

The Modern Relevance of God

SPECIAL PODCAST SERIES

RICHARD LLOYD JONES WITH CLÁUDIA B. S. PACHECO

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To embrace sanity is to accept truth, live love, and be good.

Norberto Keppe

Thinking with Somebody Else's Head presents...
The Modern Relevance
of God Special Podcast Series

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The Fall of Man Updated

Richard Lloyd Jones:

Welcome to Episode 7 of our Modern Relevance of God podcast series here on Thinking with Somebody Else's Head. I'm Richard Lloyd Jones.

I was struck in re-listening to our last episode that perhaps some more explanation of the story of man might be necessary. I also realize the challenge today of Biblical references. Religious life has often been equated with fanaticism, and that conjures up images of cults and Kool Aid and suicide vests, doesn't it? But let's be careful not to fall into that dismissive mindset too quickly, because after all, the story of man! Yeah, these are rich waters to navigate. Great minds have considered these questions of religion and belief and man's place in the cosmos, and simply brushing off these considerations as simplistic, superstitious and obsolete, would be a little hasty, I think. Evidence of what Viktor Frankel called "contemporary nihilism." In his great book, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Frankel writes, "Man has suffered another loss in his more recent development inasmuch as the traditions which buttressed his behavior are now rapidly diminishing."

And one of the traditions we are collectively leaving far behind in the rearview mirror is the story of the Fall of Man, a story which is present in most, if not all, of the cultural traditions on our planet. There has to be something there. In fact, I propose that our greatest human documents, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Rights of Man, the constitutions of many countries, are actually reflections of this memory of a time in paradise when we lived in harmony with nature and God, when we fulfilled our purpose in the Creation. We remember these universal principles, these fingerprints of God in the human soul as Keppe calls them, and they're called forth from deep inside in moments of inspiration, like revelations. So, let's not shy away because of prejudices or dismissals of our religious traditions. Let's continue in our exploration of this spiritual life. As Jung inscribed over the door of his house, "Whether summoned or not, God will be present."

So, for this episode, an excerpt from an interview I did for our podcast, *Thinking with Somebody Else's Head*, with Claudia Bernhardt Pacheco about the Fall of Man and what this story is really about.

Jones:

How can we understand these figures of Adam and Eve? If we read the Bible, Genesis, it talks about Adam being created and then Eve being created as a companion. Two people. But I don't know, I've always wondered about this, is this representative of a group of people? Is this a literal or figurative thing? And what's the relevance of this for us today?

Claudia Bernhardt Pacheco:

Man and woman. They are like a cell of creation. There is a need of the psycho-energetics and genetics of a man and a woman to create another being. So, man and woman, psycho-genetically speaking, they complete each other to create and to multiply. And if we would be in the way God created us in the beginning, we would represent complimentary energies to form a society.

Jones:

So in this sense, then, we can think that Adam and Eve represented the complete aspect of the human being ...

Pacheco:

Yes, and humanity and society.

Jones:

Not two individual people necessarily.

Pacheco:

Not necessarily, because would God have created just a couple? Well, if he created so many planets and suns and stars, so he could have created altogether a humanity and a society as he created thousands of angels. So he could have created thousands of men and women. And some of them started to follow an inverted and upside down kind of behavior that in religion would be the Original Sin and the Fall.

Jones:

So if we picture Adam and Eve or the human being, the complete human being, with male and female parts, they're in the garden, they're in paradise ...

Pacheco:

Yeah, so we imagine a garden, but imagine a super, super developed civilization. That's how we figure out how paradise should be. And can become again.

Jones:

Which in fact is, except we reject it all the time, right?

Pacheco:

Yeah, we destroyed. We fell. So, we could recover a lot of this paradise.

Jones:

You know what's interesting here on Earth is that every religious and cultural tradition has stories of this time, of this Golden Age. And so there they are, there we were. In perfection. And then this desire to know more, you know, Lucifer's temptation, that they will know more, that they will be like God, that they will know good and evil. Why would they follow this temptation? Things were perfect, things were beautiful. How can we understand that Claudia? That's a big mystery, isn't it?

Pacheco:

Yes, especially because when people think about the first human beings, they think about a man and a woman in the Stone Age. They follow Darwin's ideas that we came from monkeys. But there are other thinkers and another way of thinking, especially Keppe, that sees more humanity as coming from a highly developed society, living in freedom, in love, in total freedom, goodness, beauty and truth.

Jones:

And also peace and realization, like accomplishment. Not just like living in the garden and walking around barefoot, but like doing things, right? And creating things.

Pacheco:

Yeah, very active. We were not being limited by time and space. We would have capacity to live in transcendence. We would see God and speak to God as if He was here at our side. Well, He is, but we don't see Him anymore. So at that time we saw Him. We talked to Him. We lived with Him. Unimaginable.

Jones:

Our bodies would have been different.

Pacheco:

Yeah, more ethereal. A body different.

Jones:

More light, a higher vibration. Not so dense. We wouldn't have suffered ...

Pacheco:

No suffering, no pain, no death, no disease.

Jones:

Look at that!

Pacheco:

Look at that! But then we had this notion. And of course God didn't have to tell us in the way they say in the Bible. "You should not do this; you should not do that." This is a very metaphoric way of speaking. But we had the knowledge, infused knowledge, of what was really good, beautiful and truthful. But we got some kind of inspiration from some decayed angels that were very, very highly intelligent. They seduced, they persuaded human beings that they were limited living only in truth, beauty and goodness.

Jones:

Only in ... look at that. You guys have only truth, beauty and goodness and a developed society here. What are you doing?

Pacheco:

So if you would do evil or be evil, then you would know more. You would know what is good, beautiful, truthful and you would know also what is evil, and take the pleasure of evil. And you would have the power of gods. So the big lie that the serpent or this clever spirit did, was that God was made of two essential sides: one evil and one good, and that we should not only be good. We should be like gods, having the good side and the bad side. So we would be as wise as God or even wiser. So this was a big lie because God is only truth, beauty and goodness, and this bad guy, this evil, is Lucifer and his followers.

So we fell in this lie, and we believed that if we accepted this duality, we would be above God, or we would be wiser than God. And this was a big, big lie. That's why, according to the Bible, we have another chance. We have fallen to a lower state, a more dense state, which is time and space, but we still have a chance that following the revelation of a higher level of higher spirits, which is God and some angels and some theological – even spiritual – revelation, which are things that we can not get through our own intellect. We could not understand, we could not get to it. We lost our infused knowledge, so revelation is needed to clarify what is really real. What is reality? What is the truth? Because we lost that.

Jones: I think this sense of loss is closer to the surface that we think, you know? And it manifests in various subtle ways, like when we look back regretfully at an opportunity ungrasped or ruined, when we reel in horror at some example of massive injustice in the world, when we deal with our mortality – any of those moments or memories that cause reflection about loss or insufficiency are ripples of this larger psycho-genetic memory of the time way back when that man and woman fell from their rightful place in a created reality and decided to forge out on their own in response to some nefarious influence and their own exaggerated sense of importance. And in navigating out beyond the straight and narrow, we got lost. Dante understood that situation: “When I had journeyed half of our life’s way, I found myself within a shadowed forest, for I had lost the path that does not stray.”

Dante talked about abandoning the true path. It seems to be exactly that for humanity even today. And as Claudia said, we need help to return. Can’t go it alone. But this influence we received – and continue to receive – to stray, what up with that? That needs some consideration. And that’s coming up in episode 8.

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