

Lighthouse Baptist Church

Pastor/Teacher: Jerry W. Arnold

### The Origin of Man – Study One

In this study we will trace the origin of man. To trace the origin of man we must go back to the account in the book of Genesis. In the beginning, after God formed the world and spoke into existence all other forms of life, God created man:

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

The Bible nowhere wavers on the account of the creation of man – the Bible absolutely asserts that man is the product of a direct and exceptional act of God. In fact, Psalm 139:14 states: That man is “... fearfully and wonderfully made ....”

The word “wonderfully” used in this verse “... stresses the aspect “differently.” That is, each baby is designed to be like all human beings in overall aspect, but uniquely different from all others in detail” (Scientist, Dr. Henry M. Morris).

Scripture does not allow for any other source of origin for humankind. Genesis does not give much detail about how man was created, but the Bible is not concerned with providing a detailed list or scientific explanation for the origin of man.

However, the Bible does tell us that “... the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7).

Now it is important to notice that God did form man’s body from the “dust of the ground.” But the soul of man was altogether something different, something new – it came directly from God when He “breathed into [man’s] nostrils the breath of life.

Together, these two elements (body and soul) formed man – it was not until then that “man became a living soul” – a living being. And as a living being, we see that the purpose of Scripture is to bring man to a deeper knowledge of their Creator, and to bring them to salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

But what makes man unique in the creative order is that he was created in the “image of God.” The question is: What is the image of God in man?

Well, we know from Scripture that it cannot be a reference to the physical because God is spirit (John 4:24), and does not have a body (Luke 24:39). Therefore, the image, then, must be the nonmaterial part of man, and that within its self deserves single treatment.

But let me give the three major elements:

(1) Personality

Man has a self-consciousness and a self-determination that enables him to make choices, lifting him above the realm of animals. This factor is very important because it renders man capable of redemption.

Furthermore, personality involves many natural elements, and it reveals man's ability to exercise dominion over the world (Genesis 1:28) and to develop the earth (Genesis 2:15).

(2) Spiritual being

God is a spirit, and the human soul is a spirit. The essential attributes of a spirit are reason, conscience, and will. A spirit is a rational, moral, and therefore also, a free agent. In making man after his own image, therefore, God endowed him with those attributes which belong to his own nature as a spirit.

“Man is thereby distinguished from all other inhabitants of this world, and raised immeasurably above them. He belongs to the same order of being as God Himself, and is therefore capable of communion with his Maker.”

(3) Moral nature

Man was created in original righteousness – not knowing sin. But in Genesis 3 that moral nature was corrupted by the fall, and we see by the fall that man who knew no sin was now open to sin and its many problems. Therefore, something happened before the creation of man, and we will look at that in our next study.

Jerry W. Arnold

All Rights Reserved