

The Origin Of Man

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Last evening Bro. Paul Brown's subject was, "Does True Science Conflict with Christianity?" He mentioned he could just say "No" and sit down. My subject tonight is: "What is the Origin of man? I could just say, "God created man" and sit down, but I won't do that.

Genesis 1:26-27; "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."

If you would, go with me to chapter 5, verse 1; *"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them, and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."*

Now chapter 2, verse 7; *"And 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."*

Let me say this before I get into my message, and I was thinking about this when Brother Royce Smith was speaking last evening on origins and morality. I have been blessed by our God to be able to go into several different parts of this world. And most of you know I am involved in mission work in Thailand. I have seen a lot of things and had a lot of different experiences in Thailand. There is one thing I have noticed in Thailand and in other parts of the world. And that is, that God is not acknowledged, morality is always very low. There is no such thing as the dignity of man where evolution or other absurd notions are upheld. One thing that we noticed in Thailand, in the mountainous villages and

jungles, as well as in other parts of Thailand, there is just no regard for human life. There is no value placed upon human life. The very reason we started our children's home in Thailand is that the children—orphaned children—were just abandoned and there was no value placed upon their lives. They were really treated like stray dogs, with no dignity of life whatsoever. And I find that wherever God is not acknowledged, wherever there is not a belief in a Creator, there is no value placed upon life. I recall talking to a man in the city of Chang Mai one day about construction work I saw in the city. There, in the construction of high-rise buildings, they use bamboo for scaffolding. Several stories up, on the outside of the buildings, men would be working on bamboo scaffolding with no safety equipment at all. I asked the man I was speaking to, "Is this not dangerous"? His reply was, "Yes, it is very dangerous." I made another statement, "Those men can fall so easily", and his reply was "So what"? That was his response. He also said, "There are others waiting to take their place." There is no value placed on human life in this Buddhist country. I have found by observation, that when God is left out, and there is no belief in a Creator, there is no value placed upon human life and the result is that morality is always very low.

I want to mention another observation. Recently the United States observed the 40th year anniversary of man landing on the moon. I am always interested in watching this type of program on TV, but I am always amused when I hear commentators, especially from NASA, but also from the news media. When I hear the discussions of our space program, invariably someone will say, I guess in defense of space exploration, "this will help our understanding of where we came from." I hear this over and over again. Let me tell you, nothing is going to be learned on the moon or on Mars or in the farther reaches of outer space that is going to help us understand where we came from. Proof of origins will not be found in Space Exploration. It is found in God's word. We don't need to go to the moon or anywhere else to learn the truth concerning the origin of the universe, the origin of the earth, nor the origin of man.

I stated this in my first message and I will state it again now, all that is needed to understand the matter of origins is regeneration and the new birth. For along with these, God gives faith to believe His word. That is all that is needed to understand the matter of origins. Many theories have been advanced, and there has always been much speculation being offered, attempting to answer the question, "Where did we come from?" And it is all an exercise in futility when the Bible is ignored and God is excluded. Nothing is going to be learned from it.

Where did we come from? What is the origin of man? Others in this conference are dealing in their messages with evolution, and I am just going to leave that alone. Well, I guess I will briefly mention the subject. I will say this. I recall that during my school days, and that's been a number of years ago, there was a chart showing "evolution" from the small monkey up through the apes, man, etc. I remember that chart being displayed in our classroom. I had not seen it in quite a few years. Recently Janice and I took our two grandsons to the zoo in Memphis, and low and behold, right outside the primate area, there was that chart again! The displayed chart showed man right in the line with the apes and monkeys, etc. It was displayed very prominently in the Memphis zoo. This concept of evolution is not going away! It is being presented and displayed before our children, as well as adults, as a matter of fact, when it is no more than the figment of men's imagination, which still seems to be only evil continually.

The origin of man is very simple, and this message will be very simple. Genesis 1:26-27; *"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."*

"*And God said, Let us make man.*" You are all familiar with this word "God." It is "Elohim", and is used to show a plurality. God was not speaking with nor was he consulting with angels or any other beings. I like what has already been pointed out in this conference. We are exhorted in the Scripture to consider our Creator in the day of our youth, and that word "Creator" is in the plural, (Consider our Creators). Never exclude the Holy Spirit or the Son from the matter of creation. "*Let us make man.*"

Notice this, if you would, in verse 27, the word "created" is used three times in this one short verse. Some commentators say this is an indication of the Trinity. I do not know if this is so or not, but the emphasis surely is on creation by the word appearing three times in this one verse. If you have a word-study Bible or some way of checking this, look back to Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*" In Genesis 1:27 we have the words, "*So God created*", used in reference to the creation of man. The same Hebrew word is translated "created" in both of these statements. If I know anything at all about language, and I readily admit I don't know a lot, but I have attempted to study word meanings. In Genesis 1:1 the verb used and the tense of this verb means, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*", and He created it complete, perfect in a single act. God's creation was complete and perfect from "*the beginning.*"

When I look in verse 27 and find the words, "*God created man*", I know immediately God created man complete and perfect, just as He created the heaven and the earth complete and perfect. Being created complete and perfect, man needs no evolutionary process. God created a perfect and a complete man. Again, if language means anything, it must mean that!

In Chapter 5 again, and in verses 1 and 2 we are told, God created Man...He created male and female. And he blessed them and called their

name Adam. There are a few things I want to point out here. We are told, "*The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground*", 2:7. I suppose most of the time when we think of creation, we think of God speaking something into existence. For example, God said, "*Let there be light, and there was light.*" He called something into existence just by speaking it. But in Genesis 2:7, we have something a little different. God formed man out of pre-existing material. But this is not any less a creation than God speaking this world into being. It is a creation, and is so stated in Genesis 1:27 three times. We learn in Genesis 2:7 of a creative act of God; "*And 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.*" The word "formed" is used, but the word "created" is also used when speaking of the creation of man. Notice in verse 7 of Genesis 2, there was first a lifeless man. "*The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground.*" This is a lifeless man until God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. And then notice it says; "*man became a living soul.*"

"*These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens*", Genesis 2:4. We are also told about, "*every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth*", verse 5. Now notice this statement, "*and there was not a man to till the ground.*" Before God created Adam there was not a man. Genesis 2, verse 5, "*there was not a man to till the ground.*"

I emphasize this because there are those who believe in a pre-Adamic race of people. In 1655 a man named Isaac Peyrere published a book called "Pre-Adamite." Mr. Peyrere stated in his book that he found a pre-Adamite race of people in Romans Chapter 5:12-14. It amazes me when I read that a man can find a pre-Adamic race of people in Romans Chapter 5:12-14. For this one of the passages of Scripture I would use to contradict the idea of a pre-Adamic race of people. But, the theories of

Isaac Peyrere, in one form or another, seem to just continually rear up their heads, and some people begin to buy this theory in different generations. I do not think that anyone who really believes the Bible could ever hold to a pre-Adamic race of people.

Look with me to I Corinthians 15:45; "*And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*" Notice these words, "*The first man Adam.*" These words are pretty conclusive to me. I do not think Scripture could be any clearer than this. Adam was the first man! "*The first man Adam.*" If you look in verse 47, "*The first man is of the earth.*" Hold your place there if you would as I go back to Genesis 3:19. We have already read that God formed man of the dust of the earth. In Genesis 3:19 we read, "*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground: for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*" The first man is of the earth! I really think sometimes people are prohibited by their pride from believing what the Bible says about the creation of man. If you believe what the Bible says you know we are made from dirt. This just deflates the ego of man. The first man is of the earth, taken from the ground itself. We are all made from dirt and we are all going to return to dirt. Look at this again, verse 19 of Genesis 3, "*for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*" I find very little, if anything, in the Bible that exalts man. This certainly will deflate the ego of man. The first man is of the earth!

I totally disregard any idea of a pre-Adamic race simply because the Scripture says Adam was the first man. God created Adam from the dust of the earth. But there is another reason I do not believe in a pre-Adamic race. It is that death came by Adam. I will go to Romans Chapter 5 and I will read verses 12 through 14. Now keep in mind, this is where Isaac Peyrere found his theory of a pre-Adamic race of people. Romans 5, verse 12; "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: For until*

the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come." If this means anything, it means that by one man sin entered into the world and death entered into the world by sin. I cannot understand these words any other way.

If there were a pre-Adamic race of people, they would have had to die before Adam, but there was no death before Adam. There is certainly no record in the Scripture of their continuing to live alongside of Adam. Even though in reading and preparation for this conference, I did come across some pretty strange things. I mentioned Acts 17 the other evening. This is the account of when Paul was in Athens on Mars Hill, and he spoke to the Athenians concerning the true God as the Creator. Paul mentioned, and I will read this in a moment, that God made all nations of men from only one blood. I have read in a couple of sources in studying for these messages that the Athenians believed they came from a pre-Adamic race of people. And these writers were writing of the boldness of Paul speaking to these Athenians about God creating all nations of men from a single source.

Look back to I Corinthians 15:21-22, "*For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" The wording of the Scripture is clear, "*By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin.*" Before God created Adam there was no man. Adam is called "*the first man.*" In Chapter 3:20, Eve is called "*the mother of all living.*" Our sin nature is traced all the way back to Adam as our representative, but not only as our representative, it is also traced back to Adam in our natural relationship to him. We are related to Adam and Eve. If you could trace your family tree all the way to its root, you would go back to Adam and Eve.

I am going to go back to Acts 17. I read part of this passage the other

evening in my first message. Paul is in Athens and he makes his way to Mars Hill. And when Paul would declare unto them the true and living God, he goes directly to the matter of origins, the matter of creation. And in verse 26 Paul said this concerning God; "*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.*"

Here is where you leave a lot of people, or a lot of people will leave you over this: the fact that God has of one blood made all nations of men to dwell upon this earth. It does not matter whether you are Caucasian, Negro, Asian or what you may be, if you belong to a nation, and everyone does, all of us are made out of one blood. It all goes back to Adam and Eve, when God created them, blessed them and enabled them to produce offspring, and they populated the earth. And, I am not going to go through the Tower of Babel and through the Ark, but it all goes back past these things to one single man and one single woman, Adam and Eve. A lot of people have a difficult time accepting that God made all out of one blood. But if you believe the Bible, you must believe this: Adam, the first man—Eve the mother of all living. What is the origin of man? Well, there it is: when God created man, and He created male and female, the first man Adam and Eve the mother of all Living. That is our ancestry! That is our history! That is our origin!

I am going to go back to I Corinthians one more time before I close. I don't want to pass over mentioning this. In 1 Corinthians 15:45 we are told, "*The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.*" I read this again to just tell you this. Language is important. Notice the phrase "*the last Adam.*" Over the years I have heard a lot of people from pulpits and others speak about the second Adam. That terminology is really not correct. Sometimes "second" might leave room, or might even imply there is a third, or even more. But when you say "*the last*" that means the last! There will never be another Adam.

In the original creation, when God created Adam, He created him as head of the race and representative of a people! And then you have the last Adam, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the representative of a people, and there will never be another. He is the LAST ADAM! Then in verse 49, "*as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*" The first man is of the earth. The Second Man is The Lord of Glory!

Let me show you one more thing found in Isaiah 64. We read at the beginning of our message, "*For dust thou art!*" Unless the Lord returns before then, everyone in this building is going to die. More than likely someone is going to bury you in the ground. You are going to go back into the ground from which you came. And if enough time passes, someone in the future can exhume your body, and they are going to find a casket full of dirt. Just dust! You will return to dust! Isaiah 64:8; "*But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*" The prophet speaks of the potter and the clay. Paul also reminds us of this in Romans 9:20-23. We read Paul's writings in this text and usually our minds are concerned with the sovereignty of God in salvation, and rightfully so. But also in these words by both the Prophet and the Apostle, we can find the matter of creation and the origin of man. God is the potter! We are nothing but clay! Dirt! Dirt! And if I understand what Paul says in Romans 9, we are all of the same lump! This is true in the origin of man. I am going to close by just making this observation. What a great God we have! Our God is able to take dirt, and make out of that dirt a vessel of honor, prepared unto glory, to make a vessel of wrath prepared unto destruction. My God can do that. And He can do it out of the same lump of clay. How thankful we ought to be! We know our origin is no more than dirt, dust, clay, but yet the Potter is conforming us into the image of Christ! What a great God! Amen.