

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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Man: His Creation

- Man as a Created Being
 - In the early chapters of Genesis and elsewhere in the Bible, the creation of man is clearly taught.
 - An attempt to explain the origin of man apart from Scripture is given in the theory of evolution.
 - ✦ This theory states that “somehow” a living cell came into existence and that single living cell evolved into human beings through various other life forms via the process of natural selection.
 - ✦ According to this theory all species of plants, animals and man were formed by a process of small changes known as mutations.
 - ✦ However, no series of mutations has ever been observed to have produced a new species.
 - In contrast with the theory of evolution, the Bible declares that God created the animals “after their kind” (Gen 1:21, 24, 25).
 - Also in contrast with this theory, the Bible teaches us that man was made in the image of God, according to His likeness, as a unique creation apart from the animals (Gen 1:26-27).
 - Sadly, some theologians have erroneously put forth a theory of “theistic evolution”.
 - ✦ This theory claims that God used evolution as part of the process of creation, accommodating the supposed scientific evidence of millions of years of fossil records.
 - ✦ This theory denies the literal meaning of the creation passages.
 - That God is the creator of all things is clear from Genesis with chapter one alone referring to Him as creator many times.
 - The creation described in Gen 1:1 is a creation out of nothing (ex nihilo) as no previous existence of matter or creatures of any kind is mentioned in this verse.
 - Additional verses also make it abundantly clear that God is the creator of all things (Ex 20:11; John 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 11:3).
 - Gen 2:7 states that Adam was created directly by God and Gen 2:21-22 states that Eve came from Adam’s rib – N.T. passages confirm this (Matt 19:4; 1 Cor 11:8-9; 15:45; 1 Tim 2:13-14).
- The Nature of Man
 - Because man was created in the image and likeness of God, he is a moral creature with intellect and a will.

- In Gen 2:7 we see that man's was created both material ("dust from the ground") and immaterial ("breath of life").
 - ✦ This is the "outer" and "inner" man of 2 Cor 4:16.
 - ✦ The outer man will return to the dust, but the inner man will live on and return to God (Ecc 12:7).
 - ✦ People can kill the outer man, but not the inner man (Matt 10:28).
- Scripture often describes the entirety of the immaterial part of man as either soul or spirit (Gen 41:8 cp. Ps 42:6).
- However, in some verses Scripture distinguishes between the soul and spirit of man (1 Thess 5:23; Heb 4:12).
 - ✦ The spirit is that part of man which is oriented toward God being capable of contemplating Him and enjoying fellowship with Him.
 - ✦ The soul is that part of man which is related to self and includes the various functions of intellect, conscience, volition, etc.
- Another term used to describe the entirety of the immaterial part of man is the heart (Ps 119:2, 7, 10, 11, 32, 34, 36, 58, 69, 70, 80, 111, 112, 145, 161; Rom 9:2; 10:9-10; Eph 3:17), though this term is sometimes used to highlight man's emotions.
- In some passages one additional term used to describe the entirety of the immaterial part of man – the mind.
 - ✦ Scripture reveals the sinfulness of the mind of unsaved man (Rom 1:28; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 4:17-18).
 - ✦ In contrast, the believer's mind is being renewed (Rom 12:2).
- In procreation, both the material and immaterial aspects of man are passed down to the child from the parents.
 - ✦ In this process man reproduces "after its kind".
 - ✦ The sin nature which resides in the flesh (as a result of the fall of man) is passed down from the father.
- The human body is the abode of man's soul (and spirit, if a believer) until he dies.
- The body of a believer is declared to be a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19).
 - ✦ Christ referred to His own body as a temple (John 2:21).
 - ✦ Christ can be exalted in the body of a believer (Phil 1:20).
 - ✦ We can glorify God in this body (1 Cor 6:20).
- At the same time the human body is considered to be an "earthen vessel" (2 Cor 4:7), a "lowly" body (Phil 3:21) and an "earthly" body (Col 3:5) that must be disciplined (1 Cor 9:27).
- Our "natural" bodies are perishable and not suited for glory, so we will receive a new "spiritual" body which is imperishable at the coming of Christ for His Church (Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:42-57).
 - ✦ Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected first to receive the new body suited for glory (1 Cor 15:52 cp. 1 Thess 4:16).

- ✦ Those who are alive at His coming will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye (1 Cor 15:52).
- When Jesus Christ was resurrected, His new body was “flesh and bones” (Luke 24:39 – note no mention of blood) giving us at least some idea of what our new bodies will be like.
- Questions
 - Does man have any certain knowledge of his origin apart from the Bible?

 - How does the theory of evolution explain the origin of man?

 - What is theistic evolution?

 - How does man differ from animals according to the Bible?

 - How much evidence is there in Scripture for the creation of man?

 - Why do you believe that the Biblical explanation of the creation of man is superior to the theory of evolution?

 - What does it mean that man was made in the image and likeness of God?

 - What is the meaning of “spirit” and “soul” as used of man?

 - What other terms are used of man’s immaterial nature besides soul and spirit?

 - In what sense is the body of a believer a temple?

 - When will the “natural” body of a believer in Christ (Church age) be replaced with a “spiritual” body suited for glory?