

Fall History & Heritage -- #4 (Oct. 7)

Job --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*; pp. 22-30)

This biblical patriarch of old learned through unheard of trials that God is almighty, just and true, far above any baseless accusation or challenge leveled at Him by man? The patriarch's apparently undeserved sufferings were the very means through which divine justice triumphed, vanquishing Satan's malice and confounding ordinary human understanding. Trust in God and devout submission to His will, he discovered, brings restoration of fortune in full, with family and friends basking in the blessing.

Fall of Man --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*; pp. 22-30)

This doctrine, far more prominent in Israel's creed than that of other ancients, teaches that man by sinful rebellion estranged himself from God? In the process, the doctrine further elaborates, man found himself estranged also from his neighbors, from nature's bountiful cooperation, and even from his true self, a series of ruinous crises and conflicts which God alone could resolve. Such an understanding of the human condition, via Christianity, made its way to the West, to America, and to all the world.

Pagan Deities --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*; pp. 22-30)

These supernatural beings, ubiquitous in the creeds and cultic practices of antiquity, were slavishly feared but neither loved nor deemed worthy models of imitation? Invariably, the superhuman powers were mere personifications of nature's forces or of tribal rulers and practices, images familiar to the people but fraught with unpredictability, untamed force or greed, arbitrariness, and terror. Only little Israel knew Something and Someone superior, the Universal Law of Justice and the Benevolent Ruler of All.

The Decalogue --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*; pp. 22-30)

This title (meaning "ten words") names the basic moral commands handed down by God to His people Israel as stipulations of His sacred covenant with them? The ten are usually divided by theologians into two obligatory tables: one enjoining love for God, the other love for one's neighbor. Far from being arbitrary or harsh, the commands are meant chiefly to show man the depth of his sin and his want of true righteousness, thereby preparing him to receive by faith God's saving gift of righteousness (Messiah).

Summing Up the Ten --- (Kirk; *Roots of American Order*; pp. 22-30)

The Decalogue declares, in Kirk's paraphrase, "that there exists a Supreme Being; that all other 'gods' are false; that material images delude; that God's name must not be used for evil purposes; that one day of the week should be devoted to contemplation of the divine; that parents must be honored; that murder and adultery and theft are evil; that in a process at law, one must not lie; that the inner desire for another's possessions is sinful." Not "the whole of morality," Kirk goes on to say, the Ten Commandments nonetheless "are essential" to it. "And they are as true for a complex modern civilization as they were for desert wanderers."