

# Anthropology

Theology 2

Moody Bible Institute

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# What Is Anthropology?

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- The Study of the Doctrine of Man
  - His origins
  - His nature
  - His destiny

# The Origin of Man

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- Naturalistic
  - Process of Evolution
- Theistic
  - Theistic Evolution
  - Special Creation

# Naturalistic

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- Defined by the modern theory of Evolution
  - Denies Biblical revelation
  - Denies the special nature of man
  - Founded in atheistic humanism
  - Hostile to God and the Scriptures
  - Taught as “de facto” truth
  - Sees man as the end product of a series of “accidents” and “chances” over millions of years of time

# Theistic Evolution

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- An attempt to merge the Bible and Evolution
  - Attempts to explain creation in terms of an evolutionary model engineered and supervised by God
  - Supported by those who want a supernatural God, but who also want to be seen as “scientific” and “rational” by peers

# Theistic Evolution

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- Two Major Brands:

- Gap Theory

- Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 are separated by a gap of millions of years where evolutionary processes took place - thus the creation account in Genesis 1:3ff is not really a creation, but a re-creation.

- Day-Age Theory

- Each “day” of Genesis 1 is actually an indeterminate period of time millions of years in length during which evolution guided the creative process.

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- There is no Biblical evidence or support that there is or was a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.
- Death, the “engine” of evolution, did not exist prior to the fall of man.
- All fossil records, including dinosaurs, can be easily explained in term of the original creation and flood accounts of Genesis.

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- The “days” of Genesis 1 are most clearly understood to mean literal, 24 hour, days
  - #1 - Whenever “yom” is used with an ordinal number in the Old Testament, e.g. first, second, third, it ALWAYS refers to a literal, 24 hour day.
  - #2 - The usage of the term “evening and morning” suggest strongly that this is a 24 hour day, not a long geological age.

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- #3 - Since God is omnipotent, He would not need to take eons of time to evolve something He could call into existence in a moment of time.
- #4 - The Bible says God rested on the seventh day, and Adam fell after the seventh day. Clearly the usage of day here cannot refer to some long geological age.

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- #5 - The seven days of the work week, with the seventh being a day of rest, was founded on the creation week according to Exodus 20:11
- #6 - The near universal acceptance and usage of a seven-day week going back thousands of years in many different human cultures and traditions.

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- #7 - There is nothing in the text of Genesis 1 that would lead anyone to think of these as anything but 24 hour periods of time.
- #8 - The evolution of plants during the third “age” would be impossible since the sun and moon were created during the fourth “age.”

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- #9 - Many plants could not have evolved during the third “age” without the existence of insects for pollination who were created during the fifth “age.”
- #10 - The existence of liquid water would be impossible for billions of years without the heat of the sun created during the fourth “age.”

# Refuting Theistic Evolution

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- #11 - The sun and moon, created on day four, were to rule over the day and night and to separate light from darkness - a clear reference to a 24 hour day.
- #12 - God rested on the seventh day - are we to understand that as referring to a long geological age of millions of years?

# Special Creation

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- God created man
  - Of the Dust of the Ground - Genesis 2:7
  - On day Six - Genesis 1:26-27
  - Both Male and Female - Genesis 1:27
  - In innocence - Genesis 1:31
  - In His Image - Genesis 1:27
  - To have dominion over Creation - Genesis 1:26
  - To multiply and fill the earth - Genesis 1:28

# The Nature of Man

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- The Image of God - Imago Dei
- Dichotomy and Trichotomy
- Origin of the Soul

# The Image of God

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- Thought to be many things
  - Physical form
    - If God is “Spirit”, then how can He have a physical form, and how would the second commandment make sense?
  - Noetic capacity
    - Man can reason and has an intellect, emotion, and will - he can think and reason.
      - Animals have this too but not to as large a degree!

# The Image of God

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## ■ Spiritual Capacity

- Man is “God Conscious”
  - Although this is true, it does not necessarily imply that the image of God refers to this capacity only.
- Man is an eternal being, unlike animals
- Man has a “moral” sense of right and wrong

## ■ Relational Capacity

- Most likely is the closest - man was created to have a relationship with God.
- Of all beings in creation, man alone has the ability to form and develop relationships.

# Image of God

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- Perhaps it is best to see the Image of God as being manifested in many ways
  - Spiritual Capacity
  - Ability to form relationships - and relate to his Creator
  - Ability to think, reason, feel, and decide
  - Responsibility for decisions, both good and bad
  - Moral capacity

# Dichotomy

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- Views man as material and immaterial
  - The material refers to physical form and existence
  - Immaterial refers to the “soul” or “spirit”
  - Support for this view is that the terms “soul” and “spirit” are used interchangeably in the Bible - Luke 1:46-47, James 5:20

# Trichotomy

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- Man consists of body, soul, and spirit
  - Body - physical existence
  - Soul - intellect, emotion, will, personality
  - Spirit - God-consciousness

# Trichotomy

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- Support for Trichotomy
  - Apparent distinction between soul and spirit - 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 4:12
  - The Hebrew word “nephesh” is translated beast, creature, and soul - Leviticus 24:18, Genesis 2:7, Genesis 2:19
  - Apparent three levels of consciousness (self, world, and God)

# Dichotomy or Trichotomy

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- My position - man consists of a material part, and an immaterial part - I am a dichotomist
  - Genesis 2:7 - God formed the body, then the soul of man
  - There is no indication we exist in heaven in the intermediate state as a “soul-spirit” but as a complete and unified being

# Dichotomy or Trichotomy

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- The word used in the Bible to most often refer to the immaterial part of man is “heart” - it is the “heart” that is deceitful (Jeremiah 17:9), and from which our character is revealed (Matthew 15:17-20).
- Our immaterial part apparently has a “soul body” as we are recognizable in the intermediate state even though we do not have a physical body

# Origin of the Soul

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- Preincarnational
  - Man existed prior to his incarnation
  - Originally created at the time of the creation, or may have been a spirit off-spring of God
- Creationism
  - God creates a new soul at conception
- Traducian
  - The soul is derived, along with the body, through the process of conception

# Support for Traducianism

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- There is no Biblical evidence that we existed prior to incarnation.
- Creationism would imply
  - God is still “creating” which would have implications for our understanding of the seventh day of creation and God’s “rest”.
  - God creates a “perfect” soul which is then immediately placed in a fallen body and as a result becomes sinful.

# Support for Traducianism

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- Traducianism bypasses the problems of the the creationist view.
- Is a better fit with the statement in Genesis 1 that God created every living thing to reproduce after its kind.
- Theologically explains the imputation of guilt and the original corruption all men have from the moment of conception.

# Characteristics of Our Soul

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## ■ Intellect

- The ability to think, learn, and reason.
- The ability to sense the future and analyze possible outcomes of various decisions we could make.
- The ability to comprehend and understand our physical environment.
- The ability to know and remember.

# Characteristics of Our Soul

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- Emotion
  - The ability to “feel” emotions.
  - The ability to form relationships and determine courses of actions based on intangible emotions and not strict logic or reason.
  - Intrinsically connected to the ability to form and maintain relationships.

# Characteristics of Our Soul

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## ■ Will

- The ability to decide between various courses of actions.
- Determination - the ability to set goals and work towards their achievement.
- Responsibility - the consequences of our decisions are an inescapable component and privilege related to our ability to decide.

# Characteristics of Our Soul

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- Conscience - a moral compass
  - An innate and essential component of the *imago dei*.
  - Is not an absolute - only a governor
  - Informs us of what it has been programmed to determine is right and wrong
  - Is bound closely with our culture and nurture
  - Can't be fooled - it knows us better than anyone else, even ourselves

# The Conscience in the Bible

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- An evil conscience - Hebrews 10:22
- A defiled conscience - Titus 1:15
- A weak conscience - 1 Corinthians 8:7, 12
- A good conscience - Acts 23:1, 1 Timothy 1:5
- A pure conscience - 1 Peter 3:16, 21
- A seared conscience - 1 Timothy 4:2

# Guidelines

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- Never violate our conscience
- Let our conscience be changed by exposure to God's word and not external pressures
- Never violate another person's conscience
- Strive to have a "pure" and "undefiled" conscience

# Original Responsibilities

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- Assume headship over nature - Genesis 1:26, Hebrews 2:5-6
- Live in Eden, the Garden of God - Genesis 2:15
- Name all creatures thus symbolizing his preeminence over them - Genesis 2:19-20
- Love and protect his wife - Genesis 2:24

# Original Responsibilities

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- Reproduce and populate the earth - Genesis 1:28
- Enjoy all that God created with the exception of the one tree - Genesis 2:16
- Walk and talk with God - Genesis 3:8

# The Image Shattered

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- Man's original state was that of innocence
  - Not Guilty with Sin
  - Not Meritorius with Righteousness
- Disobedience to God's command regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil plunged creation, and man, into sin, corruption, and decay

# The Pathology of the Fall

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- Eve was deceived
  - She was not the original recipient of the command regarding the tree - she was created after God told Adam - Genesis 2:17-18
  - 2 Corinthians 11:3 directly states that the woman was deceived
  - Satan appealed to Eve's pride and Eve's sight

# The Pathology of the Fall

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- Adam was not deceived
  - He took of the fruit given to him by Eve willfully and knowingly
  - It was not until Adam ate that the human race fell into sin
  - Adam, and not Eve, is seen as the federal head of the human race and responsible for the fall - Romans 5

# The Results of the Fall

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- The serpent was condemned to a life on it's belly - Genesis 3:14
- Satan was told someday his head would be crushed by the seed of the woman - Genesis 3:15
- Adam and Eve would experience
  - Shame - Genesis 3:7
  - Fear - Genesis 3:8-10

# The Results of the Fall

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- Discord in their relationships - Genesis 3:12-13
- Death - immediately spiritual and eventually physical - Genesis 3:5, Matthew 7:23, Revelation 21:9
- Suffering, disease, and pain - Genesis 3:16
- Weariness of labor - Genesis 3:17-19
- Separation from God - Genesis 3:22-24
- A cursed and fallen creation - Romans 8:18-22

# The Impact of the Fall

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- The death of billions of humans since the time of creation
- Billions of murders
- Disease, death, starvation throughout the ages
- Eternal death for billions of humans
- Untold numbers of sins
- The need to recreate the universe to purge the stain of sin

# Theories of the Fall

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- Liberal
  - There was no fall - it is merely a legend
- Pelagian
  - Adam's sin was a bad example - it does not affect us today
  - This view denies Original sin and pollution

# Theories of the Fall

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- Arminian (semi-Pelagian)
  - Adam's sin weakened the human race but did not eliminate the ability to become or remain sinless
  - Man retains a residual ability to make right moral choices specifically in salvation

# Theories of the Fall

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## ■ Augustinian

- Man is sinful from the moment of conception, both in terms of a fallen human nature, and in terms of an imputed guilt
- Implies man is radically corrupt, and only the power of God can shatter the darkness and bring light
- Implies man, in and of himself, cannot decide for God or save himself

# Man's Present Condition

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- Man is depraved - radically corrupt
- Man is separated from God at birth
- Man cannot understand spiritual truth apart from God's help - Romans 3:10-18
- Man cannot, and will not, seek God for Who He is, but for what He gives
- Man's natural destiny is separation from God in the Lake of Fire

# Depravity

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- Negatively
  - Does not mean men are as depraved as they could be, but that depravity has affected all areas of their life
  - Does not mean a sinner has no concept of God or of good and evil
  - Does not teach that man cannot do good deeds, but that all motivations are selfish at their core

# Depravity

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## ■ Positively

- All men are capable of depraved deeds
- No sin is beyond the capability of any man
- No man can please God
- No man can understand God
- All men are lost and without hope

# False Views of Man's Destiny

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## ■ Nirvana

- Absorption back into the “nothingness” of existence
- Refutation: Matthew 17:3, 1 Corinthians 15

## ■ Restorationism

- Man will be given a second chance after death
- Refuted by Hebrews 9:27, John 3:16-18

# False Views of Man's Destiny

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- Materialism
  - Man ceases to exist at the time of death
  - Refutation: 1 Corinthians 15
- Annihilationism
  - All ungodly cease to exist at death, perhaps after suffering only a little while
  - Refutation: Revelation 14:9-11

# False Views of Man's Destiny

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## ■ Soul Sleep

- After death, men “sleep” until the time of resurrection and final judgment
- Refutation: Luke 19, Philippians 1:23-24

## ■ Purgatory

- Man is punished until he has paid for all his individual sins, after which he can enter heaven
- Refutation: Hebrews 9:11-14, 24-28

# False Views of Man's Destiny

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- Limbo
  - A place for babies who die unbaptized and hence who still have original sin
  - Refutation: Matthew 18:10
- Reincarnation
  - Man is reborn into another life
  - Refutation: Hebrews 9:27

# The Bible's Position

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- Two Eternal Destinies
  - Heaven for the redeemed
  - Lake of Fire for the Unredeemed
- See the Presentation on Heaven and Hell for a complete treatment.

**End**