

# What is Man?

It has been said that the big questions everyone wants to know are:

*Who am I?*

*Where did I come from?*

*Why am I here?*

*Where am I going?*

Over the years, people have wrestled with these questions and tried to come up with satisfactory answers.

The good news is that God has given mankind an instruction manual that explains who we are, where we have come from, why we are here, and where we are going. That instruction manual is called the Bible.

In the Bible, David says the following,

**Psalm 8:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; <sup>4</sup> What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

It is truly an amazing thought that God would care for man\*. In this lesson, we will look at the following:

1. Man is created by God.
2. Man is separated from God by sin.
3. Man cannot save himself.
4. Man's only hope is Jesus Christ.
5. Man will spend eternity somewhere forever.

\*Note: In this lesson, when we talk about 'man' we are referring to 'mankind' or humanity as a whole.

**KEY VERSES:** Psalm 8:3-4 *'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?'*

**BOOKS TO MEMORISE:** Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Songs of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, **Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah**

**CHAPTERS TO READ THIS WEEK:** Genesis 15-21

# 1. MAN IS CREATED BY GOD.

## Man was created unique.

### 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.*

On the sixth day of creation, God paused and did something special when he made man. He paused and had some kind of counsel about man.

Man would be the crowning work of His creation and would be the one who would be in charge of God's creation (See also Genesis 1:28.)

## Man was created in God's Image.

### Genesis 1:26–27

*<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

This means that mankind was made with qualities that are like or resemble God.

**Not a PHYSICAL likeness.** God does not have a body, though He has used the form of a human body when appearing to man.

### A PERSONALITY likeness.

A **mind** capable of hearing and understanding God's communications with him.

**Emotions** capable of responding to God in love and devotion.

A **will** which can make choices, whether or not to obey God.

**A MORAL likeness.** Of all creatures, only man has a spirit or God-consciousness.

Man has the ability to know God and spiritually commune with Him through prayer, praise, and worship.

**Plants** have body and unconscious life.

**Animals** have body and conscious life ("soul").

**Humans** have body, conscious life ("soul" - intellect, emotions, and will), and spirit (God-consciousness).

### 1 Thessalonians 5:23

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Some see in this three-part being a reflection of the Trinity.

### **A SOCIAL likeness.**

God's social nature and intrinsic love is seen in the Trinity.

God - who is love - created man with a social nature and a need for love.

Adam and Eve enjoyed talking with God, probably on a daily basis (Genesis 3:8).

God provided for human fellowship and love in a very special and intimate way through marriage (Genesis 2:18-24).

### **Man was created male and female.**

#### **Genesis 1:27**

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Both man and woman were created in the image of God and together would exercise dominion over God's creation.

But man and woman were made physically diverse in order to accomplish His command of being fruitful and multiplying.

They were to be a team working together to carry out God's plan and purposes on the earth - serving and glorifying God together.

Read **Genesis 2:4-8,15,18-25**.

## **What does this mean for us:**

You and I are no accident. We are made intentionally by God for a very special purpose. We have the wonderful privilege to know and to worship God.

We need to accept who we are and how God made us: our make-up, our gender, our birth order, our family, our background, our strengths/weaknesses, etc.

#### **Psalm 139:14**

*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: Marvellous are thy works; And that my soul knoweth right well.*

We need to live our lives to know and glorify God.

#### **Revelation 4:11**

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

## 2. MAN IS SEPARATED FROM GOD BY SIN.

### Man sinned against God.

#### **Genesis 3:1–6**

*<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. <sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Man was originally created morally innocent and positively holy which is why He could talk with God (Genesis 3:8) and why God said everything He made was “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

But then man sinned against God and was alienated (cut off) from God and from one another.

Satan in the form of the serpent entered the world and tempted man to sin. He questioned God’s Word (v.1); denied God’s Word (v.4), and sowed doubt in man’s heart about God’s goodness (v.5).

After the deceit and lies of Satan, Eve viewed the fruit of the forbidden tree in a different light. So she ate and gave to her husband.

The woman was deceived, but Adam knew what He was doing. As a result, Adam is held responsible as the head of the human race.

#### **1 Timothy 2:14**

*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.*

#### **Romans 5:12**

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

### All men are sinners.

Sinners by nature. The sin nature of Adam is passed on to every child.

#### **Psalms 51:5**

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me.*

#### **Jeremiah 17:9**

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

#### **James 1:14**

*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

#### **Matthew 15:19–20**

*<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: <sup>20</sup> These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

Sinners by choice.

**Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Psalm 14:2-3**

*<sup>2</sup> The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. <sup>3</sup> They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: There is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

**1 John 1:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

**Sin separates man from God.**

Read **Genesis 3:7-24**.

There was an immediate difference when man sinned.

They knew shame and fear (v.7).

They were afraid of God (v.8-11).

They began to blame one another and make excuses (v.12-13).

The serpent, the woman, the man, the land, and all of creation was affected by sin (v.14-24).

v.15 an enmity (hostility) between Satan and mankind

v.16 pain in child-bearing, sorrow in the world, struggle between men and women

v.17 ground cursed and sorrow

v.18 thorns and thistles

v.19 sweat and hard work

v.23 driven from the garden

All of mankind and all of creation was affected by the fall.

The world we live in is groaning and travailing together waiting for redemption (release) from the curse of sin.

**Romans 8:18-23**

*<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, <sup>21</sup> Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

**What this means for us:**

We are born into a fallen world.

We are born with a sin nature.

We are born cut off from God.

### 3. MAN CANNOT SAVE HIMSELF.

**Genesis 3:7**

*And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

**Genesis 3:21**

*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

Man's sin problem is not something he can solve on his own.

Just as the fig leaf aprons were not sufficient to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness, so any effort we make to cover our sin and guilt will not work.

**For generations, men have been trying to cover their sin with good works or deal with their sin by human efforts.**

Others have tried to come to God on their own terms like Cain when he brought of the fruit of the ground instead of a blood sacrifices (Gen 4:1-7).

Furthermore, some have tried to invent their own religion or set up their own kingdom like Nimrod and the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9).

**The problem is that no matter how hard we try, we all fall short.**

**Romans 3:23**

*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

**Isaiah 64:6**

*But we are all as an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; And we all do fade as a leaf; And our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

**The way that seems right unto us only leads to death.**

**Proverbs 16:25**

*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, But the end thereof are the ways of death.*

**This is a very difficult concept for us to grasp.**

We assume if we just try harder, we will eventually do better. But no amount of personal, social, or religious reform will ever make us good enough.

**Romans 3:9–20**

*<sup>9</sup> What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; <sup>10</sup> As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: <sup>11</sup> There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. <sup>12</sup> They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. <sup>13</sup> Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: <sup>14</sup> Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: <sup>15</sup> Their feet are swift to shed blood: <sup>16</sup> Destruction and misery are in their ways: <sup>17</sup> And the way of peace have they not known: <sup>18</sup> There is no fear of God before their eyes. <sup>19</sup> Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

### What this means for us:

We cannot fix our problems.

We are lost and unable to save ourselves.

We need to turn from whatever it is we are thinking will rescue us.

# 4. MAN'S ONLY HOPE IS JESUS CHRIST.

## Romans 3:21-28

*<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; <sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: <sup>25</sup> Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; <sup>26</sup> To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

v.21 There is a righteousness that man can have that comes **without having to keep the law**.

v.21 This righteousness is one that **the law and the prophets** pointed to and witnesses about.

v.22 This righteousness comes **by faith in Jesus** to all and upon all who **believe** - there is no difference.

v.23 **All have sinned** and come short of the glory of God and so all need a Saviour.

v.24 All men then can be **justified** (declared righteous) freely by God's grace through the **redemption** (paying the ransom price) that is in Christ Jesus.

v.25 Christ Jesus was chosen by God to be the **propitiation** (satisfaction of God's wrath against sin) for those who believe on Him and His shed blood.

v.25 In this way, God declares His **righteousness in forgiving past sins** and being patience (forbearance of God) toward sin.

v.26 Because of Christ's sacrifice, God is righteous in forgiving those who believe on Him because He is both **just** (sin was paid for), and the justifier (able to forgive) of those who believe in Jesus.

## What this means for us:

There is only one way to be made right with God and be forgiven - believe on Jesus Christ.

You must get to the point where you recognise you cannot save yourself and that Christ is your only hope.

You must then completely trust in Him.

Nothing that we do has any merit (v.27-28) - no rule/law keeping, no works such as church membership, baptism, Lord's supper, good deeds.

The salvation of humanity rests totally upon the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, received by grace through faith.

**Have you believed on Jesus in this way?**

# 5. MAN WILL SPEND ETERNITY SOMEWHERE FOREVER.

**God made man eternal, which means that he will live somewhere forever.**

**Hebrews 9:27**

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

**Death of the body is not the end. There is life after death for some and death after death for others.**

**We will live somewhere forever - either rejoicing in God's presence forever or separated from God's presence forever.**

**Daniel 12:2**

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

**John 5:28-29**

*<sup>28</sup> Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup> And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

**The only way to guarantee you will die and go to heaven rather than die and go to hell and be cast into the lake of fire is to have your name written in the Lamb's book of life and not blotted out of the book of life through faith in Jesus.**

**Revelation 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

## CONCLUSION

We have been created by God for a special reason and special purpose - to know God and to enjoy Him forever.

Sin cuts us off from God and affects all of creation and humanity.

God in His love sent Christ to reconcile us back to Himself.

We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved.

**Acts 16:30-31**

*<sup>30</sup> And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? <sup>31</sup> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

If you have believed on Jesus, are you living for Him, serving Him, honouring Him?

Are you doing the work He has for you? Are you putting Him first in your life? Are you showing you love Him by obeying His commands?