

9/12/04

**In The Image Of God Or Monkey?**  
**Gen. 1:26-28**

William Harvey in the 17th century introduced the theory that blood flows continuously in one direction, making a complete circuit and returning to the heart. Harvey calculated that if the heart pumps out just two ounces to the heart per beat, at 72 beats per minute, in one hour it would have pumped 540 pound of blood---triple the weight of a man! (Michael Behe: Black Box:8)

Here is your Working Day.

If you're, an adult of average weight, here is what you accomplish in 24 hours:

- Your heart beats 103,689 times.
- Your blood travels 108,000,000 miles.
- You breathe 23,040 times.
- You inhale 438 cubic feet of air.
- You eat 3 1/4 pounds of food. -
- You drink 2.9 quarts of liquids.
- You lose 7/8 pound-of waste.
- You. speak 4,800 words, including some unnecessary ones.
- You move 750 muscles.
- Your nails grow .000040 inch.
- Your hair grows .01714 inch.
- You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells.
- Feel tired? **#3283**

We want to look at the creation of man, which is characterized by three elements. Gen. 1:26-28

- I. The conversation regarding the creation of man. Vs. 26
- II. The commentary regarding the creation of man. Vs. 27
- III. The celebration regarding the creation of man. Vs. 28

**I. The conversation regarding the creation of man. Vs. 26**

A. The conversation involved the proclamation to make man in association to God . Vs. 26a-c

\* "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." Vs. 26a-c

1. The council was between the Trinity. Vs. 26a-b

a. The God of creation "Elohim", once again is indicative of the Trinity.

1) The word is in the plural.

2) The word occurs thirty-five times in chapter 1:1-2:3, as we have seen.

3) The word is found, a we have noted over 2,570 times in the Old Testament, also used for heathen gods.

- b. The word that has a suffix of “im” in the Hebrew indicates a plural form.
  - 1) The name “El” indicating one.
  - 2) The name “Elah” meaning two.
  - 3) The name “Elohim” to the compound unity of three, used as a proper name for the “Creator God”, Who is Eternal.
- c. The nature of God as a Trinity is consistently taught from Genesis to Revelation.
  - 1) The God of creation reveals Himself in the opening verse of Genesis as Triune, three in one.
  - 2) The conversation of the Trinity about the creation of man affirms His trinity by the use of the plural pronoun, “Then God said, “Let Us.” Gen. 1:26a-b
- 2. The council was determined to create man in the “image and likeness” of God. Vs. 26b-c
  - a. Image and likeness is Hebrew parallelism of complements to describe something completely, as did the phrase “without form and void” in verse two of chapter one.
  - b. Both words “image” and “likeness” seem to be used pretty well synonymous yet with an important amplification,

- c. The two phrases are found only in Genesis, next time in the image and likeness of the fallen nature. Gen. 1:26, 5:3
- d. The root of the word image, “Tselem” means “to shade”, the meaning is likeness, resemblance, illusion, representative figure, idol or phantom and appears 16x's in O.T.
  - 1) The word image “Tselem” is not an exact duplicate for it is used for a shadow and dream. Ps. 39:6, 73:20
  - 2) Five refer to men created in the image of God, two to golden mice. 1Sam. 6:5, 11
  - 3) The others to idols or representations of heavenly things in the Tabernacle.
- d. The Theology Word Book O.T. states that “likeness” amplifies and specifies the meaning of “image” so as not to make man another like God but a creation and faithful representative of God on earth.
  - 1) Likeness “Demuwth” means resemblance, similitude, model, shape or pattern.
  - 2) The word appears twenty-six times as a noun form in the Old Testament and two times in Aramaic. Dan. 3:25, 7:5

- 3) The word is used of man in the image of God.
  - a) Ezekiel uses it to describe the appearances he saw.
  - b) Isaiah uses it when God asks to whom they could liken Him to?
- e. The obvious implications of the words are as follows.
  - 1) The words do not mean a physical likeness for God is Spirit. Jn. 4:24, Col. 1:15  
\* Even though God is often described in anthropomorphic terms.
  - 2) The words do mean an intellectual likeness able to understand, think and reason for He gave man dominion over the earth and the animals by naming them. Gen. 1:28, 2:19
  - 3) The words do mean a moral likeness for holiness and righteousness, for everything God made was very good, Adam and Eve were created with the ability to not sin, prior to the fall. Gen. 1:31
  - 4) The words do mean a spiritual likeness, a living soul to be in fellowship with God and to worship Him. Gen. 2:7c, 3:8

- 5) The words do mean a potential for immortality, “Day you eat, you shall surely die.” Gen. 2:16-17  
\* Literally, “dying you shall die”, you shall begin to die and finally die.
  - 6) The words do mean a potential of choice and will “Every tree you may eat... not eat.” Gen. 2:16-17
- B.** The conversation involved the position of man in view of the creation. Vs. 2d-g  
\* “Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
1. The position of man was to be over the fish of the sea. Vs. 2d
    - a. The phrase let them is an imperative command.
    - b. The pronoun is in the plural, “them”, not singular.
    - c. The word dominion “radah” means simply to dominate or have control over.
    - d. Man would dominate over the sea life.
  2. The position of man was to be over the birds of the air. Vs. 2e
    - a. The birds that flew would also be dominated by man.

- b. The dominion is of superiority.
- 3. The position of man was to be over the cattle. Vs. 2f
  - a. The land animal were to be under man also.
  - b. This despite the greater power that many displayed.
- 4. The position of man was to be over all things that creep on the earth. Vs. 2g
  - a. The insect world would be under him.
  - b. The entire creation from the first heaven to the earth would be dominated by man.
  - c. The highest order in the creation of God was man as His representative, vested with authority to subdue the earth and rule the animals.

### **Illustration**

There are several trillion hard-working cells in every person.

-A cell is so small it takes 250 of them, placed side by side, to equal the diameter of a dot. Inside the membrane of each cell, swimming around in the cytoplasm are about 200 of these wiggling, squirming particles, each one a living and active chemical laboratory, a food and energy factory. Inside of each of these cells are about 200 wiggling mitochondria. Each one of these would be about 1/50,000th the size of a globe as big as a dot! Inside of each 'mitochondrion are hundreds

of small "spheres" scattered along stalks in the mitochondrion. Each sphere is about 1/1,000th the size of the mitochondrion! So, each sphere would be about one-five-millionth (1/5,000~000) the size of a dot! Each of these tiny spheres is a chemical factory with a "production line" that produces energy and food for the cell. This is such marvel of smallness and intricate complexity that it stretches one's imagination even to think of it.  
#3282

### **Application**

1. Man is an inferior trinity, after the image and likeness of God was marred by the fall becoming inverted, being body, soul and spirit.

\* "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1Thess. 5:23

- a. The body is only the physical vehicle or instrument to manifest and communicate the actions of the person, it is not sinful in itself.
- b. The soul is the part of man's intellect, emotions and the will, which in our fallen nature and depraved, bent towards evil, being a slave to sin and sin-nature.
- c. The spirit of man is dead in trespasses and sins, making him alienated from God. Eph. 2:1-2, 12

- d. The fall caused man to live up-side down, being concerned uppermost about the body needs, what shall I eat, wear, how can I gratify myself.
- e. So the body is used to achieve all the desires of the sin-nature and the intellect and emotions rule the body, as a slave to sin.
- f. The affects of the fall that brought about sin-nature can only be overcome by the new birth.

\* “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.” Eph. 4:17-19

2. Man after the new birth is now made upright, being spirit, soul and body.

\* “But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Rom. 6:22

- a. Being able to put on the new man, created according to God, what He is in Himself, in true righteousness and holiness. Eph. 4:23-24

- 1) The word new “kainos” means new in quality, recently made, not having existed before.
- 2) Righteousness pertaining to man, right living.
- 3) Holiness pertaining to God, right thinking.

\* The latter is responsible for the former!

- b. Being able as the new man to be renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him, Christ, who created him. Col. 3:10

- 1) The phrase being renewed “anakainoumenon” means new in quality opposed to time, continuously. while new man “neos” in time, young as opposed to the old man.
- 2) The word knowledge “epignosis” means full knowledge. Col. 1:9, 10, 2:2
- 3) The outcome is a particular image “eikon” a derived likeness, used of a head stamp on a coin. Col. 1:15
- 4) The word is a diminutive form for photograph. Gen. 1:26-27, Eph. 4:23-24

3. God created man as the highest form of life on the earth. being the closest resemblance to God. created in His image and according to His likeness.

- a. For that reason man is to love the Lord His God with all his mind, heart and soul. Deut. 6:5, Matt. 22:37
- b. For that reason man is to love his neighbor as himself. Lev. 19:18, Matt. 22:39

- c. For that reason man is to be held responsible for any harm brought to another man, especially the taking of a life, being an affront to God, which is to be atoned by the person's own life. Gen. 9:5-6

*The conversation regarding the creation of man was to make him in the image and likeness of God!*

## II. The commentary regarding the creation of man. Vs. 27

- A. The declaration of the Creator "Elohim" was the execution of His determined council. Vs. 27a-b
  - \* "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him."
  - 1. God created man in His own image and likeness.
    - a. The word for man is "adam" used for mankind, he being the first man.
    - b. The word create is "bara" means out of nothing, appearing two times in this verse.
    - c. The word to make "asah" and to form "yatzar", which are also used in the creation of man, describing the molding and shaping of man. Gen. 1:26, 2:7

- 2. Man was formed of the dust of the ground. Gen. 2:7
  - a. God made man of the most common substance that he would not be so impressed by his person but aware of his own frailty and temporal ness.
  - b. God gave man a body to communicate and manifest his thoughts, deeds and desires but the body is not the person, for he is spirit.
  - c. God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life and thereby became a living soul, not of himself or through a process of evolution.
    - 1) The word for breathed "nesh-aw-maw" means a puff of air, a breath, panting synonymous with "nephesh".
    - 2) The word nephesh is often found in combination with "ruwach" wind.
- B. The declaration of the Creator "Elohim" was the clear distinction between male and female.
  - \* "Male and female He created them." Vs. 27
    - 1. The placing of "male and female" before the verb gives it great emphasis on distinction.

- a. The words for male “rkz” and female “hbqn” can not be mistaken or confused.
    - \* You have singular man “adam” created in plurality of two, male and female.
  - b. God created “bara”, again out of nothing.
  - c. God used another word when He describes the method the woman was brought forth, “He made “banah” the woman”, which means to be built. Gen. 2:22
2. The creation of man took place on the sixth day of creation with clear distinctions.
    - a. Indicating a complete distinction of sexes.
    - b. Indicating God’s design for the perpetuation of the human race.
    - c. Indicating that though there is a clear distinction between male and female, there is not distinct inferiority before their Creator.
  3. The verse is the declarative affirmation that God did in fact create man, male and female.
    - a. After His council. Vs. 26
    - b. After His determined design and purposes. Vs. 27
    - c. After the same image.

- 1) Not a physical likeness for God is Spirit. Jn. 4:24, Col. 1:15.
  - 2) An intellectual likeness able to understand, think and reason, giving man dominion over the earth and the animals by naming them. Gen. 1:28, 2:19
  - 3) A moral likeness for everything God made was very good. Gen. 1:31
  - 4) A spiritual likeness a living soul to be in fellowship with God. Gen. 2:7c, 3:8
  - 5) A potential for immortality, “Day you eat, you shall surely die.” Gen. 2:16-17
  - 6) A potential of choice and will “Every tree you may eat... not eat.” Gen. 2:16-17
4. The parallel is too obvious to miss.
    - a. The declarative statement of the creation of the heavens and the earth was given, then the state of the heavens and the earth, followed by the process. Gen. 1, 2, 3-31
    - b. The declarative statement of the creation of man and woman is given, then the state, followed by the process. Gen. 1:26, 27, 2:7, 21-22

### Illustration

Dr. Gish in his book, Evolution, The Fossils Say No, states in the opening page of the origin of man, “Although the primates are supposed to have evolved from an insectivorous ancestor, there are no series of transitional forms connecting primates to insectivorous. There is no ancestral transitional forms anywhere in the fossil record”. ( P.72)

### Application

1. God from the very beginning set as a constant principle for the creative order of man and it has never changed.

a. “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” 2Cor. 11:3

b. “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.” Eph. 5:23-24

2. The men are to be the heads and leaders in the church and women in submission to the man’s leading role for the protection and stability of the church. 1Tim. 2:8-14

a. Paul says, “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” Vs. 8

1) The men are to be the one leading in spiritual matters of the church.

2) This follows the consistent principle of creation’s order.

b. Paul also says, “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, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. Vs. 9-10

1) Woman are not prohibited from praying.

2) Woman are just reminded of God’s creative order.

c. Then Paul says, “Let a woman learn in silence with all submission.” Vs. 11

1) The context is most likely as in Corinth, of asking questions in the gathering and disrupting. 1Cor. 14:35

2) The apostle Paul made it very clear to the Corinthians that a woman could pray and prophecy. 1Cor. 11:5

d. Then Paul says that a woman is not to hold the position of teacher over men in the church, which is the position of Pastor-teacher, “And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence.” Vs. 12

1) The silence now indicates more than disrupting the gathering, a usurping and exercising dominion over the man in the church assembly.



\* The context and purpose of the epistle was for the order of the church. 1Tim. 3:15

2) The silence is evidence of the recognized submission to God's order.

e. Lastly, Paul gives the reason for his command, they are based on Scriptural reasons not cultural ones, For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression." Vs. 13-14

1) The first reason is Adam was formed first, as the head of the race.

2) The second reason is that Eve was thoroughly deceived by the Serpent and fell into transgression.

3. The blurring of the sexes in our educational system and liberal society has caused the greatest destruction to our nation by bringing confusion, instability and unnatural affection of no family love.

a. It has given rise to a 1%, if that of the homosexual community to act and have a voice as if they were the majority in society, which they are not.

b. Bi-sexual, homosexual and lesbianism are presented as healthy and normal alternate life-styles.

c. But the evidence is to the contrary, violence and suicides are greater in the homosexual community.

d. The health problems of homosexuals are due to their perverted sexual practices that violate the natural physiology of the human body, resulting in horrible physical illnesses, the foremost being AID's

"Likewise also the men, leaving the natural **use** of the **woman**, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due." Rom. 1:27

*The commentary regarding the creation of man was that God created male and female!*

### III. The celebration regarding the creation of man. Vs. 28

A. God "Elohim" blessed them both to be able to reproduce in kind. Vs. 28a

\* "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth." Vs. 28a-d

1. The declaration of blessing is God's pattern throughout the Bible as He deals with His people. Vs. 28a

a. The word blessed "barak" means to pronounced a benefit and related to the blessing to follow.

b. The blessing of God is a unifying theme in Genesis of His approval,

- bestowing benefits, especially regarding the ability to reproduce.
2. The appearances of the blessing of God in these early chapters are very significant. Vs. 28a
    - a. The first time the word “blessed” appears is when God created the sea life and in blessing them, He said, “Be fruitful and multiply”. Gen. 1:22
    - b. This is the second time the blessing of God appears and it also is in relationship to being able to reproduce for the continuation of the human race, in the image and likeness of God.
    - c. The third time God blesses is in relation to the seventh day by sanctifying it as the day of rest from His works of creation, which man was to observe. Gen. 2:3
    - d. The fourth is in the recording of the book of the genealogy of Adam, the result of their reproduction, “He created them male and female, and **blessed** them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.” Gen. 5:2
    - e. The fifth to Noah and his sons, “So God **blessed** Noah and his sons, and said to them: “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.” Gen. 9:1

- g. The sixth to bless the godly line of Shem, “And he said: “**Blessed** be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.” Gen. 9:26
- h. The seventh was the blessing of salvation through Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be **blessed.**” Gen. 12:3
  - 1) Five out of the seven entail the ability to reproduce by God’s design and God’s blessing!
  - 2) Coincidence, I don’t think so!
  - 3) The blessing of God on His creation makes it a great benefit to man, to be fruitful, have hope and live an abundant life.
3. They were commanded to propagate, to be fruitful and to multiply to fill the earth. Vs. 28b-d
  - a. The principle of God’s creation is “according to its kind”, appearing nine times in the first chapter. Gen. 1:11. 12. 21. 24. 24
    - \* No animal has ever been discovered to of gone through a transition of macro-mutation on a vertical scale, going from one species to another, like a lizard to a bird, not one

fossil has been found but many have been deceptive frauds.

- b.** The command to fill earth is simply to occupy it with the offspring of the union of man and woman in the institution of marriage. Gen. 2:24-25
- c.** The estimations by some is that the population of the earth is comparable now as it was in the days of Noah.
- d.** But if you have ever traveled on a plane, you know that there is a vast land space that is not occupied by man, we just like to crowd into cities.
- e.** If you took the state of Texas, granting that there are areas that can not be populated, but if you measured it out, you could give every person in the world with a home and there would be plenty of room.

- B.** God “Elohim” blessed them with full authority over the entire creation. Vs. 28d-g  
\* “And subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Vs. 28d-g
- 1.** God gave to Adam to authority to subdue the entire created animal kingdom.
  - a.** The word subdue “kabash” means to bring into subjection.

- b.** Adam gave names to all the animals. Gen. 2:19-20
- c.** The list is identical to verse twenty-six, with the exception of : over every living thing that moves on the earth” for “over every creeping thing”.
- 2.** God gave to Adam also the authority to have dominion over the animal kingdom.
  - a.** The word dominion “radah” is the same as in verse twenty-six.
  - b.** The word means to rule, dominate.
- 3.** Man is the only part of God’s creation that is able to articulate speech, having intelligent thinking reasoning insight.
  - a.** Man can develop language, not animals.
  - b.** Man can write languages, not animals.
  - c.** Man can reason, consider and determine conclusion, in order to make choices, not animals.
  - d.** Man can love, cry and express many other emotions, not animals.
  - e.** Man can worship God, His Creator and Savoir, not animals.

### **Illustration**

More than thirty years of experimentation on the origin of life in the fields of chemical and molecular evolution have led to a better perception of the immensity of the problem of the origin of life on earth rather than to its solution. At present

all discussions on principal theories and experiments in the field either end in stalemate or in confession of ignorance.” (Michael J. Behe: Darwin’s Black Box:168)

### Application

1. The ability to conceive is the gift of God and is the greatest evidence of God’s blessing on mankind.

\* “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The **fruit** of the **womb** is a reward.  
Ps. 127:3

- a. Due to the fall, man has corrupted the blessing of sex and used it for his own gratification, without any concern for the destruction of the other person, resulting in many unwanted pregnancies and births.
- b. This now has become a burden and inconvenience to their lives so they simply abort the child.
- c. Other, continuing in their permissive life-style, provide a horrible home and example for those children born out of wedlock.
- d. At other times individuals can not have children due to some physical problem and it is a heart-ache to them, because the most natural desire in marriage is to have a child comprised of both of you as evidence of your love and obedience to propagate.
- e. If you are a Christian, it does not mean necessarily that God’s blessing is not on

you, you need to call the elders of the church to anoint you with oil and ask God to be gracious to you. Ja. 5: 13-15

2. God in entrusting to Adam complete control of the entire creation, gave him certain mandates.
  - a. The ecological mandate, to care for the environment.
    - 1) Not to abuse it or destroy it.
    - 2) But to care for it and use it as needed.
    - 3) We have the tree huggers that object to the cutting down of any forest.
  - b. The animal mandate, to utilize the animals for his needs and benefits but never to abuse or be cruel to animals, they are part of God’s creation for the benefit of man.
    - 1) Too many people today have confuse the value between man and animals.
    - 2) We have the animals lovers, that do anything to secure the safety of an animal, object to the killing of any animal for food, yet they don’t object to the killing a baby through abortion!
    - 3) We have killed and continue to kill more babies every day since Roe versus Wae in 1973, than were killed by our enemies on 9-11 of 2001. 40 million from 1973-2004, 1,250,000 a year, 3,424 a day.
 

\* Think about it, they were adults for the most part, killed by an acts of cowardly terrorist, yet American women kill their own innocent babies,

under the pretext of having a right to their bodies as women!

- c. The evangelical mandate, to proclaim the revelation of God as Creator of heaven and earth.
- 1) Everything in heaven.
  - 2) Everything on earth.
  - 3) Every animal.
  - 4) Every man, woman and child.
- \* “What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, All sheep and oxen- Even the beasts of the field, The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!” Ps. 8:4-9
- \* It has been estimated that the chemical contents, the inorganic compounds, of a 150 pound man is worth:
- In the 1930’s .....89 cents.
  - In the 1960’s .....\$ 3.50
  - In 1970’s.....\$ 5.60 **#3257**
  - If we are fortunate we might be up to \$45-50!

*The celebration regarding the creation of man was by endowing him with the ability to procreate and have full authority and power over the entire creation!*

### Conclusion

The creation of man is characterized by:

- I. The conversation regarding the creation of man was to make him in the image and likeness of God!
- II. The commentary regarding the creation of man was that God created male and female!
- III. The celebration regarding the creation of man was by endowing him with the ability to procreate and have full authority and power over the entire creation!