# Doctrines 008 - The Doctrine of Man

*All Scriptures are from the English Standard Version unless otherwise indicated.*

## Introduction

This treatise provides an overview of the doctrine of anthropology. This includes the biblical teaching about the origin and nature of mankind, the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve, and the curses that came on humanity because of their sin.

## The Origin of Man

Humanity is not the product of billions of years of evolution. Despite very loud claims that evolution is a scientific fact, there is no definitive proof that humans evolved from earlier, primitive life forms. The field of evolutionary biology relies on assumptions and biased interpretations that are often inconsistent and unproven.

For many years, evolutionists claimed that human and chimpanzee DNA is 98% identical, but these early studies only included overlapping gene sequences, which made the results appear larger than they really are. More recent studies comparing all the DNA concluded that the actual similarity is a mere 80%. This is entirely reasonable since humans and apes have a similar body plan and metabolism. The large difference in non-coding DNA is solid evidence against common descent.

The field of hominid paleontology is full of wild exaggerations, heated controversies, and outright fraud. Despite two centuries of excavation, researchers have failed to produce clear and undisputed proof that humans descended from earlier ape-like creatures called australopithecines.

The alleged discovery of Piltdown man and Nebraska man clearly showed that hominid paleontologists are highly biased and exceedingly fallible. Piltdown man turned out to be a forgery based on a modern human skull and an orangutan jaw, yet scientists were completely fooled for about 50 years. Nebraska man was based on the discovery of a single tooth that was later identified as an extinct pig.

Evolutionists claim that Homo habilis and Homo erectus were the direct ancestors of modern humans, but there are numerous problems with this hypothesis:

First, hominid fossils are exceedingly rare. Only a very small number of animal bones ever become fossils, and most of them are severely damaged or destroyed by erosion or other geological processes. So far, paleontologists have found the remains of a couple of hundred individuals, which is very little evidence to establish the existence or evolution of a distinct, ancient species.

Second, fossil skeletons are often incomplete. Usually, paleontologists only find part of a jaw, a few teeth, a leg bone, or pieces of a skull, which makes positive identification highly improbable.

Every time an archaeologist announces a new hominid discovery, his colleagues spend decades disputing the identification and significance of his find until it is eventually rejected and discarded.

Third, fossil remains are often scattered over a large area. This raises the possibility that archaeologists have combined the remains of several species to create a partial skeleton that fits their pre-conceived ideas and gets them additional research grants.

Fourth, dating methods often produce inconsistent results. This undermines confidence in these methods and allows researchers to pick the date they prefer based on their pro-evolution assumptions, which leads to circular reasoning and self-deception.

Fifth, researchers may have mis-identified the fossils. Modern humans come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, so some of the fossils identified as *Homo habilis* or *Homo erectus* could be examples of archaic *Homo sapiens*. The alleged discovery of *Homo floresiensis* is an example of this problem.

Sixth, fossils cannot prove ancestry. Fossils are made of stone that has replaced any organic matter; they don't contain any intact genes or DNA sequences, and there is no way to prove that one species evolved into another species without genetic evidence to support that claim. The size and shape of various bones and teeth can't produce proof that one species is the ancestor of another species.

The Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon were fully human, so they provide no evidence for human evolution. If you dressed them in modern clothing, and gave them a shave and a haircut, no one would notice them walking down the street today.

According to the theory of evolution, humanity is the product of random chance and natural selection, but the book of Genesis reveals that God created humanity by His supernatural power for a specific, divine purpose. This means that each person has inherent dignity and worth.

Many scholars dismiss the book of Genesis as a collection of myths and legends because they reject the existence of God and the possibility of miracles, but their skepticism is unwarranted. Over the past two centuries, archaeological discoveries have repeatedly affirmed the historical reliability of Genesis, from the existence of ancient cities like Ur, Nineveh, and Babylon to the intricate details about the cultural practices of early civilizations.

The authors of the Bible consistently affirmed the historical accuracy of Genesis. For example, in Matthew 19:4-5, Jesus said, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?" By quoting Genesis 1:27 and 2:24, Jesus affirmed the authority and historicity of the Torah.

The apostle Paul also cited Genesis to explain the origin of mankind and sin. In 2 Corinthians 11:3, he wrote, "But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ." Likewise, in 1 Timothy 2:13-14, he wrote, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor." These passages underscore Paul's belief in the literal

truth of Genesis.

Peter also upheld the Genesis account of the Creation and the Flood as historical events. In 2 Peter 3:5-6, he wrote, "For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished."

The resurrection of Jesus and the fulfillment of numerous biblical prophecies validate the inspiration and inerrancy of the books of the Bible, including Genesis. For example, Isaiah 53 foretells the suffering and sacrificial death of Jesus, and Psalm 16:10 predicted His resurrection: "For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption." The Torah predicted that Israel would become a great nation, that they would disobey God's covenant, that they would go into exile, and that God would bring them back and restore their nation. The fulfillment of these prophecies demonstrates God's sovereignty and faithfulness, confirming the truthfulness of Scripture.

The origin of humanity is not an unsolved mystery or the result of evolutionary processes. The Bible provides a clear account of human origins, based on the creative power and purpose of God. Believers can confidently say that Genesis is not a myth but the historical foundation for understanding who we are and why we exist. This truth has profound implications for our identity, value, and purpose, which is based on our Creator's divine plan.

## The Nature of Man

The Bible declares that God created humanity in His image and likeness. Genesis 1:26-27 states, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Unlike the animals, God created Adam and Eve in His image. This foundational truth sets humanity apart from all other forms of life.

God is an infinite spirit; He does not have a physical body that looks like a man; God made man in His image by giving humanity unique mental, moral, and spiritual capabilities. Unlike the animals, humans are self-aware and possess superior intellect, reason, and free will. Colossians 3:10 mentions this mental and moral aspect by describing Christians as being “renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.” Our rational capacities enable us to understand God’s truth and act in ways that reflect His character.

God also made man in His image by giving humanity authority over the earth and the animals. God rules over the entire universe including the angels in heaven. He gave humanity a small part of His kingdom and a small measure of His authority as an image or likeness of His universal rulership.

God also expected humanity to take care of the earth and use its resources in a responsible fashion just as He manages and governs His kingdom. Genesis 2:15 expands on this, saying, “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

Essentially, God was using the earth as a training camp to prepare humanity for a much greater role in His divine kingdom.

Like God, humans have the capacity to form complex social relationships. In Genesis 2:18, God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” This highlights the relational nature of humanity; God endowed humanity with the capacity for fellowship with Him and with one another.

God also established marriage and family life to train humanity for rulership in His kingdom. In Genesis 2:24, Moses wrote, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 5:3 also says, “When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.”

The marriage relationship is a physical analogy of the intimate fellowship that exists within the Trinity. Just as God created humanity in His image, He also gave humans the ability to reproduce in their own image, so we can develop the love and patience that our heavenly Father expresses toward us.

Like God, humans are uniquely endowed with a conscience and a sense of morality, which is essential for fellowship with a holy and righteous Creator. Romans 2:15 says, “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.” Likewise, Ephesians 4:24 calls on believers to “put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” These verses show that moral and ethical behavior are key aspects of being made in God’s image.

The Bible describes human beings as a union of matter and spirit. Genesis 2:7 says, “Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” Likewise, Job 33:4 says, “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” This act of divine creation unites the material body with the immaterial breath of life, producing a living soul.

The material aspect of man includes bones, ligaments, and tissues; the spiritual aspect is the source of life, intellect, emotions, free will, and conscience. Deuteronomy 34:9 says, “And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him.” Job 32:8 also says, “But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.” Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 2:11, Paul wrote, “For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him?” The spiritual aspect reflects God’s image and distinguishes humanity from other creatures.

New souls come into existence through procreation, when a living cell from each parent combines to form a new, unique soul. Thus, the spirit of life that God breathed into Adam has been passed down to all humanity. In Acts 17:26, Paul said, “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.” Genesis 3:20 also says, “The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” We are all children of Adam, who received the breath of life directly from God.

The Bible defines death as the separation of body and spirit. Psalm 104:29-30 says, “When you

hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground." James 2:26 also says, "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead."

The Bible does not teach that man has an immortal soul; man is a living soul, subject to death and decay. In Ezekiel 18:4, God declared, "Behold, all souls are mine; the soul who sins shall die." Likewise, Romans 2:6-7 warns us about God's judgment, saying, "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life." Eternal life is a gift from God; it is not an innate human trait.

The belief in an immortal soul originated in ancient Greek philosophy, not Scripture. Socrates and Plato believed that the soul is an immortal, incorporeal essence that resides in the body and has a conscious existence after death. Their ideas influenced many early Christian teachers, but the Bible consistently portrays immortality as a gift that God bestows on the saints at the resurrection. For example, in 1 Corinthians 15:53-54, Paul said, "For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 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.'"

The Bible alone provides the truth about the nature of mankind. God created humanity in His image, so we possess unique mental and moral qualities that enable us to have a relationship with our Creator and with each other. Every living soul is a union of physical matter and immaterial spirit, which highlights the sacredness of life. When we understand our origin and nature, according to Scripture, we gain a deeper understanding of our identity, purpose, and dependence on God for life and immortality.

## The Fall of Mankind

Adam originally lived in a state of innocence and moral purity, but his character was not yet fixed. Ecclesiastes 7:29 says, "See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes." While Adam was initially free from sin, God had given Adam the capacity to choose between good or evil, a choice that would determine the spiritual destiny of mankind.

God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to test their character. Genesis 2:8-9 says, "And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Genesis 2:15-17 adds, "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, 'You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"

The two trees were symbolic of two opposite lifestyles. The tree of life represented submission

to God, righteousness, and the promise of eternal life in God's kingdom. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented rebellion against God, a life of sin, and the promise of death.

The tree of life also appears to represent the transforming power of God's Holy Spirit. In Revelation 22:1-2, John described the New Jerusalem, saying, "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations." In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul wrote, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." In Romans 8:11, Paul also wrote, "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

The Holy Spirit transforms human nature and enables Christians to obey God's Law. The Holy Spirit is also responsible for raising Christians from the dead with immortal, spiritual bodies, so there appears to be a connection between the tree of life and the work of the Holy Spirit.

God allowed Adam to eat from every tree of the garden, including the tree of life. The only tree that was off limits was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; that tree represented Satan's way of life: pride and selfishness, rebellion and conflict, sin and death.

The fact that both trees were in the middle of the garden meant that they were conspicuous. Every day, Adam would see these two trees and consider whether he would choose submission to God or rebellion, eternal life or death.

Ultimately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and suffered the consequences. Genesis 3:1-6 says that a serpent deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit; she then gave some of the fruit to Adam who willingly followed her into sin.

The serpent in this account is a symbolic reference to Satan. Revelation 12:9 says, "And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him." In John 8:44, Jesus told His critics, "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

The disobedience of Adam and Eve had far-reaching consequences, impacting every aspect of creation and human existence. After they ate the forbidden fruit, they became subject to the power and influence of Satan and the demons. They felt shame and guilt, so they attempted to cover themselves with fig leaves and hide from their Creator.

God confronted them and pronounced a series of curses on them as their punishment:

First, God cursed Eve with increased pain in childbirth and marital conflict. Genesis 3:16 says, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire

shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." Throughout history, women have generally given birth to many children only to see a few survive to adulthood. They have also struggled with sinful and self-centered husbands who added additional pain and misery to their lives.

Second, God cursed the ground, making Adam's labor difficult and frustrating. In Genesis 3:17-19, God said, "Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you." Life in the Garden of Eden had been easy and carefree, now work would be much harder and painful. The soil would be poor and harvests would be meager; hunger and famine would stalk humanity throughout the ages.

Third, God imposed the death penalty on them. In Genesis 3:19, God said, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Romans 6:23 says: "the wages of sin is death" and Hebrews 9:27 also adds, "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment."

Fourth, God banished Adam and Eve from His presence. Genesis 3:22-24 says, "Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever-' therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life."

Sin creates a barrier between God and humanity. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." Adam and Eve had enjoyed unlimited fellowship with God, but they broke that relationship because God is holy and cannot abide the presence of sin.

Fifth, humanity has a sinful nature. If Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree of life, they would have received the transforming power of the Holy Spirit; because of their sin, humanity lost access to the Holy Spirit and is now under the constant influence of Satan and natural human selfishness. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" Romans 8:7 also adds, "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot." In Romans 5:12, Paul concludes, "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."

Sixth, humanity is destined for hell fire. Because of Adam's sin, everyone is doomed to die in sin and face God's wrath on Judgment Day. Revelation 20:11-15 says:

> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one

> of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Despite the devastating consequences of the Fall, God had a plan to rescue mankind. In Genesis 3:14-15, the LORD said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." Many theologians believe that this is the first reference to the coming of the Messiah who would defeat the Devil by dying for the sins of mankind.

Although sinners deserve condemnation and judgment, God offers forgiveness, restoration, and eternal life through Jesus Christ. In Romans 6:23, Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus, the second Adam, succeeded where the first Adam failed. Through His perfect obedience and sacrificial death, He made a way for humanity to be reconciled to God. Those who repent and place their faith in Christ receive forgiveness of sins and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, who empowers them to produce the fruit of the Spirit in this life and transforms their mortal bodies into immortal, spiritual bodies at the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Conclusion

The Fall of Man is a foundational event that explains the brokenness of our world and humanity's need for salvation. Adam and Eve's disobedience brought sin, death, and separation from God, but through Christ, God provides redemption and restoration. As believers, we can rejoice in the hope of eternal life and the promise that one day, God will fully restore His creation like it was in the Garden of Eden when He establishes His kingdom over all the earth.

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