

The Bible and the Modern Mind

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The human situation as depicted in the Bible, Henry Blamires contends, is as foreign to that of the twentieth-century secular-scientific world-view as a bushman's is from Einstein's four-dimensional cosmos. What is the picture of reality popularized today by the media of communication and entertainment? Is it, he asks, the picture of

A world in which angel and demon are locked in conflict? A world packed full of sinners desperately dependent upon the mercy of God? A world amok with fundamentally powerless creatures, running hither and thither, foolishly imagining that they can do without God, and making an appalling mess of things as a result? A world voyaging like a little vessel across the sea, taking its passengers to their final home? A world fashioned by God, sustained by God, worried over by God, died for by God?¹

Such questions require no answer. Simply by asking them Blamires highlights the abysmal difference between the modern mind which has abandoned the biblical perspective and the Christian mind which is biblically informed.

The Biblical Worldview

The worldview of the Bible is a thorough going supernaturalism. It postulates illimitable dimensions of being which encompass, penetrate, and impinge upon our space-time continuum, invisible and intangible dimensions that baffle all our conceivable methods of research. The Bible also affirms that the source and substratum of Being, whether in space-time or beyond it, is the eternal self-subsistent Being we call God. This Being, ineffably mysterious, yet analogically describable in human terms, is personal and moral, Being who is mind and heart, Being who in the depths of an infinite personhood is triune, an ultimate plurality within an ultimate unity; and this Being would exist in undiminished perfection if all created beings were somehow annihilated. The Bible declares, furthermore, that God who is love, motivated by the purpose of expanding the orbit of his triune beatitude, embarked upon a process of creative activity which entailed redemptive activity as well. Out of nothingness he willed into being all besides himself that has existed, now exists, and will ever exist, including of course planet earth and its dominant denizen, man. The Bible gives its own unique interpretation of the human saga, focusing on the fall of the original human pair in Eden: the choice of the Jewish people as the channel of God's saving action; Israel's zigzag development and apostasy; the phenomenon of prophetism; the Babylonian captivity of Israel and its return from exile; the Virgin Birth, miracle-working ministry,