

Romans

Romans Chapter Five

Romans 5:12-21

January 24, 2010

This is lesson number 25 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

The Theme of the Letter

Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

Title: “Only Two Men In History”

We are studying the **Doctrine of Representation** which states that Adam and Christ were both representative persons.

Now I will come back to this point again and again, but it needs to be said more than once. If it is not “fair” for God to charge you with the sin of Adam, then neither is it “fair” for God to charge you with the righteousness of Christ!

If you reject the the **Doctrine of Representation** as to Adam; then to be consistent, you must also reject the the **Doctrine of Representation** as to Christ. That is the heart and nub of the **Doctrine of Representation**: Adam and Christ! And, yea, the Gospel itself!

This is why a correct view of the **historicity of Genesis** is so important. Is the record in Genesis 1-11 history or myth; fact or fiction?

Your view of the **historicity of Genesis**:

- 1) determines your view of the entire Bible; your **theology**;
- 2) establishes your world view; your **epistemology**;
- 3) governs your doctrine of salvation; your **soteriology**.

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1) Your view of the historicity of Genesis:

determines your view of the entire Bible; your **theology**.
(*theos* = God + *logy* = knowledge) knowledge of God.

Is the account of the creation and the sin of the first man, Adam, in Genesis actual history? Or, is it only a myth? Is it truth “in principle,” but not in factual detail? Is Adam a significant man?

Do you believe that Adam and Eve were created by God as mature, innocent human beings on the sixth day of the six 24-hour days of creation?

To me the most compelling argument for six 24-hour days of creation is that **any other view requires that you accept extra-biblical information as being authoritative over the Word of God.** Cf. Exodus 20:11

“Well,” someone may ask, “Couldn’t God have used evolution, i.e. theistic evolution?” No! Not if the Bible is to have any integrity.

The alternative to biblical creation is the **religion** [not science] of evolution with time and chance as its “god.” Atheistic, humanistic, rationalism teaches that every living thing, including man, “evolved” over billions of years, and that the process was all by accident!

Do you remember the example of the fig-wasp and the figs? There are 900 species of figs and each has its own species of fig-wasp. Britannica says it was due to “co-evolution.” How absurd!

There can be no intelligent design behind evolution, only time and chance.

There is only one race, the human race. We are all of “one blood.” Acts 17:26

How did Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, understand Genesis?

In Matthew, Jesus is answering a question about divorce posed by the Pharisees:

Matthew 19:3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them **at the beginning** ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?’

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Jesus argues from the **historicity** of Adam and Eve, as actual fact!

The Apostle Paul, who wrote 14 books of the N.T. uses the historicity of Adam's representation to prove the validity of Christ's representation. That is what Romans 5:12-21 is all about. If Adam was mythical then the comparison becomes nonsense; you cannot compare myth and reality to prove anything!

You will be opposing Jesus and Paul if you are too "sophisticated" to believe that Genesis is an historical record.

My argument is that apart from the **historicity of Genesis** you cannot maintain the integrity of the Bible. Therefore, your view of Genesis determines your view of the entire Bible, and thus your **theology**.

2. Your view of the historicity of Genesis:

establishes your world view; your **epistemology**.
{ *epistani* = to stand upon + *logy* = knowledge }

Epistemology: the basis of knowledge; how do you know what you know?

How do you understand the events in the news; hurricanes, floods, earthquakes? What is wrong with society? Is death, terrorism, poverty, disease, crime, discontent and whatever else that is unpleasant, due to a lack of education and opportunity? If we improve the environment and redistribute wealth will all of man's woes be cured?

Or, is the root cause of man's affliction something the Bible calls **sin**?
What is sin? (*harmartia* = missing the mark)

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."
(1 John 3:4)

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world..."

In other words, what is your world view?
If man evolved, then education and opportunity is the answer.

If the Bible is true, then man is afflicted with the condition of sin!

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That does not mean we oppose education and opportunity, but the lack thereof is not the root cause of man's afflictions.

In Genesis 3, Adam represented the entire human race. He lived in a perfect environment, his wealth was abundant, he was innocent, and his will was free.

Let's briefly review what happened:

The law that Adam was given is in Genesis 2:16-17;
the record of the transgression of that law is Genesis 3:6;
and the application of that transgression to all men is Romans 5:12.

On the very day that Adam sinned, Adam and Eve died in their spirit. Furthermore, physical death was introduced.

Evolution demands physical death but offers no cause. Things just happen to die.

If the earth is billions of years old and there were all kinds of beasts that "evolved" before man began to walk upright, from a knuckle-dragging ape, then there had to be death in the world before man sinned.

That philosophy denies verse 12. There is physical death and there is spiritual death.

Ephesians 2:1 says to believers that we were all dead in trespasses and sins. That is spiritual death.

Something more than a lack of knowledge and opportunity is wrong with man! Natural, unregenerate man is not only ignorant, he is spiritually dead. Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:14

Again, my argument is that apart from the historicity of the Genesis record, you can not maintain the integrity of the Bible.

Therefore, your view of Genesis determines your view of the entire Bible, and thus your world view (**epistemology**).

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3. Your view of the historicity Genesis:

determines your doctrine of salvation; your **soteriology**.
{*soter* = savior + *logy* = knowledge }

How is sin forgiven? If man evolved then he does not need a Savior because he is only a more highly developed life form than all the other animals.

Furthermore, there is no such thing as sin, because Adam was only a mythical person and therefore could not have represented all of mankind that were to be born naturally from his seed.

That is why evolutionists are necessarily atheists. They may profess to believe in God, but Jesus will tell false professors, “Not every one who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. . . . Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity, I never knew you.”

That may sound a little harsh; i.e. that to believe in evolution makes you an atheist but in my recent studies in the Book of Revelation I was struck with the number of references to God and the Creator in the scenes of worship.

Ah, but if the Bible is true, then our condition is so desperate that we cannot deliver ourselves. We enter the world at birth “dead in trespasses and sins!”

The Bible teaches that there is One Unique Man in history, born of a woman, but without a human father, born of a virgin, and thus without the sinful nature of Adam. Jesus of Nazareth was and is the sinless Man.
Jesus is the Last Adam.

Jesus actually did something about sin, and what He did, He did on purpose!
In John Chapter 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, a religious, self-righteous pharisee, that even a man as moral and religious as he, i.e., Nicodemus was, still lacked something - he must be born again!

In John Chapter 4, Jesus told the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, who was as bad morally as they come, that she too needed the Savior, and she got to know Him just like Nicodemus did.

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Christ revealed Himself to Nicodemus and Christ revealed Himself to the Samaritan woman, and Christ reveals Himself to every other person who ever has been or ever will be saved! Jesus told the Pharisees, “Abraham saw My day, and he was glad.” Has Christ revealed Himself to you?

Cf. Matthew 11:25-30; Psalm 36:9b

Are you a self-righteous pharisee?

Stop looking at your goodness, Nicodemus! Trust Jesus Christ.

Have you lived a profligate life of sin and shame?

Stop looking at your badness, woman at the well! Trust Jesus Christ!

Looking at your “goodness” insults God!

Adding anything to Christ’s Substitution insults God.

You are saying that what Jesus did was **not** sufficient?

You are saying that your feeble “deeds of the law” can improve on the work of Christ?

Are you so foolish? Cf. Galatians 3:1-3

Looking at your “badness” also insults God!

Some people boast in their “badness.”

Once I thought I was too bad to be saved.

Too bad for the perfect Savior?

His blood is sufficient!

How important then is your view of the historicity of Genesis?

1) determines your view of the entire Bible; your **theology**;

2) establishes your world view; your **epistemology**;

3) governs your doctrine of salvation; your **soteriology**.

“Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, for all sinned.”

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Now let's continue with verses 12-14:

“Therefore, Just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, for {because} all sinned. -

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones says the phrase *“for {because} all sinned”* is the most difficult of all to explain. Commentators generally agree that it is the most difficult single statement in the entire Epistle. It is not only difficult to explain, it is very important how you understand what the apostle means by:

“and thus death spread to all men, for {because} all 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 those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come....

It is my firm conviction that it is upon a correct understanding of **Romans 5:12-21**; which demands the **historicity of Adam** and the **Doctrine of Representation**, that the very Gospel stands or falls.

Any attempt to present “propositional” offers of salvation which suggest that God depends on man’s choice or “deeds of the law” is “another gospel” that is condemned in Galatians Chapter One.

- **First**, to make the case for the historicity of Adam:

J. G. Vos says, “This argument of Paul in Romans 5 depends absolutely for its validity on the fact that **as** Jesus was a historical person **so** Adam was a historical person. There cannot be a proper parallel between a mythical Adam and an historical Christ. Adam is as essential to the Christian system of theology as Jesus Christ is. Christ is, indeed, called in Scripture the ‘last Adam.’ ”

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I will not prolong the argument for the **historicity of Genesis**; you either believe the Bible, or you do not. Persuasive argument and logic will not convince anyone that the Bible is “true truth” unless the Holy Spirit instructs their mind.

Based on the historicity of the Genesis record of Adam’s **single transgression** of a specific command of God - a record which Jesus and Paul clearly took as an actual historical fact - we establish from verse 12 that when Adam sinned, he sinned as a representative person for the human race – “because all sinned.”

Adam represented the human race with the single exception of the sinless Man, the virgin-born Son of God - Jesus of Nazareth - the Christ.

In the same way that Abraham **represented** Levi when he paid tithes to Melchizedek, Adam **represented** every natural born human being.

The Doctrine of Representation does not mean that Adam’s sin is our **personal** sin, but that Adam’s sin is imputed to us. Adam’s guilt is the basis for our guilt because we were “in Adam.”

In the same way, the righteousness of God, in Jesus Christ is not our personal righteousness. As the guilt of Adam is charged to those whom he represented, so is the righteousness Jesus imputed to those whom He represented.

Adam’s sin is the basis for condemnation for those he represented.
Christ’s righteousness is the basis for justification for those He represented.

Are you troubled by the concept of Adam being your representative?

Consider this: Who would be a better person to represent you?
 Someone you know?
 Yourself?
 Innocent Adam?

Some people will stiffen their necks and harden their hearts, but they can’t change the fact that they were represented in Adam. And we have the same degree of choice **if** we are to be justified.

We did not choose to be represented by Adam any more than we can choose to be represented in Christ. By the grace of God, we simply receive it!

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As we have pointed out, Paul interrupts himself at the end of verse 12 to explain the phrase: "*... and thus death spread to all men, for all sinned.*"

We saw that "all sinned" is in a Greek verb tense {aorist} that means the action occurred one time in the past with continuing effect. When Adam sinned, the human race was "in the loins of" Adam and thus we all sinned in Adam.

We are dealing with what is called, "Original Sin," the first sin of Adam charged to all men.

But a Question? Didn't Eve sin before Adam? Eve ate the fruit and she gave it to Adam. Why isn't the woman our representative?

This is where the feminists go crazy. The "weaker sex."

Women as "pastors." Women teaching adult men in Bible Study.

The rationale usually being that there aren't enough men who will teach.

You can make all the arguments you can for women as pastors and teachers of adult men - the problem is that you can't find any support for it in the Bible.

Listen carefully. There are many women that know more about the Bible than many men. Women are every bit as intelligent as men.

There is no distinction between men and women as far as salvation is concerned.

Before anyone gets angry at the preacher, you need to consider who set out the order in creation. Even in the Godhead, while there is equality, there is an order: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit.

One God in three divine Persons; the Holy Trinity - in an orderly economy in the Godhead.

The Son is not the Father; the Holy Spirit is not the Son.
There is equality, but there is order.

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So, why isn't Eve, the woman, our representative? **1 Timothy 2: 8-15**

8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; 9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, 10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. 12 And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

Once I had a rather exercised discussion with a professor at Beeson Divinity School, which recognizes women as pastors, who argued that Paul's prohibition was a cultural matter that cannot be extended to our day and culture. My response was that the context of Timothy is the Garden of Eden, not First Century Asia Minor!

God gave a **specific and direct** command to Adam. It was Adam who disobeyed and caused death to spread to all men, even to those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, i.e., a direct command of God.

It is true that Adam and Eve died in their spirit "in the day" they ate of the forbidden fruit. But physical death also entered the world. Before Adam sinned, there is no record of any animal life that died. It is pure speculation as to how long Adam lived in a state of innocence, but death had not entered the world before Adam sinned.

According to the theory of evolution, the cause of physical death cannot be explained, and there can be no such thing as spiritual death. No sin, no hell, no Savior, and no heaven - just an endless cycle of death and hopelessness.

As already mentioned, the argument Paul uses here is based on physical death. He will return to spiritual death in verses 18-19 where he uses the word "condemnation" as an additional effect of the one man's offense.

So, that is the argument for the historicity of Adam and the Doctrine of Representation.