

# What about Adam?

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# My View

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

# A. Major Issues

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# Sin

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- 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

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- 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.

# Bible and Science

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- Adam is one of several issues
- Bible and science—in conflict?
- Best treated in larger context

## B. Cultural Context

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# Two Views

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## Biblical

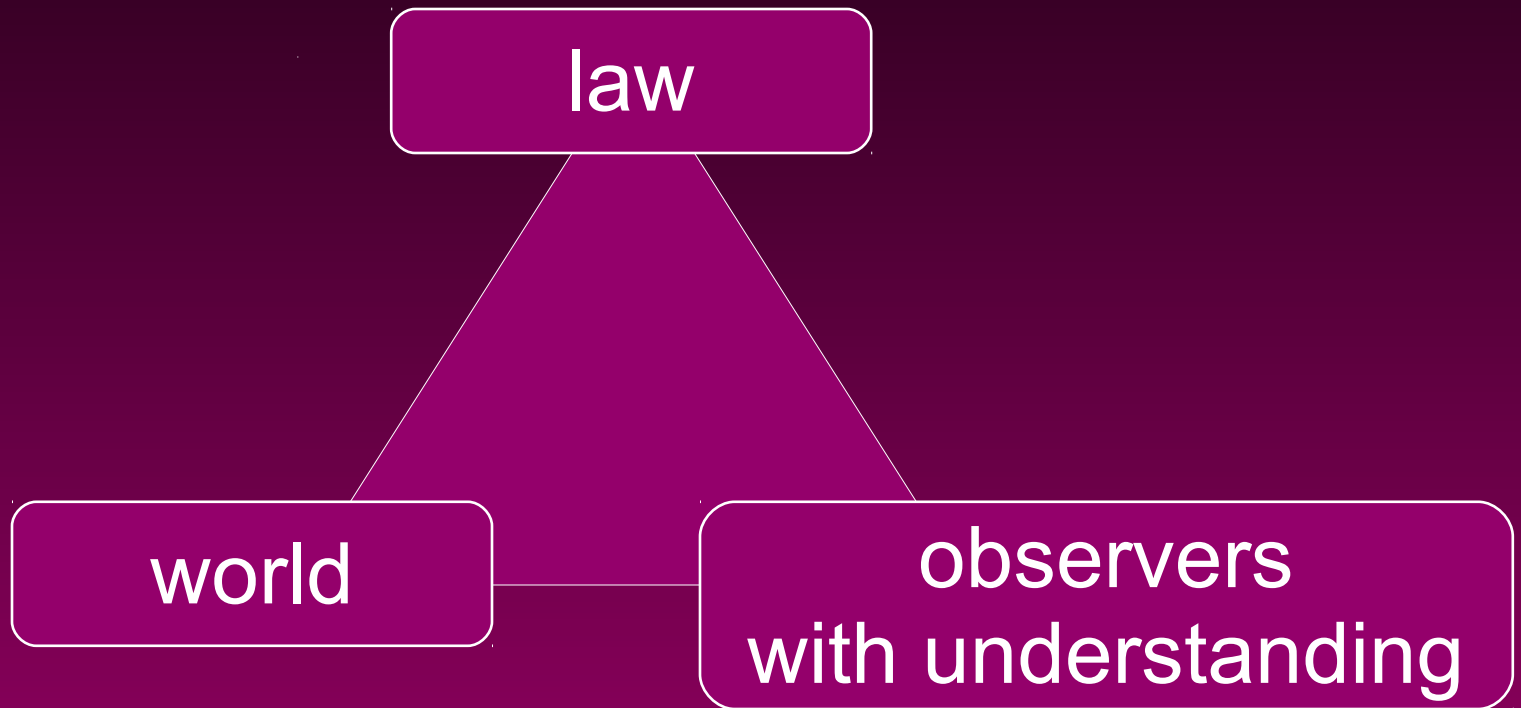
- God as foundation
- Personal
- Centuries old
- Seen as passé

## Materialistic Philosophy

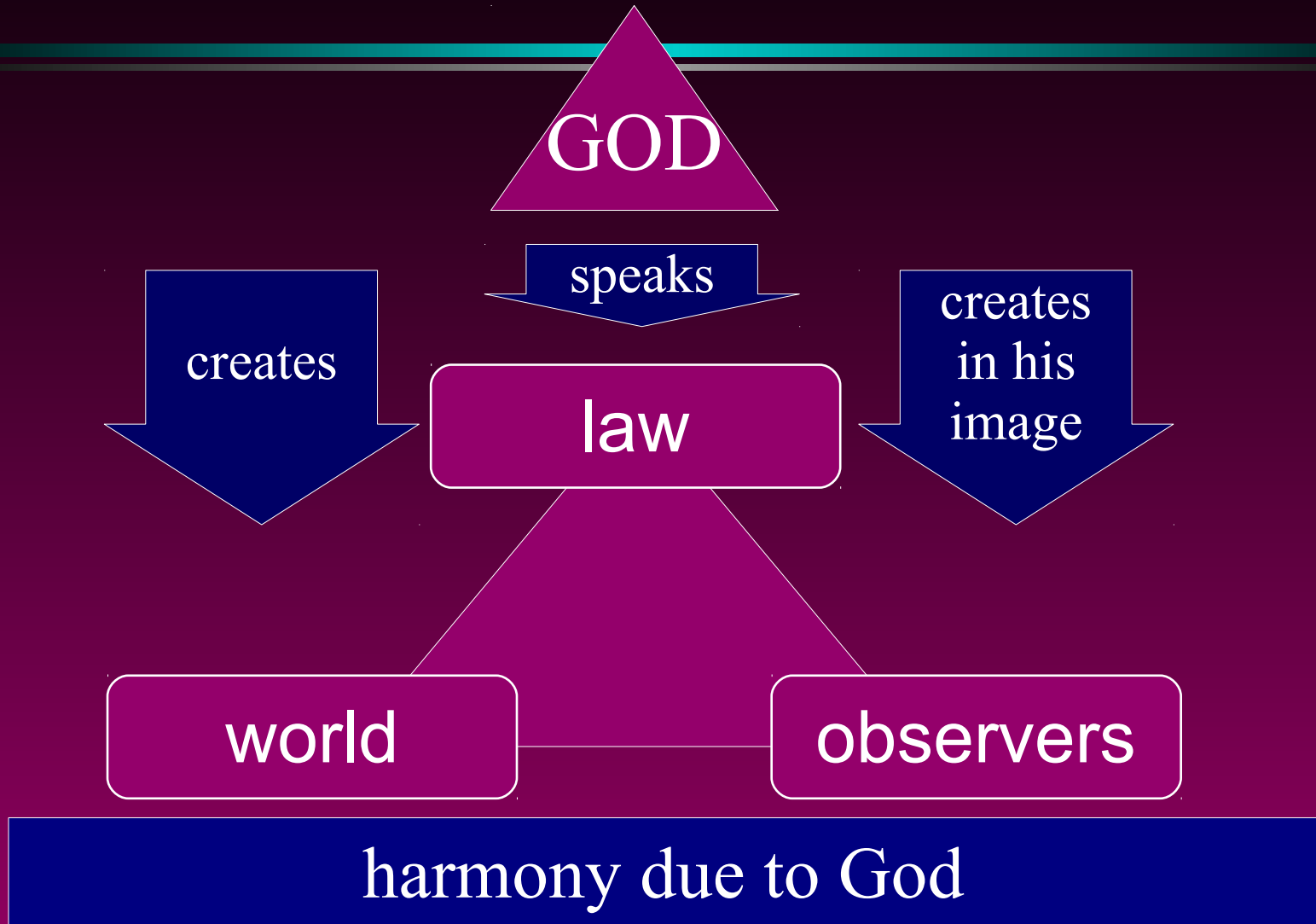
- Matter as foundation
- Impersonal
- Dominant in power:
  - media
  - education
  - science
  - elite culture

# Foundations of Science

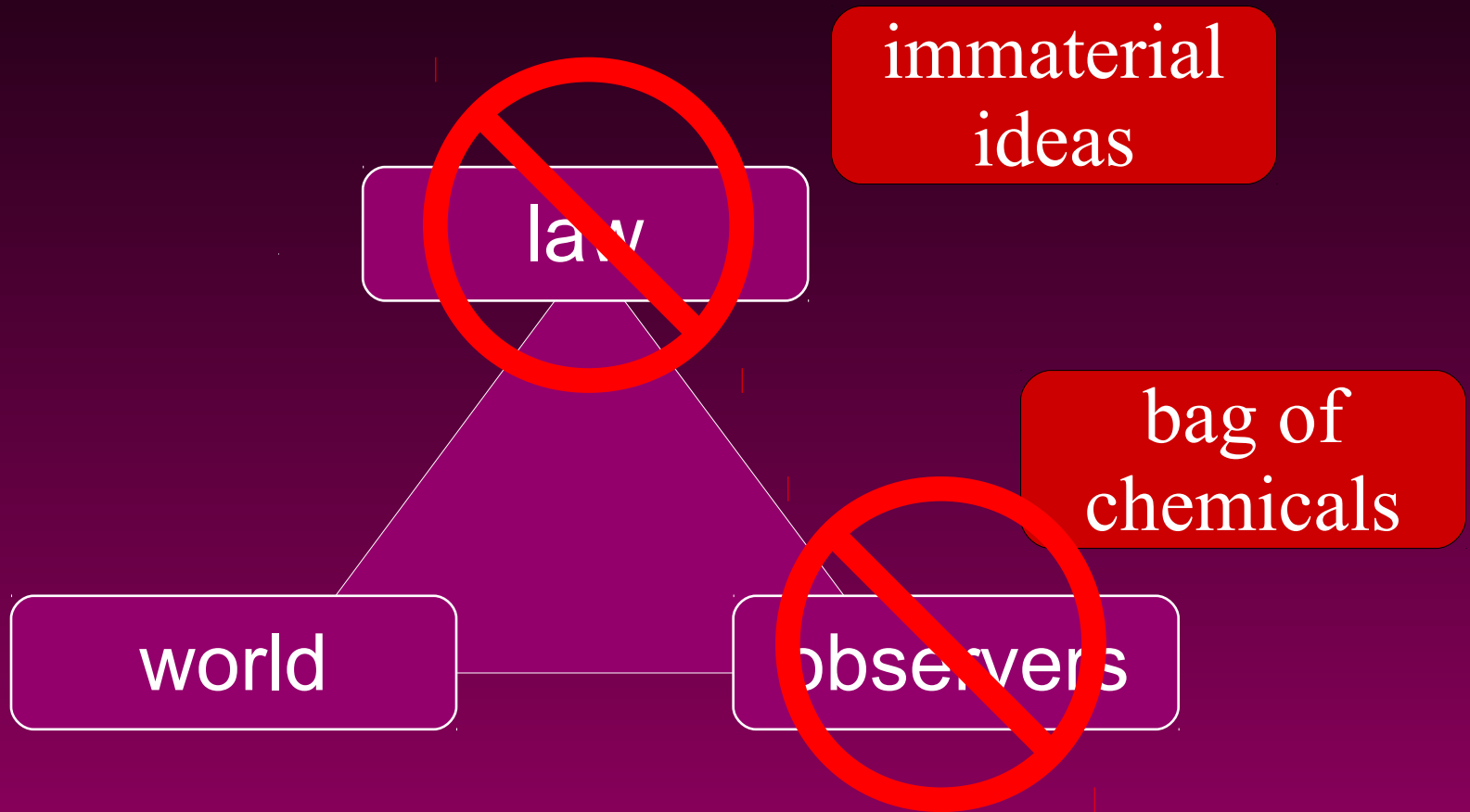
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# Biblical Foundations of Science



# Materialistic Foundations of Science



# C. Framework for Evaluation

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# God Speaking Two Ways

GOD

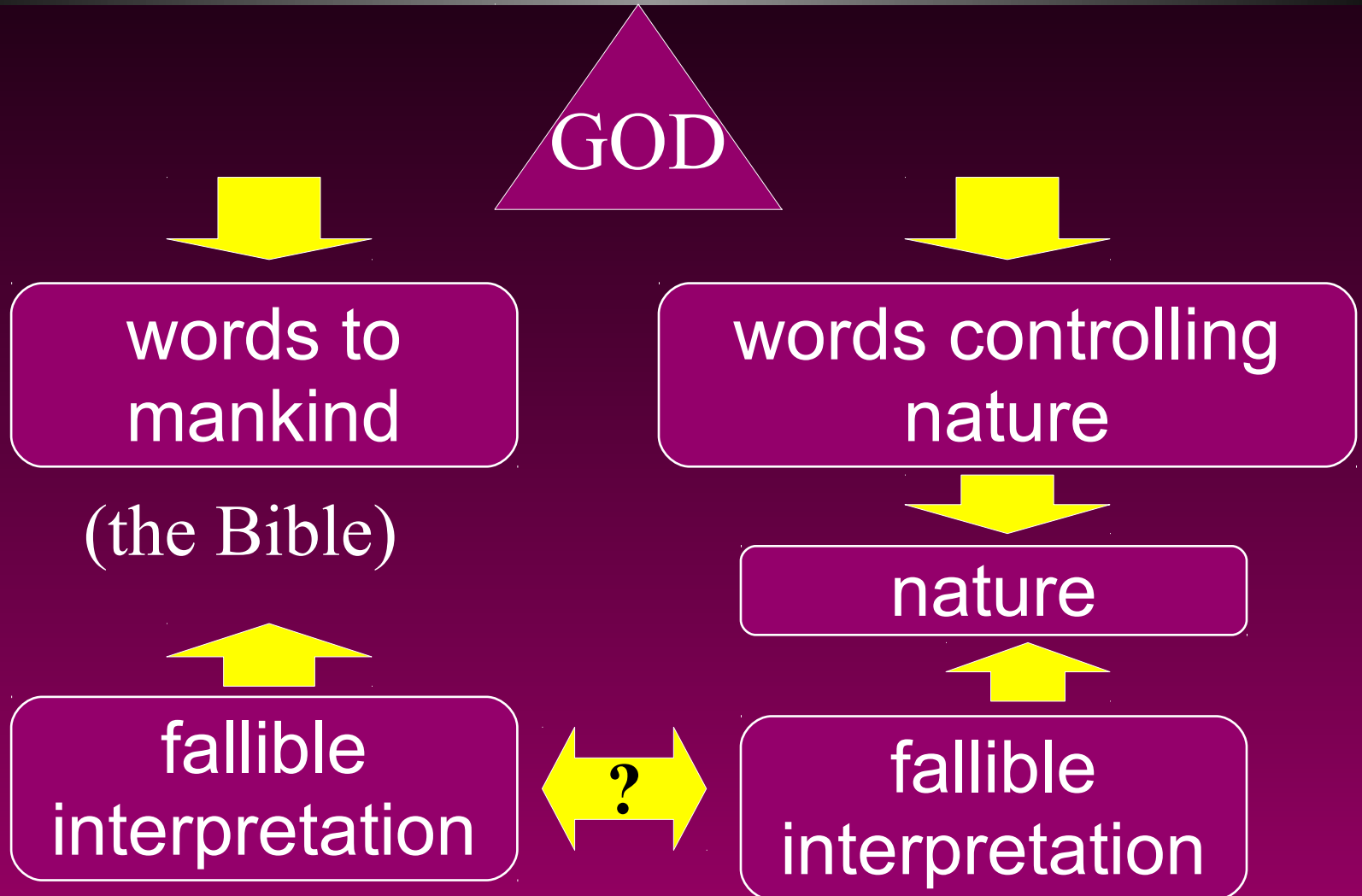
words to  
mankind

(the Bible)

words controlling  
nature

harmony due to God

# Human Interpretation



# Priorities

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- 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

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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

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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

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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?

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

# D. Scientific Side: Positive Evidence on Man

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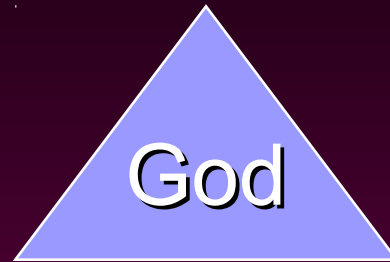
# Positive Homologies

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- Anatomical
- Genetic
- Developmental



# God As Origin of Life



image



Then God said,  
"Let us make man  
in our image,  
after our likeness."  
--Genesis 1:26-27

Imaging  
here

Adam



# God As Origin of Life

When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. --Genesis 5:3

God

image

Imaging here

Adam



(Gen. 1:26-27)

image, reflection

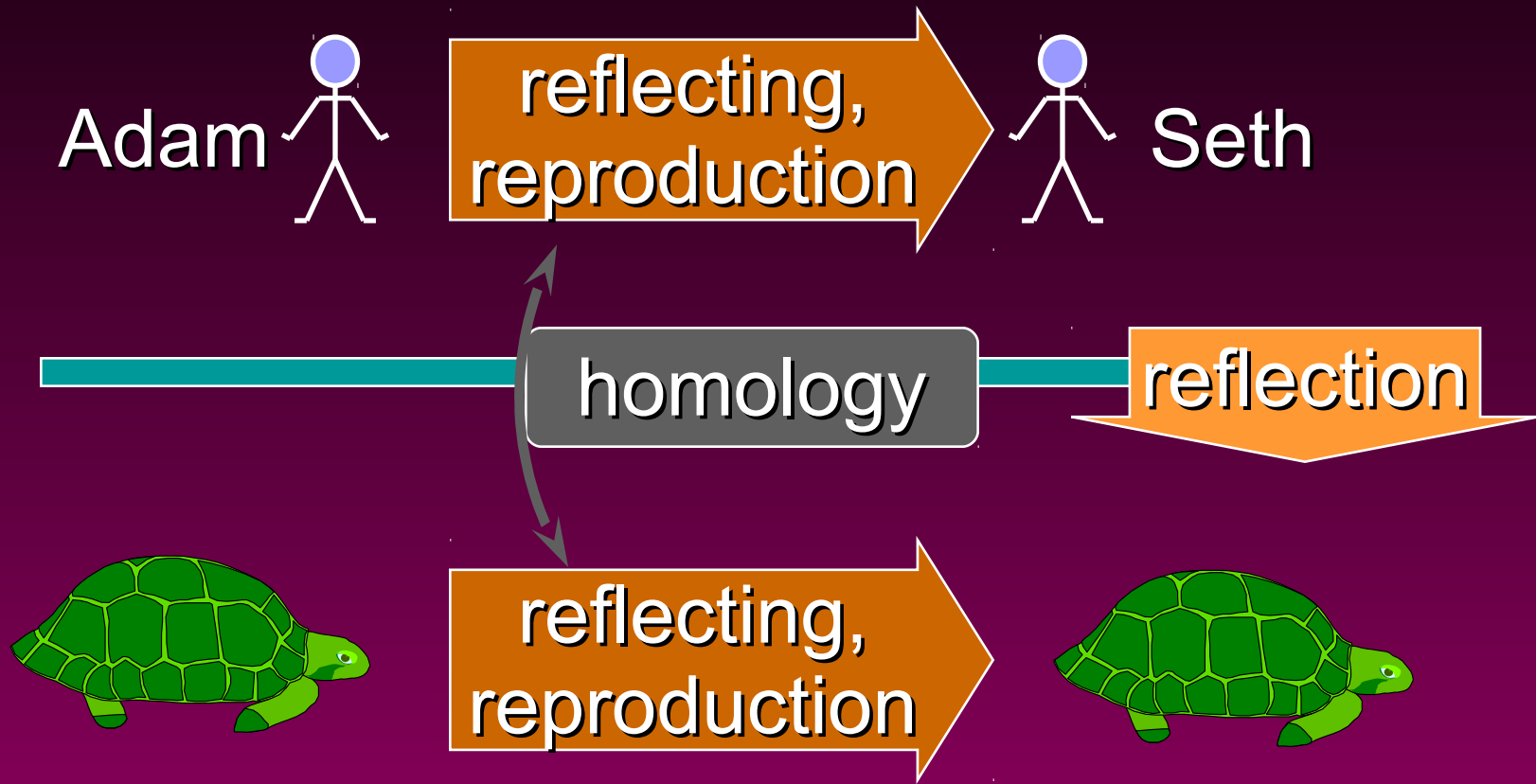


Seth

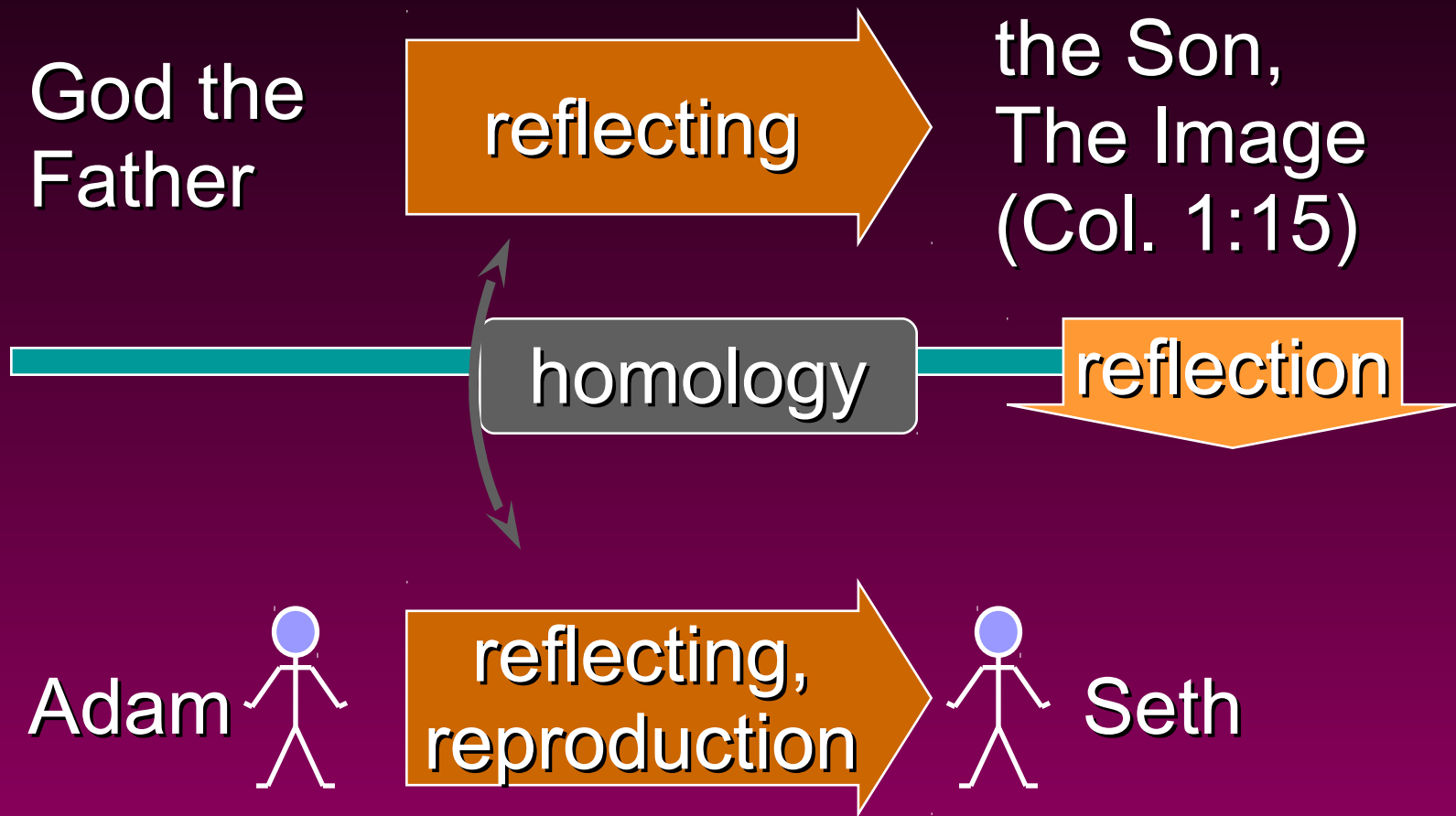
(Gen. 5:3)



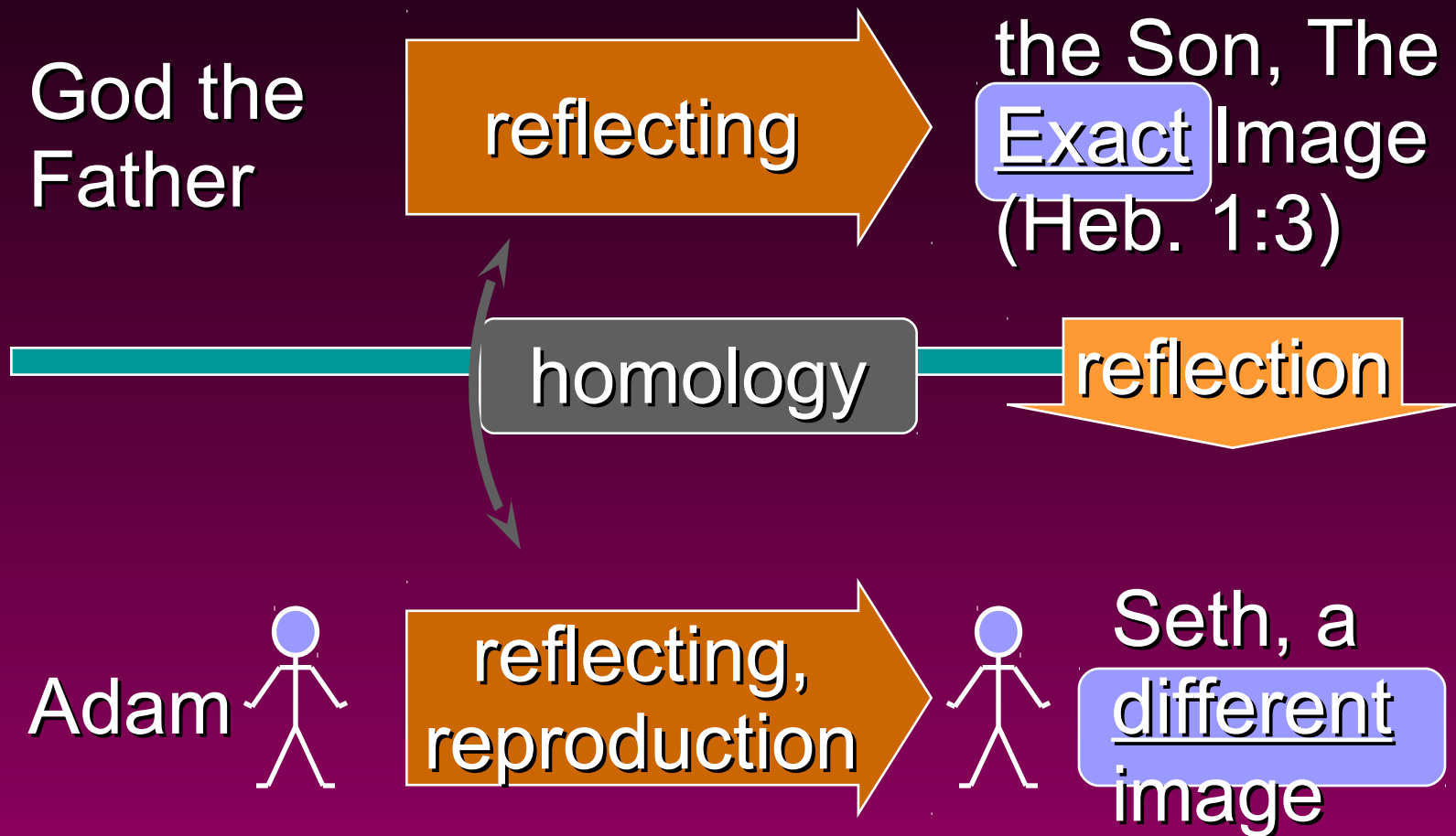
# Life Imaging Humanity



# A Divine Archetype



# A Divine Archetype Different



# Christ as Origin of the World

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John 1:1-2: allusion to Genesis

"In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. He was in the  
beginning with God.

# Christ as Origin of Life

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John 1:3-4:

"All things were made through him,  
and without him was not any thing  
made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the  
light of men."

source of life on earth

# Spirit as Source of Life

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Psalm 104:30:

When you hide your face,  
they [animals] are dismayed;

when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to their dust.

When you send forth your Spirit,  
they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.



# Conclusion on Homologies

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- Darwinism appeals to homologies
- But there is an alternative explanation:  
centrality of Christ

# Problems for Gradualism

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- Origin of life: can't get right molecules (Meyer)
- Proteins: can't get new functional folds (Axe)
- Molecular machines (Behe, Axe)
- Integrated cellular functions (Axe)
- Integrated body plans (Meyer)
- Orfan/orphan genes (Axe)
- Not enough time to spread favorable mutations

# Stability of types

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- Dog breeding
- Drosophila mutation experimentation
- Malarial parasite (Behe)
- HIV (Behe)

# Basic Problem

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ideologically induced blindness

# E. Adam in the Bible

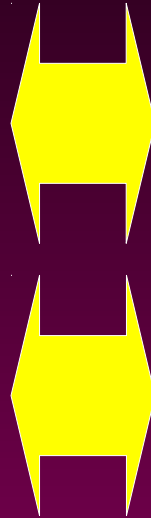
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# Real or Fictional Adam?

## 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

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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

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

# Clash with Scientists?

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- No, clash comes in later details about Adam.

# F. Genesis 2 as History

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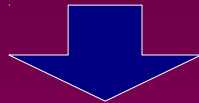
# Genesis versus Myths

God not bound  
by culture

God speaks  
truth into  
human cultures

versus

counterfeit  
myths about  
origins



superficial imitation

# Incarnational Principle

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- 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

# G. Adam as Individual or Group?

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# Adam: Individual or Group?

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- 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.

H. Created Morally Good?

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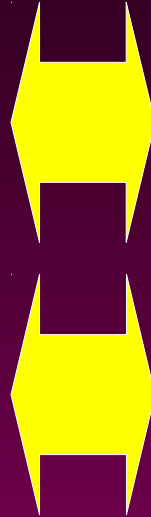


# Morally Good?

## Good:

morally inclined  
to serve God

fresh start



## Animal Nature:

mixed morals

dragged down by  
inheritance from  
animal past

# God's Goodness

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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.

# Problems with Gradualism for Humanity

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- What is our nature?
- Self-constructed? Only if no God exists.
- Mixed ancestry?
  - Then no fundamental change—except destruction
- Good origin
  - Then restore from fall

# Clash with Scientists?

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- 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).

# I. Special Creation by God?

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# Unique Creative Act

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... 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

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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

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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

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- 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?

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

# A Few Hypotheses (Choose)

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- 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

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

# Evaluation of Hypotheses: Adam

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- 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

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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)

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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

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- 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, from dead

supernatural

## Mainstream Scientists:

infer remote past

massive  
continuity

natural

# Strengths and Weaknesses

## Supernatural:

human uniqueness

why homologies?

## Natural:

faith to bridge gap?

massive homologies

## 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

# Why Analogies with Animals

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- Ultimately, God is mysterious
- Our bodies can digest animal and plant foods
- Medicine profits from animal analogies
- Knowledge of the wonder of our own bodies profits
- Solidarity between man and living things
- Analogous to Christ's solidarity with us
- Christ the image of God as archetypal pattern

J. How Long Ago?

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# 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

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## 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?

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- 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)

# Conclusion on Genealogies

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

# K. Biological Progenitor?

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# Hypotheses

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

# Biblical Testimony

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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

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



# Conclusion

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

# Centrality of God

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- God makes a difference in reading the Bible
- Difference in comparing Genesis to ANE
- The nature of science: word of God as foundation
- In historical science: miracle
- In the framework: not materialistic philosophy
- In harmonization
- In attitude toward limited knowledge
- In attitude toward broader culture

# For Further Reading

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- Vern Poythress, *Redeeming Science* (Crossway, 2006)
- J. P. Versteeg, *Adam in the New Testament* (P & R, 2012)
- Vern Poythress, *Did Adam Exist?* (P & R, 2014), [frame-poythress.org/ebooks/](http://frame-poythress.org/ebooks/)
- download the slideshow and bibliography from [campus.wts.edu/~vpoythress/ss/ss.html/](http://campus.wts.edu/~vpoythress/ss/ss.html/), under the heading “Doctrine”