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Views of Adam

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My View

- Adam and Eve supernaturally created
- Created morally good
- Father and mother of the whole human race
- Why? Biblical teaching

Focus

- ▢ Not on my view
- ▢ Not on authority of the Bible
- ▢ Not on scientific claims
- ▢ Various views offered
- ▢ Evaluated from biblical evidence

A. Major Issues

Sin

- ▢ Human sin had unique beginning.
- ▢ Sin universal in mankind (except Jesus).
- ▢ Sin not innate in human nature.
- ▢ Sin is moral and spiritual.
- ▢ Hope for an end.
- ▢ Need for salvation
- ▢ Hope for recovery
- ▢ Moral and spiritual remedy

Related Issues

- ▮ Human death is an intrusion.
- ▮ Death has physical and spiritual side.
- ▮ Human beings are not merely animals (image of God).
- ▮ Death will be overcome.
- ▮ Salvation addresses physical and spiritual.
- ▮ We respect all humans.

B. Framework for Evaluation

God Speaking Two Ways

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graph TD; GOD --> Bible["words to mankind<br/>(the Bible)"]; GOD --> Nature["words controlling nature"]; Bible --> Harmony["harmony due to God"]; Nature --> Harmony
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GOD

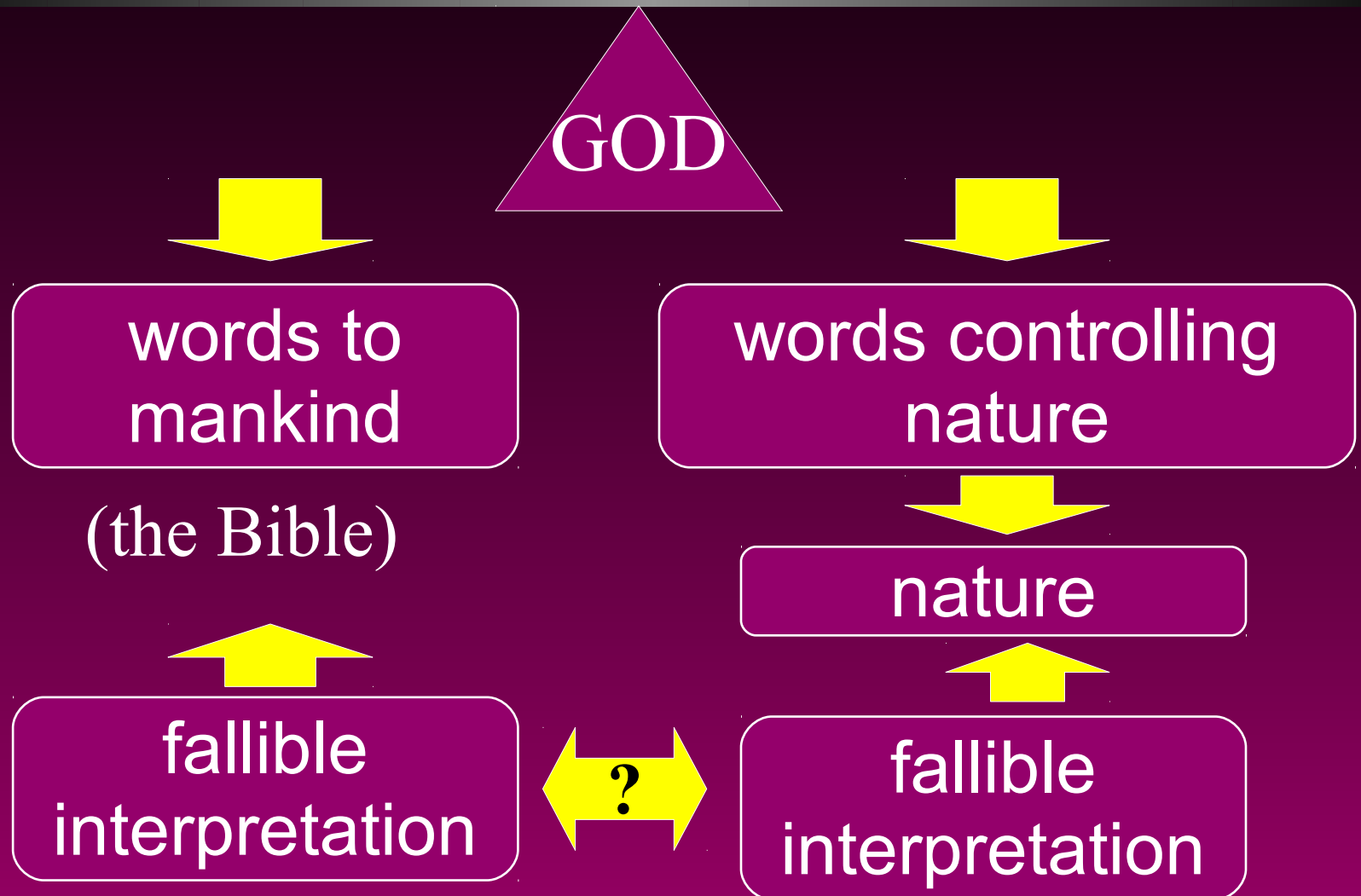
words to
mankind

(the Bible)

words controlling
nature

harmony due to God

Human Interpretation



Priorities

- Special revelation (Bible) and general revelation (through nature)
- General revelation is temporally first
- Special revelation is verbal
- Special revelation is specially designed for guiding us

Guidance from the Bible

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. – Psalm 119:105.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. – 2 Timothy 3:16.

Trustworthiness of the Bible

Scripture cannot be broken. – John 10:35.

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. – Matthew 5:18.

Centrality of the Bible

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the
mouth of God. – Matthew 4:4.

For the word of the cross is folly to those
who are perishing, ... – 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Alternatives?

- ❑ Go by your own judgment.
- ❑ What Adam and Eve did in rebellion.
- ❑ There are too many human opinions.
- ❑ Trust human authority.

Different Focus

the Bible

- ▢ Redemptive: God, Christ, sin
- ▢ To all peoples
- ▢ Common language
- ▢ Focus on persons
- ▢ Ordinary experience
- ▢ Sparse description

science

- ▢ Informative
- ▢ To specialists
- ▢ Technical
- ▢ Focus on mechanism
- ▢ Hidden structures
- ▢ Massive detail, mathematical precision

Implications

the Bible:
common language

- ▮ Framework for all
- ▮ Truth, even in detail, but not technical
- ▮ Easy to overread in a scientific direction

science:
technical

- ▮ Fit into biblical frame
- ▮ Current state of “knowledge”
- ▮ Easy to overread larger human implications

C. Did Adam Exist?

Real or Fictional Adam?

Real:

Adam
existed long ago

located in
time and space



Fiction:

Adam
is “everyman”

timeless truth
about mankind

Death in Adam

For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. — 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.

- ▢ Parallel between Adam and Christ—Christ lived in time and space.
- ▢ How can a real effect (“all die”) take place in a fictional character?

Adam Linked with Humans

Jesus ... being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, ... the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. – Luke 3:23, 37-38.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, – Romans 5:12.

History with Implications

- Adam existed (history)
- His fall is exemplary for our sin
- Not necessary to choose between history and moral universality
 - (false dichotomy)

Clash with Scientists?

- No, clash comes in later details about Adam.

D. Genesis 2 as History

Genesis versus Myths

God not bound
by culture

God speaks
truth into
human cultures

versus

counterfeit
myths about
origins

superficial imitation

Incarnational Principle

- ❑ Christ incarnate is God and man
- ❑ As God and as man, acquainted with culture
- ❑ Interacts with real people in culture
- ❑ Speaks with authority and clarity to people within culture
- ❑ Not bound by culture

E. Adam as Individual or Group?

Adam: Individual or Group?

- ▢ Romans 5:12, 15, 16, 17, 19: “one man.”
- ▢ Luke 3:38: all the other names in the genealogy are individuals.
- ▢ Genesis 2 could talk about group if desired.
- ▢ Adam has a wife, Eve.

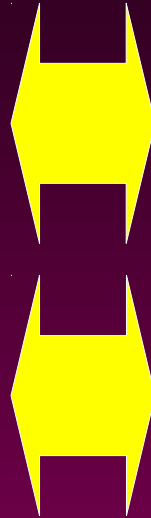
F. Created Morally Good?

Morally Good?

Good:

morally inclined
to serve God

fresh start



Animal Nature:

mixed morals

dragged down by
inheritance from
animal past

God's Goodness

God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. – Ecclesiastes 7:29.

- ❑ Defective man undermines God's goodness and sovereign power.
- ❑ Defective beginning excuses sin: “I can't help it because you made me this way.”
- ❑ No fall, no redemption: Christ's redemption no longer makes sense.

Clash with Scientists?

- ❑ Naturalism implies no discontinuities.
- ❑ But if God is sovereign, he can introduce man as new.
- ❑ Scientists weren't there to verify pure continuity.
- ❑ Pure continuity is an extrapolation based on worldview assumptions.
- ❑ Naturalism implies that modern scientists are still living with defective minds (the product of chance evolution).

G. Special Creation by God?

Unique Creative Act

... then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. – Genesis 2:7

Unique Creative Act for Eve

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. – Genesis 2:21-22.

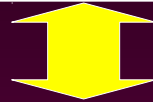
Unique Image of God

Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image. – Gen.
9:6

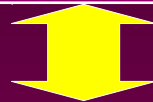
And let them have dominion over the fish of
the sea and over the birds of the heavens and
over the livestock and over all the earth and
over every creeping thing that creeps on the
earth. – Genesis 1:26.

Importance

Bible's view of
role of man



Bible as guide
to living



follow Bible?

OR

select from it?



Christ is master



you are master

Discontinuity

- ❑ Moral goodness implies discontinuity.
- ❑ Image of God implies discontinuity.
- ❑ It is natural that discontinuity should extend to the manner of creation.
- ❑ Body and soul go together in mankind. So the moral uniqueness (soul) befits uniqueness in formation (body).

Clash with Scientists?

- Naturalism must have pure continuity.
- Views diverge based on Genesis 2, supernaturalism, and genetics.

A Few Hypotheses

- ▢ Radically new: from dust
- ▢ Restructuring
 - ▢ Restructure live ape or group
 - ▢ Restructure dead ape (“dust” Gen. 3:19)
- ▢ Biological continuity
 - ▢ Inject “soul”
 - ▢ Inject God-consciousness
 - ▢ Inject God-consciousness, language, other uniquely human abilities

Evaluation of Hypotheses: Eve

- Adam's rib represents discontinuity
- Figurative? No.
- Compatible with genetic continuity
- A good test of whether supernatural is allowed

Evaluation of Hypotheses: Adam

- Simplest is a radically new Adam
- Silence about details
- Continuity hypothesis cites language elsewhere about "dust" and forming: Job 10:8-9; Ps. 103:14; 104:29; Eccles. 3:20; 12:7.

Analogy between First and Later

Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground ... – Genesis 2:7.

Your hands fashioned and made me,
and now you have destroyed me altogether.
Remember that you have made me like clay;
and will you return me to the dust? – Job 10:8-9

For he knows how we are formed;
he remembers that we are dust. – Ps. 103:14 (ESV
margin)

First and Later (2)

The the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground ... – Genesis 2:7.

For you formed my inward parts; – Ps. 139:13.

... and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, ... – Genesis 2:7.

and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
– Job 33:4

Cautions on Analogy

- Poetry (Ps. 139; Job 33) versus prose (Gen. 2:7)
- Later generalization can build on unique.
- Genesis 2:7 indicates life from death:
 - “dust”
 - “and the man became a living creature.”
 - expression “living creature” is same for animals (Gen. 1:20, 21, 24).

Weighing Evidence

Biblical:

sparse

unique Adam:
new or from dead

supernatural

Mainstream Scientists:

infer remote past

massive
continuity

natural

Strengths and Weaknesses

Supernatural:

human uniqueness

why parallels?

Natural:

faith to bridge gap?

massive parallels

Worldview:

top-personal versus bottom-mechanistic

Why not?

God's love in analogy

“obvious” confirmation
of naturalism

Strengths and Weaknesses (2)

Supernatural:

allow special work

why special
if “not needed”?

Natural:

disallow special

why disallow?

Worldview:

personal-intimate versus mechanistic-no-disrupt

H. How Long Ago?

Mainstream Science

- Bones and remains of anatomical *homo sapiens*: 200,000 years.
- Genetic diversity 100,000 years?
- Aborigenes in Australia, 40,000 B.C.

But: human uniqueness does not center on physical characteristics

Genesis 5

Genesis 5:

When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh.

...

When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan.

...

When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel.

Gaps?

No:

Adam 4000 B.C.

dating methods
wrong

assumption of
uniformity wrong

Yes:

no date given

may be either
recent or ancient

When?

- 4000 B.C.
- 9,500 B.C. (neolithic)
- 40,000 B.C.
- 200,000 B.C.
- 2,000,000 B.C.
- no gap
- farming, metals
- art
- anatomy
- anatomy (genus *Homo*)

Genealogies: “son of”

- Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham – Matthew 1:1.
- Greek: υἱός (*huios*);
Hebrew: בֶּן (*ben*).
- means “direct descendant of”
 - (allows gaps; but not necessary)

Genealogies: “Begat”

- Joram the father of Uzziah – Matthew 1:8.
- literally: Joram fathered Uzziah
Joram begat Uzziah
- Greek: γεννάω (*gennaō*);
Hebrew: hiphil of יָלַד (*yalad*).
- Joram to Ahaziah to Joash to Amaziah to Uzziah (2 Chron. 21-26)
- means “produced a direct descendant”
 - (allows gaps; but not necessary)

Genealogies: Years

These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, the years of the life of Levi being 137 years.

... The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, the years of the life of Kohath being 133 years.

Amram took as his wife Jochebed his father's sister, and she bore him Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years.

– Exodus 6:16-20.

Gap from Levi to Moses?

- ▢ 430 years in Egypt (Ex. 12:40)
- ▢ Kohath already born when they go (Gen. 46:11)
- ▢ Kohath (133) plus Amram (137) plus Moses (80)
- ▢ 350 years maximum, less if overlapping lives
- ▢ not quite enough--extra generation(s)?

Conclusion on Genealogies

- Sparse
- Do not indicate gaps.
- Do not indicate no gaps.
- An open question.

Big Gaps?

- Limit on the number of omissions?
- Silence (sparse)
- Alternative: 500 names? 5000 names?
- Principle:

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

– John 21:25.

I. Biological Progenitor?

Hypotheses

- Adam and Eve biological parents of all
- Adam and Eve “chosen”
- Adam and Eve king and queen of the aboriginal tribe

Biblical Testimony

And he made from one every nation of mankind ... – Acts 17:26.

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin.
– Hebrews 2:11.

Focus on common humanity
and spiritual unity

Biological Parents

- ▢ Common humanity
- ▢ Transmission of sin
- ▢ Harmony with unique creation
- ▢ But: disharmony with some scientific claims unless
 - ▢ long ago
 - ▢ claims for genetic plurality sifted

Adam and Eve as “Chosen”

- Harmony with mainstream science
- But: Transmission of sin arbitrary
- Human uniqueness?
- Disconnect between biology and personhood?
- If so, why did not God write Genesis 2 to represent it (compare Romans 4:16, “Abraham, who is the father of us all”)?

Adam as Tribal King

- Harmony with mainstream science
- Transmission of sin less arbitrary
- Human uniqueness?
- Disconnect between biology and personhood?
- Why did not God write Genesis 2 to represent it?

Conclusion

- ▢ Believe the Bible.
- ▢ Scientific evidence for age is widespread.
 - ▢ But involves assumptions.
- ▢ Science-related claims for plurality of human origin needs sifting.