

2009

Anthropology

Don Fanning

Liberty University, dfanning@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgm_bib_doc

Recommended Citation

Fanning, Don, "Anthropology" (2009). *Bible Doctrines*. 2.
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgm_bib_doc/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Global Ministries at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bible Doctrines by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

ANTHROPOLOGY

*ANTHROPOS: MAN + LOGOS: WORD,
STUDY*

The study of man from a biblical perspective is the analysis of what God has revealed about man's origin and make-up

Origin of man¹

Atheistic, humanistic or natural evolution

2

- Variation depends on offspring being superior to parents
- Struggle for survival eliminates weaker, less fit
- Natural selection is the process of survival of fittest
- Through heredity better qualities from natural selection are passed on and accumulated
- New species come into existence with passage of time

Origin of man²

Theistic evolution

3

- God supervised the evolutionary process
- Problems with view from a biblical perspective
 - ▣ If Adam is not a historical person, then the analogy between Christ and Adam is imagination (Rom 5:12-21)
 - ▣ Genesis must be poetical or mythical
 - ▣ Concept of man coming from non-living matter is irreconcilable with revelation of image of God

Origin of man³

Progressive evolution (Day-Age Theory)

4

- Based on Psa 90:40 and 2 Peter 3:8
- Definition
 - ▣ Each day is an age of indefinite time
- Problems
 - ▣ Plants can't be ages before animals since some depend upon animals for pollination and fertilization
- Attempts to reconcile science and Bible
 - ▣ Since ages can't follow days of creation (plants before sun) don't take Gen 1 too literally
 - ▣ Demands death before Adam's fall
 - ▣ Destroys analogy between 6 days work and 1 day rest in Ex 20:10-11

Origin of man⁴

Gap Theory (between Gen 1:1 and 1:2)

5

□ Teaching concepts:

- Original creation (emphasis on “repopulate”)
- Destroyed because of Lucifer’s rebellion
- Earth “became” chaotic: “*without form and void*”

□ Problems:

□ Grammatical problems

- V. 1 is an independent clause; v. 2 is connected grammatically and contains 3 circumstantial clauses describing v. 1 without a break
- “Formless and void” is not always a result of judgment (Job 26:7; Isa 45:18)
- The supposed distinction between *bara`*, “create” and *asa`*, “made” is invalid. They are used interchangeably.
- Theory is not based on exegesis but attempt to reconcile science and Bible by twisting Scripture unnecessarily

Origin of man⁵

Literal 24-hour-per-day Creation sequence

6

- *Fiat* creation as described in Gen 1
 - ▣ Hold to a “young” earth
 - ▣ Appearance of age explained by flood geology
- God created matter and man directly
- God created male and female genders
- God created in 24-hour days
 - ▣ Hebrew word *yom* with a number is always 24 hour day
 - ▣ Phrase “morning and evening” imply 24-hour period
 - ▣ Ex 20:9-11 only has meaning if 24-hour days
- God created man as a unique being, not an improved animal: has moral sensibility and accountability, and is a created eternal being

Material part of Man

7

- Distinction is made between body and nonmaterial part of man (soul/spirit) (2 Co 5:1; 2 Th 5:23; Gen 2:7)
- Play on words in 2:7– *adam*, “man” and *adamah*, “ground”.
 - ▣ To remind man of his origin: both have same constitution chemically: calcium, iron, potassium
 - ▣ At death, body returns to its origin (Gen 3:7; Ps 104:27)

Views of purpose of man's body

8

- Prison house of the soul: Greek philosophy— soul is good and body is bad
- Body is only important part of man – Hedonism: seek to please body by what one enjoys doing. Denies existence of soul.
- Body is a partner of the soul. Is the means of glorifying God as temple of God (1 Co 6:19).
 - ▣ Not to be mastered by body in self-indulgence, nor is an enemy to be self-punished
 - ▣ Is to be presented to God for His purposes (Ro 12:1) so Christ can be glorified (evident) in our bodies (Phil 1:20)
 - ▣ Final evaluation concerns what was done in the body (2 Co 5:10)

Non-material part of man

9

- Created as a PERSONALITY: self-consciousness and self-determination. Not governed by natural *instinct* as animals
- Created as a SPIRITUAL BEING: ability to reason, to sense right and wrong, to relate and to choose destiny. Our likeness to God permits a relationship
- Created with a MORAL NATURE: righteous and holiness which enabled a relationship with God, but was lost in the Fall. Later was restored in Christ (Eph 4:24; Col 3:10)

Origin of non-material part of man

10

- **Theory of preexistence:** taught in Hinduism and Greek philosophy— formerly angelic beings who embodies human forms
- **Creation theory:** each individual is a created soul at conception and body alone is propagated by parents. Would require every individual to fall into sin as God creates perfect
- **Traducian theory:** Soul and body propagated by parents: How can a physical relationship transmit a soul? Christ would have participated in nature of Mary (this obligated doctrine of Immaculate conception)
 - ▣ Explains the transmission of sinful nature
 - ▣ Explains hereditary factor: intellect, personality and emotional similarity to parents (Ps 51:5)

Composition of non-material part

11

□ Dichotomous view:

- Two-part being: body and soul
- Soul and spirit are same substance w/ different functions
 - Man became a living soul (Gen 2:7)
 - “Soul” and “spirit” used interchangeably (Gen 41:8 w/ Ps 42:6)
 - “Body” and “soul” constitute whole person (Matt 10:28; 1 Cor 5:3)

□ Trichotomous view:

- Three-part being: body, soul and spirit. Different in substance and function
 - Soul is seen as a lower power consisting of man’s imagination, memory, and understanding
 - Spirit is a higher power, consisting of reason, conscience, and will
 - (a) Paul seems to emphasize the three-part view in desiring the sanctification of the entire person (1 Thess. 5:23).
 - (b) Hebrews 4:12 implies a distinction between soul and spirit.
 - (c) 1 Corinthians 2:14–3:4 suggests a threefold classification: natural (fleshly), carnal (soulish), and spiritual (spiritual)

Composition of non-material part²

12

□ Multi-faceted view:

- Soul and spirit commonly describe non-material part, but also 4 other terms are used:
 - “**Heart**” describes intellectual (Mat 15:19) y volitional (Rom 10:9-10; Heb 4:7) aspect
 - “**Conscience**” for moral sense, but may be seared and unreliable (1 Tim 4:2); May be weak and overreact (1 Cor 8:7,10,12)
 - “**Mind**” is depraved (Rom 1:28), blinded by Satan (2 Cor 4:4); darkened and futile (Eph 4:17-18); but can be renewed (Rom 12:2)
 - “**Will**” of unbeliever tends to follow desires of flesh (Eph 2:2-3), but the believer can will to do God’s will (Rom 6:12-13)

The Fall of Man

13

- Gen 3 does not describe the origin of sin, but rather the entrance of sin into humanity
- Adam and Eve were historical people who sinned in time and space.
- Historicity is essential to understand Rom 5:12-21
- If Adam was not a real person who brought sin into humanity, there is not point in Christ redeeming mankind
- Christ's own testimony confirms Adam's historical reality (Matt 19:3-5)

The Test

14

- Obedience means nothing without a command: would they believe God and obey?
- Free to eat of all trees except Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen 2:16-17)
- Disobedience brought consequences: death, guilt, and separation
- God wanted Adam to learn of sin by revelation, not by experience

The Temptation

Serpent was inspired by Satan (Rom 16:20)

15

1. Satan raised doubts about God's Word and therefore His character (Gen 3:1)
 - ▣ Questioned God's goodness and fairness
 - ▣ Eve believed his lie by exaggerating the restriction
2. Satan lied by saying they would not die (Gen 3:4), that is there would be no consequences
3. Satan told a partial truth: they would be like God – did not mention the pain, suffering and death that the experience of sin would bring.
 - ▣ Test entailed three areas: lust of flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 Jn 2:16; Matt 4:1-11)

The result of sin

16

1. **Judgment on serpent (3:14):** altered in form and shape
2. **Judgment on Satan (3:15):** perpetual enmity between seed of woman and Satan.
3. **Judgment on woman (3:16):** pain in childbirth and “desire” to or over husband (4:7 is ident Hebrew)
4. **Judgment on man (3:17-19):** toil now necessary to produce food and death would now begin for all
5. **Judgment on mankind (Rom 5:12):** Adam’s consequence was passed on to mankind
6. **Judgment on creation (Gen 3:17-18; Rom 8:17-19):** everything would resist man, wild animals and weeds