

SIGNIFICANCE

Devotional | Origin: Where Did I Come From? | Nov 13, 2022

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Discuss: What difference does it make whether a person believes they were created by God or evolved from ape-like ancestors, or originated in some other way?

Key Text: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image’...27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26-27)

In this new five-week series called “Significance,” we are going to study what the Bible says about these important topics: (1) Origin: Where did I come from? (2) Identity: Who am I? (3) Purpose: Why am I here? (4) Predicament and Solution: Why is the world a mess, and how do we fix it? (5) Destiny: Where am I going after I die? How a person answers these questions will greatly affect every aspect of his/her life.

Discuss: How might a person answer each of the five questions from a non-biblical, non-Christian viewpoint?

In today’s lesson, we will consider the question of Origin: Where did I come from?

1. God created the world and everything in it.

Genesis 1:1 says, “*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*” This is the foundational verse of the Bible and all of reality. Here is a brief comparison of the biblical view of origins vs. the atheistic view, which asserts that no God exists.

- **Origin of the Universe**

Atheism – Emerged from nothing, by no one, with no specific plan or purpose
Bible – Created by an infinite, eternal, intelligent, loving, all-powerful God

- **Origin of Life**

Atheism – Emerged by chance from nonliving matter through natural processes
Bible – God, who possesses life Himself, purposely created the various life forms.

- **Origin of Personhood**

Atheism – Emerged by chance from impersonal matter through natural processes
Bible – God, who is personal and intelligent, made humans personal and intelligent.

- **Origin of Morality**

Atheism – Emerged from impersonal and nonmoral mechanisms
Bible – God, who is holy, is the source of all moral goodness.

- **Origin of Human Value and Meaning**

Atheism – Humans are products of valueless processes. Any meaning is subjective.
Bible – Humans are created in God’s image; thus, humans have inherent dignity, worth, and rights.
Ultimate meaning is found in relationship with Creator God.

Discuss: Atheism says, “You are matter.” The Bible says, “You matter.” What’s the difference?

Discuss: How does Genesis 1:1 refute these false philosophies: Atheism (No God exists)? Polytheism (Multiple gods exist)? Pantheism (The creator and the creation are the same)? Nihilism (Life is meaningless)? Humanism (Man is the ultimate reality)?

2. God created humans in His image.

Genesis 1:26-27 says, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’...27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Being created in God’s image means that we humans resemble God:

- **Intellectually** – Humans reflect God’s intellect and free will through our ability to reason and make choices. Any time a human being reads a book, writes a symphony, solves a math problem, or names a pet, he is reflecting God’s image.
- **Morally** – Humans reflect God’s holiness through our ability to recognize right from wrong. Any time a human being feels guilty, condemns evil, praises good, or enforces a law, he is reflecting God’s image.
- **Relationally** – Humans reflect God’s image through our ability to connect relationally with God and other people. Any time a human being makes a new friend, attends a family reunion, or gets married, he is reflecting God’s image.

Discuss: Which of the three ways (listed above) that we resemble God do you most frequently see in yourself? Why? Which do you see the least? Why?

3. Adam and Eve’s sin marred the image of God within themselves and passed that damaged likeness to all their descendants.

Romans 5:12 says, “Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” We still bear the image of God today (Jms.3:9), but we also bear the scars of sin and do not fulfill God’s original design.

Discuss: In what ways has God’s image been marred by sin in others? In you?

4. Jesus is the perfect image of God—He is God in the flesh—and it is through union with Christ that God’s image is restored to us.

Colossians 1:1 says, “[Jesus] is the image of God.” Hebrews 1:3 says, “[Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.” When we receive Christ, God, in His grace, starts the process of restoring His image in us by conforming us to the image of Christ.

Discuss: What key words and phrases do you see in these verses regarding God restoring His image in us by conforming us to the image of Christ? Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 John 3:2

For Further Study:

Free online commentary of the Book of Genesis at www.enduringword.com

Numerous Bible-based articles and videos on origin, etc. at www.answersingenesis.org

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