



## Part 8 – The Creation of Humanity

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### Genesis 1:24-31

*So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

The sixth day of creation represents something of a pinnacle in God's creative work for it was on the sixth day that God brought forth humanity.

The biblical account of creation has, understandably, been the focus of relentless attacks. What is surprising is when those attacks come from within the household of God. But this too is actually quite understandable. Christians, like everyone else, do not want to be made to feel stupid or strange. So, many Christians have sought to accommodate secular theories of human origins to their faith, having believed the assertion that evolution via natural selection is a proven fact. But, of course, this is not true. Perhaps at no other time since the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of the Species* (1859) have scientists and philosophers been as willing as they are today to 1) acknowledge profound problems with the theory and 2) state their opposition to it. Neither time nor discoveries in micro-biology have been kind to Darwin's theory.

The creation of mankind was special, meaning that the man and woman were distinct in fundamental ways from the rest of the living creatures. Certainly, there are similarities between humans and other animals. Humanity was, after all, among the "living creatures" brought forth on the sixth day and fashioned from the raw material of the earth. However, humanity differs from all else in creation having been endowed by God with his image. It is also clear from the Scriptures that the creation of mankind, like God's other acts of creation, was supernatural. While God typically acts through ordinary providence, he made the man and the woman through supernatural means.

Only the Bible's account of creation guards the dignity of human life. Darwinism reduces mankind to a product of random mutations; a complex collection of cells crawling forth from a primordial stew. Such a being can possess no inherent nobility or value. By tracing all humans back to a single man and woman, the Bible's account offers an objective basis for the unity of humanity rather than the sort of racial superiority so inevitable in evolutionary thought. Most significantly, only the Bible's account of human origins explains the current ruin of decay and death and points the way to the redemption that is ours in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12-21).

### 1. The Manner of the creation of humanity

#### a) Special Creation

- God created the man and woman as his image-bearers. Humanity did not arise gradually from lower species.

#### b) Supernatural Creation

- According to the Bible, God created Adam directly and supernaturally. That is, God did not cause man to arise through secondary causes such as natural selection. As J. Gresham Machen pointed out, "Christianity is a supernatural religion." Belief in the God of the Bible necessitates belief in the supernatural. God's providences are typically ordinary. But he is also free to act supernaturally. If the Bible's account of the creation of Adam and Eve is dismissed on the basis that it requires belief in the supernatural then we will have to dismiss all the other vital claims of Scripture such as the divinity of Jesus, his atonement, and his resurrection.

### 2. The biblical support for the Genesis account of human origins

- #### a) The Genesis account is written as an historical narrative.

- The Genesis account is not written in the style of Ancient Near Eastern myth or Hebrew poetry. It is written in the rather straight forward style of Hebrew narrative. It is not characterized by either the length or drama of ancient creation epics. That means that the Genesis account cannot be dismissed as mytho-poetic epic. It is meant to be understood as actual events which took place in space and time.
- b) Adam is included in the biblical genealogies.
- In both the Old and New Testaments the genealogies (including that of our Lord) are traced back to Adam and Eve. The man and woman are both meant to be understood as actual persons just as were all the other persons in Jesus' genealogy.
- c) Jesus and the apostles emphasized the importance of Adam and Eve as the first representatives of all humankind.
- It is important to note that Jesus and his apostles believed in the historical reliability of the Genesis account of creation. The Apostle Paul contrasts Adam (who sinned and passed that sin along to the entire race) with Jesus Christ, the Second Adam whose death and resurrection atone for the sins of God's people (Romans 5:12-21).

### **3. The Significance of the Bible's account of human origins**

- a) The biblical Adam is the basis for believing in the dignity of all humans.
- If mankind is simply the surprising result of random mutations launched in a primordial stew then there is no objective or logical basis to grant human beings any inherent dignity. Only the biblical account of the creation can justify treating human beings with dignity and respect from conception to natural death.
- b) The biblical Adam is the basis for the unity of all humans.
- Well known racists like Adolph Hitler and Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, were thoroughgoing atheists. Human ascent via natural selection offers no objective basis to reject racism. The biblical creation account teaches us that every human being can trace his or her lineage back to two common ancestors. Whatever differences there are in ethnicity and nationality, every human being is ultimately related and members of the same race.
- c) The biblical Adam is the basis for the marriage relationship.
- The very first organized institution God created was the family via marriage between a man and woman. It has remained the pattern for all those who marry ever since. Marriage is a holy thing because God created it. Therefore, even unbelievers are accountable to God to follow his pattern of marriage.
- d) The biblical Adam is the basis for understanding gender and sexuality.
- The pattern of creation is that one's sex matches one's gender (Sadly, in our fallen world there are, though quite rare, genetic anomalies which force a difference between one's chromosomes and outward physical construction). So serious was God about the so-called "binary" construct of gender that he created only "male and female" in his image (Genesis 1:27). Sexuality follows this binary construct for gender. All of the living creatures on earth reproduce according to their own kind, male and female. Any rejection of this pattern is tantamount to self-deification and a vandalizing of God's created order. Nature itself reacts against the rejection of this God-given pattern of gender and sexuality.
- e) The biblical Adam is the basis for understanding sin, decay, and death.
- Things are not the way they are supposed to be. Decay and death were not part of God's original "very good" creation (Genesis 1:31). Even those who deny God's Word know that things are not in order. The Bible's account of Adam and Eve explains what went wrong in creation.
- f) The biblical Adam is part of the logic of God's redemptive work through Jesus.
- As the Apostle Paul makes clear in Romans chapter 5, Jesus' work of atoning for the sins of God's people through his life, death, and resurrection was in direct contrast with Adam's sin. We understand the saving work of Christ in part through the biblical account of the creation of humankind.