

CHAPTER 1

Where Did I Come From And Why Am I Here?

How did I get here and what am I doing here? These are two of life's most basic questions. Only the Bible can solve the mysteries of **MAN'S ORIGIN** (where did I come from?) and **MAN'S PURPOSE** (why am I here?).

Man's Origin

To learn about man's origin, we must turn to the first book of the Bible, Genesis, which is also known as the Book of Beginnings. In Genesis 1:27, what word is repeated three times?

_____ Therefore the Bible clearly teaches that (circle the correct answer):

- Adam and Eve *evolved* from ape-like creatures.
- Adam and Eve were *created* by an all-powerful Creator-God.
- Adam and Eve were *delivered* to earth by a spaceship from another planet.
- Adam and Eve *never existed* as real people on this earth. We read a story about them in the book of Genesis, but that story is not really true.

Do your "roots" go back to Adam? Are you a descendant of Adam? _____ Every member of the human race can trace his ancestry or family tree all the way back to Adam. Do your "roots" go all the way back to Noah also? Are you a descendant of Noah? _____ Adam came from God and you came from Adam!

There are three methods that God uses to bring a person into the world. Two of these are **UNIQUE** methods. They happened *once* and will never happen again. One of these is a **COMMON** method--this is the way YOU came into the world! Here are God's three methods:

1) Creation (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 2:21-22)

(Unique)

Adam and Eve (having no father and having no mother)

Consider the following verses (Genesis 2:7, 2:21-23; 1 Cor. 11:12; 1 Tim. 2:13) and circle the statements that are true:

a. Adam came from dust	e. Adam was formed first
b. Eve came from dust	f. Eve was formed first
c. Adam came from Eve	g. Adam was formed second
d. Eve came from Adam	h. You came from Adam and Eve

2) Procreation (Genesis 5:3-32)

(Common)

You and Me (having a father and a mother)

Procreation is God bringing children into the world through parents by natural birth. This is how you came into the world. God did not create you *directly* like He created Adam and Eve. He brought you into the world through the natural birth process. Everyone that you know in your family, in your school, in your neighborhood and in your city came into the world in this way.

3) Incarnation (Luke 1:31-37)

(Unique)

The Lord Jesus Christ (A MOTHER but NO HUMAN FATHER)

The **Incarnation** is God bringing His Son into the world through the virgin Mary by supernatural birth. This is how our Saviour came into the world. The word **incarnation** means "in flesh." When we speak of the incarnation we mean that **God came in the flesh**. God took upon Himself our human flesh and became a man (see John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16).

Who is the Creator (John 1:1,3,14; Colossians 1:13-16)?

_____ Is the One who created man the same One who died to save man? _____ The One whose spoken Word brought about the CREATION of Adam and Eve was the same One who humbled Himself and became a man by INCARNATION. How the angels must have wondered in amazement as they watched the Creator stoop so low!

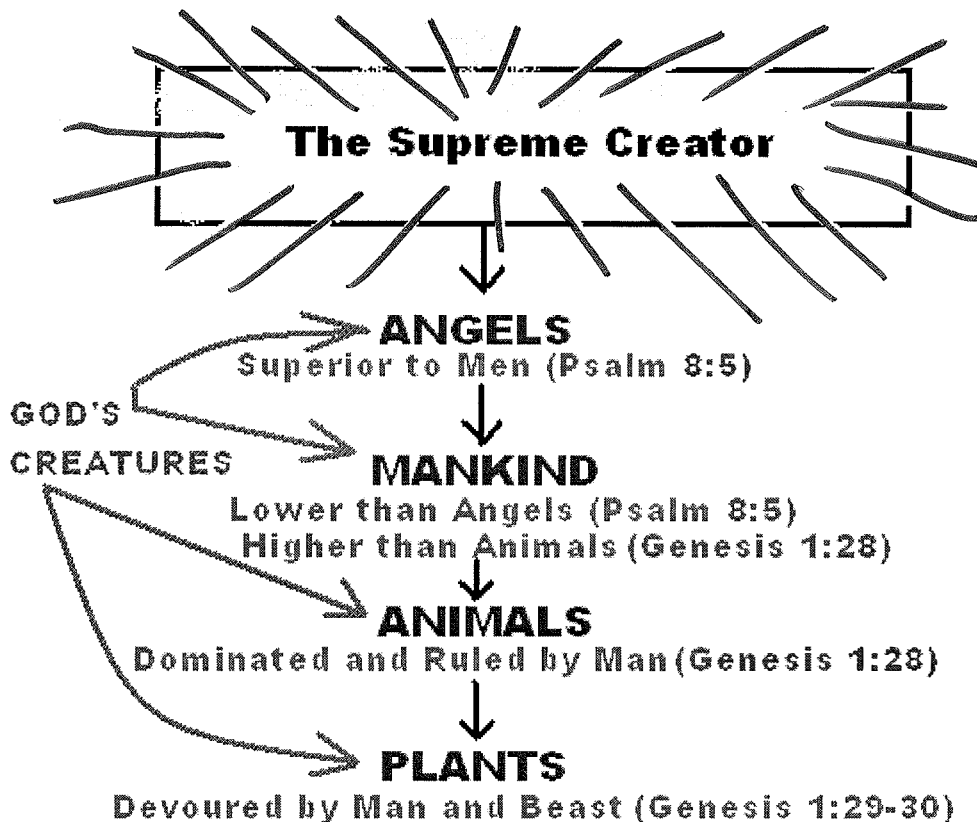
Lower Than Angels

There is another group of beings or creatures who are superior to man. In Psalm 8:5 the Bible teaches that God made man a little _____ than the _____. Angels are more intelligent and more powerful than men. Also they know about God's wisdom, glory and power better than men do. Angels were also created before man was. **Note:** The Lord Jesus Christ is far superior to angels (Ephesians 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:4-14) and the believer IN CHRIST shares in His exalted position and in His superiority (Ephesians 1:20-21 and Ephesians 2:6).

Higher Than Animals

The Bible makes a clear distinction between the creation of animals and the creation of man. The false theory of evolution teaches that man is no different from an animal. Evolution teaches that man is the "highest evolved animal." What verses in Genesis chapter 1 speak of the creation of animals? _____ What verses in Genesis chapter 1 speak of the creation of man? _____ In Genesis 1:28 (see also Psalm 8:6-8) God told man to S_____ (conquer) the earth and to have D_____ over all the animals (to *rule* over them). Who really should be called the **King of the Beasts**, the lion or man? _____ Did the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, exercise dominion over the animal kingdom (Mark 1:13)? _____

Thus, the order of creation can be seen from the following diagram:



Sexual Creatures

How did God create or make man (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4)?

_____ God did not make all persons the same. He made a DIFFERENCE between men and women, boys and girls. Usually when a baby is born, the first comment made is this: "IT'S A BOY!" or "IT'S A GIRL!" *not* "IT'S AN IT!" Every person born into this world is either male or female.

In Deuteronomy 22:5 we learn a very important principle: **Men and boys should look, dress and act like men and boys. Women and girls should look, dress and act like women and girls.** God *hates* when this principle is violated--it's an A _____ to Him (Deuteronomy 22:5). This means it makes God nauseous and sick, as it were, because it is so contrary to what God originally intended.

Today sinful people are violating God's principle that the sexes must be DISTINGUISHED and HONORED. Today there is a terrible trend towards **UNISEX** (trying to be "ONE SEX"). Men and women get the same kind of haircuts, wear similar clothing and seek to eliminate the DIFFERENCES which God intended for man and woman. God made us male and female and He demands that these differences be maintained. In some cases people even try to CHANGE THEIR SEX by surgery. Doctors can do amazing things through surgery, to make a man look like a woman and to make a woman look like man. Sex-change operations from male to female (or from female to male) may fool many people, but the Lord is not fooled and the Lord knows what sex the person really is because HE MADE HIM (OR HER) THAT WAY! God has made us in a wonderful way and God wants us to enjoy being what we are. When God made you a male or a female, DO YOU THINK HE MADE A MISTAKE?

Man' s Purpose

Why are you here? Why did you get out of bed this morning? What is the purpose of your life? Why did God create you? Is life really worth living?

Evolutionists believe that man is an "accident of nature." They believe that mankind is very **lucky** to even exist! Man is what he is because of certain freakish "*mutations*" (genetic accidents and mistakes in our animal ancestors) and by an amazing set of lucky (or unlucky) circumstances we came to be what we are. To the true evolutionists there is no real purpose or reason behind man's existence at all. They have no place in their theory for an all-wise, loving, purposeful Creator.

The Bible teaches the opposite of evolution. There is a very important reason for your existence. You are not a mistake or an accident! You are a person who has been created.... (please MATCH)

1) _____	FOR HIM (for the Lord Jesus Christ)	A. Revelation 4:11
2) _____	FOR HIS GLORY (to make known who God is)	B. Colossians 1:16
3) _____	FOR HIS PLEASURE (it was God's will and delight that He should create you)	C. Isaiah 43:7

Man Was Made to Reflect God

Genesis 1:26-27 says this: "And God said, Let Us make man in Our _____, after our _____....So God created man in His own _____, in the _____ of God created He him" (see also Genesis 9:6; James 3:9).

Adam was created in the *image* and *likeness* of God! What is an image?

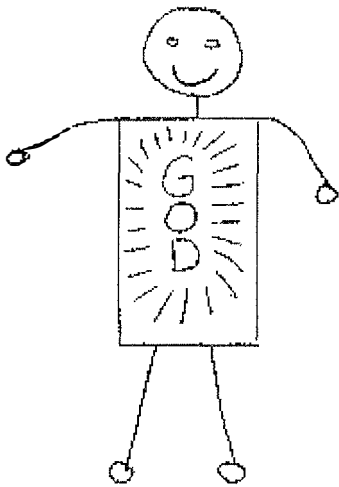
We know that an image can be found on most *coins*. Read Matthew 22:18-21. Whose IMAGE was on this Roman coin? _____ When they looked at this coin, whose face did they see? _____

Whose image is found on our penny? on our nickel? on our dime? When you look at a quarter, who do you see? Whose IMAGE is on a dollar bill? Whose IMAGE is on a five-dollar bill?

When you look into a mirror in the morning, whose IMAGE do you see? _____ Does the mirror reflect you? _____ Your IMAGE is in that mirror! According to Genesis 1:26-27, God's IMAGE was in man!

Man was created to reflect God and to mirror God! If you were to look at Adam (before he sinned), who would you see? _____

ADAM
Before he sinned

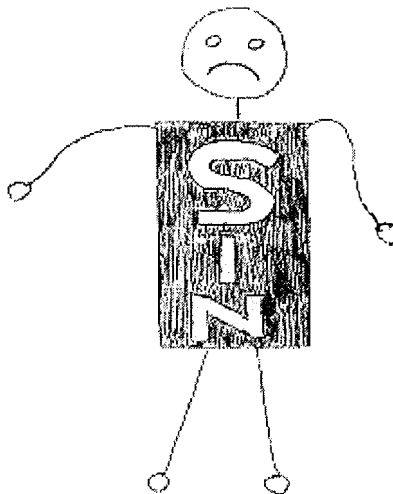


Adam was given the opportunity to **KNOW** and to **SHOW** . . .

- God's truth
- God's goodness
- God's sinlessness
- God's righteousness
- God's holiness
- God's love
- God's faithfulness
- God's purity

In Genesis 3 a terrible change took place. Adam sinned, and the image of God was marred and spoiled and ruined. Have you ever found a coin that was so scratched and worn that the image on the coin could not be seen? Or, have you ever looked into a mirror that was so dirty you could not even see your face? This is what sin did to God's image in man! Adam, instead of reflecting God, began reflecting SIN, SELF and SATAN!

ADAM
(AFTER HE SINNED)

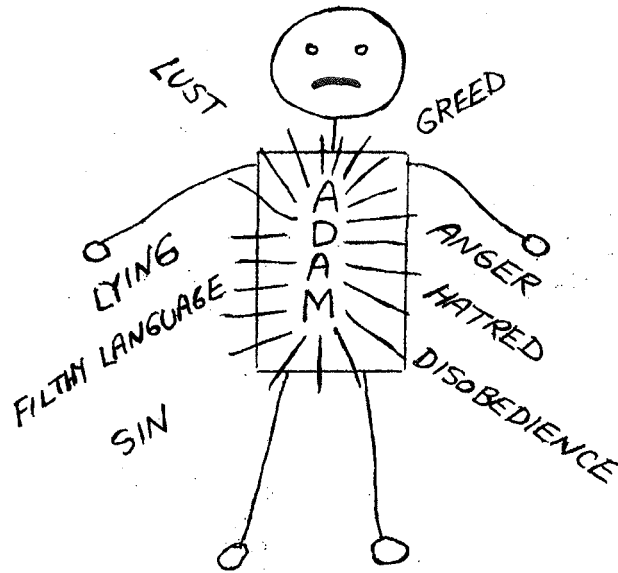


After his fall into sin, Adam gave birth to several children. Who did Adam's children reflect? The answer is found in Genesis 5:3: "And Adam lived 130 years and begat a son in his own _____ (in Adam's LIKENESS) after his _____ (after Adam's IMAGE); and called his name Seth." Who did Seth reflect? _____

If you were to look at Seth, whose *image* and *likeness* would you see? _____

SETH
(Adam's
Child)

**Are you
a child of
Adam?**



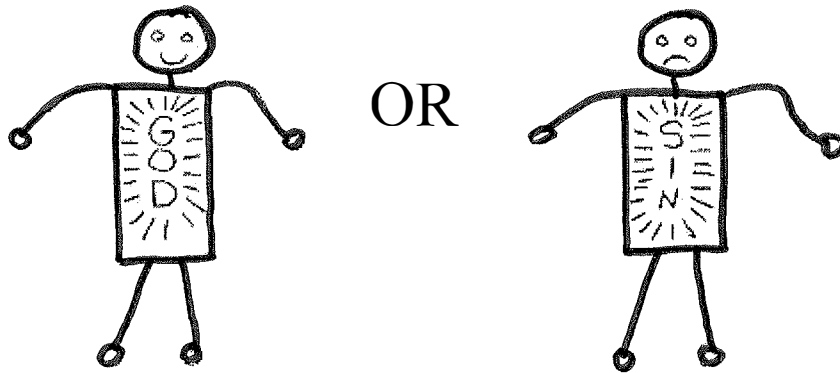
There is only one way for a sinner to stop reflecting Adam. He must be saved! The filthy mirror must be cleansed! Every person is either IN ADAM (related to the OLD CREATION--unsaved) or IN CHRIST (related to the NEW CREATION--saved--see 2 Corinthians 5:17). Those who are IN ADAM reflect their father A_____. He was a sinner and we reflect his sinfulness. Those who are IN CHRIST are able to reflect the Lord Jesus (although they sometimes still reflect Adam). The believer has put on "the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the _____ of him that created him" (Colossians 3:10; see also Ephesians 4:24-the new creation!).

Someday the believer will perfectly reflect the Lord Jesus (see 1 John 3:2 and Romans 8:29). Today, as the believer grows, he learns to reflect Jesus more and more, and to reflect Adam less and less.

What kind of a reflection is seen in your life? As people look at your life (the way you walk and talk), are they getting a picture of God or are they getting a picture of Adam? Are they seeing sin or are they seeing the Saviour? Is your mirror so dirty that God can't be seen? If you are unsaved, how can the mirror be cleaned up? If you are saved, how can the mirror be cleaned up?

When a sinful man is saved he has both a new nature and an old nature (Ephesians 4:22-24) and he can either reflect the SAVIOUR or he can reflect SIN, SELF and SATAN:

The Saved Man



We Must Make A Choice!

Adam was given a very important choice. He had to choose to obey God or disobey God. He had to choose LIFE or DEATH (see Genesis 2:17).

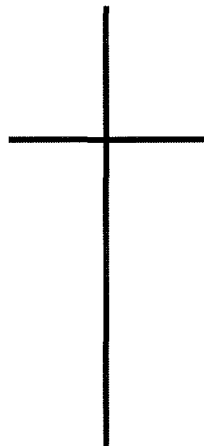
The same is true today. Every person must choose between life and death. Every person must choose between a blessing or a cursing. God sets this choice before every man (see Deuteronomy 30:19). What choice does God want us to make (Deuteronomy 30:19)?

Adam's important decision centered around a tree--the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Today man's decision also centers around a tree--the tree on which Jesus Christ died (1 Peter 2:24). WHAT WILL YOUR CHOICE BE?

**TO BELIEVE
ON CHRIST
AND LIVE**

John 3:36
1 John 5:12

?



**TO REFUSE
TO BELIEVE
ON CHRIST
AND DIE**

John 3:36
1 John 5:12

?

You Must Choose!

One Or The Other

