

Genesis In The Beginning Part 3

The Origin of Species

Genesis 2:4-17

Memory Verses: Genesis 2:7

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

So far in this series we have looked deeply at what creation tells us about who God is. He is the author and authority of all life. He is the all powerful creator and sustainer of all things. And He is the intricate designer who has shown us that the details matter.

Last week we took this one step further as we explored the process of God's creation and how it either defies current theories or coalesces with them. We saw how some who hold strongly to Biblical inerrancy could also find space, and perhaps should find space, for a time period between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. But we also saw how some current theories such as the day-age theory doesn't really hold up to biblical scrutiny... nor does it need to unless you are trying to find room for evolution.

Which brings us to where we are today. How exactly did God create mankind? According to current polling, somewhere around 75% of all humans on earth believe in the theory of evolution as posited by Charles Darwin in his famous book, "On the Origin of Species." The theory simply stated is thus... "Over time a species will undergo a descent with modification as to survive its habitat. Thus every species has a common origin, and through the process of natural selection we have mutated to adapt." Of course, Darwin's theory was a far cry from where the evolution theory now sits and many of his original questions have yet to be answered.

Take for example these quotes from Darwin before he passed away. He said... "the impossibility of conceiving that this grand and wondrous universe, with our conscious selves, arose through chance, seems to me the chief argument for the existence of God." He even admitted that to believe in his theory took just as much faith as believing in God. He also noted that, "such simple instincts as bees making a beehive could be sufficient to overthrow my whole theory." In the end he himself had to admit that, "not one change of species into another is on record. We cannot prove that a single species has been changed." He asked, "Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms?" I also find it interesting that before he died he said this, "When thus reflecting I feel compelled to look to a First Cause having an intelligent mind in some degree analogous to that of man; and I deserve

to be called a Theist." In the end Darwin could not escape the idea of a God who caused all that exists. According to the founder of evolution, everything began with God.

Today scientists have ignored the fact that Darwin, later in life, leaned more towards intelligent design than he did atheistic macro evolution. Why? Why have they taken a few interesting, yet unfounded, ideas, formed from a naturalist while observing finches, and turned them into the primary faith of secular humanism? Simple. They don't want to believe in God! **Romans 1:18-23** makes this clear. They can see that there is a God, just as Darwin did, but they choose to ignore him. Evolution simply gives them the excuse they need to become futile in their thinking and have their foolish hearts darkened.

This morning I want us to look at the Bible's description of the origin of mankind and see what we can discern about why God has made us unique and set apart from the other species. In the end it will be clear to us that... **Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.** Read with me starting in **Genesis 2:4-17**.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is that... **Mankind Was Created With A God-Enhanced Body.** Look again at **verse 7** where it says that the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. Of course in all aspects, as we saw in **Genesis 1:26-27**, man was created in the image of God. We must be careful here though. Most theologians would not say that this means our bodies are a reflection of the true form of God. God in essence is spiritual in form, meaning he has no true concrete form. When Jesus became man, being fully God and fully man, he did look like us, but in the beginning, most would agree that he did not. Still, we can discern that mankind was indeed created with a special form by God. In order for mankind to dominate and subdue the animals and the earth as their caretaker, humans were created significantly more enhanced than animals. In this aspect you could say our bodies are made in his image. Like God, we are superior to the rest of creation.

And according to the Genesis account, God created our enhanced bodies simply from the dust of the Earth. Incredible. You may have heard this joke, "a little boy asks his mother, doesn't the bible say that God made man from dust and to dust he will return? And the mother answers yes of course. The little boy responds, well mom, I looked under my bed and theres someone either going or coming soon." Theistic Evolutionists, those who want to claim evolution and the biblical account can be coalesced, want us to believe this if figurative language. Rather than giving us a thousand page volume on how micro organisms slowly evolved into men over billions of years, the Bible gives us a generic take... God took man from the dust. They claim, what's the big deal? If he created micro organisms from in-

organics such as star dust, and they turned into men, then it is a true statement from a certain point of view. Here's one of my biggest problems with this... if evolution is the true way God brought about the creation of mankind, then those billions of years and those millions of evolutionistic mutations are worthy of some commentary of which the entire Bible is silent on. Nothing. In the end, we don't need evolution to explain the beginning of mankind. **If our God is big enough to speak life from non-life why would he do it with a micro-organism instead of a fully formed man?** Christians don't need evolution and science still has yet to prove it's un-deniability. The bottom line is that evolution is still a theory... a non-observable theory at that. **Karl Popper notes that, "Evolution is not a fact. Evolution doesn't even qualify as a theory or as a hypothesis. It is a metaphysical research program, and it is not really testable science. And so what are Evolutionists left with... well as Arthur Keith states... "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it only because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable."** Again... **God as the creator of mankind is not an option for atheistic evolutionists**, because if there is a creator then he must be Lord.

We have no problem with that and so we believe God created mankind, as stated in the Genesis account. We have no real reason to discount it. And because God created mankind, and because he created it in his image to rule over the animals and the earth... we are special! According to livescience.com here are some things that make the human body special in comparison to the rest of creation.

Speech. We have a specially shaped larynx and vocal tract which allow for speech. Our brains, being the biggest in relation to body of all species, allows for us to be able to communicate thoughts to sounds.

Writing. In close relation to speech, we can also communicate our thoughts with written language. Our specially formed hands also allow for this special skill.

Tools. We can create weapons, tools, clothing, detailed shelter, programs, etc.... While some animals have some creative elements... most of what they do is completely pragmatic. We on the other hand do substantively more things to enhance our quality of life and give us entertainment. Humanity is always progressing through technology while animals do not. Again our brains are superior.

Blushing. We are the only species that can blush. Charles Darwin called this "the most peculiar and the most human of all expressions." It remains uncertain why people blush, involuntarily revealing our innermost emotions. Scientists still do not know how this phenomenon occurs.

Humans have been created with a completely unique, supremely designed, and particularly superior body... it must have been God. And doesn't it make sense that humans can speak, write, create, and even

relate uniquely? I wonder if these supreme qualities could be used for the Glory of God somehow? **Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.**

Secondly, we must see that **Mankind Was Created With A God-Dependent Spirit.** Look again at **Genesis 2:7.** The account says that God, then, breathed into man's inactive, yet highly superior body, the breath of life. The word for breath and spirit are the same in both Hebrew and Greek.. This is more than simply a picture of God breathing into man's nostrils and resuscitating him from an unconscious state. No, this is the impartation of a spirit into a man. From the dust the body was formed, and from the very breath of God did the spirit give life to that body. And as we know from scripture, the spirit is our essential nature. It is what distinguishes man from the animal creation. The brain is body. It is made from flesh. But the spirit is what gives life to the brain by which the brain becomes the spirit in man. **No other creature in all of creation can think like we do, function like we do, and reflect the image of our creator like we do.**

Again, just as with our enhanced bodies, it is our spirit that can be explained by no other means than God. Only God could give it to us, and only by God can it be sustained. The kicker here is morality! The spirit is where we get our sense of right and wrong, good and bad. For us to be evolved from a lesser form, we must have also evolved morality. Animals simply do what they must do to survive. But if we are merely animals and it's all simply survival of the fittest then how do you explain our motivations? People have many other motivations apart from survival. What social utility is loving and caring for people we don't know and can't repay us? What part of loving our enemies fits with self survival instincts? What social utility is there in any form of religion? Why would we have the capacity to hope when hoping in and of itself does not do anything productive for us physically? What about prayer? Why does half the Earth's population pray? Did we evolve to pray? Why would our molecules mutate to give us this ability? The only answer is that we have been given something else from somewhere else. That something else is a spirit. That somewhere else is God. **We have purpose and reason apart from survival and all of that points to a creator who breathed his life into us.** The only place morality, love, hope, and faith could come from is God. Case closed! So we have body and we have spirit. We have physical and we have spiritual. But notice something even greater. When these two elements combine we get the fullness of what makes mankind human. When spirit meets body we get a soul! **Think of it like the joining of electricity with a light bulb.** The light bulb itself is simply glass and metal. But when this extraordinary power called electricity goes through it... voila, we get a third element... Light! The same is for us. When the body is empowered by the spirit, we become a soul! Thus, like a triune God, who is father, son, and spirit, we too are a

triumphant man, with body, spirit, and soul. So you must understand this. In fallen man, the spirit that is given to man is dead. We all inherit sin because the spirit we all inherit, from God, is essentially dead in sin. Look at **Ephesians 2:1**. Our spirit does not function as it should. Therefore our souls, which reflect the activities of the spirit, reflect a dead and lifeless nature. As Ray Stedman states, "This is what creates the intense, worldwide restlessness of our race, the inability to be satisfied, the unending search for answers that are never found. It is all an expression of a wasted spirit, lying ruined within us because of the fall of man. The only thing that can fix it is the spirit of God! **Our spirit is completely dependent upon a continual renewing from God's spirit!**"

In the beginning, Adam came perfect from the hand of God, he was a lamp, he was lit, and he was alive because he was in perfect unity with God. Our spirit's remain alive and our souls reflect that life, only when we are plugged into the power of God. We are spiritual creatures and we need his spirit more than anything else on this earth. Do you feel your spirit yearning for God's spirit? Do you long to be with him, near him, connected to him? I know deep down, you have a god shaped spirit which needs to be fed by him. Stop denying what your spirit needs and be satisfied with his streams of living water. **Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.**

Application

The application is simple. You were created by God to be superior than the rest of his creation. But this power is not for you. It is for him! Your body is for him. Your voice is to tell of his goodness and his glory. Your feet and arms are to care for others with his love and to point them to his salvation. Your body is meant to work for the Lord. Look in **verse 15** again. The Lord put man in the garden to work it and keep it. The earth is ours to work it for the Lord and to keep it for the Lord. **Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.** Your spirit is the Lord's and must be close to his spirit. Everyday you should feel a longing for him, a desire for more of him. It should draw you to prayer, to the word, and to worship! And as it sustains you it will draw others to him! They will see you and your good works and desire to worship your God. Why? Because **Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.**

Conclusion

Lastly, your soul is not meant for destruction and it never was. Your soul is meant for glory. When you see your body is for God and you empower your dead spirit with the spirit of God... your soul will be saved. There is a process by which electricity is made. There was a process by which God made a way to bring life back to the spirit of mankind. His

only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, had to die for your sins. The power of salvation is found only in Jesus. Through his death and resurrection, God's son has made a way to connect our spirit with God's spirit again for all eternity. This is only through faith in Christ as Lord. **John 14:6. Mankind was created in the image of God, uniquely to declare the glory of God.** If your spirit is dead and your soul is destined for hell, today is the day of salvation! Today is the day you recognize that you were created for something greater! Your body, and your spirit were made to glorify God!