

Creation week 2

A 2005 Gallup Poll found that 40 percent of Americans think the various competing concepts of human origins matter "a great deal."

- Over the past 2 years the historic literal interpretation of the Bible concerning the origin of man has been challenged by the rise of Theistic evolution.
- Scientific advances in biology and geology have brought into question the literal 6 day creation which has been held by the church since its inception.
- Many Believers have embraced the ideas put forth by Theistic evolutionists, one of which is that the creation of Adam is merely an allegory set forth by God to reveal man's moral responsibility.

Christianity Today (Article June 2011)

"The Adam and Eve question is destined to become a groundbreaking science-and-Scripture dispute, a 21st-century equivalent of the once disturbing proof that the Earth orbits the sun? The potential is certainly there: the emerging science could be seen to challenge not only what Genesis records about the creation of humanity but the species' unique status as bearing the image of God,"

- The stage has been set for a show down between Science and the Bible.
- The human Genome Project showing marked similarities between man and other primates, questions the actual age of humanity and the possibility that all men come from a single set of parents.
- Purveyors of Theistic Evolution caution against embarrassing ourselves like the Catholic Church did when it opposed Galileo in the 1600's.

In the 1600's Galileo Galilei came into conflict with the Catholic church when he brought forth his findings which showed that the Sun and NOT the Earth was the center of the universe.

- Galileo had the scientific research to back up his findings but the church, believing that they were upholding the literal interpretation of Scripture censured Galileo as a Heretic and forced him into house arrest.
- I have been personally cautioned by Christian friends who hold an Evolutionary view not to repeat the Catholic Church's past mistakes in my zeal for a literal interpretation of the Bible.

Dr Carl Truman – "The case for the historical Adam is the biggest doctrinal issue facing the church in this generation."

Today: There are some very prominent individuals advocating for a NON literal ADAM. Atheist turned Christian, Francis S Collins, Renown head of America's largest Biomedical research agency, appointed by President Obama as the director of the National Institutes of Health. Has written a few books promoting a scientific reason to believe in a creator. InterVarsity Press published: "The Language of Science and Faith" Collins and co-author Karl W. Giberson write that "unfortunately" the concepts of Adam and Eve as the literal first couple and the ancestors of all humans simply "do not fit the evidence."

Michael Cromartie, the evangelicalism expert at Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center, calls this new thinking regarding the human Genome project an "urgent" and "potentially

paradigm-shifting" development with "huge theological implications , How this gets settled is extremely important. "HUGE theological implications"

Today We will leave the science to the scientists and take some time to consider the Biblical evidence for an historic Adam.

- We are going to review two simple questions regarding Adam?
 1. Historically – Was he a truly historic man? How can we know?
 2. Theologically – What are the theological implications of believing in an historic Adam?

Historically – Was Adam a truly historic man? How can we know?

- A simple reading of the Book of Genesis describes the creation in the literary genre of historic narrative.
- When you set aside outside influences and simply sit down and read, verse by verse the Genesis record it is obvious that Moses is writing an historic account of the creation of all things.
- The Bible describes the creation of man as a unique and separate act from that of the beasts of the field. God made man in his own image, and then walked with man in the cool of the day.
- What does it mean that Man was made in the image of God: Suffice it to say that like God and the angelic host man possesses an eternal spirit. He is able to think abstractly, to reason, to love to live in covenant relationship.

The Bible reveals Adam as an historic person in the Genealogies!

- Only when you consider Adam to be an historic person do the Genealogies of the Bible make any sense.
- Are we to believe that all of the other people who are named in the Genealogies are historic except for Adam?
- The Bible contains 3 sets of genealogies which include Adam...

Genesis 5:1, **This is the book of the generations of Adam.** (Adam – generic Hebrew word for man) **When God created man, (Adam) he made him in the likeness of God. 2 Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.**

3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters. 5 Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

- In School History was not my strongest subject, BUT I do recognize an historic narrative when I see it.
- The life, the paternity and the death of Adam are recorded in the exact same wording as everyone else in the genealogical record.

1 Chronicles 1 (begins the recording of the physical lineage of Israel with Adam)

Luke 3:23 – 38 (Luke describes the genealogy of the Lord Jesus, and shows him to be the "Son of Man" follows his genealogy all the way back to Adam) 38 **the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.**

- If Adam was not an historic person then what do we make of these genealogies?
- If Adam was not a literal person who else is not real?

Of course the greatest proof (in my view) of Adam's historicity is the fact that the Lord Jesus referred to him as a historic person and to the marriage of Adam and Eve as the pattern for ALL men of every generation to submit to.

Matthew 19: 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

7 They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?" 8 He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so.

- IN this context BOTH Adam and Moses are referred to as literal, historical individuals.
- When Jesus was questioned by the Jewish leaders of his day with regard to the sanctity of the marital union He naturally referred to the creation and union of the first man and woman as an historic event.

Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

- The Lord God had formed every beast of the field and brought them before Adam to see what he would name them.... BUT for Adam no suitable helper was found.
- Adam found NO clear kinship with the animals, none of them was like him, none could provide the intimate companionship that Adam needed.

Genesis 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

- The woman was the ONLY suitable helper, uniquely designed for man.
- Divinely formed from his own tissue, she was the perfect counterpart for Adam.
- Because it was God's will for this union to continue as a living representation of his image the directions for the continual proliferation of the marital union were provided:

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

When the Apostle Paul addressed the crowd that had gathered in Athens he referred to Adam as the one man from who sprung every nation on all the face of the earth.

Acts 17: 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

- The Genealogies of the Bible, the Words of the Lord Jesus, confirmed by the Apostle Paul prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Adam was the historic father of every human being.

2. Theologically – What are the theological implications of believing in an historic Adam?

If the first man, Adam, is relegated to the realm of Mythology and is NOT seen as a literal historic person then all of us lose the unique nobility of our design, being created in the image of God.

- Instead we share an intimate union with the animal kingdom and are viewed as nothing more than one rung in the ever changing ladder of evolution.
- I covered this last week (notes and audio are on line)

Theologically, the Historical Adam is the agent of mankind's fall.

- HOW do we explain the sin and suffering which is experienced by all human beings apart from a literal, historic Adam?
- The Bible clearly places responsibility for sin and death on the shoulders of the first man, Adam.

Romans 5: 12 **Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—**

1 Corinthians 15: 21 **For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**

If we eliminate the Biblical doctrine of origin of SIN by fictionalizing the historic Adam the natural question arises: Where then did sin and death come from? Stop and consider that:

- Did it come from God? Is there a dark side to God that the Bible covers up?
 - Reading through the Old Testament, you see the HOLINESS of God, in his holiness sin is always separated from him. *Elaborate atonement must be made*; death is moved outside of the camp because he is the God of life.
- If not God, then there must be someone else, God's polar opposite, Satan. Does the Bible teach DUALISM?
- DUALISM, is that "Star War" mentality that good and evil have been eternally battling for preeminence. The Ying and Yang of Eastern Mysticism.
- This false teaching diminishes the Omnipotence of God.

Because SIN entered the world through a literal, historic man (Adam)

The redemption of man required that man's Redeemer must take on human flesh and become a literal, historic man.

- In the O.T. the kinsman redeemer was required to be a close blood relative. SO Jesus our Redeemer took on human flesh in order to pay the price for man's sin.
- Ancient Historians agree with the Bible that Jesus Christ was a literal, historic man.
- The First Adam brought sin upon the whole human race, the second Adam brought eternal life to all who would repent of their sin and believe on him.

1 Corinthians 15: 45 **Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.**

48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

- Paul speaks of a literal Adam, created by God from the dust of the earth when he says *WE have born the image of the man of the dust.*
- And he provides a living hope for those of us who have been born of God that ONE glorious day, we will fully reflect the image of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- The image of God sadly distorted by Adam's Fall into SIN is renewed to some extent by the new birth but one day will find its fullness when this mortality takes on immortality:

1 Corinthians 15:51 *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Christians many of the truths that we hold so dear are bound up in the literal interpretation of the book of Genesis.

- The dignity of man created in the image of God (Because God has revealed his truth to us we live with a god given love for our fellow man)
- The sanctity of human life. (from conception every person has intrinsic value)
- The sacredness of the marital union. (no individual, no government has a right to define marriage because it was ordained by God to reflect his love for his church)
- Through the work of the Second Adam death will be destroyed and we will regain our place as divine image bearers who will show forth the glory of God for all eternity.