

Scientists have found that if one were to take any two people from anywhere in the world, the basic genetic differences between these two people would typically be around 0.2% —even if they came from the same people group. But these so-called 'racial' characteristics that many think are major differences (skin colour, eye shape, etc.) account for only 6% of this 0.2% variation, which amounts to a mere 0.012% difference genetically.

**In other words, the so-called 'racial' differences are absolutely trivial.** The only reason many people think these differences are major is because they have been brought up in a culture that has taught them to see the differences this way.

[ cf. 'One Blood', esp. chapter on 'Genetics and the Human Family' ].

**TEST #1 The Four Main Events of the Creation Era** (Write in the correct event from the options on the left).

|          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Creation | Judgment for sin         |
| Fall     | Beginning of the nations |
| Flood    | Sin entered the world    |
| Tower    | Man in the image of God  |

**TEST #2 Story-Line Summary** (Fill in the blanks from memory)

ERA                      STORYLINE SUMMARY

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam is created by God, but he \_\_\_\_\_ and  
    \_\_\_\_\_ God's original \_\_\_\_\_ for man.

**TEST #3 Importance of Genesis** (Fill in the blanks from memory)

Genesis is vital because it is: F \_\_\_\_\_

- The book of Genesis gives us vital information about the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.

F \_\_\_\_\_

- It is significant that the portion of Genesis which has been the object of the greatest attacks of scepticism and unbelief - the \_\_\_\_\_ - is the portion which had the greatest influence on the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament.

# BASIC BIBLE STUDY

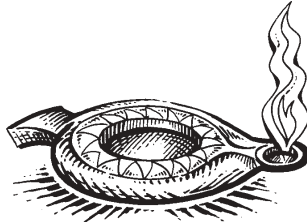
## An Introductory Guide To Understanding The Scriptures

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### PART FOUR

### The Creation Era

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"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path"  
PSALM 119:105

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
 Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
 I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
 Thy power through all the universe displayed.  
 Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee,  
 How Great Thou Art!

What we can see (by unaided sight, or through a high-powered telescope, or from satellite pictures) is amazing. But what about all that we cannot see in this mighty universe? Out in the distant curves of the universe, hidden from us by the barriers of time and space, are amazing realms beyond the reach of man, largely unknown and unexplored. The late British scientist J.B.S. Haldane could say, "**The universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we can suppose.**" Galaxies are as common as blades of grass in a meadow: they number perhaps 100 billion.

How can we comprehend the incredible size of this galaxy-filled universe? For such awesome distances, scientists and astronomers think in terms of time: they measure space by a unit called 'the light-year,' the distance light travels in one year at the rate of 186,282 miles per second ... about 6 trillion miles.

Perhaps more than anything else, the mystery and the enormity of our universe capture our imagination and incite within us a fascination about the subject of Creation. That brings us to the opening chapters of the Bible ... **Genesis 1-11.**

**GENESIS IS FOUNDATIONAL**



It is probably the most important book ever written. **If Genesis was to be torn out of the Bible (as many people would prefer), the rest of the Bible would be incomprehensible.** It would be like a building without a ground floor, or a bridge with no support.

• "More and more scientists find that the differences that set us apart are cultural, not racial. Some even say that the word "race" should be abandoned because it's meaningless. ... We accept the idea of race because it's a convenient way of putting people into broad categories, frequently to suppress them ... . The most hideous example was provided by Hitler's Germany. And racial prejudice remains common throughout the world." (ABC News).

**ADVENT OF RACISM**

The whole concept of racism took on a sinister aspect after Charles Darwin published his book 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection,' or the 'Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.' **Darwinian evolution was (and still is) inherently a racist philosophy,** teaching that different groups or 'races' of people evolved at different times and rates, so some groups are more like their ape-like ancestors than others. This has resulted in many people having ingrained prejudices against other groups of people (e.g. Australian Aborigines).

A leading evolutionary spokesperson, Stephen Jay Gould, stated that "Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1850, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory."

**The Bible and 'race'**

The Bible does not even use the word 'race' in reference to people, but does describe all human beings as being of 'one blood' (**Acts 17:26**). This, of course, emphasises that we are all related, for all humans are descendants of the first man Adam (**1 Corin. 15:45**).

**'Racial' differences**

Some people imagine there must be different 'races' of people because there appear to be major differences between various groups, such as skin colour and eye shape. However, the truth is that these so-called 'racial characteristics' are only minor variations among the people groups.

Adam and Eve had genes for both lighter and darker skin colour, which would mean (because of co-dominance) that they were probably middle-brown in colour, with the potential for a range of possible shades of colour in their offspring.

Indo-European peoples. There is enough clear identification to recognize that the descendants of Japheth spread all over Europe, with one major branch heading eastward into Persia and India.

- Gomer (and three sons - Ashkenaz, Riphath and Togarmah ... identified with Germany, Scandinavian countries, Armenia, Turkey);
- Magog, Tubal and Meshech (the progenitors of the modern Russian peoples);
- Madai (ancestor of the Medes and Persians. It was through this group that the Aryans developed, who later migrated into India and became the progenitors of the Indian peoples);
- Javan (and sons, Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim and Dodanim ... Greece, Cyprus, Rhodes, the Phoenicians; possibly Spain and North Africa);
- and Tiras (Thracians, a possibility that Tiras also gave rise to the Etruscans of Italy).

Ham had 4 sons (**Genesis 10:6-20**) - and the Bible supplies much more detail about them than it does concerning the sons of Japheth.

- Cush is the same in the Bible as Ethiopia (Five of his sons - Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabtechah - settled in the Sudan and Arabia).
- Mizraim is the ancestor of the Egyptians (and is the customary name for Egypt in the Bible) - and, through some of his sons, the Philistines.
- Phut is the same as Libya.
- Canaan is the ancestor of the Canaanites (Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgasites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites, Hamathites) and gave his name to the land of Canaan. While the evidence is rather tenuous, it is possible that two of the sons of Canaan - Heth and Sin - may have been the ancestors of the Oriental peoples (inc. Chinese, Mongoloids and the American Indians).

Shem (**Genesis 10:21-31**): 5 of his children are listed:

- Elam ... the Elamites. (Under Chedorlaomer, the Elamites invaded Canaan during the days of Abram (**Genesis 14:4&5**) ... but were later to merge with others, especially the Medes, to form the Persian empire).
- Asshur ... Assyrians.
- Arphaxad ... in direct line leading to Abraham.
- Lud ... Turkey.
- Aram ... Syrians.

### How did all the different 'races' arise from Noah's family?

#### ONLY ONE RACE

All human beings in the world today are classified as Homo sapiens sapiens. Scientists admit that, biologically, there really is only one race of humans.

- "Race is a social construct ... it has no basic biological reality."  
(Advancement of Science Convention in Atlanta in 1997).

The word genesis means "origin" - and the book of Genesis is the only true and reliable account of the ORIGIN of all the basic entities of the universe and of life. What you believe about your origin will inevitably determine what you believe about your purpose and destiny. A believing understanding of the Book of Genesis is therefore necessary to an understanding of God and His meaning to man.

Genesis provides us with information regarding:

- (1) The origin of the universe
- (2) The origin of order and complexity
- (3) The origin of the solar system
- (4) The origin of the atmosphere and hydrosphere
- (5) The origin of life
- (6) The origin of man
- (7) The origin of marriage
- (8) The origin of evil
- (9) The origin of language
- (10) The origin of government
- (11) The origin of culture
- (12) The origin of nations
- (13) The origin of religion
- (14) The origin of the chosen people.

This book is, in reality, the foundation of all true history, as well as of true science and true philosophy.

Above everything else, Genesis is the foundation of God's revelation to man. The rest of the Old Testament would be without sense and direction apart from Genesis; the New Testament, describing the execution and implementation of God's plan of redemption, would be redundant were it not for the record of man's sin and desperate need for salvation as revealed in Genesis. If we cannot believe **Genesis 1-3**, how can we believe **John 3:16**?

#### **GENESIS IS FACTUAL**

**No other book of the Bible is quoted as copiously or referred to so frequently in other books of the Bible, as Genesis.**

In the Old Testament:

- Adam is mentioned by name in **Deuteronomy, Job & 1 Chronicles**;
- Noah is mentioned by name in **1 Chronicles, Isaiah & Ezekiel**;
- Abraham is mentioned by name in 15 books of the Old Testament and 11 of the New Testament;
- Jacob is named in 20 books (outside Genesis) of the Old Testament - and in at least 17 of the New Testament.

The New Testament, if anything, is even more dependent on Genesis than the Old. There are at least 165 passages in Genesis that are either directly quoted or clearly referred to in the New Testament. Many of these are alluded to more than once, so that there are at least 200 quotations or allusions to Genesis in the New Testament.

**It is significant that the portion of Genesis which has been the object of the greatest attacks of scepticism and unbelief - the first 11 chapters - is the portion which had the greatest influence on the New Testament.** There are over 100 quotations/direct references to **Genesis 1-11** in the New Testament.

Every one of the New Testament authors refers somewhere in his writings to **Genesis 1-11**.

On at least 6 different occasions, Jesus Christ Himself quoted from or referred to something or someone in one of these chapters, including specific reference to each of the first 7 chapters (e.g. **Matthew 19:4-6**). It is therefore quite impossible to reject the historicity and divine authority of the Book of Genesis without undermining (and, in effect, repudiating) the authority of the entire Bible.

**THE ARC OF BIBLE HISTORY  
#1 ... THE CREATION ERA**

**I. REVIEW**

Can you remember:

- a. The Central Figure, and
- b. The Main Location ... of the Creation Era?



**II. STORYLINE SUMMARY**

**Adam is created by God,  
but he sins  
and destroys God's original plan for man.**

**III. STORYLINE EXPANSION**

There are **4 major events** within the Creation Era. They are the accounts of:

- 1. Creation**
- 2. The Fall**
- 3. The Flood**
- 4. The Tower of Babel**

The tower was not designed to "reach unto" heaven (those words are not in the original), but to be dedicated to (or replicate) heaven and its angelic host. It was only a short time before the outward worship of the Creator was corrupted into the worship of the creature (cf. **Romans 1:21-23&25**). Astrology, spiritism and all the other evils of paganism and idolatry - and behind them the demonic hosts of Lucifer - were imported. The Tower of Babel therefore represented human 'religion' - an evolutionary pantheism, promoted through a system of astrology and idolatrous polytheism, empowered by occultic spiritism and demonism. (This original Babylonian religious system has proved the source of all the world's non-Christian religions: Babylon, according to **Revelation 17:5**, was the "mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." Henry M. Morris has pointed out that **"this has taken place not only in terms of outward ritualism and idolatry, but also in the more insidious philosophy of evolutionary pantheistic humanism which permeates its educational and political centres"**).

God looks down on this co-operative effort of man trying to devise alternative forms of 'religion' and sees it as the beginning of a worse rebellion against Him. He divides this large congregation of people by causing them to begin speaking different languages. Lack of communication prevents them from further progress on the tower, and the people of each tongue disperse to the four corners of the earth (the very thing they were trying to insure against) and form the beginning of the nations of the world as we know them today. By this means, the entire world was inhabited within a few generations at most.

**THE TABLE OF NATIONS**

**Genesis 10** is a veritable Table of Nations. It is obvious from **Genesis 10:5,20,25,31&32** that **Genesis 10** describes the movement of peoples and the creation of nations after the Tower of Babel judgment in **Genesis 11**.

26 nations are listed as springing from Shem; 30 from Ham; and 14 from Japheth ... a total of 70 primeval nations in this original Table of Nations.

Japheth had 7 sons (**Genesis 10:2-5**): we can trace most of these names through Scripture, early secular historical writings and on excavated archaeological monuments. Japheth's sons emerge as the ancestors of the

**PROFILE ON ... NIMROD** (Genesis 10:8&9)

Nimrod means "let us rebel." He certainly lived up to his name. He rose to be a leader in a planned and organized rebellion against God's purposes for mankind. Had God said that the family of Ham would be perpetual slaves to the descendants of Shem and Japheth (**Genesis 9:25-27**)? Nimrod would change all that! To a degree he did. He "began to be a mighty one in the earth" and soon he had all the Hamites - and possibly many of the Semites and Japhethites - under his influence and leadership. They finally settled in the fertile plain of Shinar and began to build a great complex of cities, beginning at Babel, and including Erech (also called Uruk), Accad, and Calneh in Shinar; Nineveh, Rehoboth, Resen and Calah in Assyria.

Nimrod became a mighty tyrant in the face of Jehovah. He was a "hunter" in the sense that he was incapable in searching out and persuading men to obey his will. The Jerusalem Targum says: "**He was powerful in hunting and in wickedness before the Lord, for he was a hunter of the sons of men, and he said to them, 'Depart from the judgment of the Lord, and adhere to the judgment of Nimrod!'**"

These builders were not concerned with God's plans: **Genesis 11:4** makes it plain that they intended to "make **us** a name." In the same breath they deliberately acknowledged that their purpose was contrary to God's command ... "Lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." This was a clear attempt to unify all mankind under one government - a government that would have no reference to Jehovah, but rather be a dictatorship under Nimrod the rebel. The Tower became a focal point for their worship.

**THE TOWER OF BABEL**

It was, in all probability, a multi-storied temple-tower, or ziggurat, similar to those developed in Babylonia in the early 3rd millennium BC. It dominated the city, both architecturally and culturally. It would serve as the focal point of the political and religious life of the population, and would be a symbol of their unity and strength.



*Partially-reconstructed temple-tower (ziggurat) at Ur shows how the Tower of Babel may have been built with stairways leading from one level to the next*

## 1. CREATION: MAN IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (Genesis 1&2)

**GENESIS 1:1**

**Genesis 1:1** has been described as "**the foundation of all foundations and is thus the most important verse in the Bible**" (Henry Morris). Andrew Fuller has declared that a child can learn in five minutes from this verse, more than all the ancient sages ever knew.

From **Genesis 1:1** we learn:

- **THE AFFIRMATION OF GOD**

The fact that God exists is not argued but asserted. **Romans 1:18-21** states that men know there is a God. The fool does not want to admit this fact; **Psalms 14:1; 53:1**. It is not that he has a mental problem, but a moral problem.

- **THE ACTIVITY OF GOD**

Only God can create. Men can show creativity with the materials at their disposal, but only God can make something out of nothing (cf. **Genesis 1:1, 21&27**). It has often been pointed out that if a person really believes **Genesis 1:1**, he will not find it difficult to believe anything else recorded in the Bible. If God really created all things, then He controls all things and can do all things!

- **THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

**Genesis 1:1** refutes all of man's false philosophies concerning the origin and meaning of the world:

- (1) It refutes ATHEISM, because the universe was created by God. "GOD created." Nature is impossible without God.
- (2) It refutes PANTHEISM, for God is greater than that which He created. Pantheism teaches that God and nature are the same; that is, Nature is God and God is nature. "GOD CREATED the heaven and the earth."
- (3) It refutes POLYTHEISM, for one God created all things.
- (4) It refutes MATERIALISM, for matter is not eternal, it had a beginning. "IN THE BEGINNING God CREATED the heaven and the earth."
- (5) It refutes HUMANISM, because God, not man, is the ultimate reality. "In the beginning GOD ..."
- (6) It refutes EVOLUTIONISM, because God created all things. "In the

beginning GOD CREATED ... ." "Science can take us back only so far, and then it stands impotent and dumb, but just at that point the voice of Revelation is heard saying - God."

Our God is eternal, self-existent, omnipotent, omniscient and sovereign. As our Creator, He has the authority to declare what is right and what is wrong and to demand obedience.

The information provided by **Genesis 1** is more than merely descriptive or poetic: it tells us what we need to know in order to understand ourselves and the world around us.

- The origin of the world and of life was no chance occurrence/accident ... there is a Creator - God.
- God made everything there is.
- All that God made was good.
- The high point of all of God's creative acts was the making of man.
- Mankind is distinguished from all other creatures in two respects: he alone is made in God's own image; he is given charge over all the rest.
- God's six days of creative activity, followed by a day of rest, sets the pattern for man's working life.

#### **THE DAYS OF CREATION**

- Day 1 ~ Light and darkness/day and night
- Day 2 ~ Earth's atmosphere (firmament)
- Day 3 ~ Dry land and seas separated; plants and trees
- Day 4 ~ Sun, moon and stars: seasons, days, years
- Day 5 ~ Sea creatures and birds
- Day 6 ~ Land animals and man
- Day 7 ~ Creation, completed, God rests!

#### **WAS THE WORLD MADE IN 6 LITERAL 24-HOUR DAYS?**

- Evolutionists certainly do not believe that this universe appeared within 6 24-hour days. They claim it came about by blind chance millions of years ago.
- Those who try to force a harmony between the teaching of Scripture and the theories of evolution (Theistic Evolutionists) assert that God made the earth, but that He used the process of evolution to do so. They claim that the "days" of **Genesis 1** are actually long ages of millions of years.
- Other scholars believe that there is a great period of time between

#### **THE COVENANT WITH NOAH**

Particularly notable is the covenant God made with Noah in **Genesis 9:8-17**. The covenant is an important and recurring theme in Scripture; it is vital we mark its details at this point. God establishes His covenant with Noah, Abraham, the nation of Israel (through Moses) and David. This covenant grows progressively richer in promise, until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ ushers in the New Covenant. In every instance it is God who takes the initiative - this is not an agreement between equal parties. God draws up the terms. He makes them known. And He alone guarantees their keeping. Men enjoy the blessings of the covenant in so far as they obey God's commands.

### **4. THE TOWER OF BABEL & THE BEGINNING OF THE NATIONS (Genesis 10&11).**

**Genesis 11** tells of an event of almost equal importance to that of the great Flood. The Flood was worldwide in its effects - and this confusion of tongues was also worldwide in its impact as far as man was concerned.

#### **GOD'S COMMAND TO POST-FLOOD MAN**

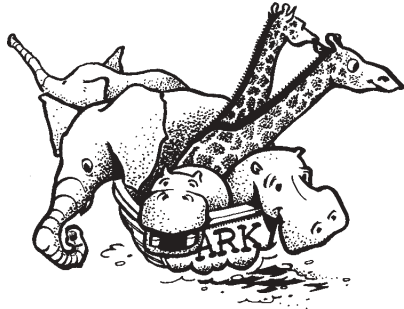
God's post-flood mandate to man was to spread out, populate, and subdue the whole earth. His plan was for man to embark on a systematic colonization and development of all parts of the earth, each with its own local government (**Genesis 9:1&6**). The future population of earth was to be subdivided into workable and controllable social units or nations. Each organized national group would contribute to the corporate life of mankind as a whole, just as each individual family unit would contribute to its own nation.

#### **DISOBEDIENCE!**

However, in direct disobedience to that command, man journeys to the fertile Tigris-Euphrates plain (the land of Shinar), settles down in one place, develops an urban community, and begins building a monument to himself, the Tower of Babel. Nimrod the hunter assumes control of this new kingdom (**Genesis 10:10**). He has a vision of worldwide domination. His desire (promoted by Satan) is to construct a self-sufficient society, under one powerful and brilliant leader - a society that would no longer be dependent on God.

tissue, as it were, and leaving behind the healthy tissue to restore itself. He does this by sending a worldwide flood which destroys mankind, except for Noah and his family, who are saved in Noah's ark (cf. **Genesis 7:19-24**).

**WAS NOAH'S ARK BIG ENOUGH?**



The Ark measured 300x50x30 cubits (**Genesis 6:15**) which is about 140x23x13.5 metres or 459x75x44 feet, so its volume was 43,500 m<sup>3</sup> (cubic metres) or 1.54 million cubic feet.

To put this in perspective, this is the equivalent volume of 522 standard American railroad stock cars, each of which can hold 240 sheep.

If the animals were kept in cages with an average size of 50x50x30 centimetres (20x20x12 inches), that is 75,000 cm<sup>3</sup> (cubic centimetres) or 4800 cubic inches, the 16,000 animals would only occupy 1200 m<sup>3</sup> (42,000 cubic feet) or 14.4 stock cars.

Even if a million insect species had to be on board, it would not be a problem, because they require little space. If each pair was kept in cages of 10 cm (four inches) per side, or 1000 cm<sup>3</sup>, all the insect species would occupy a total volume of only 1000 m<sup>3</sup>, or another 12 cars. This would leave room for 5 trains of 99 cars each for food, Noah's family and 'range' for the animals. (However, insects are not included in the meaning of behemah or remes in **Genesis 6:19&20**, so Noah probably would not have taken them on board as passengers anyway).

**Tabulating the total volume is fair enough, since this shows that there would be plenty of room on the Ark for the animals with plenty left over for food, range etc.** It would be possible to stack cages, with food on top or nearby (to minimise the amount of food carrying the humans had to do), to fill up more of the Ark space, while still allowing plenty of room for gaps for air circulation. We are discussing an emergency situation, not necessarily luxury accommodation. Although there is plenty of room for exercise, sceptics have overstated animals' needs for exercise anyway.

Even if we do not allow stacking one cage on top of another to save floor space, there would be no problem. Working on the basis of standard recommended floor space requirements for animals, all of them together would have needed **less than half the available floor space of the Ark's three decks**. This arrangement allows for the maximum amount of food and water storage on top of the cages close to the animals.

the first two verses of Genesis - 'The Gap Theory.' This 'Gap Theory' is an artificially-manufactured attempt to make room for the vast ages claimed for the earth and its fossils by many geologists.

While Genesis speaks clearly of "days," for various reasons, many people want to make this word "days" possess anything but its most obvious meaning!

The Hebrew word yom translated "day" can, on occasions, mean a period of time. For example, we read of "the day of the Lord" and "the day of salvation" in the Bible. But the word "day" does not mean a long period of time in **Genesis 1**; it means **24 hours!**

**REASONS FOR BELIEF IN 24-HOUR DAYS IN GENESIS 1**

- (1) The word "day" is only used to denote a period of time when the word is qualified, i.e., "The day of the judges, etc."
- (2) Note how carefully the word is introduced in **Genesis 1:5** and how numbers are given to each day. Nowhere in Scripture (or anywhere else) are the phrases "evening and morning" and "the first day" applied to anything except to genuine, 24-hour days!
- (3) If the days are not literal then what do the years and seasons mean (**v14**)?
- (4) Even when we make the days periods of time, they still do not agree with evolutionary periods.
- (5) In **Exodus 20:11** the reason given for the Sabbath day is that God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th.
- (6) There is no death mentioned in Genesis until **chapter 3**. Death is part of the curse and therefore could not happen until sin entered (**Romans 5:12**). For this reason, among others, the Gap Theory must be rejected.

**WHEN DID THE CREATION TAKE PLACE?**

The most famous chronological system based on Biblical data is that of Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656), who computed the date of creation as 4004 B.C. In these days when the teaching of evolutionary uniformitarianism dominates, it is fashionable to ridicule the Ussher chronology. However, Ussher was a distinguished scholar and knew a great deal more about the subject than his modern detractors do. Though Ussher made his studies before the days of Darwin, it was not done in a time of scientific ignorance.

**Whatever system of dating we adopt, time cannot be stretched sufficiently to accommodate modern evolutionary claims which place the origin of modern man at about 3,000,000 B.C., rather than 4000 B.C.**

At the outside, it would seem impossible to insert gaps in the Biblical

genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 totalling more than about 5000 years without rendering the record irrelevant and absurd. The Bible will not support a date for the creation of man earlier than around 10,000 B.C..

### **CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD**

Adam and Eve are created in the image of God, in perfect fellowship and harmony with Him. The "image" is not a physical likeness, but a personal and spiritual likeness. Man has intellect, emotion, and will. He has a moral sense of right and wrong. He is a creative being. These are some characteristics of God that are shared by man, and in this sense, man is created "in the image of God." This phrase sets man apart from the animals. It establishes him in a special relationship with God. To make him no more than animal (as the evolutionist does) is to make him less than man in God's likeness. Evidently, the evolutionist has got it badly wrong!

## **2. THE FALL: SIN ENTERS THE WORLD (Genesis 3)**

Satan, appearing in the form of a serpent, lures Adam and Eve into rebelling against God and violating the one prohibition God had given them - not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When Adam and Eve rebel, sin enters the world.

Their disobedience and rejection of God's authority is deliberate and fatal ... i. they are driven out of the Garden of Eden, ii. the sentence of death is put on them (spiritual death - being cut off from God - is immediate; physical death follows in the course of time), and iii. a curse is placed on the earth. All the pain, evil, and suffering can ultimately be traced to that one act, which is, therefore, appropriately called the "Fall" of man.

Notice how merciful God is ... though Adam and Eve have sinned grievously against Him, God continues to care for them. He clothes them before they go - and, in clothing them (i.e. slaying the animal, **Genesis 3:21**), He points to the way of salvation - a remedy for their sin. What is this but another instance of:

**Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all my sin!?**

### **GENESIS 3:15**

No greater instance of this grace can be seen than in the tremendous promise of a Saviour in **Genesis 3:15**. The primary theme which continues throughout the Old Testament is the crimson thread of redemption through the promised Messiah: **Genesis 3:15** contains the first reference to this crimson thread. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." This is called the 'proto-evangel' (the first gospel promise). Dr. John Gill makes the observation that Christ fulfilled the terms of this promise. "**All this was done by Christ, when He became incarnate and suffered and died**" (cf. **Hebrews 2:14&15, Colossians 2:15, 1 John 3:8**). He explains that Messiah, "**the eminent seed of the woman,**" would: "**bruise the head of the old serpent the devil, that is, destroy him and all his principalities and powers, break and confound all his schemes, and ruin all his works, crush his whole empire, strip him of his authority and sovereignty, and particularly of his power over death, and his tyranny over the bodies and souls of men.**"

**Genesis 3:15** reveals that, after Adam's sin and fall, God declared that a Redeemer would be given. He promised:

**a. A Child**

**b. A Conflict**

**c. A Conquest.** This declaration set the stage for the bitter warfare that was to follow throughout the Old Testament period. God would pursue His plan of redemption, based on the promised Messiah: the devil would try to thwart Him. Satan would employ every possible means to ensure that the promise made in **Genesis 3:15** never materialised. The entire length of the Old Testament revolves around this conflict between God and the Devil.

## **3. THE FLOOD: JUDGMENT FOR SIN (Genesis 6-9)**

Over the next several hundred years, as man multiplies in numbers, so his sin multiplies, until a time comes when God can find only eight people who are willing to live in a righteous relationship with Him: Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives. So, in judgment for sin, God performs surgery on the human race, cutting out the cancerous