

*The story of Adam and Eve,*

*real or symbolic?*

*Through the teachings of the Church*

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*True coptic orthodoxy*

*"the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"*

*Jude 1:3*

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### *an introduction*

In our modern age, many heresies and heresies have spread that challenge our Christian faith, whether in belief or the Bible, and with the spread of the materialistic and atheistic trend in the West, which began in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, many deviant ideas against the Christian faith began to spread, which challenged many of the constants of the Christian faith. With the spread of the materialist trend and scientific progress, there has become a view with much negligence and disdain for the Christian faith facts, as well as the Bible and its stories mentioned by the divine revelation on the lips of his prophets who wrote the book Holy inspired by the Holy Spirit.

One of the most important trends that emerged in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is the Higher Biblical Criticism School, which began studying and examining the Bible and its stories as mere myths that do not correspond to modern science and there is no scientific evidence for them! Then came out of this movement another movement called liberal theology or theology of liberation and this movement Or this current, which first appeared in Germany, then spread to other countries in Europe and the West in general, and this current began to deny many stories of the Bible, such as the story of creation and the story of the Flood, and in general, the first eleven chapters of the Book of Genesis, then it denied the miracles of Christ, the Resurrection, and many other heresies that began Known by the owners of this perverted intellectual current.

Unfortunately, this trend began to spread in many Protestant churches, then with the beginning of the twentieth century, it began to infiltrate Catholic churches as well. This thought moved to many Protestant and Catholic churches in the Arab countries and we began to see books by some Protestant writers and also Catholics, especially those who come from Lebanon, questioning The Bible and the literalism of the first chapters in the Book of Genesis and miracles were denied, and this teaching began to be taught publicly in some churches until it reached us in Egypt in recent years. And We found these books published on many groups and websites on the Internet, which explicitly challenge the Bible and deny the story of Adam and Eve and claim that it is a symbolic story and not a truth until this teaching reached, unfortunately, our Orthodox Church and some servants who began promoting this perverted and strange thought about our faith and faith. Our church and our Bible, and in this book, we will discuss the mythical heresy of Adam and Eve and respond to it through the teaching of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

***First - the claim that the story of Adam and Eve is an unreal mythical allegory***

The owners of this thought claim, symbolically or mythically, the story of Adam and Eve, and not only the story of Adam and Eve, but the story of creation in general and the story of the flood. Rather, they deny that the first eleven chapters of Genesis are true stories, but they are just templates or poetry that were used by the Genesis writer to convey the concept. Fall, disobedience, and God's rejection of evil. These stories were written in the form of legends. The Genesis writer was influenced by them from other cultures, and they are not a revelation, as there are no people who call Adam, Eve, and Noah, and there is no tree or paradise, but all

of these, as we have said, are just symbols that explain to us certain meanings the writer wanted to deliver it to us!!!

They also deny that the author of the Book of Genesis is Moses the Prophet, but it was written by some Jews in later centuries and was written by more than one person on more than one-time stage, and its writer was affected by many of the conditions in which the Jews lived at the time of writing these books!!

Concerning Adam and Eve, they claim that God did not create two people at the beginning with this name, but man was created as a result of evolution, as they believe in the theory of evolution, and Adam's personality is nothing but a symbol of all humanity. The whole tree is just expressions and symbols that the writer used to explain the fall of all humanity and its need for salvation!

In succession, they claim that there was no cosmic flood that drowned the whole world, and there was no person named Noah, and no ark building, no flood, or anything happened, but all of these things are just symbols and stories taken from ancient myths and used by the writer of Genesis to explain how God rejects evil!!!

So, they deny

The existence of real characters in the name of Adam and Eve

As some of them say that God did not create man in the beginning in the same way mentioned in the book, but man was created as a result of evolution, and therefore

there were not only two people called Adam and Eve, but a group of humans who fell into sin

The story of creation as mentioned in the book is not a true literal story, but it is symbol to show us that God is the creator of the universe

The author of the Book of Genesis is not Moses the Prophet, but an unknown person who wrote at a later time than the time of Moses. The Bible, especially the Book of Genesis, was written influenced by and quoted from the stories and legends that existed in the writer's era, and related to the stories of creation, Adam and Eve, and the Flood!

These are the most important deviant ideas. Rather, we say heresies that are promoted in our days. Unfortunately, when we refer to any book of our Catholic brothers, especially from Lebanon, in the interpretation of the Book of Genesis, we see them believing in these ideas and even writing them down and knowing them simply as truth and truth.

Also, there are some books for the interpretation of the Bible from churches other than our Coptic Orthodox Church that publish and carry these ideas. Of course, there are those of our youth who read these books and are affected by the ideas they contain!

And the most dangerous thing is that some began calling for the symbolism of Adam and Eve, and here is the symbolism in the sense that they do not exist as historical persons and claim that this is the teaching of our church. Him with the teaching of the Church or the teachings of the Fathers!

Here, we clarify an important matter, which is that the sources of education in our church are not just a saying of one of the fathers, interpreted by some or misplaced, but the doctrinal education in our church has sources known since the inception of the church, which we always refer to, and these various sources are what we returned to in this research to confirm the fact The faith of our church has been continuous and received for nearly two thousand years.

As for the sources of education in our Coptic Orthodox Church, they are:

**First**, the Bible, in its Old and New Testaments

**Secondly**, the liturgy, which is the prayers that we pray in our Coptic Church, from the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, the praise and the obeisance.

**Third**, the laws of the church, whether the laws of the ecumenical councils, as well as the laws of the patriarchs or the laws of local councils

**Fourth**, the teachings of the church fathers, carry the interpretation of the Bible or the explanation of the orthodox and doctrinal faith.

Here we say the education of the fathers and not just a saying or more. Education includes what the fathers learned and also what the Church agreed upon in what is known as the patristic consensus. With the above-mentioned sources

So, in any teaching or belief, we must refer to these four sources, and the teaching must be per these sources and not against them.

The sayings of the fathers are interpretations of the teaching of the Bible and an explanation of the faith that the church received from the apostles and do not need modern interpretations that come with ideas that were not carried by the sayings of the fathers or their teachings.

The truth is it is unfortunate that these heresies and deviant ideas that strike the depth of our Christian faith and redemption and penance are spread as true ecclesiastical teachings that we see and hear through preachers in churches and read in books sold in churches. The divine right despises, attacks and rejects the true orthodox teaching that the church received from Christ personally and learned about it throughout its history!!!

Of course, to respond to these allegations, we must clarify that there is evidence of the falsehood of these allegations, some of which are internal evidence from the Bible itself, and some are external evidence from the teachings of the Fathers and the teaching of the Church, and even from other external sources.

We will present these evidence that confirm to us the falseness of these allegations and the belief of our church that Adam and Eve are real personalities created by God, and from them came all of humanity.

***Second - The internal evidence in the Bible that confirms the truth of Adam and Eve***



There is internal evidence, i.e. within the Bible itself, that confirms to us the reality of the existence of the personalities of our parents, Adam and Eve, as well as external evidence from outside the Bible that also confirms to us this same truth, such as the liturgy and the teachings of the fathers. We will first present the historical evidence from within the Bible and then the external evidence

The Bible is full of its covenants with a lot of evidence that confirms to us the fact that Adam is a real person created by God in the beginning, and he is the one who gave him the commandment, and he who fell under the temptation of the serpent and the whole of humanity fell into him. In the Bible, both testaments.

### **First, the Old Testament**

Concerning the story of Adam and Eve: Whoever reads the story of Adam and Eve and its details that came in the Book of Genesis realizes at first glance that the story is a literal truth story and not a symbolic story. Just symbolic stories also the story of the fall in all its details, whether from eating from the tree or the talk of the devil, then the fall and then the punishment.

The events mentioned in the Bible confirm to us that Adam and Eve were real personalities who existed and from them, all human beings came.!

Also, the word Adam or Eve did not come in the Bible as a symbol for a group of people, as some claim, but it was a proper name for real personalities.

The word Adam came in the entire Bible about 165 times in the Old Testament, it came 159 times, and in the New Testament came 7 times. The word Eve came in the Bible five times, two in the Old Testament and three in the New Testament.

We can say with confidence that the word Adam or Eve did not come in all these times to mean a non-historical Adam and Eve character, and it never came as a symbol or an unreal character, or that the first Adam was a symbol of humanity and not a real personality

The word Adam came about 28 times in the Book of Genesis, and all of them meant the historical personality of Adam, the father of all human beings. The Bible speaks of him as a man and as a living person. It never spoke of him as a symbol, as well as in the rest of the books of the Old and New Testaments as well. We will mention here some verses of Genesis to confirm this meaning. for example

### ***The life of Adam and his sons, as mentioned in the Bible***

And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years and begot a son in his likeness, according to his image, and he called his name something (Genesis 5-4).

And the days of Adam, after he begot a thing, were eight hundred years, and he begat sons and daughters (Genesis 5-5).

And all the days of Adam that he lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died (Genesis 5-5)

### **The internal evidence in the Bible that confirms the truth of the personality of Adam and Eve:**

Did the word Adam or Eve in the Bible mean that they were not real personalities or that they were a symbol of humanity?

Of course not. On the contrary, the Bible in its two Testaments is full of proofs that assure us that the personalities of Adam and Eve are real historical figures.

The word Adam came in the entire Bible about 165 times in the Old Testament, it came 159 times, in the New Testament came 7 times, and the word Eve came in the Bible five times, two in the Old Testament and three in the New Testament.

And we can say with confidence that the word Adam or Eve did not come all these times in the sense that they are unreal characters and did not come at all as a symbol or that the first Adam was a symbol of humanity and not a historical figure that actually exists!

The word Adam came about 28 times in the book of Genesis, and all of them meant the historical personality of Adam, the father of all humankind.

**We will mention here some verses of the Book of Genesis to confirm this meaning, for example:**

### *Adam's creation*

The divine revelation speaks of the creation of Adam, saying:

-And the Lord God formed Adam of dust from the ground, and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. And Adam became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).

- And the Lord planted the garden in the east, and put Adam who formed him (Genesis 2:8).

-And the Lord God took Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden to work and preserve it. And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying: Of every tree of the garden, you may eat to eat” (Genesis 2:15-16).

### *Adam's naming the animals*

Adam's naming of the animals of the garden of Eden: "Adam called the names of all the beasts, the birds of the sky, and all the wild animals. As for himself, he did not find an equal for himself (Genesis 2:20).

### *Eve was created for Adam*

- Eve was created for Adam: "Then the Lord God caused a slumber fall on Adam, and he slept, and he took one of his ribs and filled its place with meat. And the Lord God built the rib that he had taken from Adam into a woman and made her green for Adam. And Adam said: This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. This is She is called a woman, because she was taken from his command (Genesis 2:21-23).

### *Giving the commandment to Adam and talking to him as a real existing person:*

And the Lord God commanded Adam, saying: Of every tree of the garden, you may eat to eat” (Genesis 2:16).

And the Lord God called Adam and said to him: Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9).

**Adam's knowledge of Eve, his wife after the fall, and their giving birth to the first human being. It is clear the names by which Adam and Eve named their children, confirm the true personalities of their children as well as the reality of their existence:**

And Adam called the name of his wife Eve, because she is the mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).

And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. And she said, "I will find a man from the Lord" (Genesis 4:1).

And Adam knew his wife also, and she bore a son, and called his name something, saying, For God has set up another seed for me in the place of Abel. Because Cain had killed him" (Genesis 4:25).

**The book confirms God's creation of Adam and his offspring:**

- "This is the book of the births of Adam, on the day God created man. In the likeness of God, he did" (Genesis 5:1).

Male and female, he created him, and blessed him, and he called his name Adam on the day he was created” (Genesis 5:2).

**The life of Adam and his sons, as mentioned in the Bible**

-And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and was born, and therefore in his likeness, according to his image, and called his name a thing” (Genesis 5:3).

-And the days of Adam, after he was born, were eight bad blessings, and he begot sons and daughters” (Genesis 5:4).

- “And all the days of Adam that he lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died” (Genesis 5:5).

**Referring to the fifth chapter of the Book of Genesis, the first verse. This is the book of the births of Adam, on the day God created man. In the likeness of God his work**

**Here we find a historical record that is found only in the Bible about the births of Adam from Adam's creation until our father Noah the Prophet and his sons with their names and ages, which confirms to us the reality of our father Adam and his sons and their ages.**

***Also, the story of the fall***

**After the fall, we notice the following:**

1- God punished the serpent, saying to it: “Because you have done this, you are cursed of all the beasts and all the sheep of the wilderness. On your belly you will ninety and rattle you will eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between you and her offspring. He crushes your head, and you crush his heel.” (Gen. 3:14-15).

And of course, the serpent here was a symbol of Satan, but the serpent also met this punishment. To this day the serpent walks on its stomach and eats dirt, and there is strong enmity between man and the serpent, so the punishment against the serpent was not symbolic or something unreal, but something that is still exciting until today we see and live!

2- The woman's punishment: "You will multiply the labors of your conception; in pain you will bring forth children. And your longing will be for your husband, and he will rule over you" (Genesis 3:16).

Also, this punishment that the woman received and that all women received after that is still present. The pain of pregnancy is still present and the pain of childbirth is still present, so the punishment here was not a symbolic matter for symbolic personalities, but it is a real thing that all women of the earth have suffered to this day!!

3- Punishment of the man: The Lord said to Adam: "Because you listened to the voice of your wife and ate from the tree that I commanded you, saying: You shall not eat of it. Cursed is the ground because of you. With thorns you shall eat of it all the days of your life. And thorns and thistles shall sprout to you, and you shall eat the grass of the field by the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread until you return." to the ground from which you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:17-19).

Also, the punishment of a man after breaking God's commandment is to curse the earth, and with fatigue he eats from it, thorns and thistles, and then dies and returns to the dust, because it is dust, and all of these things happened to all the children of Adam after him. The sweat of his brow and he still dies physically and is buried in

the dust and returns to dust until the resurrection of the dead so that the believers may rise with a luminous body!

So, if the story of Adam and Eve was an allegory, the punishment would also be a symbolic punishment. How can there be a real, tangible punishment lived over thousands of years for the symbolic stories of unreal people?

How does the whole of humanity suffer and how can sin inherit and the penalty for things that did not happen in the truth and from people who do not exist in the reality as the owners of these heresies claim?

**These are some of the verses mentioned in the Book of Genesis about Adam, but not all of them, which confirm to us several facts:**

1- Adam was the beginning of God's creation and he is the father of all human beings.

2- Adam is a real person created by God and gave her the will and was talking to her.

3- That Adam and Eve had sons and lived specific years mentioned in the Bible.

4- Adam after the fall received the punishment, he and Eve received this punishment that all his descendants inherited after him

5- After Adam's sin, the first commandment came with a promise, and thus God's incarnation was for the sake of man's salvation after he fell in the Garden of Eden.

6- That Adam after that was mentioned in the Bible as the father of all humanity, to the extent that he called man the son of Adam, as came in the book of Ezekiel many times, and also the sons of Adam, and even in linguistics, the title of humans became the father of the sons of Adam. Humans.



Thus, the Book of Genesis and the rest of the Old Testament books confirm the truth of Adam is a person and that he is the father of all humankind and the first creation of God.

### **Second: *The New Testament:***

Although the word Adam did not appear often in the New Testament, despite the small number of times, it also confirmed to us the true personality of Adam and Eve and the reality of the Fall, and even puts a comparison between the Lord Jesus, the second Adam and the first Adam, the father of all human beings.

### **Adam in the genealogy of Jesus Christ:**

It came in the genealogy of Christ according to the gospel of Saint Luke the Bashir, the grandfather of Jesus in the body, passing through David the Prophet and Abraham, the father of fathers, until he reached Adam, the father of mankind and the first of creation. Humans before falling to God, their Creator and Father.

The son of Anush, the son of Sheet, the son of Adam, the son of God” (Luke 3:38).

### **Adam in the Epistles of Saint Paul the Apostle:**

St. Paul confirms to us the truth of Adam and his fall into disobedience. Rather, he compares the sons of the first Adam and the second Adam and confirms that Adam, with his fall into sin, entered the world and all human beings inherited this sin and also entered death and condemned all humans to death, as they are the sons of Adam and were in his crucifixion at the time of his fall. He says:

- “But death reigned from Adam to Moses, over those who did not sin, in the likeness of Adam’s transgression, who is the example of the one to come” (Romans 5:14).

- “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be resurrected” (1 Cor 15:22).

- “Thus, it is also written: The first man Adam became a living soul, and the last Adam became an imaginary spirit” (1 Corinthians 15:4).

- “For Adam was formed first, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:13).

- “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived, and she was nourished” (1 Timothy 2:14).

**The Apostle Paul confirms to us some of the faith facts in these verses, which are:**

1- Adam was the first to be formed by God, then Eve.

2- That Adam was not deceived by the serpent, but Eve, and she got the transgression, confirming the story of the fall according to what came in the Book of Genesis and confirming its literalism

3- Death reigned from Adam to Moses, and the law was set for those who did not sin according to Adam's transgression.

The apostle compares the first Adam, the father of all humankind, and the second Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ, where he stresses that the first Adam became a living soul, while the second Adam is a life-giving spirit, that in the first Adam all die in disobedience and sin, but in the second Adam all will be made alive.

**Also, for the story of the Fall and Creation:**

1. When the Lord Christ himself spoke about marriage, he presented it based on what happened at the beginning of creation as a historical fact, forbidding divorce. He said: For this reason, a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two become one flesh (Matthew 5:19). We find here that the words of the Lord Jesus Christ are consistent with what came in the Book of Genesis “a male and a female created them (Genesis 271) and also the unity of the marriage as it came in the Book of Genesis.” Therefore, a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife and they become one body (Genesis 2:24), which is the same verse that he mentioned The Lord Christ is also a text (Matthew 19: 3-6, Mark 10:2-9)

2- The Lord Christ referred to the story of the fall of our parents at the beginning of creation, explaining the role and deception of Satan (John 8:44).

3- When the Apostle Paul spoke of the Church as the bride of the Lord Christ, he spoke of the serpent deceiving Eve as a true story, where he said: But I fear that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, so will your minds be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ (2 Corinthians 11:3).

The Apostle Paul also talks about the creation of Adam and Eve, saying: For Adam was formed first, then Eve (1 Timothy 2:13).

And the apostle Paul here talks about Adam and Eve as real people and confirms the Genesis story of the serpent deceiving Eve and also about God’s creation of Adam first and then Eve. Here he created one character named Adam and also one character named Eve, not a group of humans!

4- In the genealogy of the Lord Christ, the Evangelist Luke mentioned Adam as the first human in creation: Jesus, the son of Joseph, the son of Hali... the son of Anoush, the son of Sheet, the son of Adam, the son of God (Luke 3:38).

We note here that the genealogical chain ends with Sheet, son of Adam, i.e., confirmation of the biblical story in the Book of Genesis that Adam, after Cain killed of his brother Abel, begat Sheet, and his descendants were called the sons of God.

Of course, it is impossible for Adam's personality to be unreal and attributed as a grandfather to Christ, and also if he was a symbolic character that symbolizes all humans, so does the symbol give birth to sons, including a son named Chet, and from him comes a series of sons who are grandfathers of Christ, to whom be glory?

5- The Lord Christ spoke about the righteous Abel, in his rebuke to the scribes and the Pharisees, the Lord of glory said to them: “So that every pure blood that was shed on earth may come upon you, from the blood of Abel, the righteous, to the blood of Zacharias son of Brachia.”

whom you killed between the temple and the altar (Matthew 23:35) also (Luke 11:51)

And Abel whom the Lord Christ mentioned is Abel, the righteous, the son of Adam and Eve, who was killed and his blood was shed at the hands of his brother Cain.

The Apostle Paul also spoke of Abel (the son of Adam and Eve) as a real person and not a symbol (Heb. 11:4).

If Adam was a symbolic or mythical character, as some claim, was the righteous Abel also a mythical and unreal character? And if he is an unreal person, how can the Lord Christ cite him by the Holy Spirit, and it has already occurred in history, and even rose on this incarnation and the Apostle Paul as a real person?

Of course, Abel is a historical figure who shed his clever blood for his faith and his brother's envy of him. His brother Cain killed him. Is it possible for Abel to be a real person and Adam his father is a mythical or symbolic character that is not real?! Does the symbol or legend give birth to reality? Is it possible for Jesus to use a story and cite unreal mythical people?!

6- And if the story was allegorical, why did the Lord say after the sin of the first grandparents (from the seed of the woman shall come forth the one who crushes the head of the serpent)? Is it not a sign of the coming of Christ the Lord from a virgin?

Thus, we find that the Old and New Testaments of the Bible explain and explain to us the story of the creation and the fall and our first parents as real and realistic events that happened and never spoke as symbols or unreal or did not happen!

The Bible, in its two Testaments, unites one and mentions the story of salvation that began with Adam and the fall until God froze and redemption until the second coming. Of course, whoever doubts the existence of Adam and Eve is questioning the whole story of salvation and incarnation.

***Third - The teachings of the Fathers and the prayers of the Church that confirm the truth of the events of the creation of the world and Adam and the story of the Fall as mentioned in the Book of Genesis***

## **Do the teachings of the early church fathers say that Genesis is a mythical or symbolic story?**

Some of those who promote that the Book of Genesis contains legends, or that the stories of the beginnings in it, such as the creation, the fall, the flood, and the Tower of Babel, are allegorical stories and not real historical stories, to prove that the teachings of the fathers used to say that these events are symbolic!

Of course, this is far from true and against the faith of the Church and before the faith of the Church against the Bible itself, which confirms, as we have clarified, that events and facts are historical events that occurred in history and the Bible wrote them down as they happened!

Unfortunately, some use some of the sayings of the fathers in a truncated manner or with an interpretation contrary to what they mean to prove that the teaching of the fathers calls for Adam and Eve to be symbolic characters or stories of creation and the fall...etc.

And we will clarify some of the teachings of the holy fathers, which assure us that they understood the events of the beginnings as intended by the divine revelation, that they are real events, and even knew this in their interpretations, teachings, and sayings, and thus the Coptic Church received and learned about this over two thousand years.

### ***Symbolic interpretation of the Bible***

Some who adopt the thought of the existence of myths in the Bible claim that the teachings of some church fathers in the early centuries were calling for this and that the symbolic interpretation of the Bible is nothing but an affirmation that the stories were unreal and did not happen, but rather stories that were narrated to communicate certain concepts or meanings to us, and that Adam's personality is

not real, but he represents the fallen humanity. So, did the symbolic interpretation of the Bible deny the real and historical events?

We cannot deny that the symbolic interpretation of the Bible is something that has been and still exists in the Christian Church since its inception. Rather, we find symbolic interpretations used by the Bible itself. We even find that the Lord Christ, glory be to Him, using stories that occurred in the Old Testament as a symbol of his death and resurrection, as well as Paul the Apostle. I use things that happened in the Old Testament as a symbol of Christ's work of salvation. For example:

- The story of the prophet Jonah is a true story, but the entry of Jonah into the belly of the whale and his exit is a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection from the dead. The Lord Jesus Christ himself used the glory of Jonah as a symbol of his death and resurrection when he said: "For as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so is the son of Man in the heart of the earth three days and three nights" (Matthew 12:40, Luke 29:11).
- The Lord Christ also used the story of the copper serpent raised by Moses the Prophet, which was mentioned in the book of Numbers chapter 21, as a symbol of his raising on the tree of the cross. The devil in sin.

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up (John 3:14).

Likewise, the apostle Paul used the story of the people of Israel crossing the Red Sea as a symbol of baptism when he said, "I do not want you, brothers, to be ignorant that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. And all of them were baptized to Moses in the cloud and the sea. (1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

In addition to some stories and things that came in the Old Testament and had symbols in the New Testament, for example: the tools of worship in the Old Testament had symbolic connotations in preparation for the truth in the New Testament. The news of salvation and the new grace.

The bread and wine offered by Melchizedek as a blessing to our father Abraham is a symbol of the sacrifice of bread and wine offered in the New Testament as a communion of the body and blood of the Lord, where the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews says that Melchizedek is likened to the Son of God.

In addition to many, many things that came in the Old Testament and were explained in the New Testament.

In the first three centuries of Christianity, there was more than one school for interpreting the Bible, so there was the literal school and the symbolic school of interpretation. The Alexandria school adopted the symbolic school of interpreting the Bible, and it interpreted every event and every story in the Old Testament as a symbol or a prophecy or with hidden spiritual meaning for the salvation of the Master. Christ in the New Testament.

Thus, this school interpreted all or most of the Old Testament as carrying a hidden, spiritual and symbolic meaning of the New Testament.

One of the most important pioneers of the symbolic school in the Church of Alexandria was the scholar Origen, who was influenced by Philo the Jew, who was also one of the pioneers of the symbolic interpretation school.

He was very exaggerated in the symbolic interpretation until he said: The story of Adam is a purely symbolic story presented by revelation to reveal spiritual concepts that affect the life of man with God, and that heaven was not on earth but



in the third heaven, where Adam and Eve were two souls without real bodies before the fall and that they fell from Paradise Or heaven to earth because of their fall, and that the two bodies he received are a form of punishment.

The Church strongly rejected such teachings and even excommunicated Origen's teachings because of the errors that he committed!

It does not deny that some of the fathers in the early centuries were influenced by some of the philosophies and ideas of their time, including Tertullian in the second and third centuries AD, who also said that eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil created the sexual nature in man. God created other people by means other than physical relations, and Saint Gregory of Nyssa (fourth century) and John of Damascus (eighth century) were also influenced by this interpretation and learned of it!!

Although these fathers did not deny the events, the fall, or the existence of Adam the first human being, they said that the fall was due to sexual lust, but the church and the fathers in general rejected these teachings, which are against the teaching of the Bible and also against Christian education and rejected these ideas

And because the church used to not take a certain opinion, even if it was for one of the fathers, and it contradicts the teachings of the Bible or the faith of the church, there was what was known as apophomia, that is, the patriarchal consensus and this is what is taken and not just a single opinion, even if it was for one of the fathers!

There was a symbolic school in the early church, especially in our church, the Church of Alexandria, but we emphasize an important thing, which is that the symbolic interpretation did not cancel or negate the literalness of the events mentioned in the Bible, but it resulted in a literal interpretation and entered into the

depth of the events to see the spiritual and prophetic meaning of Christ and his salvation.

Thus, we understand that the symbolic interpretation did not deny or deny the reality of stories and events, as some do today, but looks at them in a deeper and more spiritual sense than their literal meaning. This is what Christ, the Apostle Paul, and the apostles also did in the New Testament. As a symbol of Christ and his salvation.

We will quote some sayings and teachings of some of the great fathers to make it clear to us that sound education in our church confirms the truth and history of the events of Genesis.

***Fourth - Some of the sayings and teachings of the church's fathers about the truth of Adam and Eve***

As we have already indicated that the teaching on which the fathers of the Church unanimously confirm to us the truth of the events of what came in the Book of Genesis, the book of beginnings from the days of creation, and the creation of man from the dust, Adam, and from him Eve emerged, as well as the fall, expulsion, punishment, then the flood and the Tower of Babel.

We will find many sayings and teachings of the fathers that confirm this to us, and we will mention here some and not all of these teachings and sayings of some of the great church fathers to make it clear to us that what some are calling today has nothing to do with the teaching of the church, nor the teaching of the fathers, nor the intention of the Bible.

*For example, some books and interpretations of the fathers on this:*

1. The writings of St. Athanasius the Apostle about Adam and the story of the Fall in his book *The Incarnation of the Word* and many other writings.
2. The book of the *Gala Vira* (The Brilliant Commentaries) of Saint Cyril the Great, the *Book of Response to Julian*, and other books in which he spoke about Adam and Eve and the story of the Fall. It is a real story written by Moses the Prophet in his travels.
3. St. John Chrysostom's interpretation of the *Book of Genesis*, and he spoke of Adam and Eve and the story of the Fall as real historical figures and the occurrence of the story as it came in the Bible.
4. Also, the writings of St. Irenaeus, the father of ecclesiastical tradition from the second century, such as the *Apostolic Preaching and Against Heresies*.
5. The *Six Days of Creation* book by St. Basil the Great, in which he spoke about the events of creation, as stated, fulfilling the Bible literally, and he strongly attacked those who say that they are symbols that did not happen!

In addition to the many and many sayings of the holy fathers in the history of the Church and their interpretations of the story of the Fall, all of which speak of the story of Adam and Eve as a real story and that Adam and Eve are real personalities found in history. The sayings of the fathers say that strange teaching about the spirit of the teachings of our church and our Christianity!

**We will list some of the teachings of the great church fathers, which confirm the truth of the events of the Book of Genesis.**

### ***Saint Cyril the Great***

One of the fathers who dealt mostly with the events of creation and the story of the Fall in their writings is Saint Cyril the Great. Saint Cyril's teaching is full of explanations concerning these events and all of them, without exception,

emphasize the truth of the events of Genesis and the reality of the events of creation, whether the creation of the world or the creation of Adam and Eve and also the story of the fall and the temptation of Eve as well. And also, the writer of the book of Genesis and the books of laws is the Prophet Moses and not someone else! We will quote some texts from the teachings of Saint Cyril on the truth of the creation of the Book of Genesis

**First in his book Reply to Julian**

In a clear confirmation from St. Cyril on the truth of the events of the Book of Genesis, and that its author is Moses the Prophet, he wrote the Book of Response to Julian, which consists of nine books in response to what Julian the ungrateful said about challenging the truth of Genesis and questioning Moses the Prophet and what he wrote in the holy books. St. Cyril strongly defended the truth of the Book of Genesis and the stories of creation, and also defended Moses the Prophet in a clear indication that confirms to us that what was written in the books of the Torah was the Prophet Moses, and not as liberals claim today. Amazingly, St. Cyril responds to many modern teachings that question the Bible today. These teachings at the time of Pope Kyrillos and before him come from a person like Julian the ungrateful who turned away from the Christian faith to paganism! It is as if these skeptical teachings are a throwback to paganism and a denial of the orthodox Christian faith that was once for all delivered to the saints!!

Saint Cyril says about Moses the Prophet in the second book of his book, The Response to Julian:

There are many long things worth mentioning about the subject of Moses, that he heard God addressing him and saying, how does he know that I have had the good fortune in your eyes? I am your people. Is it not by your walking with us, so that you and your people will be distinguished over every nation on the face of the earth? Then the Lord said to Moses, is also what I asked him to do, because you have found favor in my eyes and I know you in your name (Exodus 16:17-17) among the many virtues that he had the ability to perform miracles Especially the ones that he made in Egypt, which suffice to indicate his personality.

The divine Moses would not appear before us presumptuously and tell us strange stories, and he would not go on this path merely for ambition. His goal was to contribute to the improvement of human behavior... Moses' goal was to establish the souls of his contemporaries on the belief of the truth, because they were at a loss, to be educated by the lost. Their extreme ignorance led to ignoring the one God... He declared that the universe has one Creator and distinguished him from all the creatures that He brought into existence. Moses went in his clear practical spirit, and far from being overly scrutinized, he deals with only the necessary matters.

St. Cyril explains in a quick comparison between what Moses the Prophet wrote and the pagan myths, and he says: Reflect on how Moses' text, with its great wisdom, eliminates the misguidance that was common among the ancients. And they worshiped these creatures as gods

And if we go back to Moses and deny that his description of the creation was clear, close to comprehension, free of complexity in its wonderful accuracy, this is what we want to show. He said in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. He refuses that matter is God's partner in non-beginning...Moses says that God, with his indescribable power, created what did not have any kind of existence.

As for the story of the fall and the snake talking to Eve, Julian scoffed, saying, "The snake spoke and in what language?"

Saint Cyril responded by saying:

We should pay attention, then, to how the games of the magicians clearly show that among the characteristics of the games of the devils is that they are able in many cases to make sounds not only from animals that have senses, but also from those that are deprived of sound and sense, that is, water and trees, as long as it is thus clear that they (that is, the snake) did not say anything with a woman, because the serpent in itself does not have the nature of speech or reason, so Satan impersonated her, wanting to take away from man the immortality and immortality that had been given to him.

Concerning God's creation of man, Saint Cyril says:

After He created everything in the world and when everything that man needed was provided, only then did the Creator begin to think about the way He created man himself... The great Moses sees that it is per the divine plan that man deserves the attention and thought of the Creator. He has shown that his creation was not like everyone else. creatures, as if I were paying special attention to him, and he was made in the image of his Creator

Secondly, St. Cyril in his conversation with Palladius about the envy of Satan and the fall of Adam.

- St. Cyril says: “He did not want to leave man (the devil) undisturbed, seeking later with deceptions and tricks to push him towards disobedience, using in his deception the woman as a tool for him, and he always pushes us towards sin and the pleasures that accompany us and dwell within him, among which is the pleasure of craving a woman. And many times, the mind rushes with the influence of pleasures towards something that it does not want, so what happened with Adam in a “material and tangible way” can happen mentally and in an imperceptible way with each of us.

Thirdly, the Book of the Gala vera (The Glorious Commentaries), which is one of St. Cyril’s exegetical books. It is made up of commentaries and interpretations of selected paragraphs from the Pentateuch.

Concerning the history of the events of the Book of Genesis from the creation of the universe and Adam, St. Cyril says, “We will present the historical events to clarify them by analogy as much as possible, the basic idea of the mystery of Christ from example and shadow, to make it a clear vision with the knowledge of the Word, taking Christ the Lord as a final goal... Well, we will start with the selection of a book. Genesis, speeding toward the first five books of Moses 14, and with them we shall examine the rest of the book in so far as it is useful for our purpose.

Concerning God's creation of the universe, St. Cyril says, "In the beginning and before everything, God created the heavens and the earth and brought them into existence... Well, as long as the heavens and the earth were created in the beginning, and all the waters gathered in one place, because they were subject to what he said, to gather the waters under the heavens to one place" Genesis 91) So the earth appeared and grew grass and trees and then appeared the succession of the sun and the moon and God's law set limits for the rule of each of them i.e., the sun shines by day and the moon by night just as the sky was full of stars

Then St. Cyril continues to explain the creation as it came literally in the Book of Genesis and says, "He made the nature of water the mother of living aquatic creatures and birds that fly in the air, and commanded the earth to bring forth living souls and the different races of beasts (Genesis 1:24). He transcends the mind, and the Logos was the creator of all creatures with a breath of life from him, and because the Creator of all was pleased with the universe that he created; therefore, he created the last creature for which other creatures were created, I mean man.

And about the creation of man as a living, intelligent being, as stated in the Book of Genesis, from the dust of the earth, and not by evolution, as some claim, the saint says: "He has created man, then, as long as he created the earth in advance with a beauty commensurate with it and all existing things, he proceeded to create man and made his creation superior to all of them. That all other creatures he made with his word, and because man is considered a living and genius existence in truth and very similar to God... and although he created him from clay, he is a living, sane being, and he immediately breathed into him an immortal and life-giving



spirit because it was written and breathed into his face the breath of life, and Adam became a living soul (Genesis 2:7)

Here, St. Cyril assures us that the creation of man was different from the rest of the creatures, that is, that he did not evolve from other beings that had a previous existence of man, and also that God created him from the clay of the earth and breathed into him the breath of life, the immortal and life-giving spirit, and of course, this teaching is against what some promote that the story of creation from the dirt is a symbolic story and that man evolved from other creatures!

And about the presence of Adam, the first man in Paradise, and St. Cyril talks here about Paradise that it is a real place in which man was present, representing the supreme glory on earth and the image of sovereignty appropriate to God. He says, “After He placed him in Paradise and gave him dominion over all earthly creatures, and made him master over all kinds of beings, and subjected He has predatory beasts and with them the races of poisonous serpents, and he obliged them by the laws of nature to fear him. Man has become the representative of the nominal glory on earth and an image of the appropriate dominion of God.

As for the commandment and Adam’s violation of it and the creation of Eve from Adam’s side, St. Cyril says, “Because the person who has reached such a degree of glory and happiness should have known well that the authority of God, the King, and the Lord is above all that he possesses so that he does not slip quickly because of the privileges God gave him over Fur is a commandment, and next to it the

threat of punishment was placed for him in case he violated it because there had not yet been found above the earth a path to sin since man was one and unique.

We note here that St. Cyril asserts here that God, in the beginning, created one unique human being who was not but him, and not, as some people know, with the theory of evolution, or that Adam was a symbol of a group of human beings and was not a real personality.

Concerning the creation of Eve from Adam's side, he says, "Then after that, he took a rib from Adam's side and created the woman who would help him in the birth of sons and daughters and with whom we will live like him and share life with him simply and because she was led by Satan's fantasies to dissent and ate from the forbidden fruit and with her Adam was deceived. The situation condemned human nature to death, God said to the woman

In pain you will give birth to children, while he said to Adam, "Cursed is the earth because of you. Toil shall you eat of it all the days of your life" (Gen. 3).

Moreover, they were expelled from their beloved first dwelling and the enjoyment of Paradise, and then they just knew that they were naked and that they needed clothes, and they were given garments of skin by God.

We note here that St. Cyril talks about the commandment, eating from the tree, falling, and punishment in a real literal way, not an allegory or legend.

We suffice with this, and by referring to the book of Glavera, we will find many other matters in the Book of Genesis that the saint talks about and explains in a true, historical and realistic way, and not a symbol or legend as some claim today.

And St. Cyril asserts here that God, in the beginning, created one unique human being who was not but him, and not, as some people know, in the theory of evolution, or that Adam was a symbol of a group of human beings.

Also, St. Cyril says, “And I beg you to notice how the nature of man in Christ is free from the errors of Adam’s greed. Through eating, we were defeated in Adam, and by fasting, we were victorious in Christ.

### **Saint John Chrysostom**

**In the interpretation of the Epistle to the Romans of Saint John Chrysostom, chapter five, he says:**

That this happened through the sin of one man, i.e., Adam, and what does it mean, and in his person, death passed to all people? It means that death has passed to everyone because he (Adam) fell into sin, and those who did not eat from the tree all became **in his person dead**.

**also says:**

Accordingly, it is clear that sin did not come because of violating the law, but because of Adam’s sin, and this sin is what led to the destruction of everything, and what is the evidence for that? The evidence is that everyone died before the law

He also explains in a comparison between the first Adam and the second Adam, Jesus Christ, saying:

And how is the king of death on the likeness of Adam's transgression, and for this reason Adam is an example of Christ, and how can he say that he is an example of Christ? Because as those who came from Adam, although they did not eat from the tree, death reigned over them, and so Adam became a cause of death, which entered the world because of eating from the tree... Therefore, the apostle Paul focused on focusing on the phrase "one," and this indicates to him constantly, saying, as if by one person sin entered the world, and also because if it was the sin of one, many died, and not as one had sinned, so is the gift.

**Saint Chrysostom also mentions:**

What he says means the following: How do you arm death against humanity? Arm that only one person ate from the tree, and if this great dominion was due to one sin, it led to death, how is it possible that there are people under the rule of death who have obtained a blessing and righteousness much greater than the first sin

Adam, because of the lack of discipline in his stomach, was expelled from Paradise, and this sin also caused the flood in the days of Noah, as the fire descended from heaven on Sodom... But the origin of all punishments arises from here (i.e., devotion to the belly), for this very reason the Lord fasted forty days to show us the medication for our salvation.

St. John Chrysostom also says about the birth of the Lord Christ and the creation of Adam and Eve from the dust of the earth, “Because the King of Righteousness needed to come in a pure and holy manner of birth, because He is the One who created Adam and Eve from virgin land, and from Adam also He created a woman without having to marry there. The woman was created from Adam without the intermediary of a woman.

St. John also confirms that Eve was realistically created from Adam's side, saying, "Adam remained healthy after he took a rib from his side, and the Virgin remained pure after she gave birth to a child. That is why he did not create for himself a temple from another place, nor did he create another body and put it on so that it would not appear that he was despised. The clay from which Adam was made.

And St. John says about the serpent deceiving Eve, he says, “When Eve was deceived, a word came out of her that became a cause of death, while the Virgin, after receiving the joyful gospel, was born from her the word of God in a human body, and it is he who became for us the cause of eternal life.”

- St. John Chrysostom also says: “Adam, because of the lack of discipline in his stomach, was expelled from Paradise, and this vice is also the one that caused the flood in the days of Noah and also the downfall of fire from heaven on Sodom... except that the origin of all punishments arises from here (i.e., devotion to the belly). For this very reason, the Lord has fasted for forty days, showing us the medicines for salvation... St. John Chrysostom, the interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew.

***Saint Irenaeus:***

We can extract the teaching of St. Irenaeus about Adam and Eve, the Fall and Creation, from his book *The Apostolic Preaching*, which is one of the most important books he wrote and also one of the most important books of the first century in the universal Church. Concerning the creation of man, Saint Irenaeus says:

**human creation:**

As for man, he created him with his own hands, taking a thin and pure part of the earth, and then alone with a part of his strength. After that, he imprinted his image on his creation so that he would have a clear distinction, that he was created in the image of God. Then man was placed on the earth to represent the image of God in it, and for God to transfer life to man, He breathed in his face the breath of life, and this made man resembles God.

Man was created free and a master appointed by God to rule over everything on earth. And this great world created by God, and which was prepared before the creation of man, was given to man as a dwelling place for him, so that he might live comfortably in it, and God, the Creator of all within this world, placed servants, and assigned each one of them a special service. The guardian of this world is the chief master, the chief of the hills, and the chief of his other servants. The servants were the angels, and the chief of the lords was the archangel.

Then St. Irenaeus continues about the creation of Adam and Paradise and says:

And when He made man (Adam) master over the earth and everything in it, He also made him master over the creatures that should have served him. But while these beings were the last in their power, their master, that is, man, was still young, a child who had to grow up to achieve his perfection.

For him to live in joy and bliss, God prepared for him the best place in the world in terms of air, beauty, light, food, plants, fruits, and water. He did not lack any of the necessities of life, so he called this place Paradise. This paradise was beautiful and fine, the Word of God (the Son of God) was constantly walking there talking to man about things to come, but rather he tried to make it clear to him that he would be his companion and talk and converse with him, and that he would dwell with men to teach them righteousness. But man was a child, and did not yet have a mature will, so he was easily deceived by the deceiver.

**And about the creation of Eve for Adam, he says:**

While Adam was walking in paradise, God brought before him all the animals and commanded him to give a name to each one of them, and Adam gave a name to each of the living things. And God also decided to give a helper to man, saying: “It is not good for Adam to be alone, so I make him a helper comparable to him.” Because among all living things no one was equal to Adam, a peer and a likeness to Adam. Then God caused Adam to fall into hibernation and sleep. Thus, for God to complete his creation, God allowed Adam to sleep even though sleep was not previously found in Paradise. Then God took one (rib) from Adam's side, and completed the place from which it was taken with meat, and from this side, He created the woman and brought her before Adam. When Adam saw her, he said,

"This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She is called a woman because she was taken from a man."

**Concerning the commandment that God gave to Adam, Saint Irenaeus says:**

But so that a person does not become magnified and does not be attacked by vanity, as if he has no God, and that he does not have false perceptions in his relations with God, his Creator, because of the power and freedom that surrounds him and goes beyond his limits, and so that he does not slip because of ideas of transcendence and rebel against God, a law was given to him from God, to teach him that his master and Lord, he is Lord of all. God has set certain limits for him so that he can always remain in this state, that is, not mortal, if he keeps the commandments of God, while if he remains unbeliever, death will overtake him and return to the land from which he was taken. And the commandment was: "From all the trees of Paradise you may eat food, but as for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat of it, for on the day you eat all of it you shall surely die."

And about the events of the story of the Fall and the conversation of the serpent with Eve, Saint Irenaeus says:

But man did not keep this commandment nor obey God, but was deceived by the (fallen) angel who envied him because of the many gifts God gave to man, and brought him destruction and made him a sinner, persuading him to violate God's commandment. In the same way, if the (fallen) angel became, through lies, the father and ruler of sin, he was expelled because he was against God and became the cause of man's expulsion from Paradise. Through this act he rebelled and



separated from God, He was called in the Hebrew language Satan, which means the rebel, and he was also called the Devil. Then God cursed the serpent that was a vessel for Satan, and the curse fell on the animal itself (the serpent) as well as on the angel who hid in it, i.e., Satan. As for man, God expelled him from his presence, and placed him near Paradise, because 36 sinners are not accepted into Paradise.

St. Irenaeus also explains in his book *Against Heresies* about the sin of Adam and Eve, which is eating from the tree and says:

(In the beginning, Satan tempted man with food, even though he was not hungry, and made him go against the commandment of God. Thus, his evilness to man in heaven by eating is nullified by abstaining from eating that Christ endured in this world, as well as the disobedience committed by Adam.

Here we note the following:

Saint Irenaeus confirms the truth of the creation of Adam and Eve and the fall according to the events mentioned in the sacred book and confirms that God gave Adam the commandment not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil!

The saint did not say that Adam and Eve are characters symbolizing humanity, or that the tree or eating from it is not real. Rather, we find in the part about the events of the story of the fall a very important matter, which is his confirmation of the details of the story of the fall as mentioned in the Book of Genesis, such as the speech of the serpent with Eve, and he did not deny that the serpent spoke With Eve, as some say today, but he clearly said that the reason for God's curse on the

serpent is that it was a vessel for Satan, and the curse fell on the serpent as an animal, because Satan had hidden in it. Then he expelled man from his presence and settled him near Paradise, confirming that there was also a Paradise in which man lived with God in his presence, and also confirming God's punishment for man and also the animal, which is the serpent that Satan used as his victim!

Thus, we find that the teaching of St. Irenaeus of the second century A.D. clarifies the teaching of the Church and also assures us of the truth of the events of the Bible and how the church fathers understood them!

### *Saint Anthony, the father of the monks*

Because this is what (Satan) did when he disappeared into the serpent 38 and said to Eve: "If you eat from the tree, you will become gods, and your eyes will be opened" (Genesis 3:5). When Eve heard these words, her heart turned to him and thought that it was true because she did not examine him. When she ate and fed Adam, he struck them both. Great humiliation, and both of them fell from their heights. This is how Satan does to the believers who have not yet reached perfection, when they do not differentiate between good and evil, but follow their own identity and are convinced of their opinion, and do not return to learn from their fathers who perfected and distinguished between good and evil 39 and they think that they have become perfect and blessed alone like their fathers

### *Saint Athanasius the Apostolic:*

St. Athanasius the Apostolic, like the rest of the fathers who taught in the universal Church, dealt with the events of the Book of Genesis from creation and fall in some of his books. As usual, he never knew that the characters of Adam and Eve were symbolic, or that the events of the fall were not real. we will quickly discuss some of the teachings of St. Athanasius in this regard.

St Athanasius says about the creation of Adam in his book *Against the Gentiles*:

And that is exactly like the first human being created, who was called in Hebrew Adam when he described in the holy books that his mind was directed to God in a freedom that was not hindered by shame, and that he was participating in the saints' contemplation in matters that the mind does not comprehend and which he enjoyed in the place where he was whom Saint Moses symbolically called paradise.

Here we explain the following:

First, the text confirms the real existence of Adam and that there is a person who was first created by God and called in Hebrew Adam, as the saint said, "As the first human being was created, he was called in Hebrew Adam." Here, the saint assures us that Adam, the first Caliph of God, is a real person with a name in Hebrew, not a symbol and not a legend, as the advocates of symbolism claim.

secondly. St. Athanasius also confirms the fact of the existence of Paradise as a real, existing place and not a symbol. He says, "In the place where Moses symbolically called him paradise." So, Adam was in a place where the angels meditated, and perhaps glorified and prayed and glorified God like the angels of course, with his work that he was doing in heaven as the bible says: does it and

preserves it (Genesis 2:15) and as St. Athanasius mentions and says, as it came in the holy books.

Therefore, St. Athanasius did not deny the location of Paradise and the reality of its existence but rather confirms what was stated in the holy books

St. Athanasius talks about Adam as a real, historical personality. Adam also says that although he received grace from the beginning, and as soon as he was created, he was placed in paradise, he does not differ “in any respect from Enoch, who was transferred there sometime after his birth, when God was pleased with him, nor from the Messenger who was kidnapped to paradise

Here, it is clear that one person received grace and was created as one human being and was placed in Paradise, and not all of humanity. Saint Athanasius also confirms the reality of the existence of Paradise as a real, existing place and not a symbol. He says, “In the place where Moses called him symbolically in Paradise.”

So, Adam was in a place where the angels meditate, and perhaps praise and prayers and glorify God like the angels, of course, with his work that he was doing in heaven, as the book says, he does it and preserves it (Genesis 2:15), and as St. Athanasius mentions and says as it came in the holy books

Thus, it becomes clear to us that St. Athanasius did not deny the location of Paradise and the reality of its existence, but rather confirms what was mentioned in the holy books as mentioned.

Returning to the book Incarnation of the Word, we find the saint talking about Adam in Paradise and never says that he is not real and does not exist. He says:

He previously secured the blessing given to them by a will and a place (we note here the will and the place - Paradise -), so He entered them into His Paradise and gave them a will so that if they preserved the blessing and continued righteousness, they lived in Paradise without sadness, pain, nor concern (attributes of life in heaven) in addition to the promise of heavenly birth. (We note here that the saint separated between Paradise on earth and heaven, and he is against the teaching of Origen, who said Paradise was in the third heaven).

But if they transgress the commandment and turn away from good and become evil, let them know that they will bring death upon themselves according to their nature, and they will no longer live in Paradise, but rather die outside of it, and remain forever in corruption and death.”

Athanasius the Apostolic also mentions the personality of Adam and that he is the father of all human beings and says:

“The human race was created in the image of God because although Adam alone was created from dust from dust, all the offspring of the human race are found in him.”

Here, St. Athanasius teaches that Adam exists and that he is the father of all human beings, and that he created from and in him all the offspring of the human race. This is the teaching of the Bible in the Book of Genesis.

Thus, it becomes clear to us from the teachings and sayings of the fathers that Adam was a real character and not a symbol either, and that the story of the fall was real and not a myth or a symbol.

**Fifthly - the liturgical prayers in our Coptic Church, confirm the reality of the events of creation and the fall, and the reality of the existence of our parents, Adam and Eve.**

The church's prayers are filled with a lot of talk about our father Adam and Eve and the story of the fall and talk about him as a real person who is the father of all human beings who fell by breaking the commandment of God and eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

### **1- Agpeya:**

In the first hour prayers and in the pieces, we pray every day in the first piece and say:

all creation rejoiced in Your coming. You saved our father, Adam, from the seduction, and delivered our mother, Eve, from the pangs of death, and gave us the spirit of sonship.

Also, in the sixth hour prayer, we pray and say:

O you who, on the sixth day and at the time of the sixth hour, were named on the cross for the sin that our father Adam had dared to commit in paradise, tore the instrument of our sins, O Christ our God and save us

It is clear that the talk here is about a real person, who is Adam, and about a sin he committed in Paradise, which all mankind inherited, and that called for Jesus to be crucified to save us from it.

## **2- The Divine Liturgy:**

### **The Basilian Liturgy:**

We pray in the prayers of the Basilian liturgy and say:

Who formed us, created us, and placed us in the paradise of joy. When we disobeyed Your commandment by the guile of the serpent, we fell from eternal life

. Here, the sentence is in the plural form, because we were in Adam when he was in Paradise and we fell with him, and all humanity received the sentence of death and deserved the salvation that Christ completed with his incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection. Paradise, here we are talking about facts that happened and not symbolic matters.

### **Gregorian liturgy:**

We also pray in the Gregorian liturgy in the Peace Prayer and say:

Who for the sake of goodness only brought man into existence out of nonexistence, and put him in the paradise of joy. And when he fell through the deception of the enemy and the disobedience of Your holy commandment You desired to renew him and to restore him to his first estate

Besides, even in other religions and cultures, despite their differences throughout history, they affirm the fact that there is one person who is the father of all human beings, who was created by God and from whom all existing human beings were born, and the human distribution throughout history assures us that all humans came out of the Middle East and were distributed To the whole world, which is confirmed by history in the Bible, but that humans are called the sons of Adam in reference to Adam, the father of all human beings.

Also, the Gregorian liturgy is distinguished by the fact that the prayer in it is in the language of the addressee, and this is an indication that we were in Adam when he ate from the tree and violated the commandment and received the punishment because we were in the loins of Adam and therefore, we received all the punishment that Adam received from the punishment and judgment of death and inheritance of sin. He says:

You, as Lover of Mankind, have created me, as man. (emphasis on the fact that God created the first human being and not as some claim that he evolved from other beings) you had no need of my servitude, but rather I had need of Your lordship.... Of one plant have You forbidden me to eat, that of which You have



said to me, “Of it only do not eat.” But according to my will, I did eat... I plucked for myself the sentence of death.

We notice here talking about Paradise and the tree of life, violating the commandment of God, and eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

### **3- The Holy Psalmodia**

Psalmody is also filled with references to our father Adam and our mother Eve, the story of the Fall, and the link between the first Adam and the second Adam, Jesus Christ, and between our first mother Eve, and the second Eve, the Virgin. For example:

In Sunday’s Theotokia we say:

Hail to you, O Mary, the salvation of our father Adam... Hail to you, O Mary, the joy of Eve (Sunday’s Theotokia 8)

Also, Eve and Adam were obeyed by the serpent, and for the sake of fasting, he gained the victory (Adams psalmody prayer of great fasting)

Adam while he was sad, the Lord wanted him to return to his leadership, he shone bodily from the virgin without human seed until he saved us (Monday’s Theotokia 1)

Eve, who was seduced by the serpent, was judged by the Lord, that your sorrows and sighs will be more abundant (Monday’s Theotokia 2)

Hail to Bethlehem, the city of the prophets, in which Christ was born, the second Adam, in order to restore Adam, the first earthly man, to paradise (Monday's Theotokia 7)

He tore the book of the hand of slavery that belonged to Adam and Eve and set them free (Monday's Theotokia 8)

Because Adam is our father, the first creature in the hands of God, the Creator, with the advice of Eve, our first mother. Adam ate from the fruit of the tree, and he came over a race and all creation has the power of death and corruption (Labash Adam)

Here we note the wonderful and adequate explanation in the glorification that Adam, the first human being, created by God the Creator, and with the advice of Eve, ate from the tree, and by eating it brought death and corruption to all humankind, which is a confirmation of what came in the Bible and a confirmation of the doctrine of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

We suffice with this, as there are dozens of references to our father Adam and our mother Eve and the story of the biblical fall in Psalmody, as well as the rest of our liturgical prayer books, which confirm the fact that our father Adam and our mother Eve and Paradise and their fall under the temptation of Satan through the serpent and their eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

*Sixth, why do we refuse to claim the symbolism of Adam and Eve?*

Many reasons make us reject this modern heresy and claim the symbolism of our parents, Adam and Eve, for several reasons, including:

1- This claim is against the faith of our Coptic Orthodox Church, and even against the Christian faith in general, and it challenges the Bible, which confirms the truth of the personalities of Adam and Eve.

2- This claim destroys the doctrine of redemption and salvation from its foundation. If Adam and Eve were symbolic characters, and therefore the story of the fall is symbolic as well, then how did man sin, what is the sin and its quality, and who sinned, and if Adam meant a group of human beings, did they all sin at once? Are all of them bequeathed sin to all their offspring? Did they all receive the promise of salvation? Then what is the nature of their sin and how it happened?

3- Where is the evidence for these claims and where is the evidence for the sincerity of the claim that Adam is an unreal person, and what is the alternative, and what is the evidence for the validity of this claim? Sin into the world and who entered it? We do not find any answers to these questions from those who deny the history of our parents Adam and Eve and the story of creation and the fall only without offering any alternative to these events!!!

4- As we mentioned the faith of the Church, the writings of the Fathers, the prayers of the Church, and the faith of the Church in the early centuries and even the eighteenth century. There was no teaching in any church in the world that says the symbolism of Adam, but it is the idea that crept into some churches in Europe as a result of the schools of biblical criticism and the ideas of liberal theology that appeared. During this period, he began to spread ideas that destroy the Christian faith, deny many faith facts, and claim that the Bible is not a book inspired by God and contains myths and that many stories from it are unreal, such as the flood, the story of Jonah, and of course Adam and Eve!

So, these are just ideas that came from non-believers and then infiltrated some churches in Europe until they became a doctrine for some, and unfortunately!!!

5- Some find comfort in this thought with the symbolism of Adam and Eve until the Bible agrees with science, as many in the West believe in the theory of evolution and that man was not created from the dust of the earth, but rather is the development of other beings that were less developed than him in the ladder of evolution or the tree of evolution and therefore those who believe in this theory. They strongly reject the doctrine of the divine creation of the universe from nothing, or the creation of Adam from the dust of the earth, so they embraced the idea that Adam and Eve are symbolic characters that are not real, and therefore Adam was not created from the dust of the earth. The West also) was the belief in the symbolism of Adam and Eve!

6- Our belief in Christ, whether in the Bible or our prayers, confirms that God created man from nothingness and from the dust of the earth. Therefore, any claim other than this faith truth is an attack on the words of the Bible and a denial of the

divine revelation, and it is also in violation of the doctrine and prayers of the Coptic Orthodox Church!

7- Promoting such strange and deviant ideas from our Christian faith makes us accept more of these ideas, which were also promoted by those who promoted the symbolism of Adam and Eve in the West, such as denying the divine revelation and denying the occurrence of the first eleven chapters of Genesis and thus denying the Flood and the characters of Noah and his sons...etc. And also, the denial of Moses writing the first five books of the Bible and many of these ideas that are unsound in the faith. The matter does not stop at just accepting one idea, but it is a series of deviations that do not end and do not stop until the Christian faith is emptied of its beliefs and turns into a fragile faith without dogma or faith and it is a satanic scheme, they used Satan is in the West until he ruined the faith of many churches there and lost the straight faith, and he plans to do that also in our Coptic Orthodox Church.

Therefore, all of us, as fathers, shepherds, and servants, must confront this deviant thought and modern heresies, confront the deviant thought with the correct Orthodox thought, and delve more and more into the Bible and its interpretations from the fathers of the church, the teachings, the doctrine and the prayers of our church so that we may prove more in the Orthodox faith and know that these modern ideas are nothing but modern satanic innovations. Satan wants them to strike the Christian faith..

We pray to the Lord to preserve the faith of our Coptic Orthodox Church, and to make, as it has always been, our Coptic Church, the impenetrable wall against all new and ancient heresies and heresies. The Lord can keep the deposit of the upright faith in His Church until the day of His coming

To our God be glory forever and ever. Amen

Essam Naseem

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