

Harari's Fiction: Where Does the Israeli Historian's Story Go Wrong?

Yuval Noah Harari became famous for his two best-selling books on human history: *Sapiens* and *Deus Homo*. In these two engaging books he gives a short summary of history and where he thinks it is leading. Harari's books are widely read and have earned praise from the likes of Mark Zuckerberg, Barack Obama, and Bill Gates. In this talk we will look at the main arguments behind Harari's historical vision and then subject his vision to an evangelical criticism.

Ádám Szabados is a Hungarian theologian and the leader of the Hungarian Evangelical Forum. Until 2017 he had been a pastor for 20 years. He is married to Dóra, and has two adult sons. He studied English literature and linguistics at the University of Veszprém (MA equivalent, with honours), and theology at Schloss Mittersill Study Center (Diploma in Biblical Studies and Culture) and at Covenant Theological Seminary (ThM in Exegetical Theology). He received his PhD (summa cum laude) in the area of New Testament at Károli Reformed University. His study on the Reformational understanding of sin has been published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He wrote a book on Eros (*Erosz nyomában*, Harmat Publishing House, 2008), which aims to address both Christians and non-Christians in their search for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Ádám also has a popular theological-apologetic website (divinity.szabadosadam.hu).

I. Harari's Vision of Human History

A. Past

B. Future

II. Problems with Harari's Vision

A. It is another fiction

B. It does not answer crucial questions

C. There are contradictions in it

III. A Christian Alternative

A. Non-materialist starting point

B. Different turning points

C. Different ending

IV. Conclusions

Suggested Readings:

Yuval Noah Harari: *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (London: Vintage Books, 2011)

Yuval Noah Harari: *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (New York: HarperCollins, 2017)

Yuval Noah Harari: *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2018)

Michael D. Williams, *Far as the Curse Is Found: The Covenant Story of Redemption* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing, 2005)