

Changing The Basis of the Questions
We Ask Regarding the Fall

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“Why were Adam and Eve unable to procreate in the garden after having been so commanded?”
“Why would God require disobedience to one Law to enable the fulfillment of another?”
“Why was subjugation to Lucifer required to demonstrate obedience to God’s will and intent?”
“Why do we say Eve was beguiled if she was only doing that which Adam was unwilling to do?”
“Why was Eve punished and placed under subjection of Adam if she obeying the inspiration to be disobedient?”

Over the years I have heard both of you urge caution regarding known limitations in our traditional understanding of the fall of Eve and Adam. I accept your counsel that it is not enlightening to speculate on the above (or the many other related paradoxes), believing that truth is revealed only by operating within the bounds of a set of assumptions focused on the eternal nature of God:

- Agency is the rule of law in our existence. This embodies our right to make choices (be they righteous or not) according to our own will, without the superposition of *anyone* else’s will. Also the right to fail, for without this, there can be no *legitimate* opportunity to succeed. Also the right to experience the consequences of choices, whether desired or not, whether anticipated or not. Without consequences, there can be no accountability. This is the essence of agency. Agency-enabled exaltation is the purpose of life: We can *choose* to become like Father—or like Lucifer. Failure brings death and the need for merciful salvation.
- God is consistent and unchanging in His adherence to the principle of agency as embodied in the Law of Justice. He does not manipulate the daily tragedies and ecstasies of our lives.
- God’s word is good. He says what He means. He harbors no hidden agenda.

I have discovered great joy in the application of the above assumptions within our existing canon of scripture and within the beautiful, revealed truths of the temple. Paradox and mystery both flee from the Spirit when truth illuminates the shadows. So I want to share a different set of questions with you, directed at understanding the foundational events of the fall. Constructed from true assumptions, these questions are worthy of generating a response from the Holy Spirit of Truth:

- 1) If I am commanded to not seek the fruit of the father of lies, what is the eternally prescribed method—the divine plan—for discerning between good and evil? For gaining wisdom and understanding? (What does God expect from *all* His children within this divine plan?)
- 2) What is different about this world as compared with all the others in Father’s vast creation portfolio? What is different about the events in *our* garden of Eden? Why does God seem angry and punish Lucifer *this time* for doing ‘that which has been done in other worlds’? Why is *this world* now so wicked, prompting the God of Heaven to weep over *this particular* earth and it’s inhabitants? Why is *this* the only one that would crucify it’s own God? How much should I trust Lucifer’s words when distilling information obtained in this search?
- 3) If a means for fulfilling the first commandment had been prepared, if it was not God’s will or intent that they should fall, then in what context should I understand Eve’s perceptions (e.g., Moses 5:11 and her extortion of Adam: “...and you will be left a lone man in the garden”)?
- 4) What is to be divinely revealed from retrospective “what might have been?” reasoning, or of “what would have” happened speculation?
- 5) What could Lucifer have possibly said to frighten, intimidate, or ‘sell’ 1/3 of the hosts of heaven into forsaking their first inheritance to follow him? What was his marketing approach?
- 6) What is the meaning of the Tree of Life? What is the meaning of “knowledge of Evil” with respect to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil? Are the trees real or merely symbolic?

I believe the answers to these questions are to be found in the scriptures and temple. I hope you also find much joy and interest while pursuing this slightly different perspective on the fall.