

## Study 3 – The Origin and Nature of Man

### I. The Creation of the World

- A. The universe was originally created by God’s direct act, without use of any preexistent material (*creatio ex nihilo*--creation out of nothing).
1. Read Gen. 1:3,6,9 and Psalm 33:6. What action brought the world into existence?  
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  2. Read Hebrews 11:3. Of what is the present creation NOT made? What does this mean?  
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  3. Read Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; John 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:6. What persons of the Trinity were involved in the creation of the world?  
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- B. The purpose for which God created the universe. Read Isaiah 43:6,7; Psalm 19:1; 148:13; Romans 11:36. Though God did not need to create the universe, why DID He?  
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- C. The universe created by God consists of both visible (seen) and invisible (unseen) elements (“as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18). Read Psalm 103:20 and Jude 6. What unseen creatures are described? Where do you think they came from?  
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### II. Man as Created by God

- A. God directly created man as a living being, complete in his person as both body and soul.
1. Read Genesis 1:26,27. What is the origin of man?  
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  2. Read Genesis 2:7. What did God use to make man? If God “breathed . . . life” into man, could he have evolved from lower life forms?  
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  3. Read Matthew 10:28 and Rom. 8:10. What are the two components of man’s nature?  
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- B. Man is unique among all God’s creatures, not only because he has a soul, but he alone is made in God’s image or likeness.
1. Read Genesis 1:26, 27. How, according to these verses, did God make or create man? Are both man and woman equal in this regard?  
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2. Read Genesis 9:6 and James 3:9. Does fallen or sinful man still bear the image of God in some way or another?  
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3. Read Colossians 3:10 and Ephesians 4:24. According to these verses, what are three aspects of man's nature as created in God's image?  
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4. Read Genesis 1:31. What was God's evaluation of His whole creation, including man?  
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5. Read Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 8:6. What relationship does man, made in God's image, have to the rest of creation?  
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### III. The Fall of Man

- A. Definition: Adam, as the representative head of the human race, was created without sin. Willfully disobeying God's prohibition (Gen. 3:3, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."), he brought sin's pollution into his very nature and has thus passed sin and its horrific effects on to all his descendents.
- B. The events in the Garden of Eden.
  1. Read Genesis 2:17 and 3:3. What was God's prohibition given to Adam?  
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  2. Read Genesis 3:4-5. What was the serpent's (the devil's) lie? What was the serpent's promise?  
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  3. Read Genesis 2:17 and Gen. 3:7-8. What did God say would be the consequence of disobedience? Remembering that death has both physical and spiritual consequences (alienation from God, among men, and within ourselves), describe how Gen. 3:7-8 shows that the effects of the fall were immediate:  
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  4. Read Genesis 3:14,16 & 17. Describe how God's curse would affect each of the following:
    - a) The serpent \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) Eve \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) Adam \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Read Genesis 3:15. This verse is called the *proto euangelion*—the first statement of the Gospel in the Bible, though in veiled form. Why?  
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**IV. The First Adam and His Relationship to All Humanity****A. Romans 5 and the First Adam. Read Romans 5:12, 14, 16-17.**

1. Who is the “one man” of verse 12? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What came into the world through Adam? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What sentence now rests upon all mankind as a consequence (list the various phrases)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. According to verse 12, what have all men done? \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Sin’s universality and effects.**

1. Read Romans 3:10-18 and then answer the following questions:
  - a) Is anyone sinless before God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) Does anyone naturally seek God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) Is man basically good? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d) Is man naturally violent and dishonest? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e) Does fallen man fear or respect God? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Psalm 51:5. What does David say is true even of children?  
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3. Read Ephesians 2:1. What is the condition of man because of sin?  
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