



THE CREATION, NATURE & FALL OF MANKIND

Mankind created in God's image & likeness

 **Genesis 1:26-27** introduces mankind as a created being in the image & likeness of God. This means that man has the qualities of personality, which are...

- ➔ Intellect
- ➔ Emotion &
- ➔ Will (the ability to make moral choices).

 These qualities...

 Do not exist in any creature other than man.

 These qualities...

 Make it possible for mankind to have communion with God.

 These qualities...

 Make it so that mankind is morally responsible for his actions.

 The Bible further defines man as composed of...

- ➔ Material (body)
- ➔ Immaterial (soul & spirit)

 **Genesis 2:7** says...

"The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being".

 The immaterial part of man is considered in two major aspects:

- ➔ Soul &
- ➔ Spirit

 Several hundred times in both the Old & New Testaments man is declared to possess a soul.

 When man was created, according to **Genesis 2:7**, he "became a living being," literally, man became "a living soul".

 In **Hebrews 4:12** the Word of God is said to penetrate human consciousness to the point that "it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit."

 In general, the word "soul" seems to refer to the psychological aspect of man or his natural experience of life.



The Bible also claims that human beings possess a spirit.



The word "spirit" seems to refer to...

- ➔ Mankind's God-consciousness &
- ➔ Mankind's ability to function in moral & spiritual realms.



In the Bible these terms "body" or "soul" or "spirit." are sometimes used to refer to the whole man.



For example:



In Romans 12:1 Believers are exhorted to offer their bodies as living sacrifices to God.

- ➔ In referring to a Believer's body Paul is referring to the whole person.
- ➔ Likewise, "soul" sometimes refers to the whole person,
- ➔ Sometimes "spirit" refers to the whole person.



Other immaterial aspects of man are also mentioned in the Bible...



Mind



Will



Conscience



And other references to aspects of human personality.



While the body of a Believer is considered sinful, it, nevertheless, is referred to in Scripture as the "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1st Corinthians 6:19).



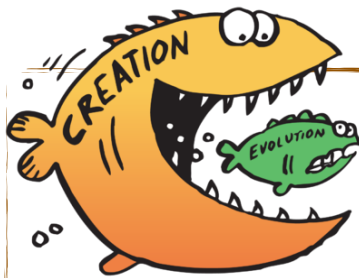
The bodies of Believers should be kept under control and made to submit to the human mind (1st Corinthians 9:27).



Though man in his present humanity is sinful and comes short of what God would have him to be and do, Believers can look forward to the time when their bodies will be made perfect in the presence of God.



The bodies of Believers, are going to be transformed, and made new like the resurrection body of Christ, at the time of resurrection or rapture (Romans 8:11, 17-18, 23; 1st Corinthians 6:13-20; Philippians 3:20-21).



The origin of man has long been the subject of human speculation. But in spite of all that has been done scientifically and otherwise, no one has ever come up with a better explanation than creation for the origin of man.

In recent centuries the theory of evolution has arisen, which attempts to explain all species of life, whether plant or animal, as a product of a gradual improvement that develops over many millions of years. The problem with evolution, however, is that it is a theory that has yet to be proved. With all the advantages of modern science, it has never been possible to change one species into another; a dog never becomes a cat; a plant never becomes a fish; and a tree never becomes a cow. In other words, a tree remains a tree though it may vary in its structure and leaf design and new kinds of trees can be formed, but the fact is that we have never been able by any scientific process to change one species into another.

Evolution has no solution for the origin of life. Science never has been able to produce life out of that which was not life. The Bible remains the simple and effective and clear explanation of how man was created. Further, in the creation of man he was made in the image and likeness of God ([Genesis 1:27](#)). No development in evolution could ever take an animal and produce in it that which corresponds to the image of God.

The revelation that man is the object of God's creation is not simply taught in one passage but in many. In the first chapter of Genesis alone the fact of man's creation is stated repeatedly. In the sweeping statement of [John 1:2-3](#), Jesus Christ as the Word was "with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." Colossians 1:16 is even more explicit, "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

According to [Hebrews 11:3](#), all things, not simply human beings, were made by God: "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible." If one accepts the Bible as the Word of God in other matters, one must necessarily accept the Bible when it indicates that God is the Creator and originator of all that has been created. It is significant that even unbelievers who scoff at the second coming of Christ have to conclude, "Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation" ([2nd Peter 3:4](#)), in other words, they must begin with creation. There is no alternative explanation to the doctrine of creation that satisfies the questions that are raised by the nature of our universe and the nature of man.

- by Dr. Walvoort

The Problem of Sin

 When we look at the world as we know it...

➡ It has never been totally free from:

 Wars, disease, crimes, violence, & death !

 On a personal level...

➡ No one can claim to be totally free from:

 Pride, envy, lust, deceit, greed, or hate !



If mankind was created...

 In God's image &

 Placed in a perfect environment (the Garden of Eden)



Then how did such a radical & terrible transformation come about?



If God created a world that He said was very good ([Genesis 1:31](#))...

 How could sin develop?

 Why would God allow for sin to develop?

 Is God the ultimately the author of sin?



The Bible makes it clear...

➡ God is the author of salvation, to all who obey Him - [Hebrews 5:9](#)

➡ God is by nature "holy" - [Isaiah 6:3](#)

➡ God hates sin - [Psalm 5:4 + 11:5](#)

➡ There is no unrighteousness in God - [Deuteronomy 32:4](#)

➡ God cannot do wickedness or commit iniquity - [Job 34:10](#)

➡ God cannot be tempted by evil &

➡ God does not tempt anyone - [James 1:13](#)



God could have prevented sin...

➡ By creating a universe of robots that would do only what they were programmed to do.

➡ But God's in His love, created angels and mankind with the freedom of choice, so that they could respond freely to His love.

➡ This of course meant that there would also be the possibility that some could choose to turn away from Him.



Lucifer...

- ➡ Was one of the highest ranked of God's angels.
- ➡ He was the first to choose to disobey God.
- ➡ Sin was thus introduced to the creation.



Lucifer...

- ➡ Became defiantly proud ([Ezekiel 28:17](#) + [1st Timothy 3:6](#)).
- ➡ He became dissatisfied with his exalted position, and he began to covet God's own place of authority ([Isaiah 14:12-14](#)).
- ➡ He managed to gain the allegiance of a third of the angels in heaven and they attempted to take control of the universe.
- ➡ The result was that God expelled Lucifer and his angels from heaven.
- ➡ He is now known as "the adversary" / "Satan".



Now, when God created Adam & Eve...

- ➡ He placed them in the Garden of Eden
- ➡ He only imposed one restriction on them:
 - NB!** The tree in the middle of the garden, "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil", was off limits.
 - NB!** To eat of this tree would be an act of deliberate disobedience and would result in estrangement from God as well as death ([Genesis 2:16-17](#)).



Seeing that Satan...

- ➡ Could not overthrow God
- ➡ Satan then determined to hurt God's creation
- ➡ Satan enticed mankind to choose to rebel against God.



Satan...

- ➡ In the guise of a serpent
- ➡ Approached Eve when she was near the "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" and questioned her about God's prohibition against eating the fruit from the tree ([Genesis 3:1-2](#)).
- ➡ When Eve replied that God had told them that they must not eat of the tree or else they would die, Satan lied and said that she would not die as God had said.
- ➡ Satan then suggested that God was trying to keep her from being like God ([Genesis 3:4-5](#)).



Eve...

- ➡ Yielded to the temptation, and she took of the fruit and ate it !



Eve...

- Then took the fruit to Adam and he, not being deceived, but knowing exactly what he was doing, took the fruit and ate it as well.



The devastating consequences of Adam's decision...

- Was extended to the entire human race because Adam was the head, or beginner, of humanity.
- All of mankind is now born with a sinful nature. (Romans 5:12)



The philosophic world...



Has no solution for the problem of evil



The Bible...

- Not only accounts for the origin of sin
- But also provides a divine solution in the promise of Genesis 3:15 that tells us that the woman would have an offspring who would crush the head of the serpent.
- God provided in Christ the One who would make it possible for people to be saved (Romans 5:18-19).
- When Christ died on the cross, He died in our place as a Lamb of sacrifice because He was bearing the sins of the whole world (John 1:29).
- As stated in 2nd Corinthians 5:21, "God made him [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
- The fact that Christ has died and paid the price of man's sin makes it possible now for God to reckon, or impute, righteousness to those who believe in Christ.



The Effect of the Fall on the Human Race

- 🗨️ Mankind is born dead spiritually.
- 🗨️ Physical aging will lead to physical death. (Romans 6:23)
- 🗨️ The earth is now cursed and it is difficult to produce food.
- 🗨️ Woman now experience pain in childbearing (Genesis 3:16).
- 🗨️ God cursed the serpent for tempting Eve (Genesis 3:14-15).
- 🗨️ Man's reason is now darkened (Romans 1:21)

The History of Man

-  Though Adam & Eve's offspring drifted farther and farther from God...
 - ! Until God decided to destroy the whole human race...
 -  Except Noah and his family ([Genesis 6:13](#)).

-  Following the flood...
 -  God gave to Noah the basic principles of human government.
 -  However, the human race again demonstrated its depravity by building the Tower of Babel.
 - ! God had to judge by confusing the languages of the people.

-  With almost the entire world departing from God and sinning flagrantly...
 -  God chose Abram to fulfill His purpose in redemption.
 -  To Abram was promised that he would be able to bring blessing to the entire world ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)).
 -  This was ultimately fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

-  Throughout the Old Testament...
 -  The descendants of Abram were used as channels of divine revelation.
 -  Prophets spoke orally to the people, and some of them wrote the Scriptures, including the opening books of the Bible written by Moses.
 -  In spite of increased knowledge of God and His moral standards, the human race became evil, and Israel, the immediate divine recipient of God's blessing, was also judged sinful and had to be dealt with in the captivities.

-  In the New Testament...
 -  Jesus' birth with His subsequent life on earth, His rejection by His generation, His crucifixion and death for the sins of the whole world, and His glorious resurrection, a new chapter in the history of man began.
 -  But, just as was true in the Old Testament, the human race, for the most part, rejected God and went on its wicked way.



In the present age...

-  God is calling out from both Jew and Gentile those who will believe in Christ and be saved.
-  He is not attempting to judge the sins of the world, though sometimes there is divine judgment upon sin.
-  Even with all the advanced revelation given in the writing of the New Testament and the presentation of Jesus Christ to the world, the moral history of the world has become more and more a record of departure from God.



The Day of the Lord is coming next...

-  An age in which God will deal directly with human sin in the time of trouble preceding the second coming of Christ.
-  A time that continues throughout the millennial kingdom when His rule will be one of absolute authority.
-  The millennial kingdom in many ways is a bright spot in the future history of the world.
-  But even in the millennial kingdom there is rebellion at the end when, in spite of all the divine revelation given to them in the Millennium, people will rebel against Christ and attempt to conquer Jerusalem by force.



In the sad destiny of the human race...

-  There will be division of those who are saved and those who are lost
-  With the saved being in the presence of the Lord forever in the new heaven and the new earth and the new Jerusalem.
-  And the lost ultimately being cast into the lake of fire ([Revelation 20:15](#)).



From God's viewpoint...

-  Out of the dark history of the human race will come those among angels and men...
 -  Those who chose to worship God.
 -  They will share in the joy of eternity in the presence of God in the new Jerusalem.



Questions:

1. How do the Scriptures represent the creation of man?
2. What is the claim of the theory of evolution?
3. Why is evolution rejected by those who believe the Word of God?
4. What solution does evolution have for the origin of life?
5. How does evolution fail to explain how man is created in the image of God?
6. How was Jesus Christ related to creation?
7. From what was the universe formed at God's command?
8. Define how man is divided into material and immaterial?
9. To what is "soul" referred to in man?
10. What does "spirit" refer to in man?
11. How are "soul" and "spirit" contrasted to "body"?
12. Why are these three terms sometimes used to represent the whole of man?
13. What immaterial aspects of man are mentioned in the Bible other than soul & spirit?
14. What is the contrast between the present sinful state of a person's body and his future body?
15. How has humankind attempted to solve the problem of sin in the world?
16. How does the Bible explain the entrance of sin into the human race?
17. In contrast to the world of philosophy, what does the Bible offer as a solution for the sin problem?
18. How is physical death related to sin?
19. What curses did God pronounce upon Satan, woman, and man after Adam and Eve sinned?
20. How does the sin of Adam relate to us today?
21. How does God solve the sin problem for people today?
22. What is meant by imputation? And how is it used in the Bible?
23. What does it mean to be justified by faith?
24. How does history demonstrate that conscience is not enough to keep people from doing what is wrong?
25. What did God do in the time of Noah?
26. What principles of government were introduced after the flood?
27. What did the descendants of Noah demonstrate regarding sin at the Tower of Babel?
28. What did God promise Abram?
29. To what extent were the promises to Abram fulfilled?
30. How did the world as a whole react to the coming of Christ, His death, and His resurrection?
31. What is God's primary purpose in the present age?
32. Does the Bible predict that evil will get worse or that sin will be gradually overcome?
33. What age follows the present age of grace? And what does it include?