

If Adam and Eve never existed, is the Bible still true?

If the story of Adam and Eve is not literal history, what are we to make of Paul's statement, in 1 Corinthians 15:22, that "*in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive?*" If Adam never existed, how can Paul's statement be true?

Some, who believe that Adam never existed, might see that as a problem. But it is also a problem for the literalists, many of whom believe that it's Adam's fault that we all died. That is how the doctrine of "original sin" was derived. But we also know from another place in Scripture (Rom. 5:12) that "death came to all people, UPON WHICH all sinned." So, we did not die because of Adam's sin. Instead, we sin because we are born with Adam's sin nature. When Adam sinned in the garden he couldn't help himself. Neither can we.

I believe that a better understanding of these Scriptures would be to regard Adam as a representation of mankind being made flesh. When we incarnate as human beings we take on a "fallen nature," the fleshly sin nature, so to speak, and lose touch with our spiritual nature. We lose touch with our connection with God. This is what I would call "spiritual" death, vs. physical death. And yes, this does presume our pre-existence in Heaven prior to our birth.

"In Christ all will be made alive." Metaphorically, perhaps even literally, our spirits were raised up with Christ and made alive with Him (past tense) in the "*heavenly places*." (See Eph. 2:6) This has actually already occurred, but we are just not aware of it. When we shed these physical bodies, our spirits are freed from the physical nature and we wake up in heaven with changed, spiritual bodies and we are reconnected with God in our conscious awareness. Technically, our consciousness, or our human spirit/mind, resides in the "*heavenly places*" outside of the space/time universe. We are not aware of this because we are "viewing" our existence through the lens of our physical brains. Our salvation in Christ does not happen only after we die. It happened before we were born. It partially happens during our earthly existence when we reconnect with God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and it happens in a fuller sense after we die.

When we understand many of the stories in the Bible as literal history, we often miss the true meaning. The deeper meaning is lost and we end up with superficialities that often don't make any sense at all. It would be a lot like trying to make sense of the story of the Prodigal Son and not seeing the application for our lives because we never ran away from home to live with pigs. It makes more sense to realize that the Prodigal Son never actually existed and is instead a representation of everyone who runs away from God.