

Study Course in Christian Basics

Welcome to this course in Christian basics. This course is about the fundamental principles we can find in the Bible. It is recognised that many Christians don't really understand basic concepts in the Bible and are often defining their faith on tradition, denominational ideas or somewhat other ideas they have picked up. Therefore it is sometimes necessary to return to the foundation to the Word of God and to help young and old believers to align their faith with the Bible.

The Christians at Berea:

¹⁰Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, **and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.**
(Acts 17:10-11)

Now it is important that everything written here is verified by yourself. You are responsible to study the scriptures if you are in a position to do so. Do this prayerfully, diligently and regularly!

Who is God?

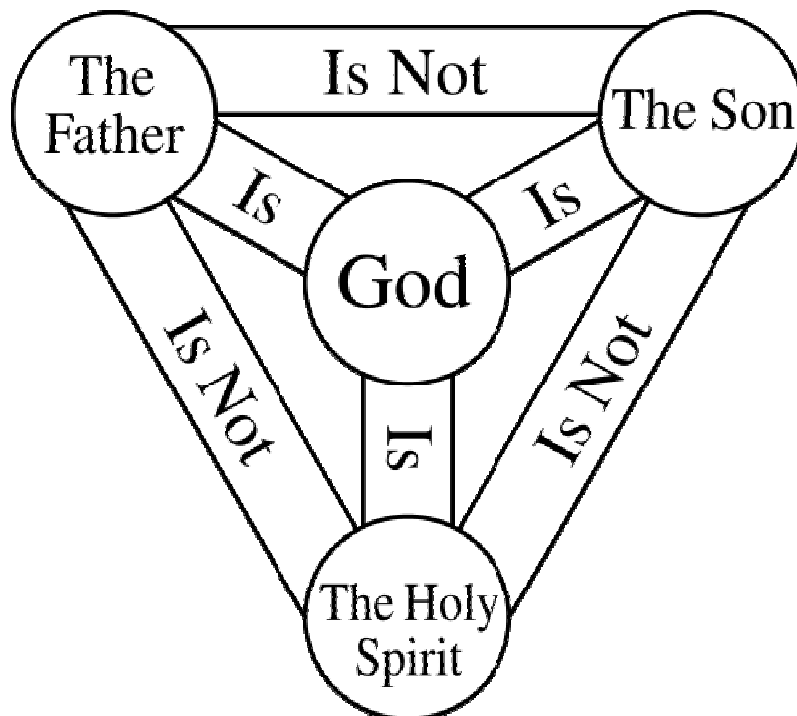
Who is and what is God?

A big question many cultures have been trying to answer.

A general approach to question for God could be qualities of God we can approach by just using logic:

- independent of time – outside of time
- creator of all things – seen und unseen
- omniscient – knows everything
- omnipotent – can do anything
- omnipresent – is everywhere
- total love
- absolute righteousness – no evil in him
- no darkness in him
- is Truth and Life
- he is absolute there is no other God besides him

The Bible pretty much endorses all of the concepts above but goes a little bit further: God is Triune – three persons in one, distinctly different but united.



The Bible also states that man is made in the image of God!?

There are a lot of difficult concepts to try and understand about God:

For example:

What about eternity?

Can you imagine eternity?

How is it that God is eternal?

What was before creation?

How is it that man is made in the image of God?

What does it mean?

Are we like God?

How does the Trinity work?

Are there three Gods?

How can one God be three?

Now there are limits to our understanding and we should not try to understand higher maths before we master simple maths. The Bible is clear about God's eternal status with no beginning and no end which for us is almost incomprehensible, since we all have a beginning and we are aware of our pending end here on earth.

We are made in the image of God but what does it exactly mean?

If we make a doll it might be in the image of man but is not exactly like man but very limited. We may be able to recognise aspects of man but only with limitations. Some computers are made in the image of man. It is called artificial intelligence AI – they work like a human brain and sometimes are more powerful than a human brain but then again they are not the same and often lack in other aspects which define full human life, sensation, computation and expression. So there are huge limits with artificial intelligence even though it is made in the image of man.

We need to understand that we are not gods but only created similar to God in some aspects. When we look at creation we are the only species who can appreciate arts, are independent decision makers, we can connect with God. We are triune beings with Spirit, Soul and Body. Our social structures are triune with husband, wife and children.

What does the Bible say about God?

And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And He said, “Thus **you** shall say to the children of **Israel**, ‘**I AM** has **sent** me to **you.**’” Ex. 3:14

I Am that I Am (אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה, ehyeh ašer ehyeh [eh'je a'jer eh'je])

God calls himself “I AM” in other words He is who he is!

The name of God – **Elohim** אֱלֹהִים

God the creator:

Then **God said**, “**Let Us make man** in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let** them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” Genesis 1:25

The word used for God here is Elohim which actually means Gods. Hebrew there is dual i.e. 2 and a plural i.e. more than 2. The plural version of the term God i.e. Eli is used. This may point to God being a Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Col. 1:16

The character of God:

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Ex.34:6-7

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, Deut. 7:9

There are numerous references in the Bible about the character of God. We need to understand there are also some things God cannot be:

He cannot be deceitful

He cannot be unjust
He cannot be darkness

He is love, he is jealous, he is righteous, merciful, full of grace, patient, kind, but sometimes also angry and we read about the wrath of God in the book of revelation as his judgements will be poured on upon mankind.

We should never forget that God is not our little friend who will assist us in our efforts but he is a terrifying God who will judge all mankind throwing a lot of people into Hell and eternal damnation. We should take the things of God seriously.

If stand in front of an earthly ruler who has the power to torment you, imprison you or kill you your behaviour will change very quickly when this ruler starts talking to you.

Remember that your destiny is in the hands of God much more than that of an earthly ruler.

God is unchangeable:

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." Mal. 3:6

God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? Num 23:19

God speaks in the still small voice:

¹¹Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

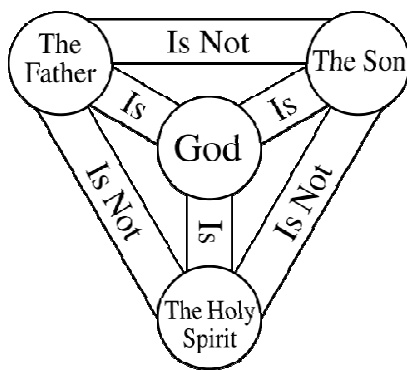
¹³So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 1.Ki. 19:11-13

The Trinity

We are looking at very difficult subject here. The word "Trinity" isn't used in the Bible once, yet it is taught in most churches. There are some churches and some people calling themselves Christian or Bible believing who reject the concept of the Trinity. It is a big problem, therefore we need to understand where the doctrine of the Trinity comes from and what the Bible says about it.

So the doctrine of the Trinity is derived from what we can see in the Bible. You will find if you have debate with a non Trinitarian believer that they have to change the meaning of the term "god" slightly to make their doctrine fit.

Rest assured that God is Triune and the doctrine of the trinity is well established in the Bible. We are still serving one God though and not three as a muslim would accuse us.



First of all consider man and triune nature of man. My name is Michael and I am triune with Body, Soul and Spirit. The Bible does bear witness to that. It is difficult to dissect me into my three components. For example if you offend me and beat me:

My body is hurt and I will sense pain. My Soul is disturbed as your negative emotions have been unleashed on my and my spirit is grieved as you have offended me for some reason.

You haven't just offended my body but my whole person. In the same way if you bless me with a meal you have provided nutrition to me to maintain my body and it will possibly get a little bit fatter and I will have more energy to write this stuff but my soul will also be blessed with the kindness shown to me and spirit will rejoice in your kindness as we have connected on some level causing you to feed me for the day or the meal. Again you haven't just nourished my body but there is more to it. I can conclude that Michael is one all three parts make up one. In the same way possibly slightly bigger and deeper to understand God is three but one.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."
Deut. 6:4

I and [my] Father are one. John 10:30

Some scriptures suggest that God makes a big point out of Him being one!
Yet in the creation account we find the strange term Elohim.

The name of God – **Elohim** אֱלֹהִים

The Gods – Elohim more than 2 did the creation. That is in the Bible. A lot of secular scholars use this to discredit the Bible. When the Gods Elohim said: "let us make man" we have the first indication of the nature of the Trinity right there in the first verses of the Bible.

Now let us look at some other verses which suggest that God is a Trinity. Jesus Christ is God, the Holy Spirit is God and the Father is God:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father** and of **the Son** and of **the Holy Spirit**, Matth 28:19

I and the Father are one." John 10:30

Yet for us there is one God, **the Father**, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, **and one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. 1. Cor. 8:6

When we look at scriptures out of context it is very easy to twist them and to suggest a different doctrine. Some groups do not believe that Jesus Christ is God. To make their argument they tend to slightly change the meaning of God and then argue for their doctrine. My suggestion to you is to just take a step back. Look at different scriptures and then make up your mind.

°For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Col. 2:29 (in him = in Christ)

In Colossians we have a very strong witness towards the divinity of Christ as the fullness of the Godhead dwells in him. It makes sense when Jesus talks about himself and the Father as being one.

One of the strongest scriptures teaching us that Jesus is God is in the Gospel of John. I How can you argue with this scripture and still claim that Jesus was just a gifted man or some sort of angel?

The JWs change the scripture by adding the word "a"and the Word was **a** God They have to do it otherwise their whole doctrine is thrown overboard. Needless to say that the little word is nowhere to be found in the greek original other than probably in the botched version the JWs are using.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Joh 1:1

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Joh 1:14

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Phil. 2:5-8

When we look at the Christmas story some verses in Isaiah make it very clear that it is not an angel, or gifted guy who is born but that God has become man and has come to us in bodily form. Any other notion and we struggle to explain this scripture:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isa 9:6

Jesus is called: Mighty God, Everlasting Father?

Not a problem if you accept the scriptures in the Gospel of John that Jesus and the Father are one.

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

Joh 14:9-11

Jesus is God – no ifs and buts as Jesus didn't challenge Thomas of calling him God:

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Joh 20:28-29

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell Col 1:15-27

The Holy Spirit

Now we have to look at the third Godhead of the Trinity the Holy Spirit. I don't think many people have a problem to accept that the Holy Spirit is God yet some people think that the Holy Spirit is just a force. We need to say NO to this concept. You cannot grieve the wind which is a force, or a storm. Even though many hurricanes are given names these days they are not persons but you can grieve the Holy Spirit. You can sin against the Holy Spirit.

I wonder whether you can sin against electricity, the wind, the rain or the sunshine????

I am sure you can't!

Jesus said that when he would go he would ask the father to send the Holy Spirit to us and that this is actually better.

Why?

Through the Holy Spirit being poured out into our hearts and lives we all can reach out and connect with God at the same time. When Jesus was walking the shores of Gallilee he had to get on a boat to speak to many people at the same time.

We learn in the Bible that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, convict us of sin, remind us of what Jesus has said, give us faith, allow us to prophecy that is to speak the word of God into a situation, help us pray in our weaknesses, will be given to us a deposit to guarantee what is to come, grow fruit in our lives, lead us to repentance and much more.

It is important to understand that the Holy Spirit is God and that he is a person. We can grieve the Holy Spirit, we can yield to the Spirit, we can listen or refuse to listen.

Furthermore it is important to understand that evil spirits enforce themselves on people, they take control of them. God is different He respects free will. If you prefer to run under your own steam he will let you. It won't go very well it might not even be sinful what are you doing at any one time but God will not enforce himself on you. You are a free agent. If you invite the Holy Spirit into your life then things will go right. Galatians goes so far to say that you cannot complete the works of the flesh i.e. sin if you walk in the Spirit.

It is better for all of us to let the Spirit of God be in charge!!!!

What about the sin against the Holy Spirit which will not be forgiven?

We need to look into the context when this was mentioned.

Mark 3:28-30: "Truly I tell you, all **sins** and blasphemes will be forgiven for the sons of men. But whoever blasphemes **against the Holy Spirit** will never be forgiven, but is guilty of an eternal **sin**. He said this because they [the Pharisees] were saying, 'He has an evil **spirit**'."

Now the Pharisees knew the scriptures very well that is the OT. They would have known that a lot of prophecies were being fulfilled in Jesus live but they also knew that they had some serious competition. Within jewish society they had gained status, control and a relatively cozy life. They believed to be on special terms with God and then Jesus – God in the flesh – comes along and seemingly spoils it all for them. So they started to go against him. Jesus warned them.

Ultimately understanding and knowledge of who Jesus is comes through divine revelation through the Holy Spirit – He leads us into Truth and Righteousness and convicts of sin. If this is missing we will never come to the knowledge of truth. Resist the Holy Spirit and your chances of salvation are gone. You will die in your sins and reap the consequence of your choices and your resistance against the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at a couple of scriptures:

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Joh. 14:26

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment Joh 16:7-8

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. Joh. 16:12-15

It is the key to begin to understand the Bible and to be able to read between the lines and retrieve hidden treasures in the Bible. We need guidance and revelation from the Holy Spirit.

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

1 Cor. 2:13

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2. Cor 3:17

The Holy Spirit is key to real salvation:

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

Eph 1:13

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Rom 8:9

He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2. Cor. 2:2

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Joh 14:16-17

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1. Cor 2:14

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

2. Cor 3:18

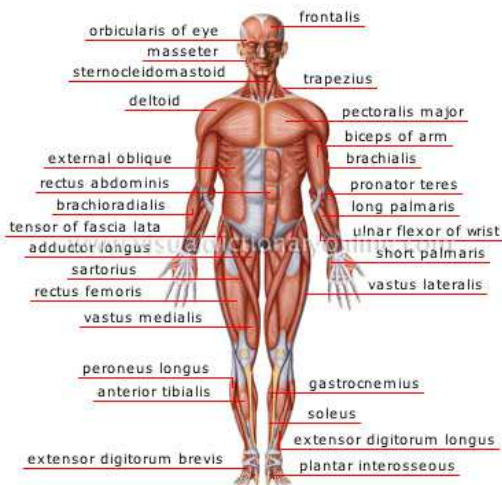
Finally the point Jesus makes about who God is:

God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Joh 4:24

And here we are with the Trinity – we know about the Father as the Bible tells us about it, about the Son and the Spirit. When we baptise we baptise in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as commanded by Christ. We know that the man Jesus Christ was God become flesh and we now also know that the Holy Spirit is God and we need to worship God not with candles, rattles, ceremony or anything else but in the spirit. We can only connect to God once he has given the spirit of God to us.

Who is Man?



Big questions that needs answering are:

Who are we?

What are we?

What is our origin?

Where are we going to?

What is wrong with us?

If we want to understand Christianity we do need to understand who God is but we also need to understand who and what we are.

There are many different ideas of what we are. Let's have a look at modern ideas. Dialectic Materialism, Darwinism and to some extent even modern medicine understand man just as physical entity made up of flesh and a neurological brain. Our consciousness is purely physical and related to neurological switches which don't yet purely understand.

The idea of evolution is that once upon a time and very long time ago some chemicals were floating in some liquid and got struck by lightning. Suddenly we have some very basic cell who then through mutation and a process of selection of the fittest is evolving into all kinds of animals and eventually into man.

As part of this we will look at some data and see that this concept is not just non sense but downright foolish and anything but scientific. The complexity of biological life even in a single cell would not allow for the timeframe supplied to account for the process of evolution to lead to man. Apart from that the processes to enhance species through mutation have never been proven on the contrary genetic mutation tend to lead to a loss or even death of a species.

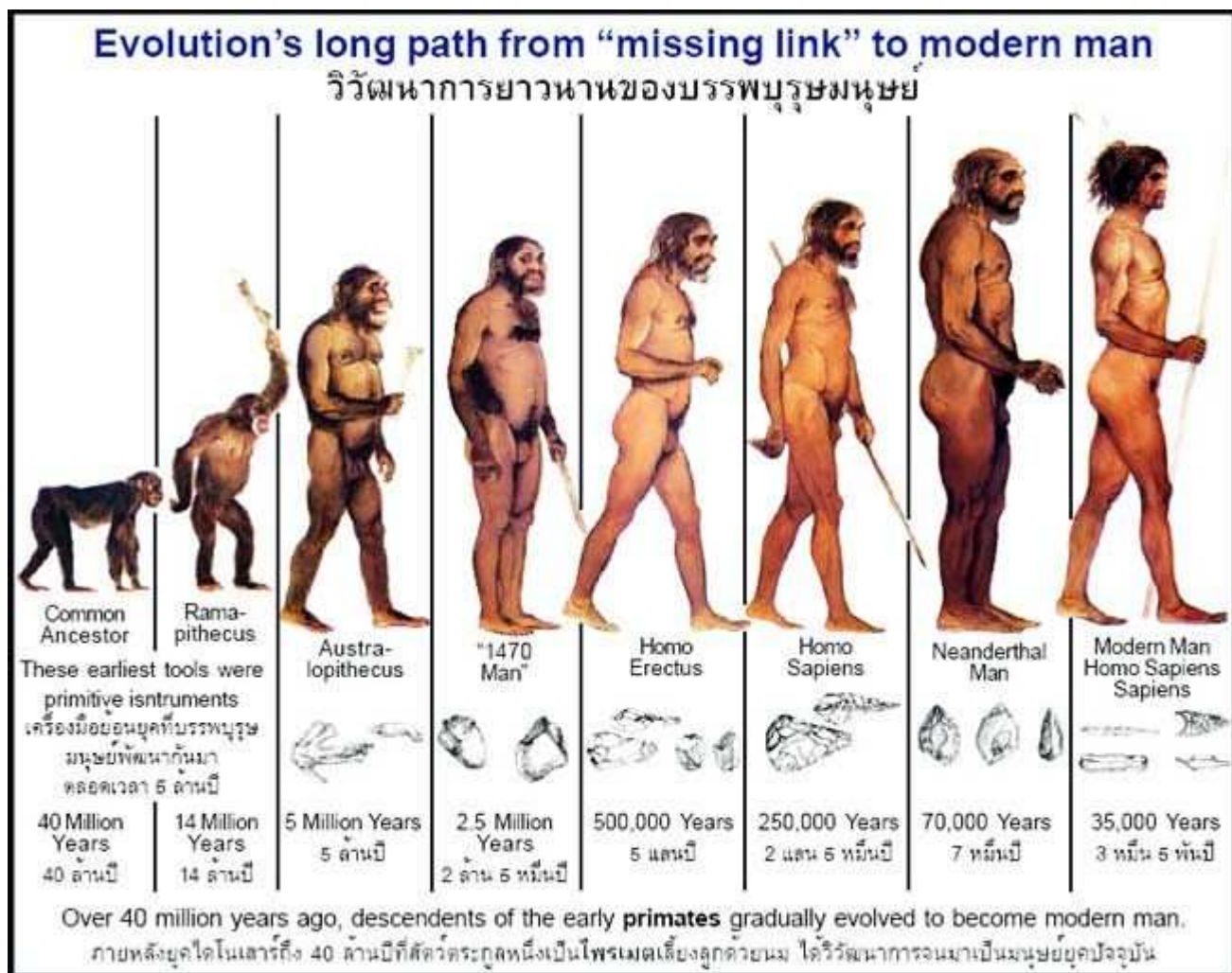
As the scope of genetics is discovered more and more scientists are aware of the impossibility of life just starting by chance. So ideas are floating about that life was started by an alien who left some biological material on the planet. Really???????



The result of 21st century science is that some aliens spawned life since they pretty much realise that life could not come into existence on its own. Even going along with this line of thought the question would be where do the aliens come from. Since we haven't got one in the lab we simply can't answer the question. Anything but God!

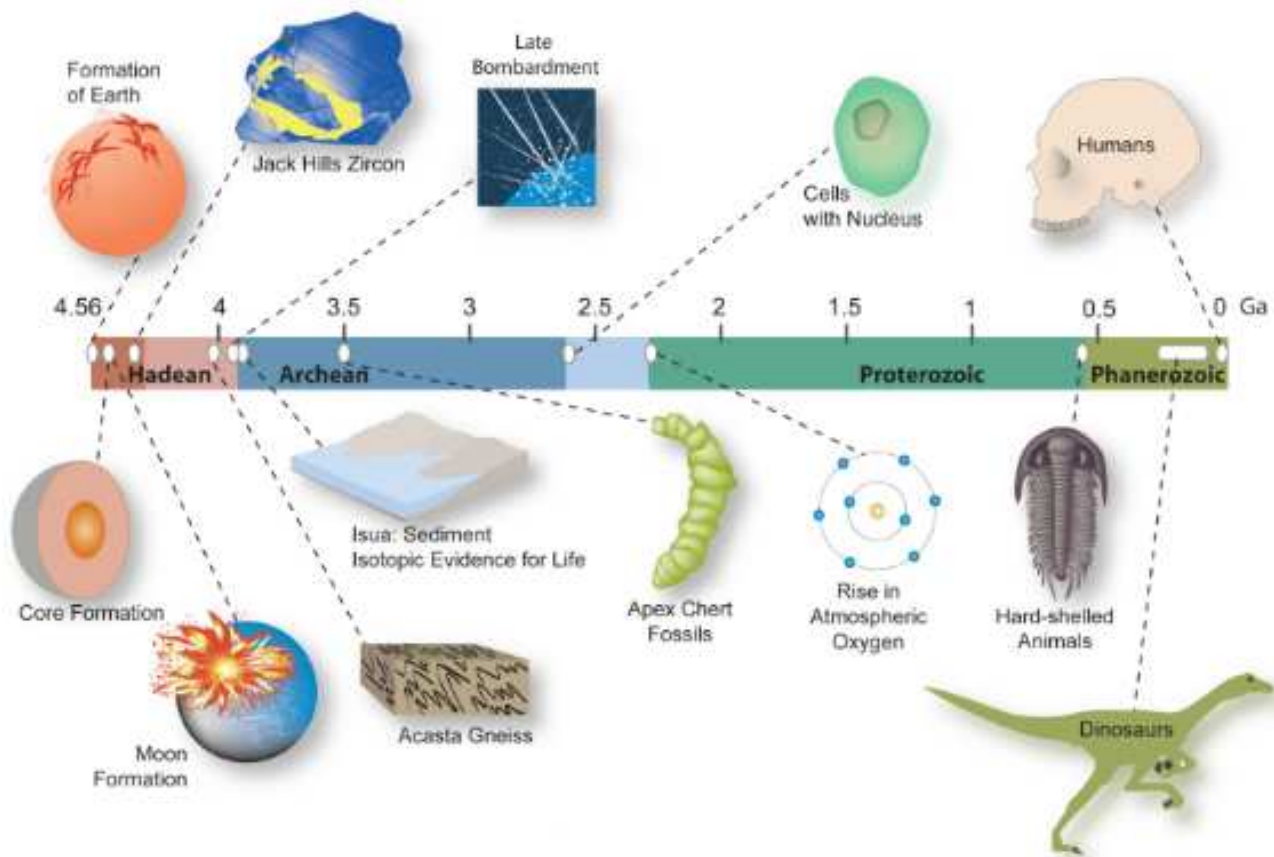
In the light of science the idea of Creation by God is suddenly not that far out anyway, certainly less far out than suggesting that aliens spawned life here on earth.

Before we move onto what the Bible says about man, his origin, his destiny and his current issues let's look at some scientific data, the stuff they try to make us believe:



Notice the evolution from Monkey to man according to the dogma is considered to be 40 million years. Please note those figures: We will be looking whether it actually works out.

Let's have a look at the assumptions made about the age of the earth.



The figure suggested here is 4.5 billions since the formation of the earth. The figure for the start of life is somewhere at about 2 billion years.

Let's look at genetics:

A typical human cell consists of about 3 billion base pairs of DNA and 600 million bases of mRNA. (Wikipedia)

Let's see about the Monkey to Man transition and look at the data we get from the the so-called scientists:

“Despite the many similarities found between human and chimp genomes, the researchers emphasized that important differences exist between the two species. About 35 million DNA base pairs differ between the shared portions of the two genomes, each of which, like most mammalian genomes, contains about 3 billion base pairs. In addition, there are another 5 million sites that differ because of an insertion or deletion in one of the lineages, along with a much smaller number of chromosomal rearrangements. Most of these differences lie in what is believed to be DNA of little or no function. However, as many as 3 million of the differences may lie in crucial protein-coding genes or other functional areas of the genome. “

www.genome.gov

The difference between Monkey and Man is 43 million DNA base pairs
Of these there are differences in 3 million CRUCIAL protein-coding genes!

Questions:

What happens if one of the Protein Coding Genes fails?

We 40 million years from Monkey to man should result in 40 million mutations?????

3 million crucial protein coding genes – so every ten year should result in one change for protein coding genes. The time frame simply does not work. Otherwise we should see Monkeys and men changing their DNA all the time. There is no witness to that. Genetic mutations tend to cause problems and not advantages.

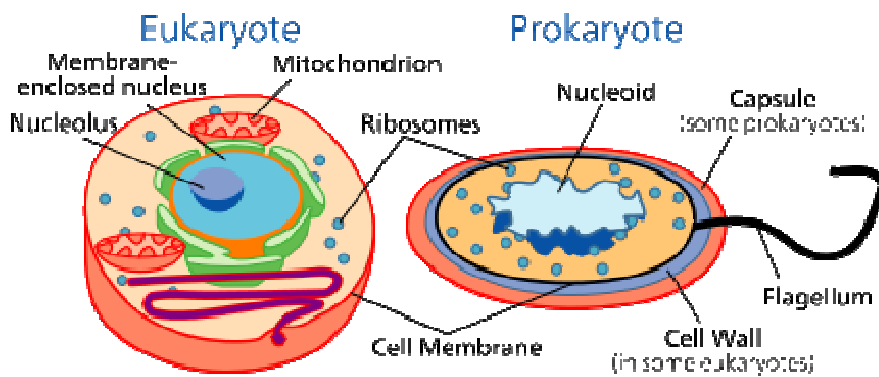
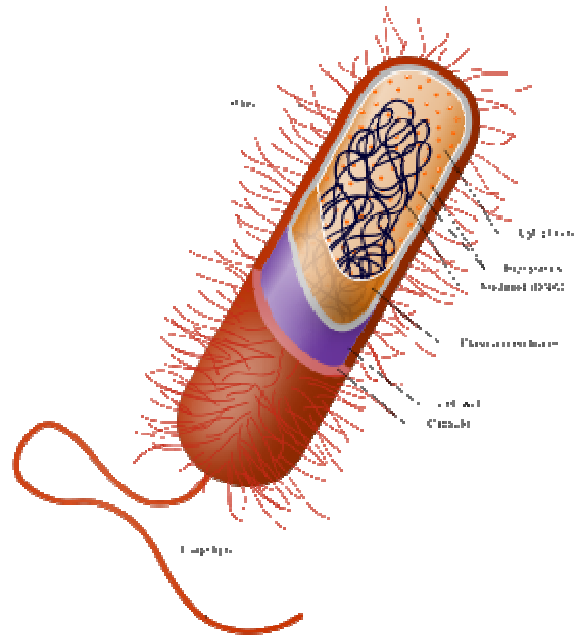
Let's look at another example.

We have a single cell which somehow was considered to be the first form of evolved life. So it not just a bunch of proteins but a small organism which can reproduce. Let's consider what a very simple organism needs to do to survive:

- it needs to find and take in food
- it needs to digest food
- store energy and utilise the energy it has derived from the food
- grow to maturity
- have the means to replicate itself
- restart the cycle
- needs to process and excrete waste

So we are looking at highly complex tasks a simple organism has to complete. Any flaw in any of the processes and life would not exist. We are told that these highly complex processes were put together by chance.

So called science tells us that Protocells so called Prokaryotes were "evolved" 3.5 to 4 billion years ago.



"Prokaryotes typically have one main chromosome, through it might have a few copies of it. These cells can also have smaller DNA

structures called plasmids that contain additional information. The number of nucleotide base pairs in the prokaryotic chromosome ranges from 160,000 to 12.2 million, depending on the species. Eukaryotes frequently have multiple types of chromosomes with many more base pairs. For example, humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, the maternal and paternal sets, containing about 2.9 billion base pairs in total."

<http://education.seattlepi.com/list-ways-prokaryotic-eukaryotic-dna-differ-4687.html>

Looking at the figures they suggest we would need roughly 1 base pair addition per year in order to arrive at man.

Why aren't there more types of humans?

Why isn't there a bigger variety of animals?

Why are species or kinds of animals locked in? You cannot breed across species or kinds!

Let's recapture:

The simplest form of life to make it work has base pairs – 160k to 12M per chromosome! This happened by chance?

Conclusion:

Common Sense tells us that we are told a story which is from fantasia land but not from a genuine scientific background.

The world tries to tell you that you are a product of chance and the life you have is the only life you will ever have therefore deal with it and make the best of it. Nature demands of you to spread your genes through the survival of the fittest. Bully's are welcome and genocide is a necessity to eliminate the weak and ensure the strong survive.

When you are done all that's left of you is:



A pile of dirt!
That's what we are!

The Bible has a different view of you. Although you are made from dust or Adam was and 90% of your body is water, the Bible looks at you as a miracle.

Key points the Bible makes about you:

Bible	Evolution
You are God's design	You are a product of chance
Your existence was known before time began, you were in God's mind, you are wanted and loved by God	No-one cares about you other than evolutionary survival instincts by your parents, you are a freak of nature and if you don't dominate you loose
God breathed life into man, you are an eternal being	There is no God and your existence is temporary
The concept of eternity has been placed into your heart	Evolution has created a God consciousness to aid survival
Death is a result of sin which has come as a rebellion against God	Death is key to evolution
God has placed a conscience in our heart to understand good and evil	Conscience is a social product used to control populations
Man has an awareness of God due to the	God a product of man's deluded

breath of God being in him	perspective since there is no God
There is an eternal consequence to our conduct here on earth	Our eternity is in the legacy we leave to society through our impact on society
There is a day of Judgement before God	Deluded mindset

Finally we can say that the theory of Evolution the way it is presented is nonsense from the following perspectives:

- pragmatically (asking questions would destroy the concept instantly)
- historically (no proof of evolutionary progress shown)
- biologically (species are interlocked, irreducible complexity)
- chemically (chemicals do not combine by chance to make life)
- mathematically (timeline for genetic variations too short)
- logistically (information required for working organism cannot come from nothing)
- logically (heavily flawed)

The paradigm of the theory of evolution is that creation cannot be right, there cannot be a God therefore evolution must be right!

Let's go Bible:

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all^[b] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food

Keypoints:

Man is created in the image of God,
 Created to have dominion
 Male and female
 Made to multiply and fill the earth

Great mystery what does it mean to be created in the image of God?

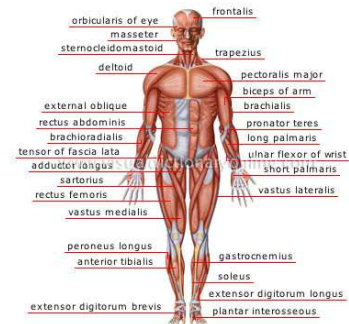
- man is a triune being body, spirit and soul
- Triune relationship – mother, father and child
- Man is creative

⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7



The breath of God is in us and we are formed from the dust of the ground. A distinctive difference between animals and us is that God breathed his breath

in us and we become by default accountable to God.



¹⁸And the LORD God said, "*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." ¹⁹Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. ²⁰So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

²¹And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³And Adam said:

"This *is* now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man."

²⁴Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:18-24

We do have a clear division between male and female.

Remember Adam was made from dust and Eve was made from Adam. Possibly this is why women tend to be prettier than men.

A lot of women find this verse degrading to be relegated of being a helper. There is another perspective. Adam needs help and only the Eve can provide it. Adam was the beginning of the creation of man Eve was the perfection or completion of the creation.

Both distinctly different and both gifted differently.

Another important aspect about marriage is taken in this lesson. Flesh was taken from Adam to make Eve and both seek to be joined together and for flesh to be united. The man will leave his parents and cleave to his wife.

A lot of marital problems come from a lack of understanding of this passage. It is important for a man to "leave" and to stick to his wife. It is important for a woman to "help". It is important for both to be joined together in intimacy. No leaving, no helping, joining and a marriage is heading for disaster.

A problem we have today is that modern man tried to get rid of gender. Men are encouraged to be like women and women are encouraged to be like men. In the end people suffer a broken identity and find it difficult if not impossible to cope with life. We need to acknowledge that we are different. As men we need help, as women we have got something to give they don't have to provide help.

In Christ there is neither male nor female but in this world there is. Trying to eradicate gender identity rather than encouraging it will end in disaster.

Gender is not a choice but a given!

The Fall of Man

The story of the fall of man is in Genesis 3.

There are a few important aspects to take from this story

1. God walked in the garden in the cool of the day.
2. God communicated with man on a one to one basis
3. Man sinned i.e. ate from the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil
4. Man confessed to sin
5. God slaughtered two animals to clothe Adam and Eve with skins (sacrifice)
6. Man was cursed – pregnancy pain, woman emotionally depending on man, ground cursed for man to fight for a living, expulsion from paradise
7. Man is ashamed to be near God and tried to hide

After the fall we have lost our relationship with God. Remember man was hiding from God and could not bear to be in the presence of God uncovered. Since then man has made efforts to restore this lost relationship in various ways.

Again in the New Testament we can see that God restored the relationship between man and God in Jesus Christ and through his death on the cross. We gained a perfect covering for our sins to become acceptable before God.

Still let's look at how God views us. He knows about from before our beginning and thinks about us. Let's look at Psalm 139

For You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;^[b]
Marvelous are Your works,
And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with You.

Psalm 139:13-18