



August 8, 2010

Fable Heaven

Recently I finished a series of books about magical creatures living on a preserve that protected them from the outside world and contained some that were dangerous. Only a few folks were able to see these creatures and interact with them and of that number, most had to drink or eat something to be able to perceive the magical world around them. Outside the perimeter people had no knowledge or perception of the preserves existence. To the outside world the creatures who called this place home were fictional characters that only existed in legend and myth. Sound familiar? The name of the series was based on one of these preserves called Fablehaven. In a way that is the way that many in the world, some of whom refer to themselves as Christians, view the stories that we find in the scriptures. Stories about creation, the flood, the plagues of Egypt and the story of Jesus are mythical and may contain some reflection of reality but are not true. Those who are Christians and committed to keeping the word of God are similar to the keepers of the preserves in the books. We hold fast to things that are too fantastic to be believable. If we stop for a moment and consider God and the story that he tells us in his word is it really all that unbelievable? I have pointed out to some over the years that if you believe in God and his power to create the universe from nothing then what could he not do? The scriptures tell the tale of power on the part of God but there is a point to the story. We find that the creation was corrupted by evil through the influence of Satan. Man, becoming an accomplice to the suggestive power of the Devil, strayed from God. The rest of the story has to do with the efforts and preparation that God made to send his son into the world. This is the story of redemption and is too hard for some to come to terms with. The scriptures speak of the power of God. Jeremiah asks, **“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee...” (Jer 32.17)** to which God answers, **“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?” (Jer 32.27)**. In the story of Fablehaven those who want to be able to see magical creatures have to eat or drink something like fairy milk or walrus butter (magical of course). Today some don’t realize that until we open up our minds to the word of God we cannot perceive the spiritual truths that are contained therein. Paul makes this observation as he addresses the Romans. **“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Rom 8.7-8)**. Solomon speaks of the limitation that we have as humans and our efforts to establish truth on our own outside of God’s revelation. **“Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.” (Eccl 8.17)**. The interesting thing is that there are those who have tried to scrutinize and prove the validity of the Bible in human terms. Using the tools of science, philosophy and psychology humanity has attempted to dissect the work of God to put it to the test. In the Fablehaven series the children at the center of the story were called upon at times to reveal incredible things to outsiders who had no idea of the existence of such things as fairies, trolls, demons, centaurs, dragons and a host of other creatures. In their pursuit to fight evil they are called upon to engage in dangerous activities and do things to protect an unbelieving nonaccepting world. It is interesting that stories such as this appeal to people because many dream of a world where magical things happen and eventually good triumphs. Isn’t that what the Bible is about? The difference being that magic doesn’t exist but God does and he is powerful and we don’t need walrus butter or fairy milk to see it!

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