

[NOTE: No Bible classes were taught on Tuesday, 8 August, Thursday, 10 August, and Sunday, 13 August (both sessions) 2000.]

### **The Inscrutable Question: Personal Love for God Demonstrated through Redemption; Spiritual Death Illustrated by Ernie Shore's Not So Perfect Game**

**Romans 5:12** - Just as through one man [ **Adam** ] sin [ **the sinful nature** ] entered into the world and so **spiritual** death through the sin [ **of Adam** ], consequently spiritual death spread to all men because all sinned when Adam sinned.

- 1) Adam was the original source of sin although he did not commit the original sin. His wife, Ishah, committed the first human sin but it is Adam's sin that is transferred to his human progeny. This is explained by the Colonel in his response to our Theological Questionnaire. Question number one reads:

**Adam's sin occurred after the woman's sin yet Adam's is referred to as the "original sin." Is this because his sin was one of cognizance and hers was a result of deception?**

True. Adam was created first and delegated by God to be ruler over all the earth which included authority over Ishah. With leadership authority comes the responsibility for the actions of those under your authority. Ishah was foolishly deceived but Adam had full knowledge in his decision to choose the woman over God and knew the consequences of that decision. Satan had to persuade the woman first rather than Adam because as the authority over Ishah, if Adam had sinned first he had only to command the woman to eat the forbidden fruit and she would have had to obey.

- 2) We all sinned when Adam sinned because Adam was the federal head of the human race. The Old Sin Nature is transmitted in a dormant state at conception through the male sperm.
- 3) Therefore, the Old Sin Nature is genetic, encoded into the DNA of every cell of the body.
- 4) When Adam procreated with Eve, he did so in a fallen state, so that the physical result of his transgression spread genetically, first of all to Cain, who apparently got the full slug since he eventually murdered his younger brother Abel.
- 5) Adam and Eve's third-born son was Seth. All three received the transmission of their father's sinful nature to which was imputed their father's original sin.
- 6) Adam's sin plus the Old Sin Nature equals spiritual death. At physical birth, God imputes soul life to biological life creating human life.
- 7) Simultaneously, He imputes Adam's original sin to the genetically formed sinful nature resulting in spiritual death.
- 8) Consequently, we are born physically alive but spiritually dead and in a status of total depravity.
- 9) Before we are able to use our volition to commit personal sins, we are condemned at birth by the imputation of Adam's original sin. Even if someone, in theory, were able to live a life completely free of personal sin, that person's personal perfection would not save him because he was born with the guilt of Adam's sin.
- 10) An illustration we have noted in the past exemplifies this principle perfectly—pun intended. I have referred to our spiritual death as "being born with a runner on first base." The illustration is based on a very famous and controversial baseball game played back in 1917 between the Boston Red Sox and the Washington Senators.

The controversy surrounded the ejection from the game of Boston Red Sox pitcher, Babe Ruth, and the subsequent performance of his replacement, Ernie Shore, who was credited with pitching a perfect game.

An official perfect game occurs when a pitcher retires each batter on the opposing team during the entire course of a game which consists of at least nine innings. In a perfect game, no batter reaches any base during the course of the game.

An official no-hit game occurs when a pitcher allows no hits during the entire course of a game which consists of at least nine innings. But in a no-hit game, a batter may reach base via a walk, an error, a hit by pitch, a passed ball or wild pitch on strike three, or catcher's interference.

No-hitters are not all that rare but pitching a perfect game is extremely difficult. For example, in the twentieth century there have been over 200,000 major league games played but only 14 perfect games have been pitched.

Here are the details of how the "sin" of Babe Ruth and the "perfection" of Ernie Shore combine to give us an illustration of how humans are totally depraved even if hypothetically they should manage to live a perfectly sin-free life. The game report comes from:

**Coberly, Rich. *The No-Hit Hall of Fame: No-Hitters of the 20th Century*. Newport Beach: Triple Play Productions, 1985), 52:**

**"Only 26 Men Face Red Sox Pitcher after he Replaces Ruth, Who Passes Morgan." By J. V. Fitz Gerald – *The Washington Post*. June 23, 1917.**

Ernie Shore, Red Sox pitcher, made baseball history this afternoon in pitching a no-hit, no-run game against Washington. The Red Sox hit behind Shore and won the game, 4-0.

Temper displayed by Babe Ruth, star Red Sox pitcher, punched Shore into an opportunity to pitch one of the greatest games in the history of the national pastime.

In the first inning, Ruth questioned a decision of Umpire Brick Owens when the arbiter called a fourth ball on Ray Morgan, the first batsman to face him. When Owens called the fourth ball on Morgan, Ruth rushed to the plate to argue the point. Owens told him to get back in the pitcher's box or he would send him off the field. "If you chase me, I'll punch your face," Ruth retorted.

"You're through now," Owens replied, waving the pitcher off the field.

That was Ruth's cue to take a swing at the official. The Red Sox catcher tried to interfere and stop the blow, but Ruth's fist landed on Owens's ear.

That gave Shore his chance. He took Ruth's place and after Morgan was thrown out trying to steal second, only 26 batsmen faced the Red Sox twirler.

Although Ruth's dismissal from the game after facing only one batter was indeed controversial, a greater controversy developed after it was completed. For years baseball statisticians debated over whether the game was truly a perfect game. Initially it was contended that since all 27 batters were retired and the man walked by Ruth was retired while Shore was pitching then he should be credited with a perfect game. Purists however, objected pointing out that although Shore turned in a perfect performance, he was not the only pitcher in the game. Ruth was not perfect, walking Ray Morgan leading off the game. Therefore, the two pitchers should be credited with a combined no-hitter but Shore himself could not be credited with a perfect game. The debate continued for over fifty years until finally the purists won and Shore's perfect game was turned into a combined no-hitter.

Here is the official ruling, published by:

**Carter, Craig (ed.). *The Sporting News Complete Baseball Record Book: 2000 Edition*. (St. Louis: The Sporting News, 2000), 191:**

## PERFECT GAMES OF NINE OR MORE INNINGS

Ernie Shore of Boston is often included in the list of perfect game pitchers. In the first game of a June 23, 1917 doubleheader at Boston, Babe Ruth, the starting Red Sox pitcher, was removed for arguing with the umpire Brick Owens after giving a base on balls to Washington's Ray Morgan, the first batter. Shore, without warming up, took Ruth's place. Morgan was retired trying to steal second. From then on, Shore faced 26 batters, with none reaching base. Shore won the game, 4-0. He and Ruth are listed under the category "No-hit games of nine or more innings."

In baseball parlance, Ernie Shore "inherited" Ruth's base runner, Ray Morgan. Although Shore was not personally responsible for the base on balls that put him there, he nevertheless became responsible for any base runners that happened to be on base when he entered the game. Consequently, Ernie Shore inherited the "sin" of Babe Ruth once he entered the game and although his performance was perfect, the game was not. Ruth's "sin" was transferred to Shore and no matter what the relief pitcher did he could not erase the fact that a runner had reached first base and that he had inherited responsibility for him being there.

- 11) There are four individuals that appear in the account of this game who help illustrate the total depravity of every person born into this world.
- 12) **Babe Ruth represents Adam.** As Adam entered into this world with perfect life, so Ruth started the game "perfect" in that no runners had reached base. However when he walked Ray Morgan, he became imperfect.
- 13) **Ray Morgan personifies Adam's original sin** for when he received the fourth ball and walked to first base, Babe Ruth was rendered imperfect.
- 14) **Brick Owens personifies the righteousness and justice of God.** His determination that Ruth did not retire Morgan before four balls were thrown allowed the batter to go to first. The determination by divine righteousness that Adam chose to eat the forbidden fruit resulted in the demand that justice judge the sin.
- 15) Further, as Adam was banished from the garden because of his volitional violence against the authority of God, so Babe Ruth was banished from the game because of his physical violence against the authority of Umpire Owens.
- 16) **Ernie Shore is symbolic of Cain, Abel, and Seth.** These sons of Adam inherited the original sin of their father Adam as the condemnation of "spiritual death spread to all men because all sinned when Adam sinned." Ernie Shore inherited "Babe's original sin" when he entered the game and thus it did not matter that he was perfect in his performance. Shore never had the opportunity to be perfect because he entered the game with Ray Morgan on first base.
- 17) When we enter the game at physical birth we are condemned at that moment by the presence of "Ray Morgan" on first base: Adam's original sin imputed to our genetically formed sinful nature.
- 18) We are thus born physically alive but spiritually dead and thus totally depraved and in need of a Savior.

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