Questions for the Reading of:

C. S. Lewis

The Problem of Pain

The Fall of Man

[1] What two theories are rejected by the Christian teaching on the fall of man?

[2] Why does Lewis prefer to treat the version of man’s fall that sees the reason for it as lying in disobedience rather than treating the primitive version?

[3] How does Lewis respond to the objection that modern science has disproven the doctrine that Man, as God made him, was completely good and completely happy, but that he disobeyed God and became what we now see?

[4] Why is it not permitted to argue from the artefacts of the earliest men that they were in all respects like the contemporary people who make similar artefacts?
[5] How does Lewis refute the thesis that the first man could not have committed the first sin since the 'first sin' was essentially a social sin?

[6] How does Lewis understand the sin of Pride?

[7] How does the sin of Pride occur in erotic love?

[8] What does Lewis mean by calling God "a smooth inclined plane on which there is no resting"?

[9] What is Lewis’ approach to the question of what exactly happened when man fell?

[10] What characteristics does specific human consciousness have?

[12] How does Lewis understand the sin of the Fall?

[13] How does Lewis explain the possibility of the sin of the Fall?

[14] How does Lewis explain the heinousness of the sin of the Fall?

[15] Why does Lewis use the analogy to the rapturous mutual self-suffender of lovers?

[16] In what does the limitation of the spirit’s powers over its organism consist?
[17] In what does the corruption of the spirit after the Fall consist?

[18] How does Lewis defend his calling our present condition one of original Sin, and not merely one of original misfortune?

[19] What is the point of the penultimate paragraph of this chapter?

[20] What is the thesis of this chapter?