

ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM

The Implications of Creation

Man and Woman

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 21-23

138 have made commitments, for a total of \$1,053,218.

Last week I mentioned that as our people care for our little ones, they teach. Well, while we learned about Building God's Way, they taught our children about Building God's Way and encouraged them to join with their family in the work God is doing in our church.

Two weeks ago, one of our preschoolers came back to his class carrying this can. He said, "Here is my Building God's Way Offering." Isn't that neat how the Holy Spirit speaks to the hearts of our little ones to join Him in the work of the Lord! Oh, that we all might be so sensitive to His voice!

If you have not yet made your commitment to join God in Building His Way, you can still do so online. Just go to sabc.org and click the Building God's way button.

Folks, I never tire of preaching and teaching God's truth regarding His creation of the universe and all that is in it.

- Those of you who have heard and remember my testimony know that it was the issue of origins that brought me out of theological liberalism and made me an inerrantist by conviction. As a young man in my late 20s, I was challenged to examine the evidence for both evolution and for creation as Genesis describes it.
- I was a theistic evolutionist at the time (that is a person who believes in evolution but gives a nod to God by putting Him on the front end of the process.) Although I was an evolutionist, when I finally looked at the evidence supporting biblical creation, I found it to be overwhelmingly superior to the evidence offered in support of evolution.

Having a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in mathematics, I found a study that demonstrated that the probability of the progressive development of one kind of animal or plant into another by random genetic mutation to be so infinitesimally low, that I could no longer believe it.

- Nowhere was the evidence stronger in favor of the Scriptural account of origins than it was in the examination of the origin of life and the origin of mankind.

Last week I shared with you the biblical fact

The Lord created each of the living animals according to its kind.

And we saw the **EVIDENCE: Life is more than the sum of the parts that are made alive. Life is what causes the parts to work together for the good of the living animal or person.**

Sir Fred Hoyle, a famous British astronomer and cosmologist, spiritually, an unbeliever, and Chandra Wickramasinghe, an atheistic Buddhist, after their mathematical analyses said that **“Believing that life could result from time, chance, and the properties of matter was like believing that a tornado sweeping through a junkyard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein.”**

We also saw that the fossil evidence supports the repeated declarations of Genesis that the animals were created according to their kind, with each kind of animal, like the dog kind and the cat kind, having great variation within the kind but without the capability of one kind changing into another as proposed by the theory of evolution.

But, my friend, let me tell you. As I did the analysis of the evidence that so thoroughly convinced me that this Bible is the very Word of God.

- Nowhere was the evidence stronger in favor of the Scriptural account than it was in the examination of the origin of life and the origin of mankind.

So let us read what God says in His Word about where we came from.

Genesis 1:26–28 NKJV 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; 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.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth 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.”

Genesis, chapter 2, offers us more detail.

Genesis 2:7 NKJV And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Genesis 2:21–23 NKJV 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

Now, let me have the privilege of walking you through these passages to observe what God tells us. **Studying the verbs the Holy Spirit used as He inspired Moses to record this account of God's creative work is fascinating.**

The first verb we see in verse 26

Genesis 1:26–28 NKJV Then God said, “Let Us **make** man in Our image, according to Our likeness ...”

- This is the **Hebrew verb “asah”** and it **means “to make out of existing material”** as in “the carpenter makes a table out of the wood.”
- So the Lord made the man out of the elements and molecules He created on day one. And indeed the human body is made from the same materials as all the rest of the stuff in the universe. There is no molecule in man that you cannot find literally in the dust of the ground.

Let's jump to the third verb in these passages.

Genesis 2:7 NKJV And the LORD God **formed** man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

- This is the **Hebrew verb “yatzar”** and it **means “to form or to shape”** as in “the sculptor formed a statue out of the clay.”
- Notice that shaping the body of man was not enough. God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life, sharing with this newly formed creation the life He created the previous day and gave to the animals.

Now I want to take you to the fourth verb, which also is in Genesis 2 and which you ladies will find especially interesting, because it has to do with God's making of the woman.

Genesis 2:21–23 NKJV 21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He **made** into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”

- Although the verb here is translated made as in Genesis 1:26, in the Hebrew it is a different word.
- This is the **Hebrew verb “benah”** and it **means “to rebuild or build up”** as in “the builder remodeled the room.”

- So, there is a basis in the language to say that the woman was the upgrade, the new improved model of the man.

Now let us go back to the second verb in this series of passages on the origin of man and woman. I suspect that you have already figured out that I saved this one for last because it is of the greatest significance.

Genesis 1:26–28 NKJV 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; 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.” 27 So God **created** man in His own image; in the image of God He **created** him; male and female He **created** them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth 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.”

- This again is the **Hebrew verb “barah”** and it means **“to call into existence out of nothing”** as in Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- This is the third time the verb to create, to call into existence what did not already exist, the third time it is used in all of the creation account.
 - First, the Lord Jesus called space-time and matter-energy into existence.
 - Then He formed many things out that matter-energy He created such as water, light, the atmosphere, the earth, and plants.
 - But when God came to the making of the animals, He had to create life, for they were living beings.
- Now, as the Lord makes man and woman in His own image,
 - he forms the body,
 - breathes in life,
 - but there is still something needed: What is it? The Bible tells us “God is spirit.”

God creates (calls into existence) a spirit which He puts into man and woman.

Interestingly, the Bible says that each of us is body, soul (which corresponds to life), and spirit!

Wow! Are you as amazed as I am at the precision of God’s Word!

- It is so exact!
- Every word the Holy Spirit used is perfect.

So let me summarize in our fact the great truth of these passages.

The Lord formed the bodies of man and woman, gave them life, and created their spirit in His own image.

So let us look at the evidence.

- We will look at the **EVIDENCE AGAINST the evolution of man from apes.**
- And I want to share with you some **EVIDENCE FOR man and woman being created in the image of God.**

First, **EVIDENCE AGAINST the evolution of man from apes.** We have all seen it. And seeing things like this makes us think, if they have found the fossilized remains of all of these creatures, there must be something to it.

Listen, are you listening? They have not found the evidence to back up pictures like this. This is a picture of what they think has happened based on their revulsion of the idea that there is an Almighty God in heaven who reigns sovereign over the universe He has created and ultimately shall judge every one of the men and women He Himself has made in His image.

They do not want to believe in God, so they desperately seek to find a way to explain their existence.

Listen please to Dr. David Menton, Ph.D. in Cell Biology, as he explains the three ways to make an ape-man.

- Second, **EVIDENCE FOR man and woman being created in the image of God.**

Dr. Menton mentioned two of the evidences for man and woman being created in the image of God and having a spirit capable of communicating with God.

- **People can and do pray.**
- **People can and do worship.** Where you find the evidence of ancient men and women living, you often find the evidence of worship, maybe an ancient altar or an idol. Where you find the remains of apes, even those categorized as candidates to be our ancestors, you never find objects related to worship. Because apes, like all the other kinds of animals, do not have a spirit.

- But let me add a third evidence all of us can clearly see that shows that man and woman were created by God in His image. That is **Creativity. People are creative as God is creative.**

Genesis 4 documents the creativeness of people from the earliest days of the earth.

- **Abel learned how to keep sheep.**
- **Cain learned how to farm.**
- **Jabal learned how to raise cattle.**
- **Jubal learned how to make and play musical instruments like the flute and the harp.**
- **Tubal-Cain learned how to take bronze and iron out of the ores and to work the metals to make things both useful and decorative.**

Folks, just think about it. We are all intelligent enough to see what is clearly before our eyes and is a part of what God has shown us that we may recognize His power and deity.

- We can watch a video of a clever chimp using a tool to poke in a hole and get a hiding ant so he can eat it.
 - But it takes a person to cover the ant with chocolate and make it tasty!
- We can enjoy seeing a Capuchin Monkey using a using a stone to break open a nut for lunch.
 - But it takes a person to devise a way to harness animal labor instead of his own.
- With the creativity given them by the God of Creation, who made them in His own image,

People ...

- Draw
- Paint
- Sculpt
- Write

- And then read what they and others have written
- Build all kinds of machines
- People can and do. Animals, including apes cannot and do not.
- The difference is that people are created after the likeness of the God who made them.

And that leads us to the implication.

IMPLICATION: We are created by God FOR God.

- **To know Him**
- **To worship Him**
- **To serve Him**
- **To live as His sons and daughters as a part of His family forever.**

This is why we exist.

This is why we are here. Yes, here in worship, but also here on this planet. You are unique. Your DNA is unique. Even identical twins have on average 5 or 6 mutations that cause a tiny difference in DNA before birth! You can glorify God in a way no other person who has ever lived can do.

And it is why Jesus came.