

The True Descent of Man

By Al Felder

“¹This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; ²male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. ³And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth.” (Genesis 5:1-3)

In 1859, Charles Darwin published his book *On the Origin of Species*. The book outlined Darwin’s theory of evolution in which he claimed one species gave rise to another through the process of natural selection. Darwin stopped just short of explicitly implying his theories to the development of man, but the clear implication was that man too had followed the same process as the rest of nature. In 1871, Darwin published his second book on evolutionary theory titled *The Descent of Man*. In this book he applied his theories to the development of man stating that man, like the rest of nature, had developed from simple life forms over the process of time.

Darwin was not the first to promote the idea of evolution. Throughout history there have been those who held to such ideas, but Darwin was the first to take the idea and come up with a systemized theory of how it could happen. You have heard people make the statement regarding someone that, “he was at the right place at the right time.” Due to several factors, that’s kind of how it was for Darwin. He was at the right place at the right time for his theories to catch on.

Naturally his theories were met with much debate at first because of their contradiction to the Biblical account of creation. At this point in time, history was based off of the Biblical record; and men such as James Ussher and Sir Isaac Newton had written extensive histories of the world based upon documents available to them at that time and the premise that the Bible is true. Sadly, as a result of Darwin’s work these teachings were placed aside, and history was rewritten. Today, the history books that are published use the theory of evolution as their basis and the story of man is told according to that line of thinking.

I find this to be very sad. It’s sad that many people who claim to believe the Bible have no idea about what it teaches concerning the origin of man and the fallacy of a teaching such as evolution. With that line of thinking in mind, I would like to consider the Bible today as we read it and understand “The True Descent of Man.”

As we begin this discussion there are some very important considerations that we need to make. First of all, man was created in the image of God. Now I have covered this in previous sermons so I am not going to spend a lot of time on it here other than to state the fact that it involves those characteristics that separate man from the rest of creation. This would include

the fact that man has a soul, he has the ability to reason, communicate, create, and man possess morality.

Second, as we consider this account we need to realize the role that Satan plays. Remember the words that God spoke to Satan for his deception of Eve. *“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.”* (Genesis 3:15) God told Satan that one of Eve’s offspring would defeat him.

When we consider the New Testament, we find that Satan did not know who this particular offspring would be, or how he would accomplish this victory. *“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”* (1 Corinthians 2:7, 8) Up until the time of Christ, Satan continuously attacked the descendants of Adam and Eve in a desperate attempt to somehow thwart God’s plan. As the scriptures point out, however, he had no idea when or how his defeat would come about.

We read of Satan’s efforts very early in the Bible. Adam and Eve had two sons named Cain and Abel. Abel was faithful unto God, but Cain preferred to do things his own way. Satan tempted Cain, and Cain eventually killed his brother Abel. It is clear from the Bible that Adam and Eve had other children living at this time as well because Cain feared retaliation from others as a result of his actions. As we will see later, though, it did not appear that any of these descendants were the caliber of Abel in regards to faithfulness to God.

For the remainder of Genesis chapter four, the Bible gives us an account of Cain’s descendants. Cain’s line was a very wicked one. *“And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of one was Adah and the name of the other Zillah.”* (Genesis 4:19) In this verse we read of the first case of polygamy originating with one of Cain’s descendants. The name Adah means the adorned, ornament, beauty; and the name Zillah means shadow, musical player. Through this it can be understood that Cain’s descendants placed more of an emphasis on sensuality, and they changed marriage from God’s original design to fit their desires.

As you continue to read the rest of the chapter you find several things concerning Cain’s line. They invented many musical instruments such as the harp and flute. They mastered metallurgy, and made things from iron and brass. They also had a system of agriculture and animal husbandry. Now this is quite different from the evolutionary time scale. It teaches that man was primitive and struggled to survive in his beginning. The picture is painted of man hunting and gathering while he lived in caves; not living in cities with domesticated animals playing music and manipulating metals.

The main point that I want you to focus on at this time, however, is the wickedness of Cain’s line. They were restless, proud, lustful, violent, and profane. In fact, towards the end of the chapter we read where Lamech followed in Cain’s footsteps and took the life of another

man. Satan was certainly having his way with this line, and wickedness was common at this time.

At the end of chapter four we read of a new line. ²⁵*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. ²⁶And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos; then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.*" (Genesis 4:25, 26) Adam and Eve finally had another son who was like Abel. Seth was faithful unto God, and his line was faithful unto God. Notice what the Bible says after Seth began to have offspring, "Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." Basically, the Bible teaches us about the development of two lines of men at this point, one that was wicked and one that was faithful to God.

As you can image, Satan went to work again to attack the descendant of the woman in an attempt to thwart God. ¹*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose.*" (Genesis 6:1, 2) This passage is a continuation of the thought presented in chapter four. There are two lines of men, those who are wicked, listed as the daughters of men, and those who follow God, listed as the sons of God. Satan began to tempt the faithful line of Seth. They began to marry those unfaithful to God, and the result was a world so wicked that God saw fit to destroy it.

At this time I believe that it would be beneficial to give a Biblical time scale so that we can begin to put some things in perspective. When you add up the genealogies given in Genesis chapter five, you find that there was roughly 1,656 years from the creation to the flood. Then, when you add up the genealogies in Genesis chapter eleven you find that there was 352 years from the flood to the birth of Abraham. The Bible tells us that Abraham was 100 when he had Isaac (Genesis 21:5), Isaac was 60 when he had Jacob (Genesis 25:26), Jacob was 130 when he went to Egypt (Genesis 47:28), the children of Israel lived in Egypt 430 years (Exodus 12:40, 41), and from the Exodus to the building of the Temple by Solomon was 480 years (1 Kings 6:1). This adds up to 1,200 years.

When you put all of this together you find a time scale that looks like this:

Creation – 4,205; Flood – 2,549; Peleg – 2,448; Abraham – 2,197; Temple – 997.

From the time of the Temple until the time of Christ was around 997 years.

One question that people often ask is how long did Adam and Eve live in the Garden of Eden? Well, the Bible doesn't give us an exact amount of time to answer this question. More than likely it was not long after the first week that Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden. We do know that they had children after the Garden, two of whom were Cain and Abel. Some time passed by before they had another son by the name of Seth. The Bible tells us that Adam was 130 years when he had Seth. Seth was born around 4,075 B.C.

Prior to the flood, man lived an average of 912 years. The Bible says that Adam lived 930 years. This would place his death at 3,275 B.C. Adam actually died 56 years after the birth of Noah's father Lamech. Lamech was 182 years old when he had Noah placing Noah's birth at 3,149 B.C. Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood, around 2,549 B.C., and his sons were 100.

Consider Christ's description of man prior to the flood. *"³⁷But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. ³⁸For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark."* (Matthew 24:37, 38) Now, as you read that passage what kind of impression does it give you of man prior to the flood? Well, it's certainly not an impression of primitive man as evolutionists claim. It is a picture of man preoccupied with the fulfillment of physical appetites and materialism the likes of which Christ said would exist during his return. In other words, man was far more advanced at this time than evolutionists like to admit.

It is possible that the world was populated with over a billion people at this time. This is based on the life span of man at this time, and the annual population increase of 2%. The Bible has already confirmed that man began to make instruments of music, master metallurgy, and advance in agriculture and animal husbandry not long after the Garden of Eden. This taken into account with the words of Christ implies that man was quite advanced by this time. Now I'm not saying that their technology was like ours today, but Noah was able to build a large ship 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high the likes of which man did not build again until the 1800's. Could you imagine how much more advanced our society would be if men like Sir Isaac Newton or Albert Einstein had 912 years to develop their theories?

After the flood, we find Satan at work again. God commanded Noah to spread out over the Earth. Noah and his descendants did not obey God. The Bible states that man at this time all spoke the same language and lived together in the land of Shinar or modern day Iraq. *"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."* (Genesis 11:4) At this time they built the tower of Babel in an act of rebellion against God. God had commanded for man to spread out over the earth, but man chose to stay together and sought to make a name for himself lest he be scattered abroad.

There are several interesting points concerning this event. First of all, this event happened during the time of Peleg. *"And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided; and his brother's name was Joktan."* (Genesis 10:25) This is a reference to God confusing the languages at Babel, and causing man to scatter out over the earth. According to the genealogy of Shem given in Genesis 11, Peleg was born 101 years after the flood. This would give the tower of Babel a possible date of 2,448 B.C.

Let's look at the Biblical time line to put things into perspective once again. The Bible tells us that Noah lived 350 years after the flood in Genesis 9:28. This places Noah's death two

years prior to the birth of Abraham, but more importantly it means that Noah was still alive during the events of the tower of Babel. This was the man who found grace in the eyes of God when the rest of the world was judged fit for destruction, and just a little over a hundred years after surviving this catastrophic judgment of God we find Noah and his descendants guilty of disobeying God and God once again placing judgment on man. Listen, that ought to wake each and every one of us up to the tactics of Satan. All that existed in the earth at this time was Noah and a little over a hundred years' worth of his descendants, probably somewhere in the neighborhood of a few thousand people, and Satan tempted them to disobey God.

We also find that Shem lived 500 years after the flood according to Genesis 11:11. This places his death around 1,948 B.C. Abraham lived to be 175 years of age, so that places Shem's death 27 years prior to Abraham's. After the flood the life span of man rapidly began to deteriorate, but there were some in the first couple of generations who live between 400 and 500 years. At this time some men were outliving several generations of their offspring.

Imagine living in a time where some men lived to be hundreds of years old while the lives of their offspring became shorter and shorter. Over time man began to worship their long living ancestors. For example, in Greek mythology, there was essentially the age of the Gods (pre-flood man), which was followed by the Age of Gods and Mortals (Babel to Abraham) that was then followed by the Heroic Age which marked the end of the immortals. The end of the Greek Heroic Age was around 1184 B.C. after the destruction of Troy and during the time of the Judges in the Bible. Incidentally, this was the time in which the age of man had completely leveled out.

Linguists have been able to trace the origin of certain gods back to names of ancestors listed in Genesis 10. For example, the Canaanite god Baal is a derivative of Nimrod who lived not long after the flood.¹ Also, from Naphtuhim we get the Roman god Neptune and the Greek god Poseidon. From Javan comes the Roman god Jupiter and the Greek god Jove.² The examples could go on and on.

Let's consider the tower of Babel itself. The Hebrew word for tower has reference to a pyramid shape. Because of this, it is believed that the tower of Babel was a pyramid or ziggurat type structure. The ancient structure is believed to have still stood during the days of Nebuchadnezzar around 600 B.C. Mention is made of it by the Greek historian Herodotus and later accounts tell of it being torn down by Alexander the Great with the intention of rebuilding it. This never happened, however, due to Alexander's death.³

¹ **Hodge, Bodie. 2013.** *The Tower of Babel*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2013. p. 214.

² —. **2013.** *The Tower of Babel*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2013. p. 220.

³ —. **2013.** *The Tower of Babel*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2013. p. 52.

As we consider further the true decent of man, I would like to consider some things that match the Biblical account; not evolution. According to recent research on human DNA all people are descendants of one woman referred to by scientists as mitochondrial Eve.⁴ This fits the Biblical account of creation. *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.”* (Acts 17:26) The events of the tower of Babel give a perfect explanation as to the differences in people today. As groups spread out, certain characteristics already placed in man by God became more dominant over the course of time.

Darwin’s explanation of this is that the difference of people is due to different stages of evolution. During the late 1800’s evolutionists believed that blacks evolved from the strong but less intelligent gorillas, the Orientals evolved from the Orangutan, and whites evolved from the most intelligent of all primates; the chimpanzee.⁵ Prior to Darwin, the term race was used as a political and geographical term such as the English race or the Irish race. After Darwin’s theories became popular the term was redefined to refer to man in lower or higher groups of development due to evolution. Thus, evolution claims that there are five races instead of one.

Second, within a period of a few hundred years advanced civilization began to be established all over the earth. After the dispersion at the tower of Babel, the following timeline can be constructed for the rise of nations. Babylon had its origin in Babel, so it began quickly after this time period. The Egyptian Civilization started roughly around 2,200 B.C. and the Greek Civilization started roughly around 2,100 B.C. From this point forward civilizations began to spring up in Europe, China, and the Americas.

In each of these instances no buildup of technology through experimentation has been found. Each of these civilizations came on the scene and began building similar structures. We find the great pyramids in Egypt, pyramids in China, and pyramids in the Americas. These are structures that serve as mysteries to man today. Modern archeologists are baffled as to how the ancient civilizations were able to build these structure. Our modern technology cannot lift some of the stones used to build these pyramids, and the precision used to build them is astounding. Even today the 13 acres base of the great pyramid is only off by 7/8 inch.⁶

According to evolution such advanced civilizations should not have begun all over the world as they did. There should have been a gradual buildup over the course of time. Yet, when you believe the Bible it makes sense that these civilizations developed as and when they

⁴ Ware, Ken Ham and A. Charles. 2010. *One Race One Blood*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2010. p. 107.

⁵ —. 2010. *One Race One Blood*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2010. p. 23.

⁶ Donald E. Chittick, Ph.D. 2006. *The Puzzle of Ancient Man*. Newberg, OR : Creation Compass, 2006. p. 91.

did. They took the knowledge they had of building the tower of Babel with them, and began to make similar structures in other parts of the world.

As a side note, many civilizations trace their lineage back to Noah. Included in these groups are the Gauls, Goths, Saxons, Romans, and Chinese just to name a few. From Ham came the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Canaanites, and Chinese. From Japheth came the Europeans, Russian, Romans, and Medes. From Shem came the Israelites and Assyrians.⁷

Finally, evolutionists cannot explain the cause of the ice age. Creation, however, provides a perfect explanation for the ice age through the effects of the global flood. Dramatic changes in the earth's crust, climate, and volcanic activity all gave rise to the ice age. During this period a shroud of volcanic dust would have blocked some of the sunlight causing cooler summers, and the oceans would have been warmer due to the fountains of the deep being broken up causing an excess amount of evaporation which in turn led to a greater formation of ice and snow over 30% of the earth's surface.⁸ One point of agreement between evolutionists and creationists is that land bridges did exist at this time allowing certain people to travel to places such as the Americas. This would have taken place within a five hundred year period after the flood.

In closing, what was once a mystery to Satan is a mystery no longer. Prior to Christ entering the world Satan tried to disrupt God's plan as much as he could, all to no avail. Now he knows his fate is sealed. *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."* (1 Peter 5:9) Now Satan casts doubt on God's word, and seeks to get man to reject God.

⁷ —. **2013.** *The Tower of Babel.* Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2013. pp. 113-182.

⁸ **Ham, Ken. 2010.** *The New Answers Book 1.* Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2010. p. 208.