

BASIC BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

2. MAN

Text: Genesis 1:26-27
2:7, 18, 21-25

Introduction

What is MAN? This is the big question.

Is MAN the end product of Evolution or is he the climax of divine Creation? The answer to this question has profound and far reaching effects on our understanding of the origin and meaning of life, on morals and behaviour, on the state of society and our outlook for the future.

The great majority of people today hold to the first view, that MAN came by Evolution. This is the opinion of so-called intellectuals, scientists and university professors, and even many theologians and pastors. In almost all schools, colleges and universities throughout the world, the philosophy or theory of Evolution is accepted and taught and propagated as established fact, so much so that the average man-in-the-street today believes that he has descended from apes or some ape-like animal.

When popular opinion is so prevalent and belief in Evolution is being equated with “higher learning” and “science”, what chance is there for the average person to think otherwise and go against the current? Many Christians, therefore, surrender to this godless philosophy and is so doing, lose their faith.

What do we say to this? Is our belief in God and the Creation reasonable? Is it still valid as it used to be before Darwin? Can we accept the Genesis account and not lose our respectability in “cultured society”?

Let us consider these deep and disturbing questions and see what reasonable answers we may find to substantiate and support what we believe to be true. Let us with an open mind and at all costs seek the truth of the matter. Unless we have the truth we stand on dangerous ground.

CAN SCIENCE TELL US ABOUT ORIGINS?

The doctrine of Evolution is almost universally accepted as a scientifically proven fact, so much so that the average person seems to think that not to believe in Evolution is unscientific. This is a most dangerous attitude of mind and must not be allowed to go unchallenged.

What is SCIENCE? Chambers’ 20th Century Dictionary defines it as follows: **Knowledge ascertained by observation and experiment, critically tested, systematised and brought under general principles.** If Evolution is a SCIENCE, it must conform to this definition and its requirements.

SCIENCE can study, by observation and experiment, **present day** physical phenomena and processes. It cannot study events which took place a long time ago (according to Evolutionists “aeons of time ago”, “hundreds of millions of years ago”).

Expressed another way: Pre-historic events and physical processes which brought the earth and all life into existence CANNOT be studied by scientific methods today. To evaluate pre-historic events by applying our knowledge of present day processes and phenomena is **NOT SCIENCE**. Every honest SCIENTIST will agree to this statement. IT IS SPECULATION.

We are therefore to conclude that EVOLUTION is NOT A SCIENCE. IT IS SPECULATION, NOT FACT.

SCIENCE CANNOT TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT ORIGINS

If we want to know anything about ORIGINS, there is only ONE WAY: GET IT FROM THE ONE WHO WAS PRESENT at that EVENT! We must depend on GOD, the GREAT **FIRST CAUSE, THE CREATOR. ONLY HE CAN TELL US ABOUT ORIGINS.**

In other words, we must depend on DIVINE REVELATION. **There is simply no other valid source of information.**

Having arrived at this important conclusion, let us examine the so-called theory of Evolution.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “EVOLUTION”?

- Firstly:
1. Evolution is only a **THEORY** or speculation.
 2. Evolution is **NOT FACT**.
 3. Evolution has **NEVER** been proven.
 4. Evolution **CANNOT** be proven.

These four simple statements establish a proper and firm basis from which we may proceed to examine the whole matter.

THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION

Very simply and broadly defined, Evolution is the THEORY or SPECULATION that ALL THINGS have been formed by a gradual process of change/modification through natural processes over a long period of time (“hundreds of millions of years”) from pre-existing materials.

In some primeval sea, chemical matter “by a happy combination” and “under the right conditions” became organised into a single living cell.

From this simple life form, over a long period of time, by slow gradual processes, complex and more organised form of life “evolved”.

Is the process of Evolution still active today? Oh yes! So the evolutionist confidently asserts. Do we see it happening? Oh no! It takes thousands or millions of years, we cannot expect to see it in our life-time!

What is the mechanism behind Evolution? Pure CHANCE! This is what the evolutionist says.

What is the purpose of it all? Since it happens by chance, it follows that there can be no particular purpose.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE RESULTS/IMPLICATIONS OF BELIEF IN “EVOLUTION”?

1. Since everything happened by chance, without any Intelligence or Supernatural Power, it follows that:

BELIEF IN GOD IS UNNECESSARY.
IT IS ALSO “UNSCIENTIFIC”.

2. Therefore, a person who sincerely believes in Evolution cannot believe in God. He is an ATHEIST.
3. Since Evolution states that things are continually improving and getting better, mankind is on the upward path, “getting better”. Therefore there is no need of a **Saviour**. He is quite capable of managing his own affairs.

To the evolutionist, GOD’S REDEMPTIVE
PLAN IS MEANINGLESS, UNNECESSARY.

4. The doctrine of Evolution has greatly prompted the prevalent secularistic and materialistic **philosophy** of modern man.
(secular = pertaining to the present visible world)
5. The doctrine of Evolution has given birth to other godless and evil schools of thought and philosophies e.g. communism, socialism, anarchism, fascism, nazism and many immoral doctrines.

The doctrine of Evolution has **turned man away from GOD**. It is a **most evil and destructive ideology**.

CAN THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION BE SCIENTIFICALLY EXAMINED?

Yes! Definitely. Let it be put to the test by scientific examination.

“EVOLUTION SAYS”

“SCIENCE SAYS”

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| 1. Life originated “aeons of time ago”, maybe 500 millions years ago. | No sure scientific evidence available. Science can only say “Don’t know”. |
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| 2. | Life started by “spontaneous generation when conditions were right”. | Science has never succeeded in creating life from lifeless material. “Spontaneous generation” has never been observed to happen. |
| 3. | By “evolution”, simple forms of life are constantly becoming more highly organised and developed, by themselves. | Scientific observation contradicts “evolution”. Things are only becoming more degenerate and less organised when left to themselves. |
| 4. | By process of “evolution” all the species of animals (and man) have appeared on this earth. | Evolutionary processes have never been observed to produce one species from another. Evolution cannot explain the origin of species. |
| 5. | Man evolved from the higher apes. | No scientific evidence at all. Missing links still missing. |

The above is a simple summary of the doctrine of Evolution.

For school and universities to constantly teach Evolution as a scientific FACT is DISHONEST and UNSCIENTIFIC.

Now, let us turn to the ONE who STARTED it all - our GOD and CREATOR and see what He has to say about the origin of MAN.

“IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED”

SEQUENCE OF CREATION (Genesis Chapter 1)

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|-------|---------------------------------------|
| DAY 1 | Light. |
| DAY 2 | Firmament or “sky”. |
| DAY 3 | (Earth and seas), plants, vegetation. |
| DAY 4 | Lights of Heaven. |
| DAY 5 | Fish and fowl. |
| DAY 6 | Beasts. MAN. |
| DAY 7 | Day of Rest. |

Genesis 1:31

“And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good.” A perfect Creation - God’s handiwork.

ORIGIN OF MAN

Genesis 1:26-27

“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... So God created man in His own image ... male and female created He them.”

NOTE:

1. God’s great act of CREATION took 6 days. On the 6th and final day came the Grand climax: The CREATION OF MAN.
2. God formed man in His own image, after His own likeness. MAN is unique. He is different from the animals. He has **intellect, moral choice** and **free will**.
3. Man was ordered by the CREATOR to have dominion over the whole earth and all its creatures on land and in the sea, to subdue the earth and replenish it (Genesis 1:26-28).
4. GOD made man for His own glory, to have fellowship with HIM.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Genesis 2:8, 18

“And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”

Then God put Adam to sleep and took one of his ribs with which He formed woman. God then presented woman to Adam. “And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh” (Genesis 2:23).

In this beautiful and pleasant garden setting, the Lord God instituted the holy estate of matrimony. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

In this Garden of Eden, Adam and his wife were to be God’s agents, to tend the garden, to be lord over the whole earth and all living things - under the direct control of GOD and in fellowship with HIM, and answerable only to HIM.

This was the state of affairs in the beginning of Creation, a state meant to last forever, subject to only one condition:

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Genesis 2:17).

GOD placed just one simple condition:

OBEY and LIVE, or
DISOBEY and DIE!

If Adam and his wife had heeded GOD'S command, what eternal bliss was theirs - and all mankind's. Their failure to stand up to the test plunged the whole Creation under a curse, bringing on it and all mankind separation from GOD. It brought death, both physical and spiritual. Their act of disobedience and folly also set in motion GOD'S GRAND PLAN OF REDEMPTION, which forms the BIBLICAL RECORD.

PARADISE LOST

God's enemy No. 1, Satan, was not long getting into action to mar the beautiful Garden scene.

Read Genesis 3 for the sad story of the Fall of Man, masterminded by Satan. The temptation was strong. Eve fell for it because of the "lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16). She readily swallowed Satan's bait and with a little encouragement, Adam followed suit.

Rebellion in the Garden! And so soon after the Creation. What a sad and tragic train of events followed: (Genesis 3:14-21)

1. GOD cursed the serpent.
2. GOD cursed the woman.
"In sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" (v. 16).
3. GOD cursed the man with hard labour, sweat and sorrow, pain and suffering, death (v. 18,19).
4. GOD cursed the earth.

However, even as the Lord GOD pronounced sentence on our rebellious FIRST PARENTS, in love and pity,

1. GOD made coats of skins and clothed the nakedness of Adam and Eve (v.21) signifying the coming of Christ, the Lamb of God, the Great Sacrifice to be offered for sins of many, and His gift of the "cloak of righteousness" that the shame of our nakedness may not appear.
2. GOD promised a Saviour, Jesus, the seed of woman who would bruise Satan's head (v.15), His own heel being bruised, for our sakes.

SUMMARY

By creation, Man bears the divine image of GOD, distinct from animals, **unique**. Only man can reason, accumulate and transmit knowledge. Only man has real capacity for language and communication.

Because man is created in **GOD's image**, he is God-conscious. He is able to communicate with God, to pray and worship.

But GOD created man with a free will. In exercise of it, man may obey or disobey GOD. Man has a free **CHOICE**.

By his **disobedience**, the first man Adam plunged the whole race into misery and death (Romans 5:12). By His obedience, the second Adam, Jesus Christ, redeemed the whole creation and mankind (Romans 5:15-21).

Today GOD offers man the way of everlasting life and restoration to the original sinless state. Man has a moral choice and a free will, GOD's offer of salvation is in **JESUS CHRIST**. In **HIM** only Man has a bright future. Without **CHRIST**, Man has no hope.

The **choice is ours** also. In **CHRIST** we are **RESTORED** to our original fellowship with GOD. Have you made **CHRIST** your choice?

BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

2. MAN

Fill in the blanks (one letter for each space)

1. GOD completed His works of CREATION in ___ days.
2. GOD created man on the _____ day.
3. GOD made man in His own _____.
4. GOD made man with a _____ will.
5. GOD's CREATION was very _____.

Multiple choice: Underline the correct answer

6. By himself, man
 - (a) is getting better all the time
 - (b) can find a way to Heaven
 - (c) is lost.
7. Evolution is
 - (a) a scientific fact
 - (b) only a theory
 - (c) the answer to man's problem.
8. Life began by
 - (a) spontaneous generation
 - (b) divine creation
 - (c) evolution.
9. The doctrine of Evolution has given birth to
 - (a) godless ideologies e.g. communism, materialism, Nazism, anarchism
 - (b) missionary societies
 - (c) the Bible-Presbyterian Church
10. For schools and universities to teach Evolution as proven fact is
 - (a) commendable
 - (b) dishonest
 - (c) wonderful