

V. The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:28)

A. Man is a direct¹ creation of God and not the product of some evolutionary process.²

Genesis 1:1 and 2:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was³ formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

Many speculations and theories have been put forth on the meaning of these two opening verses of Genesis.⁴ The Bible deals with man, who, as best we know, has been on this earth for approximately 6,000 years (Jewish calendar has less. See chart at end of this section.). In the first chapters of Genesis, God is answering man’s questions: “Who am I?” and “Where did I come from?” A date for the creation of the universe, our solar system, and life on planet earth is not a subject in the Bible. It is my belief that the universe is very old.⁵

¹ “Direct” means without an intermediary. God was the agent who Created man. He did not use an evolutionary process as His agent.

² Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Psalm 100:3; John 1:3

³ Arthur C. Custance, *Without Form and Void*, published by the author in Canada, © 1970, and James G. Murphy, *A Commentary on The Book of Genesis*, 1873, now part of the *Barnes’ Notes*, published 1996, Baker Book House, page 32-33, translate the Hebrew verb with “became,” a perfectly legal rendering.

⁴ Donald W. Stoner in *A New Look at an Old Earth*, Schroeder Publishing, © 1992, does a noble job of refuting the young earth theory of the Institute for Creation Research and the Creation Research Society. Wonderly’s book, *God’s Time-Records In Ancient Sediments*, Crystal Press, © 1977, is another excellent work that presents many infallible proofs for a very old earth. Arthur C. Custance in his book *Without Form and Void*, published by the author in Canada, © 1970 (current website is www.custance.org), presents linguistic and historical evidences for what is referred to as the “gap theory.” The “gap theory” is a teaching that lacks sufficient evidence to raise it to the level of provable truth. This belief teaches that in Genesis 1:1, God reveals to us that in the distant past He created the heavens, the universe, Planet Earth, etc. Possibly because of the fall of Satan, verse 2 records a destroyed earth in chaos (The position being that God does not author chaos. Everything He does is “good.”); and God’s Spirit begins a reconstruction of Planet Earth—God’s new creative work taking six days, as recorded in the following verses of chapter 1. This theory was presented in the notes of the original Scofield Bible, Oxford Press, © 1917, and the Pilgrim Bible, Oxford Press, © 1948. Weston W. Fields, the author of *Unformed and Unfilled*, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, © 1978, wrote to refute the gap theory and Custance’s work. Fields, blinded by a dogmatic belief in a young earth, approaches the Bible with an a priori mind (mentally conceived before investigation). Custance’s thorough research deserves consideration. He presents proofs that go back to the early centuries after Christ and for the text of Genesis that goes back some 150 years before Christ. It is my belief that these are unsolvable issues. Please see my treatment of the creation account in the Appendix.

⁵ Daniel Wonderly, *God’s Time-Records in Ancient Sediments*, Crystal Press, © 1977. I was blessed when a long-time friend, Dallas Cain, gave me this book. Dallas was instrumental in my wife’s

Though science is saying our universe is 13.5 to 15 billion years old, it is unable to give us dates for the creation of man with any accuracy, because each dating method has limitations. There is a large group of scientists who refuse to recognize God and who are making every effort to sell us the theory⁶ of evolution—a process of changes purported to have begun with a single-celled animal that over billions of years finally developed into humankind. Good, honest science does not present a speculative theory as the truth. The job of science is to develop a theory and then to prove or disprove it through studies and observations that follow established rules of research in an effort to discover verifiable truth. Since no man was present to see the Lord performing His creative acts, locating an honest, eyewitness of what transpired is beyond the reach of scientific research. Only the Creator and His angels saw the historical events, Job 38:5-7.⁷ One has the testimony of God as recorded in His Word, which we believe, Hebrews 11:1-3,⁸ Psalm 33:6 and 9,⁹ and 2 Peter 3:5.¹⁰ To believe God is foundational to pleasing Him and to knowing truth.¹¹ When the Word of God does not address a matter, and human research cannot honestly uncover the answer, it is wise to say, “I don’t know,” and to trust the Lord.

While in a church in Indiana, I heard a pastor of good reputation say, “I do not believe that God would reveal truth through an unbeliever and atheist.” Because of his belief, he held that books written by non-Christian scientists do not contain truth. He only accepted the Bible and the research materials compiled by believers in the faith (his faith). This attitude is very radical, closed-minded, and blind. Albert Einstein discovered the theory of relativity, a mathematical formula that has revolutionized modern science and has led us to a better understanding of our universe. Einstein was a Jew and deist, not a Christian believer. Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity. Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, generators, and many other useful items that are making our lives easier and better. These men were not Christians. We could produce a long list of people who have made numerous discoveries, including many life-saving medicines and equipment, and it would be full of the names of non-Christians. The scientific evidences of a very old earth are as numerous as the sand on the sea shore; and yet, because most of the researchers presenting these facts are unbelievers of the Christian faith, some distinguished Christians would say that they are deceived and do not know truth. The Creation Research Society has given a lot of scientific facts in support of creationism, for which they deserve commendations; but their theory of a young earth is just that—a theory.

salvation as a teen. Everyone concerned about these issues needs to read this book. The evidences presented are scientifically accurate and will not change with time. This book changed my beliefs about creation. See the chapter on creation in the Appendix.

⁶ A speculation or conjecture that has not been fully proven, a hypothesis

⁷ “Who set its measurements? Since you know. Or who stretched the line on it? On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy?”

⁸ “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

⁹ Verse 6 “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.” Verse 9 “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Genesis 1 says God spoke.

¹⁰ “For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water.”

¹¹ Hebrews 11:1-6

Through the biblical genealogies, one has a fairly accurate record of the timeline for man up to Jacob (see chart at end of this chapter) and the Israelites' descent to Egypt—around 2,000 years of history. From geological research and other scientific evidence we conclude that Jacob went to Egypt approximately 2,000 years before Christ. This evidence places the creation of man at approximately 4,000 years before Christ, or 6,000 years ago. According to the Hebrew calendar it would be under 5,600 ago. It appears that it would be safe to say that man has been on Planet Earth for less than 10,000 years.

B. Man and woman were created in the image of God. ¹²

Man was formed by God from the dust of the earth and brought to life by the breath of God.¹³ God created man and the woman as living souls created in the image of God with a spirit. Man is the outcome of a union of the material with the spiritual. The evolutionist would have us believe that man is nothing more than a material being and that when he dies his existence is over, *but* man is much more. Unlike the animals, he is a spiritual being, brought to life by the breath of God and created in His image. Though man has a beginning, his soul and spirit will live on forever.

The Bible tells us that man was created in the “image of God.” “Image” means a very close likeness to the original. A picture is an image of the person. The commonly used expression “She is the image of her mother” means that she looks and/or acts like her mother. When one looks into a mirror, he sees his image. What is this image that God placed in man?

Since God is pure spirit, is everywhere, and cannot be seen, it is obvious that “image of God” means something other than a physical appearance. An image shows us the qualities and traits of the original. God is “upright,” (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 25:8; 33:4) and He created man “upright” (Ecclesiastes 7:29), meaning of honest and just character. That aspect of the image was marred by the Fall (Adam’s disobedience). Genesis 5:1-3 tells us that though man was created in God’s likeness, the sons of man are in the likeness of their sinful father. They are no longer “upright.” However, the image of the Creator is still present in the created. In Genesis 9:5-6, The Lord said that the foundational reason for the death penalty for the murderer is because of the image of God that is in every person.

God is a creator. The evidence around us reveals that God’s imagination, inventiveness, and skills and that they are limitless. They are so impressive that they inspire admiration and wonder beyond one’s ability to express or think. Man too is a creator. Though he cannot create from nothing and speak things into existence as God can, his imagination and inventive skills are phenomenally great. This is where we can see the image of the Creator in man.

When God breathed into man the breath of life, He imparted a token of Himself in man. Though man has experienced sin, which has distorted the image of God in him, the likeness to God is still there and is seen through man’s reasoning and creative abilities.

¹² Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2; 9:6; & James 3:9

¹³ Genesis 2:7, In Job 34:14-15 Elihu says that that breath was the Spirit of God and that if withdrawn humanity would perish and become dust.

C. Man fell from his original state.

Man was created perfect,¹⁴ innocent, and without a “sin nature.” Man was given a test, and he failed.¹⁵ His disobedience of God’s command broke the warm standing and open communion he had with his Creator and made him, by nature, a sinner. Adam was not deceived in the temptation. He listened to his wife and made a deliberate choice to disobey the command of God.¹⁶ Perhaps he did this in love for his wife. The motive is not clear though the blatant disobedience is.

Man is totally depraved—completely sinful. Romans 3:23 describes man’s condition, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Man is unable to measure up to the divine standard. No matter how hard he tries, he falls short of the target. For example, he is unable to love God and his neighbor as the law requires.¹⁷ Total depravity does not mean that man is completely bad and unable to do any good. Jesus made it clear that man can do good deeds and make right choices.¹⁸ Man is unable to perform in a way that would give him the right to inherit eternal life in heaven.¹⁹ Without the Savior, man is eternally doomed.

D. The judgment of God rests upon Man.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. (Romans 1:18).

Because of his sinfulness, the wrath of God hangs over man’s head.²⁰ The consequences of his behavior bring condemnation. The verb in Romans 1:18 is present active. God’s Word tells it as it is. Because he has turned his back on God, His laws, and His ways, man brings upon himself and humankind sickness, misery, and death. Adam sinned, and all suffer the consequences. When we sin, we hurt others.²¹ For those who refuse to appropriate salvation through Jesus Christ, eternal judgment and separation from God will be their destiny.²²

¹⁴ Genesis 1:31; 2:25

¹⁵ Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-13; Psalm 14; Romans 3:23

¹⁶ 1 Timothy 2:14

¹⁷ Deuteronomy 6:4-6; 2 Kings 8:46; 2 Chronicles 6:36; Psalm 14:2-4; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8 & 10

¹⁸ Matthew 7:11

¹⁹ Leviticus 18:4-5 with Romans 3:20; James 2:10

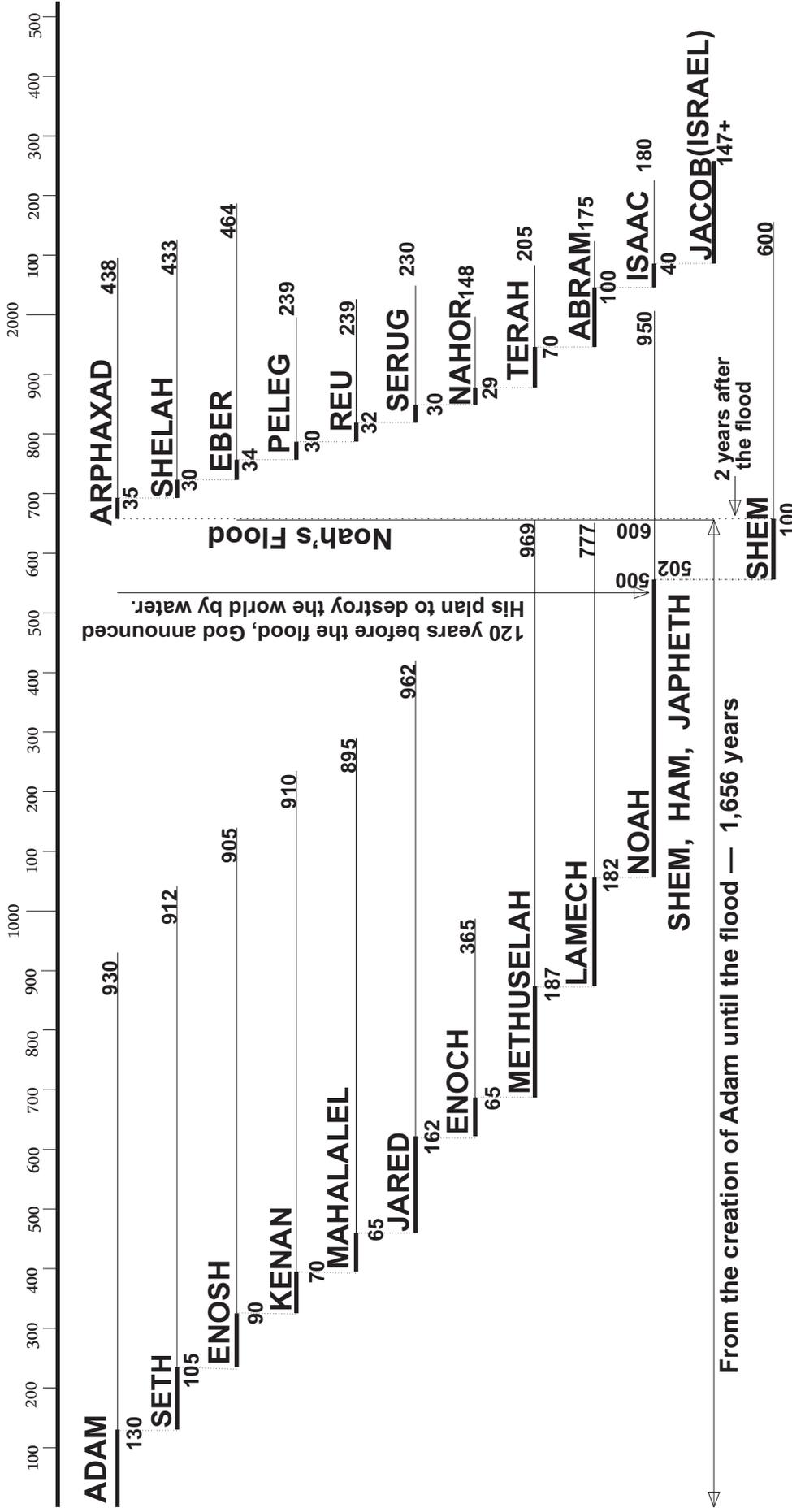
²⁰ Ezekiel 18:4; John 3:17-18; Romans 1:18, 6:23; Revelation 20:12-15

²¹ Exodus 20:5; Romans 5:12; 7:24-25; 8:22-23

²² John 3:14-18; Revelation 20:15

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST FROM ADAM TO JACOB

By Phillip David Mosher



Though there may be some inaccuracies in the chronologies and numbers, we believe this biblical data to be reasonably accurate.

