

# DOCTRINE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

## I. Introduction:

- A. Anthropology is the science of man.
- B. The word is derived from the Greek words “ἄνθρωπος/anthropos-man” and “λόγος/logos-word”.
- C. The doctrine centers on anthropogenesis (Grk.: anthropos + γένεσις/genesis-beginning) that is the study of man’s origin and development.
- D. There are two approaches to the sciences: Human philosophy; Divine revelation.
- E. Human philosophy is the study of man in relation to distribution, origin, classification, relationship of races, environmental and social relations and culture.
- F. Divine revelation is the Biblical teaching about the origin, nature and destiny of man especially from the perspective of his relationship to God.
- G. True anthropology incorporates all that enter man’s being both material and immaterial.
- H. Biology represents the former and psychology the latter.
- I. Any truths that these sciences discover will be accurately represented in the Bible.
- J. Therefore, the truth of Divine revelation and truth of science will be mutually informative.
- K. Only Divine revelation can answer questions regarding man conceived; anthropology can never answer such things as to origin and the ultimate destiny of man.

## II. Vocabulary:

### A. Hebrew:

- 1. אָדָם – ‘adam: man, mankind, being, mortal, person. Proper name Adam.
- 2. אִישׁ – ‘ish: man, men, husband, mankind, male.
- 3. נֶעָר - na-ar: a boy, lad, youth, young man.
- 4. אִנָּשׁ - ‘enash: (Aramaic) man, men, mankind, human.
- 5. זָכָר – zakar: male, males, man.
- 6. נִקְבָּה - neqebah: female, woman.
- 7. עֵזֶר - -ezer: helper (wife).
- 8. אִשָּׁה – ‘ishah: woman, wife, female.

### B. Greek:

- 1. ἄνθρωπος – anthropos: man, men, mankind, people, person.
- 2. ἀνήρ – aner: man, husband.
- 3. γυνή - gune: woman, wife.
- 4. ἄρσην – arsen: male, men.
- 5. θήλυς – thelus: female, woman.

## III. Anthropogenesis (origin of man).

- A. Evolutionary theory perceives man’s origin based on pure chance evolving from a single cell organism.
- B. This theory further advocates:
  - 1. Man evolved from nothing.

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2. Man is a non-moral creature (an animal).
3. Man is totally materialistic and deplete of divine revelation.
- C. Theistic evolution is as equally dishonoring to God as man's evolution.
- D. Both evolution and atheism were espoused by the ancients.
- E. Biblical revelation presents both a concrete and intelligent account of man's origin with God as his creator.
- F. Two primary creation accounts of man are recorded in Gen.1:26-30 and 2:7.
- G. The creation account for woman is recorded in Gen.2:21-22.
- H. The names of the first two human beings are Adam and Eve.
- I. Adam derives his name from the Hebrew word for "man/'adam" and he then named the woman Eve (cf.Gen.3:20).
- J. These are the original parents of the corporate human race.
- K. Paul validates the Genesis' account of man being created first, then the woman. 1Tim.2:13
- L. There are 3 creation verbs associated with man's origination in the 2 Genesis accounts: עָשָׂה /-asah (Gen.1:26), that means to make something out of something; בָּרָא /bara' (Gen.1:27), that means to create *ex nihilo* (out of nothing); יָצַר /yatsar (Gen.2:7), that means to fashion, form or shape.
- M. Gen.1:26 is the planning stage of the Godhead to make (-asah) man "in Our image, according to Our likeness".
- N. God's plan has two aspects associated with it seen in the nouns "צֵלֶם /tselem – image" and "דְּמוּת /demuth – likeness".
- O. These two words are not synonymous with *tselem* meaning a shadow or mirror image of appearance and *demuth* meaning an exact likeness with respect to character or action.
- P. The noun *tselem* refers to the soul essence and *demuth* looks to soul adjustment or capacity as manifested in the human body.
- Q. The planning verb –*asah* in Gen.1:26 looks to the complete package of the human being manifested in a physical body.
- R. However, the body does not live apart from God imparting the soul. Cf.1Cor.15:45
- S. The "creating out of nothing" *bara'* in Gen.1:27 is the verb of choice for the soul.
- T. The man and woman's soul essence was *bara'* in the execution or fulfillment state of creation.
- U. In Gen.2:7, the verb *yatsar* is used paralleling the use of –*asah* in 1:26 regarding the bodily part of man.
- V. It indicates that God shaped or formed man's body from the elements of the ground called "dust".
- W. Man's body is biodegradable and decomposition proves the Biblical account.
- X. Following the forming of the physical body, God then "breathed into his nostrils the breath of lives".
- Y. This parallels the execution verse of Gen.1:27 of imparting soul life to the physical body.
- Z. The plural "lives/חַיִּים /chayyim" acknowledges both non-material and material properties that make up the human life.

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- AA.** The woman was crafted from the “rib” of man and a fourth creation verb is used in Gen.2:22, “fashioned/בָּנָה –banah” meaning “to build, construct”.
- BB.** While not said, it is assumed that after God built Eve’s physical body, soul life was imparted to her.
- CC.** The Bible clearly indicates that the human has a both spiritual and physical makeup in his/her existence.
- DD.** The soul is immortal, the body is mortal. Cf.Mat.10:28
- EE.** In the original creation account it is seen that the body is formed first and then the soul life is imparted to give the body life.
- FF.** This is how it is retained through procreation as the body is first formed in the mother’s womb as a living organism and a breath of life is imparted (or not) at birth.
- GG.** It is soul life that elevates mankind above lower creation. Cf.Lev.17:11
- HH.** From Adam and Eve the entire human race has descended via genetic engineering.
- IV.** The time of man’s origin via Divine revelation.
- A.** Evolution theorizes that man’s origination varies from 200,000 to 500,000 years ago based on whatever modern day school one adheres.
- B.** The proper Biblical view recognizes the genealogies of Gen.5:1 throughout the remainder of the book as literal generations without any gap.
- C.** From Adam to Noah’s Flood would equal 1656 years.
- D.** This would date the beginning of man and history ~3954 BC.
- E.** A false view of pre-adamism holds to humanity existing before Adam.
1. This view is used by some conservatives to explain fossils, men and dinosaurs.
  2. Gen.6:4 explains the age of dinosaurs and Job 40:19 prophesies their demise.
  3. Rom.5:12-21 demands that all mankind be descendant from Adam.
  4. There is no Biblical evidence for pre-Adamic humans.
- F.** Another false view is polygenism that contends a separate creation for each race for each ancestor.
1. All races descended from a single common ancestor. Act.17:26
  2. The difference in races is based on the science of genetic engineering.
  3. God was free to manipulate racial appearance.
  4. One language for all men that was thwarted at the tower of Babel argues for a common ancestry. Gen.11:7
- V.** The material part of man.
- A.** Observations of man’s body:
1. Formed from dust by the Lord on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of restoration. Gen.1:26-31; 2:7
  2. The verbs for creating man’s body are –*asah* and *yatsar*.
  3. The Hebrew word for man is ‘*adam*’.
  4. ‘*Adam*’ was formed from “אָדָמָה /’*adamah* – ground” which is a Hebrew play on words of “an earthling made from earth”. Cp. Job 10:9; 33:6
  5. The material part of man is separate and distinct from the immaterial part. Gen.1:26 cp.to vs.27; 2:7; Mat.10:28

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6. The fall recorded in Gen.3 resulted in a genetic modification producing the aging process as part of a new sin nature. Cp.Rom.5:19
  7. The Hebrew term “אֲנוּשׁ /’enosh”, the name of Seth’s first son, has the meaning of mortal man with emphasis on his frailty.
  8. Man’s extended life before the Flood is explained by the special environment of that time (water vapor canopy).
  9. Man’s longevity decreases rapidly after the Flood and leveled out to the age of 70. Psa.90:10
  10. The body is perfectly designed by God to relate us to the environment of the A/C.
- B.** The future of the human body.
1. It will experience resurrection, both believers and unbelievers. Joh.5:26-29; Act.24:15; 1Cor.15:22-26
  2. Our mortal bodies will be transformed into immortal resurrection bodies.
  3. For believers, this new body will be like Jesus Christ’s. Phi.3:21
  4. For unbelievers, it will be a body conducive to surviving all eternity in the Lake of Fire. Cf.Rev.20:15
- VI.** The immaterial part of man.
- A. The origin of his immaterial part is also recorded in Gen.1:26-27 and Gen.2:7.
  - B. It follows the forming of Adam’s physical body. Gen.2:7a
  - C. The phrase “image of God” in Gen.1:26,27 does not refer to man’s trichotomy (body, soul and spirit) as comparing to God’s triune Person.
  - D. “Image/tselem” should not be confused with “likeness/demuth” in Gen.1:26.
  - E. *Tselem* = soul essence that is always created *ex nihilo* while *demuth* is the completed manufactured body in development governed by the soul.
  - F. *Demuth* is realized with the MAJG as it spiritually relates to the development of man.
  - G. The Lord did the “inbreathing” of “lives” in Gen.2:7.
  - H. Man received the “*breath of lives*”.
  - I. The result was that he became what he wasn’t, a living soul captured in the word “breath/נְשָׁמָה /neshamah” resulting in “soul life/ψυχή ζάω – pseuche zao” as translated in the Greek LXX. Cf.1Cor.15:45
  - J. The immaterial part of man was *bara’d* (created *ex nihilo*).
  - K. For Adam and Eve, the “lives” included the human spirit lost at the fall in the garden. Cf.Gen.2:17; 3:1ff *See the Doctrine of Regeneration and Doctrine of Deaths*
  - L. Due to the fall, all of mankind is born into the world dichotomous (soul and body).
  - M. In Biblical anthropology the real you is the soul while the human body is the temporary residence for the soul. Cp.2Cor.5:1-4
  - N. The essence of the soul includes: mentality (Luk.12:19; Act.15:24), volition (Act.3:23), emotions (e.g., 1Joh.2:28), conscience and self-awareness (Luk.16:19-31).
  - O. Because modern psychology disregards the existence of the soul and OSN, problem solving of mental psychosis is bankrupt.
- VII.** Conclusion: Man and woman were created by God with apparent age, physically mature, having a body, soul and spirit, with advanced intellect and vocabulary (Gen.2:19-20), no OSN, spiritual immaturity, a relationship with God and with volition.