

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT MAN, SIN, AND SALVATION

Lesson 1: Man is Created

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. The study of biblical doctrine is often called systematic theology. As the name indicates, this is a systematic or orderly way to study the main doctrines of Scripture. This lesson is the first of seven lessons on the Doctrine of Anthropology, what the Bible teaches about man. After these lessons on Anthropology we will proceed to the Doctrine of Hamartiology, what the Bible teaches about sin. Our year of study will conclude with the all-important Doctrine of Soteriology, what the Bible teaches about salvation. Here is an overview of this year's study.

OVERVIEW OF BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT MAN, SIN, AND SALVATION

Anthropology (Doctrine of Man)

1. Man is Created
2. Man in God's Image
3. Man's Purpose
4. Man's Constitution
5. Marriage and Family
6. Ethnicity and Nations
7. Human Government

Hamartiology (Doctrine of Sin)

1. Sin's Origin
2. Sin's Definition
3. Original Sin
4. Sin's Curse
5. Sin's Judgment
6. Total Depravity

Soteriology (Doctrine of Salvation)

1. Election
2. God and the Atonement
3. Sacrifice
4. Propitiation
5. Redemption
6. Reconciliation
7. Resurrection
8. Gospel Proclamation
9. Regeneration
10. Repentance
11. Faith
12. Union with Christ
13. Justification
14. Adoption

15. Sanctification

16. Perseverance

17. Glorification

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY (Doctrine of Man)

The study of Biblical Anthropology is about the doctrine of man. The Bible teaches that man is a special creation of God; he is not the product of chance, nor is he descended from other creatures. Man was created to be God's representative on earth, to serve God and enjoy his fellowship. Man was created in the image of God, which means he has all the endowments from God to enable man to know him and to serve him, for man's blessing and God's glory. Man is made of a material part, a body, and he is made of an immaterial part, a soul or spirit. When God made man, he made them male and female and he designed marriage to be one man and one woman in a lifelong relationship in a family with children.

Lesson 1 – Central Truth Q and A

Question 1: Who made mankind?

Answer 1: God personally and specially created mankind.

Lesson 1 – Memory Verses

Genesis 1:26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Job 33:4 *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

Lesson 1 – Outline

1. God revealed the truth about man's creation (Genesis 1-2).

Throughout history there have been many religious myths and theories about the creation of the world and mankind, but the truth is found only in Scripture. In the Bible God reveals that He created all things, and that He made man as his special and most important creation. The Book of Genesis is the first of five books known as the "Books of Moses" or the "Pentateuch" (five books). Christ attributed the authorship of Genesis through Deuteronomy to Moses. God revealed the truth of creation to Moses during the forty-year span from 1446-1406 B.C., during the trek of His people Israel through the wilderness. Moses had been brought up in Egypt where he received a traditional education (Acts 7:22, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds"). This would have included the teaching of Egyptian mythology and beliefs about the origin of the world. Contrary to these false ideas, God taught Moses the truth about creation which is recorded and preserved in Genesis 1-2.

2. God revealed his character in the creation of the world.

Since God was the only one present at creation, only he can explain how creation happened. Man could not have discovered the truth of creation on his own. Genesis 1:1 begins with the words, "In

the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This reveals the first moments of creation and shows that God existed before creation. He is the eternal God. The Bible simply states the fact of God’s existence and does not attempt to prove it. The truth about creation reveals that God is powerful, sovereign, wise, and good. After God made everything in six literal 24-hour days, he declared that everything he made was “very good” (Gen. 1:31).

Genesis 1 is the most God-centered chapter in the Bible. God is mentioned by name 32 times in 31 verses. If we add the use of personal pronouns that refer to God, He is mentioned a total of 43 times. On the first page of the Bible we understand who is in control: God created (vs. 1); God moved (vs. 2); God said (vs. 3, 6); God saw and divided or separated (vs. 4); God called or named (vs. 5, 8); God made (vs. 7); and God approved of all He had done (vs. 10, 12).

3. God specially created mankind.

After creating the universe, earth, plants, and animals, God specially created mankind. He made man and woman in a unique way. Instead of speaking them into existence, God specially formed them. Genesis 1:26-27, 31 reveal that God created man and woman on the sixth day, and Genesis 2:7 reveal the special creation of the first man Adam. Genesis 2:18-23 reveals the creation of the first woman Eve. In the creation of Adam and Eve, God used material he had already created. Adam was made from dust and Eve was made from Adam. By his special creation of Adam and Eve, God established a personal connection with mankind and set them above the rest of creation. The rest of the Bible confirms that God places a special value on human beings.

4. False teaching about creation must be exposed and rejected.

Sadly, many people today believe in theories invented by men that teach the universe is billions of years old and man evolved over millions of years. They reject the truth about creation and replace the truth with lies. Here are some of the false teachings that exist:

- A. *Atheism* (no god) – The Bible says there is a God and He created all things.
- B. *Polytheism* (many gods) – The Bible says there is only one true God and He created everything by Himself.
- C. *Pantheism* (all is god) – The Bible says that God is separate from all created things.
- D. *Evolution* (all things evolved from the simple to the complex over billions of years) – The Bible says that God made everything in six literal 24-hour days.
- E. *Materialism* (matter is eternal) – The Bible says that nothing existed until God made it.
- F. *Fatalism* (the world has no purpose) – The Bible says that God had a purpose in creation.

Evolution continues to be a popular belief because it provides a convenient alternative to the existence of a Creator God. If there is a God who created everything, that means we are dependent on Him and accountable to Him. Evolutionist Sir Arthur Keith said, “Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable.”

Psalm 8:3-5 *When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor.*