'? Nobody explained that one to us either.... We sang those lines many times, but we had no comprehension of their meaning, & here's why....

They had accepted the theory of evolution & had thrown out the first eleven chapters of Genesis... And if a person wasn't born with a sin nature, then what's the point of Christ dying on the cross? Consequently, they also threw out the Gospel of Christ, & replaced it with a social gospel. The scriptures were not taught to that whole group of young people & the LORD stood outside the church door & knocked! [For years I've thought about that lost opportunity & grieved, & I've wished that I could go back & change things & proclaim the truth, but the same kids, if they are still alive, are now in their 50s.]

How do I know that's what they believed? Well, the school Chaplain (who was well liked by all the students, and...who was also a deacon in the church, and the school counselor, and a teacher in general, and also my Ancient History Teacher) made it very clear. One day I asked him, 'What about Adam & Eve?' His response was that they were basically an old 'tradition' that used to be presented to explain how things happened, before we had the knowledge of the theory of evolution. That old 'tradition' (or old wives tale) wasn't necessary any more! I was in the 11th grade at the time, & his response cut me to the heart. I didn't want to believe him, but at the time I had no recourse, because I was on my own as far as being a Christian was concerned. The only real Christians I knew, I had very little contact with, as they lived up in New Guinea, & I was in Queensland, Australia. I didn't know what to do, so I just set the thought aside for the time being.

And what was the social gospel? We were encouraged to do things like support UNISEF or recycle aluminum off of gum wrappers & various containers, (glass bottles were still being used back then), & stuff like that. I don't ever remember the stories from the Old Testament

being taught. If they had been, I would have remembered because we were disciplined to pay attention whenever adults gave a lecture. (That was something that was required of us as students. We weren't allowed to tune them out, even if we couldn't comprehend what they were saying!) There was a very short season where we had a Charismatic Intern Minister while they were waiting to get a new full time Minister. The LORD had gotten a hold of him, & he was a live-wire! I remember his sermons. He talked about praising & giving thanks to the LORD. The students liked him, but the school Chaplin thought he was a little bit loony & definitely not a keeper, so he soon disappeared from our lives. There was also a deaconess in that church who tried to bring in live-wires whenever she got the chance. On one occasion I remember one of them giving his testimony to a small high school age group. That was in 1973. At that time a lot of young people were turning to the LORD. He was one of them. He must have been in his 20s. I remember him being *alive* in the LORD!

I attended that church for 4 years & eventually became a member, & am probably still on the records as being a member of that denomination, even though that was over 35 years ago! I too was a live-wire looking & hoping for someone to open the door & let the LORD come into the church. He was definitely The Outsider! [One time when I was asleep in the dorm, I remember dreaming about a man dressed in black standing in front of me saying that I had to be very good to get to Heaven. The dream was vivid! When I woke up, I started thinking about what was said, & I decided that that couldn't be right, because the scriptures said that the way to get to Heaven was by believing in Jesus. (I think that was one of those times when the LORD was helping me sort things out.)]

I was always the one who was tuned in on the rare occasion when spiritual things were discussed in class... For example, in our English class, when we came across poetry written by Believers, I was the one who understood what was being said, when almost everyone else in the class didn't have a clue. God was alive in my heart! I treasured the things that belongs to God, & longed for more of them. One time I found a framed calligraphy of the Proverbs 31 Woman in the library. That was the first time I had ever read about the Virtuous Woman. It was beautiful! I had never been taught about that, & I had never seen it in the Bible before. I don't know if the plaque ever got hug up, but I would read it every time I came across it. The library was a good place to go. Sometimes we'd come across historical fiction books that were written by Christians about real people in the New Testament. (There weren't as many

then as there are now.) If they were really captivating, we'd read them & recommend them to our friends.

Our Biology text books were imported from America {USA!} They were at least '2 inches thick!' and nicely laid out. If you've ever seen Dr Kent Hovind's 'Lies In The Text Books' [<http://www.drdino.com/downloads.php> , the #4 section of his Creation Science Evangelism seminar] he was probably referring to this particular Biology book! The faculty of the Science Department were under the opinion that those Biology books were top of the line!

In Australia, at that time, the grading system for High School was based on the concept of 'survival of the fittest'! Everything was graded on the curve. Generally, most students were allowed to pass 10th grade. From there they could begin attending various tech colleges. If you wanted to go on to University, you had to continue on in High School & complete 11th & 12th grade & pass the 12th grade exam. There were only a certain amount of Matriculation Certificates given out as the Universities only allowed a limited number of Australian Students into their schools. The rest of the openings were reserved for foreign students! [I know of a situation where out of 1000 Australian students taking the 12th grade exam, only 40 were allowed to pass. The students taking the exam were all diligent students who worked very hard to pass the exam. Most of them probably studied every waking hour (24/7) that they weren't required to do something else, because the competition was so great. That's how 12th graders applied themselves in Australia at that time. (American kids have no concept of just how grueling 12th grade can be in other countries!!)]

Ok, but I'm getting side-tracked here! Back to the subject of 'Why is the story of Adam so very important?' Because it's the truth! And if you don't believe that by one man (Adam, who was our first Father) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; & so death passed upon all people, for all have sinned, then there is no reason to believe that God sent His only begotten Son to take our place & die for our sin. It's as simple as that. If you believe that the Universe is millions & billions of years old, then the logical conclusion is that God is a liar....and if you believe that He's a liar, then you'll follow His example & be a liar too. That's how it works. But the truth of the matter is that God isn't a liar, & He made the whole Universe, & what's beyond it, about 6000 years ago. If you think this is something that's impossible for Him to do, then your perspective of God is too small! The scriptures say that even the Highest Heavens cannot contain God! { 1 Kings 8:27} [Did you ever play with a doll

house or some kind of imaginary environment with little figurines when you were a child? You're huge & outside of the play-set & you have control of what goes on in that play set. Picture God in a similar way, only on a much grander scale!]

