

WORLD BY DESIGN®

NEWSLETTER

November 2020 - February 2021

EDITOR: TERRY IVERS



Table of Contents

[Page 1](#)

There Is Only One Race Of Mankind! We Are All Human Beings!

By Robert Moak,
President of CRSEF

[Page 2](#)

The Biblical Adam in the Twenty-First Century Pt. 3

By Edwin Stortz

[Page 3](#)

Genesis and Covid-19

By Bob Bernet

[Page 4](#)

Origin of Life

By Eric J. Norman, PH. D.

[Page 5](#)

What to Remember From the Year 2020

By Terry Ivers

[Page 6](#)

Editor's Thoughts

[Page 7](#)

CRSEF Monthly Programs

[Page 29](#)

Kid's Fun Page

[Page 31](#)

CRSEF Donation Form

There Is Only One Race Of Mankind! We Are All Human Beings!

By Robert Moak, President of CRSEF

All the members of mankind are the same race because God created the first man, which God's Word refers to as Adam. Then God created the first woman by taking a rib from Adam and using it to create the first woman, which God's Word refers to as Eve. Recent studies of the human genome have concluded that mankind can be traced back to one woman, and likewise, all male humans can be traced back to have come from one man.

It seems important to mention that all the members of mankind now living on this earth are descended from the sons and daughters-in-law of Noah, as they were the only human survivors from the Flood as described in God's Word. Therefore, there is only one race of people inhabiting this earth today.

So, why are there people with different eye and nose shapes, and different skin shades? These different people groups were formed when God forced the people on the earth to separate into groups, thus creating restricted gene pools, therefore, they would interbreed and retain limited features in their offspring. This event is described in God's Word in the account of the Tower of Babel, see Genesis 11:1-9. This is also the event that started different languages to be immediately forced by God, as He changed the language to force them to separate into select groups, which caused different people groups to be formed.

Different environmental conditions caused the skin of each group to change based on the environment's exposure to the sun and also based on the types of food available to each group in the area where they settled when they moved from Babel and selected a new location. What is important to know about skin color is that **there are not really different colors of skin!** We all have the same coloration of our skin. What causes the different appearance of our skin is how much melanin is released into the skin. Melanin is a brown to black pigment contained in the skin of mankind. The more melanin your skin contains the darker your skin will appear. Thus, **there are not black or white people on this earth**, there are just light brown to dark brown people on this earth today. And it has always been that way from the beginning when God created Adam and Eve. They were likely mid-brown as they contained the genes to produce all the shades of brown skin colors that now exist.

(Continued on page 11)

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The Biblical Adam in the Twenty-First Century
Part 3 of 3
The Biblical Adam As Seen by the Early Church Fathers

By Edwin Stortz

So far in our brief virtual excursions to find Adam in artistic expression and oratorical excellence, we have traveled to sixteenth-century Rome and first-century Athens. We saw the unparalleled work of Michelangelo in his masterpiece of the Creator giving life to the first human, depicted on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Inspired by the Genesis account of creation, Michelangelo gave the world his unique and memorable visual concept of God's creation of Adam. The Biblical Adam in the Twenty-First Century – Part 1 of 3 was published in the World By Design Newsletter of March-June of 2020.

Next, we heard the apostle Paul deliver his monumental sermon to philosophers assembled on Mars Hill, after viewing their pagan statues including one entitled "To the Unknown God." Seizing that opportunity, the apostle spoke clearly of the one and only true God who created the world and all things in it and that "*He made from one every nation of mankind*" (Acts 17:26). The Biblical Adam in the Twenty-First Century – Part 2 of 3 was published in the World By Design Newsletter of July-October of 2020.

Now in this third and final episode of this series in the quest for the biblical Adam, our search takes us briefly to persons and parts of the second and third centuries, and to meet those leaders of the early church who disciplined and inspired the followers of Christ. The question naturally arises about the dreams, motives, and fates of the early Christians after the apostles had died. And why would the church in its infancy dare take the message of Christ and His teachings to a world that rejected the Messiah and put Him to death?

Purpose and Plan

In Part 3 of this article, it is our intent to come to some understanding about the knowledge and beliefs of the early church fathers concerning creation and Adam, where such information can be found in our short study. We will show the differences and similarities between the apostles and the early church fathers in reference to the Genesis record on creation and Adam.

In New Testament teachings, the original twelve apostles were chosen by Jesus Himself. That is, the twelve were commissioned by the Lord as recorded in Matthew 9 and in Mark 3. Essentially, and according to Acts 3:1, the one to take the place of Judas had to be a man "*who was with Jesus and the twelve from the beginning of John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.*"

[PAGE 1](#)

[\(Continued on page 17\)](#)

Genesis and Covid-19

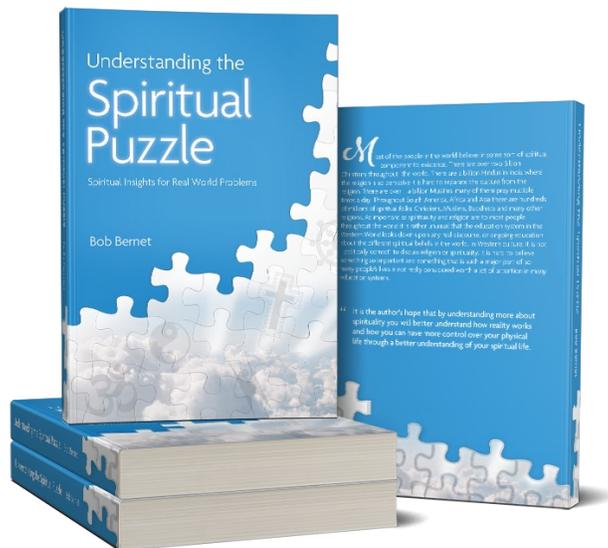
When God created the universe, at the end of each day He stepped back and looked at what He had done like an artist who reviews his work. Each day He looked at His creation and He said, “It is good”. Do you know what the first thing was that God said was not good? After God created Adam he said “It is not good that that man should be alone. We were made to relate to God, but God did not want us to be alone even when He was present. God wants us to relate to others.

When the government tries to restrict us from being with each other it goes against what God wants for us. Our “nature” is to be in community with each other. It is a self-evident natural law because it is God’s Will. When we are commanded by politicians to go against God’s Will and live in a way that is against how God created us, it causes loneliness, depression, substance abuse and many other bad things.

The Bible tells us “No weapon formed against us will prosper”. Do not do anything illegal, but also do not cower in your home and be afraid to be with other people. Find ways to “Not be alone”. That is what God wants us to do.

Wear a mask, keep your distance, wash your hands, but do not be alone.

Bob Bernet 10/6/2020
Author of Understanding the Spiritual Puzzle



www.thespiritualpuzzle.com

PAGE 1

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Origin of Life

Eric J. Norman, PH. D. (Biochemistry)

Recently the scientific community and public was informed about the possibility of life on the planet Venus. From the prestigious Journal Nature:

NATURE BRIEFING

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

Daily briefing: 'Unexplained' molecule on Venus hints at life Phosphine in Venus's atmosphere raises the tantalising idea of life on the planet.

But can life evolve? Knowledgeable scientists will say no. Life is too complex to evolve.

Perhaps the simplest form of life that can reproduce and is self sustaining is the E coli cell with a DNA molecule of 4,639,675 base pairs. The human genome has 3.1 billion base pairs in one cell. (Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, 7th Edition, Nelson and Cox, 2017, page 958.) In sickle cell anemia, a single error causes an amino acid substitution, valine instead of glutamate, which can be fatal.(Lehninger, page 173).

Please [click here](#) to see how it would take 2000 pages to type the base sequence for an E. coli cell and for a single human DNA molecule one million pages.



Coming in 2021
CRSEF Monthly Programs

THE HEAVENS
DECLARE

A different DVD each month

The Heavens Declare Series Trailer

THE HEAVENS
DECLARE

PAGE 1

([Continued on page \(26\)](#))

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What to Remember from the Year 2020

By Terry Ivers

The beginning of the second decade of the second millennium, the year 2020, will forever be remembered as the year of the great world-wide Covid-19 Pandemic and the national elections that will change for good or bad the political face of the nation for at least the next four years. As a 65-year-old Christian man with a wife, two daughters and their husbands, and most importantly four granddaughters and two grandsons, I fear for their future in a world that has removed God and Jesus Christ from the culture. History is replete with nations that turned away from God, and if we ignore history this nation will also become non-existent.

This is why the most important thing to remember from this year is that on Christmas Day 2020 we should be celebrating and remembering a small group of very brave and devoted Christians, non-Christians, and crew that made the perilous voyage from Plymouth England to Provincetown Harbor in the year 1620. William Bradford the leader of this group that called themselves "Pilgrims" had arranged this voyage to escape from the Church of England, because they were not permitted to worship in the manner that they felt the Bible commanded them to do. After fleeing their homeland in 1607 to Holland these Separatists feared that the King of Spain was coming to Holland so they decided that their only chance to worship God freely, was to travel to the new world, so they arranged to travel to the Virginia colonies. Only after two failed attempts to leave Holland did they finally succeed in the fall of 1620.

The original size of the congregation that was supposed to travel to the new world was more than one hundred men, women, and children, but the ship, the Speedwell, that the group had purchased was abandoned, after two attempts to sail along with another ship, the Mayflower. At Plymouth, England the separatists had to make the hard choice of leaving behind more than half of their congregation, including their pastor, John Robinson, so they could join the passengers on the remaining ship, the Mayflower. The Mayflower sailed from Plymouth on September 6, 1620, with 102 passengers and about 40 crew members crammed into a 150-foot ship. Also, the passengers brought furniture, books, clothing, food, and drink for the crossing, seeds, livestock, and even a printing press. It was a very tight fit. (The Pilgrims were eventually to live onboard the Mayflower for 8 months.)

Sailing from England this late in the year made this trip very difficult, after sixty-five days, on the 19th of November, Cape Cod was spotted, but due to the very bad weather that plagued the last half of the journey the ship had been blown off course, to the north, and was not able to reach the Virginia colony. On the 21st of November, they headed into the Provincetown Harbor the first time. During the next month, small groups of men would go ashore and explore the land to find a suitable site to settle.

The joy of their arrival in the new world was quickly extinguished, when the captain of the Mayflower, Christopher Jones wanted the passengers, who by this time were very sick, off of his ship, so that he and his crew could make the return voyage back to England and civilization. The Strangers (the non-Christians) were aware that since they had not landed in the Virginia colony, they were no longer indebted to the Virginia Company.

*PAGE 1**([Continued on page \(27\)](#))*

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EDITOR'S THOUGHTS?

By Terry Ivers

"I think the whole d... thing
is overexaggerated. . ."

Harry R Truman, March 31st 1980
The Longview Daily News

Well brothers and sisters, welcome once again to the latest edition of the World By Design Newsletter, where just as in the last edition, we find our country still in perilous times. At the publication of this edition, we find ourselves on the threshold of a national election where our choices will be more important than ever before, as we elect our country's next President and many others that will help govern the American people. There are many pressing issues that the nation will deal with during the next four years, including the Covid-19 pandemic, ongoing racial unrest, the recovery of the nation's economy, as well as the usual unforeseen circumstances that will undoubtedly arise.

As Christians, we are called to pray for our leaders and our governing bodies, so that we may have peace in the land that the Lord has set us in. In this issue, you will find articles reminding us of foundational principles from the Bible and American history that will help us to give sufficient answers to all of today's questions.

In the United States today, it has become more important than ever that we have appropriate answers for those that do not see the world around us as Bible-believing Christians do. In a culture that demands that there is no absolute truth, it requires us (Bible-believing Christians) to use scripture and more convincing answers to resolve the culture's questions, because it is only the truth of God's word that will last forever. In a world that has no definitive answer for anything, and is all about self-exaltation and power, we need to remain faithful and trusting in the power and sovereignty of the one true God.

One of the last sermons preached by Moses to the Israelites before they entered into the promised land contained this warning:

⁶² Though you were as numerous as the stars of the sky, you will be left with only a few people, because you did not obey the LORD your God. ⁶³ Just as the LORD was glad to cause you to prosper and to multiply you, so he will also be glad to cause you to perish and to destroy you. Deuteronomy 28:62-63

CRSEF publishes this newsletter so that we may provide you encouragement and answers so that you may engage in the battle that God has called us to. We should never forget that only through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit were we born again and able to see and understand the TRUTH!

God Bless America!

Terry Ivers

We welcome your questions and concerns and ask that you send us information and articles that you would want us to share in upcoming issues of the World By Design Newsletter. Thank you for your interest and involvement in CRSEF and we look forward to hearing from you, we may be contacted at editor_wbdnewsletter@twc.com or rlmoak@fuse.net.

PAGE 1

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CRSEF Monthly Program Schedule

CRSEF's monthly presentations are given at a public library or a local church on the third Thursday of each month. All presentations are planned to run from 7-7:45 PM followed by a 15 minute, or longer, Q&A time. Please plan to come and **invite your friends and neighbors too**, as usual there is no charge for this program!

COVID-19 rules:

Social distancing will be observed in seating for this program, pews are marked. Family members may sit together, as you desire!

You MUST wear a mask to attend this program, if you do have a mask one will be provided for you! If you cannot wear a mask you will be seated at a safe distance from other attendees!

CRSEF Monthly Program for November Thursday, November 19th 2020

Thursday, 11/19/2020 - From 7-7:45 PM followed by a 15 minute, Q&A time

A video entitled "Why Does A Good God Allow Bad Things?" featuring Gary Bates of CMI-US.

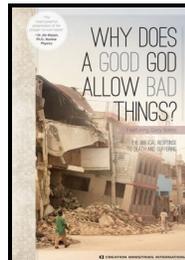
One of the most asked questions is why a loving God allows death and suffering. The heart of the Creator is revealed as Gary Bates persuasively unfolds the often overlooked issue in today's evolution-creation culture wars—the vital 'big picture' of the Gospel. Many hearts and minds were changed after hearing Gary explain the Gospel message with a powerful, yet compassionate approach.

Bob Moak will field questions after the video is shown.

Presenter: Bob Moak of CRSEF will field questions after the video

Location: Brecon United Methodist Church

Directions: [Driving Instructions](#)



Click on image
for preview

CRSEF Monthly Program - No Program is held in December!

Friday, 12/25/2020

Merry Christmas!

Presenter: God will present His Son to the world!

If you want to see the latest status of this program, and/or to see other upcoming programs, connect to the CRSEF website: <http://worldbydesign.org/events/events.asp>.

If you want to donate to CRSEF, so we can offer programs that emphasize Biblical authority click on the following website address:

<http://worldbydesign.org/donate/newdonate.asp> and then follow the instructions to donate by PayPal or by credit card.



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CRSEF Monthly Program for January Thursday, January 21st 2021

Thursday 01/21/2021 - From 7-7:45 PM followed by a 15 minute, Q&A time

The Heavens Declare is a 12-part documentary showcasing compelling evidence for a universe created by God just a few thousand years ago.

Experts in astronomy, astrophysics, and cosmology build their case for a biblical worldview.

The Heavens Declare Episode 1 is titled "The Origin of the Universe"

Main points include:

- How one's worldview shapes your ideas about the data?
- What are the two main worldviews and their implications?
- How the laws of nature are compelling proof for creation?
- Why using the Big Bang presents big challenges?

Presenter: Bob Moak will field questions after the video has been shown!

Location: Brecon United Methodist Church

Directions: [Driving Instructions](#)



Click on image
for preview

If you want to see the latest status of this program, and/or to see other upcoming programs, connect to the CRSEF website: <http://worldbydesign.org/events/events.asp>.

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[PAGE 1](#)

[NEXT MONTH](#)

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CRSEF Monthly Program Schedule

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Please plan to come and **invite your friends and neighbors too**, as usual there is no charge for this program!

COVID-19 rules:

Social distancing will be observed in seating for this program, pews are marked. Family members may sit together, as you desire!

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CRSEF Monthly Program for February Thursday, February 18th 2021

Thursday, 02/18/2021 - From 7-7:45 PM followed by a 15 minute, Q&A time

The Heavens Declare is a 12-part documentary showcasing compelling evidence for a universe created by God just a few thousand years ago. Experts in astronomy, astrophysics, and cosmology build their case for a biblical worldview.

Episode 2 - "Challenges to the Big Bang"

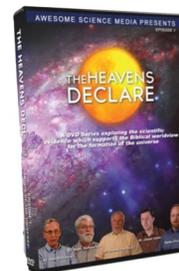
Main points include:

- How do the laws of physics contradict the Big Bang?
- Challenges in antimatter and the "horizon" problem
- How the Big Bang does not adequately explain galaxy formation
- Why the biblical model works better with the evidence?

Presenter: Bob Moak will field questions after the video has been shown!

Location: Brecon United Methodist Church

Directions: [Driving Instructions](#)



Click on image
for preview

If you want to see the latest status of this program, and/or to see other upcoming programs, connect to the CRSEF website: <http://worldbydesign.org/events/events.asp>.

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CRSEF
Monthly Program Information
and Driving Instructions

COVID-19 rules:

Social distancing will be observed in seating for this program, pews are marked. Family members may sit together, as you desire!

You MUST wear a mask to attend this program, if you do have a mask one will be provided for you! If you cannot wear a mask you will be seated at a safe distance from other attendees!

Driving Directions:

Brecon United Methodist Church

7388 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45249-1033
(513) 489-7021

Driving Directions:

From I-71

Merge onto I-275 W toward I-75
Take the REED HARTMAN HIGHWAY exit- EXIT 47
Turn LEFT onto REED HARTMAN HWY
Turn LEFT onto ramp (To KEMPER ROAD)
Turn RIGHT onto E KEMPER RD
Proceed on Kemper Road about ½ mile, the church is on the left side of the road.

From I-75

Merge onto I-275 E toward I-71
Take the REED HARTMAN HIGHWAY exit- EXIT 47
Stay to the left and then from the right lane
Turn RIGHT onto REED HARTMAN HWY
Turn LEFT onto the ramp (To KEMPER ROAD)
Turn RIGHT onto E KEMPER RD
Proceed on Kemper Road about ½ mile, the church is on the left side of the road.

Enter the church from the parking lot through the back door; then proceed to the sanctuary, see the lighted sanctuary sign, just slightly to the left of the entry door.

[PAGE 1](#)

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One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

This diversity that God built into human beings does seem to cause problems in this world today. However, God could have created all of us as identical, which sometimes occurs in identical twins. Think about it, if we were all identical, we would be totally lost whenever we would be surrounded by others in a crowd. In such a world we would always be lost and incapable of identifying ourselves from everyone else! So, diversity is a good thing as it allows independence for each individual and allows us to identify who our friends and loved ones are. Also, this diversity lets us know how to identify ourselves from everyone else.

Every member of mankind has one-of-a-kind fingerprints, which allows ultimate identification to be possible. With billions of people on this earth today there are no identical people, except possibly for identical twins. Which brings up the question. Do identical twins have the same fingerprints? According to Google, the answer is "No! Studies have concluded that, even though the fingerprints of identical twins may be remarkably similar, they are not identical. Twins share the same genetic makeup (DNA) because they are formed from a single zygote (fertilized egg). However, fingerprints are not an entirely genetic characteristic." So, as you can see **there are no two people who are completely identical in this world today!** Now that is miraculous!

God also created all of us to possess a free will, so we can all decide what we will do, and what we will believe! We can read about how this freedom given by God allowed the first sin to be committed in the Garden of Eden. Then we can see the effect of that sin on mankind, and how we still can sin or do good deeds, the choice is ours! Just after the first, or original sin was committed, we pick up the accounting there. *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"*

We can see here where extreme changes occurred to mankind, as Adam and Eve realized they were naked, when before their nakedness was unnoticed by them. This could be because they did not have physical mortal bodies before they committed a sin. We usually describe ourselves as having an immortal part, and a mortal part, which is our physical body, as that is what dies when we expire. Then the immortal soul departs from the mortal body, and the mortal body goes back to being dust in the grave or to ashes if our body is cremated. *By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.*" (Genesis 3:19). So, the mortal body is left behind on the cursed earth, which the Bible tells will be destroyed by fire, and will be replaced by a new earth, one without the remnants of death.

[PAGE 1](#)[\(Continued on page 12\)](#)

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One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

Now let us continue with the “blame game,” as God tries to have mankind own up to what they have done! ***The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*** So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Because of this sin, Jesus pronounces the penalty brought on by the Fall of Mankind!

To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:8-19).

When God created Adam from the dust of the earth it had not yet been cursed, therefore, Adam and his descendants would have continued to be immortal beings if Adam had not eaten the forbidden fruit. Now his descendants would have mortal bodies, and yet, they would maintain the immortal soul, which could be saved to live again on the new earth, AKA heaven! This new earth is needed because Jesus would not return to this cursed world and live with His redeemed saints forever. This world had become a temporary place for mankind to dwell in until the saved souls will dwell on the new earth when God decides the time has come for destroying the old cursed earth and creating the new pristine earth.

The New Testament writers were inspired to record what God revealed to them about how this sin curse has affected this world, and why mankind's salvation is only possible through following the teaching of Jesus Christ and accepting Him as the only means of salvation from this curse! ***Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.*** (Romans 5:12-13). Note that Paul wrote that sin came first, which brought on mortal death. However, Paul points out that following the law cannot save you because the law was written after sin had brought the curse on this earth. The law was given by God only to help mankind identify sinful actions as God sees them.

Paul wrote about the fact that the acts of creation did not bring on the curse, but that the sin of mankind caused God to pull away from direct contact with mankind, as God could not live with sinful creatures, as mankind had become.

[PAGE 1](#)[\(Continued on page 13 \)](#)

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One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

In the acts of creation Jesus had planned, God and mankind were to live together forever, as it was in the Garden of Eden, until the Fall of man. *For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.* (Romans 8:20-22). The only hope of salvation from this cursed world required that a Savior would come into this cursed world to supply the perfect sacrifice to allow mankind to be reunited with God the Father on the new earth.

Thus, salvation brings us back to how it was before sin got us thrown out of the Garden of Eden. *And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever." So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.* (Genesis 3:22-24). This separation was required so we could no longer have access to the tree of life, which would allow us to live forever.

Paul wrote about this salvation plan and how our resurrection will occur because of what Jesus did for us to remove the curse of death. *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.* (1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 26). So, you can understand how the Fall of man brought a curse of mortal death, and then how Jesus death in this cursed world would allow us to be born again into our immortal soul, and like Jesus we would be resurrected to life eternal, after dying in this cursed world and leaving behind our mortal body! Yes, it is true that Jesus' body was not left behind, because **Jesus did not have a sinful nature to dispense with!** We inherited our sinful nature from Adam as the father of all mankind, he passed it on to all of mankind. Jesus was born through the Holy Spirit and by a woman who was still a virgin, therefore, Jesus did not inherit a sinful nature from Adam's sin!

One of the dangerous teachings of the "New Age" movement that has spilled over into modern evangelicalism is the notion of "self-love." Many psychologists—even Christian professional counselors—are attributing society's ills, especially among young people, to the supposed lack of a "positive self-image" or "self-esteem" on the part of those exhibiting antisocial behavior. What they need, we are told, is to learn to love themselves more, to appreciate their own self-worth. The problem with this idea is that it is both unscriptural and unrealistic. People do not hate themselves. The Bible says that "no man ever yet hated his own flesh" ([Ephesians 5:29](#)). *After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body.* ([Ephesians 5:29-30](#)).

One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

Instead of learning to esteem ourselves, the Scripture commands us each to “esteem others better than themselves” (Philippians 2:3). Even the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, considered himself so unworthy that he called himself the chief of sinners. *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.* (1 Timothy 1:15).

We are told by some Christian leaders that the measure of our great value in the sight of God is the fact that Christ paid such a high price—His own death—to redeem us. The fact is, however, that His death is not the measure of our great value but of our terrible sinfulness. “Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6). *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.*

In fact, the rise of this self-love idea is itself a sign of the last days, when people shall be “lovers of their own selves.” It is the main characteristic of New Age humanism, which is based squarely upon evolutionary pantheism.

Godlessness in the Last Days:

Paul wrote to Timothy, and us, about the characteristics of how people will become in those last days. First Paul wrote about how we as Christians should handle dealing with others. *And the Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.* (2 Timothy 2:24-26). Notice what Paul says about how this kind of temperament will help us avoid the temptations shown to us by Satan. This type of thinking and actions will help us in our everyday life now and even in the last days.

Next, Paul wrote about how people not guided by the Holy Spirit will become during the time called the last days. *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.* (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Do you recognize any of these descriptions coming true in the world today? We see these same types of things happening in the USA today. In fact, it seems to me that ALL these actions are being observed in our country today. So, apparently, we may now be in the time called the last days?

We witness this behavior being displayed by those who are trying their best to subvert the thinking of all law-abiding citizens in this country, by trying to change the history of this country so it appears the intent of the founding fathers was pointed at the enslavement of anyone who does not agree with their plan for this country. Many people are willing to join in destructive actions like burning stores and looting just for their own gain. They use the legal peaceful protestors to enact their vile actions. They are not interested in bringing peace, they only want to cause disruption of our country, and for their own personal gain!

[PAGE 1](#)[\(Continued on page 15\)](#)

One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

These radical groups are being manned for the most part by extremists who are driven by some form of hatred. This hatred is most amplified by racial bias, which they have been taught sometimes by their parents, but most of the time from some gang or group formed for the purpose of subverting this countries laws and legal structure.

Is there truly racial tension and even hatred, of course, the answer is yes! This is not a new thing as it has been going on forever. When there were only three men living on this earth, one of them became jealous of their brother's sacrifice, because God favored Cain over Abel. So, Cain settled the problem by killing his brother Abel! While murder is not some new thing, it is still caused by some form of jealousy as people desire what other people have that they cannot afford, or they are not willing or able to work to obtain. Remember, what was written earlier in this article, God/Jesus created a perfect world for mankind, but sin came into the world, causing it to now be cursed.

People who believe in evolution as the way mankind came about on the earth have no reason to not want to kill someone, as that is just part of the survival of the fittest. However, people who believe the God of the Bible truly exists, and He has given us commands about love, which prohibits killing other human beings. Paul wrote about this in the book of Romans. *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.* (Romans 13:9-10).

Murder is rampant in the USA, as more than 60,000,000 future citizens of the USA have been killed because they would impose a hardship on their mother and/or their parents. Since 1973 when abortion on demand was made legal in the USA, we have killed more than 60 million babies that would have become American citizens! It makes me wonder how God views the USA as He has made it clear that He does not take murder lightly! This only covers the murder of unborn babies, there are neighborhoods all over this country where murders of adults and killing of children as collateral damage occur almost every day. John wrote about how Satan had tempted Cain to kill his brother Abel. *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous.* (1 John 3:12).

Of course, we can still observe people doing their best to help others who may be suffering in our world today. These are the remnant who are still following Jesus Christ! Christ died for our sins because He loved us, not because He needed us. We should live for Him in thanksgiving for the "amazing grace, that saved a wretch like me!" If you are reading this article and you have not accepted Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior, please pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit to make clear to you that Jesus is, in fact, the Son of God who came into this world to save the immortal souls of ALL those who chose to accept His perfect sacrifice in their behalf to save them from the fires of hell.

[PAGE 1](#)[\(Continued on page 16 \)](#)

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One Race of Mankind! (Continued)

Only Christians can know their immortal soul has been saved because your salvation is assured by what Jesus did for you, not by anything you can do to earn going to heaven. All other worldly religions require to do something(s) to supposedly earn your place in heaven.

No member of mankind can make a sufficient sacrifice that will allow them to remove the sinful nature they inherited from Adam, and which can only be removed when they die. As you can see you cannot save yourself because you must die first in this cursed world, and then it is too late to do any good works! When you die, you cannot take anything from this life with your immortal soul, as it departs from your mortal body! Good works performed in this life are most often the result of the changes made to your thought processes after you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then you are born again and become a new creation and immediately begin to desire to do good for your fellow members of mankind.

We must obtain salvation before our mortal body dies, as God designed it that way! Face it, you cannot save yourself as you must die first to discard your sinful nature, and then, your immortal soul leaves your mortal body in preparation for entry into another realm. If you have accepted salvation your remaining immortal being dwells only on good thoughts and actions, which allows it to be acceptable to living with God as we no longer have that sinful nature. That first sin allowed mankind to know both good and evil, and to develop a mortal essence within our being. Before sin mankind could only think good thoughts. When we die, we lose the facility to recognize and participate in evil thoughts and actions. Thus, we have become a new creation and we are changed to be like Adam and Eve before they committed that first sin!

If you have not accepted God's grace of salvation by becoming a follower of His Son, Jesus Christ, your immortal soul is destined to hell for eternity.



[PAGE 1](#)

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Biblical Adam (Continued)

The significance of these things, combined with Jesus' farewell discourse in John 14, 16, and 20, is not only promises of the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the ongoing ministry of the apostles, but also their ability to recall the life of Jesus and His teachings and write accurate and authoritative gospels inspired by the Holy Spirit for the church and posterity. Or, as recorded in John 16:13: *"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."*

Matthew Henry's commentary on these verses makes it clear when he writes, *"Christ's departure was necessary to the Comforter's coming. Sending the Spirit was to be the fruit of Christ's death, which was His going away."*

In summary fashion, it may be accurately stated that the main difference between the writings of the New Testament and those of the early church fathers is that the apostles wrote under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; the fathers wrote to give inspiration and instruction to the young church, but not under the direct and divine guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Persecution in the First Century Church

Jesus himself said, *"Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also"* (John 15:20). The question naturally rises about the dreams and motives of the early church leaders and their followers in the face of persecution. Why would the church in its infancy take the message of Christ and His teachings to a world that rejected the Messiah and put Him to death?

The answer is found in the same chapter of John's gospel, verse 21: *"They will treat you this way because of my name."* To confess the name of Jesus marks believers from the first century to the present day.

The Fate of the Twelve

What happened to the apostles? The Bible mentions the deaths of only two—James, who was put to death by Herod Agrippa I in AD 44, and Judas, who took his own life. The details of the deaths of two other apostles, Bartholomew and Simon the Canaanite, are not known. The deaths of the other seven apostles are known by tradition or the writings of early Christian historians.

According to traditions and the Bible, eight of the apostles died as martyrs. At least two, Peter and Andrew, were crucified. The apostle Paul reportedly was executed shortly before Nero's death in AD 68. The apostle John spent time in exile on Patmos Island and died of natural causes just before the close of the first century.

Persecution of the Early Church

It should be understood from the Bible and nonbiblical sources that many early Christians were persecuted and martyred for their faith. In the *Book of Martyrs* by John Foxe (republished 2007), there were ten periods of persecution by Roman emperors of early Christians, beginning with Nero in AD 64 and Diocletian in AD 303.

[PAGE 1](#)[\(Continued on page 18\)](#)

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Biblical Adam (Continued)

The persecution of first- and second-century Christians has been described by ancient non-Christians not only as a fact of history, but also by its severity and brutality. Pliny the Younger (governor of Pontus and Bithynia) confirmed the persecution of Christians in his letter to Emperor Trajan (about AD 112). He asked the emperor “*whether pardon is to be granted for repentance, or, if a man has once been a Christian it does him no good to have ceased to be one; whether the name itself, even without offenses, or only the offenses associated with the name are to be punished.*”

As reported in *Ancient Christian Martyrdom*, by AD 325 an estimated seven million Christians lived mostly in the Roman Empire, with as many as two million killed for their faith. According to Professor Todd Johnson of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, it is estimated that “*more than 70 million Christians have been martyred over the last two millennia, more than half of which died in the twentieth century under fascist and communist regimes.*”

We know who the original twelve apostles were, but here we turn our attention to some strange-sounding names, about whom most present-day Christians know little. Nevertheless, these early Christians and their followers were real people, in real time, and were in the real struggle for the existence of the church and their own lives.

Who Were the Early Church Fathers?

The fathers of the early church that we study here are called the “ante-Nicene fathers” because they came after the apostles and before the Council of Nicea in AD 325. Basically, the fathers of the early church were those Christian leaders who, after the end of the first century, used the teachings of Jesus and divinely inspired writings of the apostles to guide and encourage the disciples of Jesus and the young churches and those yet to be, throughout the known world.

Depending upon the writings of church historians of various Christian backgrounds—Western/Latin, Orthodox/Eastern, Coptic, Alexandrian—the identity and number of early church fathers may vary from one source to another. (We shall identify more clearly those who are studied here later in this article.)

The early church fathers passionately worked to proclaim the gospel, protect the truth regarding Jesus, and establish Christian doctrine. After the deaths of the apostles, the church had to face two serious threats—heresies and persecutions. Numerous believers witnessed about the Lord through their martyrdom. Their lives and deaths strengthened the faith of their fellow brethren and made the church grow.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”
Tertullian (AD 155–220)

[PAGE 1](#)

[\(Continued on page 19 \)](#)

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“May All Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful”

In many ways we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Especially in the Christian faith, there is much to be gained from devout men and women, their personal experiences, insights, education, struggles and what they wrote.

One reason why many Protestants today bought the notion that the early church fathers were theological infants is their ignorance of church history. The best remedy for that is getting to know the church fathers by actually reading their writings. The early church fathers are the heritage of all Christians, regardless of denomination. One way that Reformed Christians, Evangelicals, and Orthodox Christians can deepen their fellowship with each other is by exploring their common roots in the fathers of the early church.

—Robert Arakaki, in *Orthodox Reformed Bridge*, 6-19-2016

The Attitude of the Early Church Fathers toward the Apostles and NT Scripture

The early church fathers were highly educated in biblical teaching—the Old Testament and the writings of the apostles, which by the time of their generation had been completely accepted as divinely inspired among the early churches. Within the epistles of Paul, there was evidence of His authority and Spirit-filled writings:

“After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans” (Colossians 4:6).

“I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers” (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Occasionally, apostles cited each other in their epistles to the churches as divinely inspired: *“Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him”* (2 Peter 3:15).

When we examine the way certain books were used by the early church fathers, it is evident that there was a functioning canon long before the fourth century. Indeed, by the second century, there was already a core collection of New Testament books accepted and actually performing as Scripture. Around AD 250, Origen likely produced a complete list of all twenty-seven New Testament books.

William Webster, writing for *Christian Answers Network* in 1999, offered this explanation about the use of Scriptures in the early church: *“Initially the apostles taught orally, but with the close of the apostolic age, all special revelation that God wanted preserved for man was codified in written Scriptures.”*

The late R.C. Foster, who for over forty years was professor of New Testament at The Cincinnati Bible Seminary, gave us this insightful comment: *“Of one thing we can be sure: The Holy Spirit today gives no new revelations nor any advice which is contrary to the faith once for all delivered unto the saints in the New Testament. The revelation of the gospel in the New Testament is full, complete and perfect.”*

A number of years ago, some liberal or progressive theologians expressed their beliefs that the early fathers did not see inspiration as something that was uniquely true of canonical books. According to these modern theologians, the fathers of the church saw their own writings as inspired. This theory persists among some biblical scholars today who insist that these early church leaders saw nothing distinctive about NT writings as compared to writings being produced in their own time.

Michael Kruger and Sam Patterson of Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, point to the highly problematic claims of these modernistic theologians: *“First, the early church fathers repeatedly express that the apostles had a distinctive authority that was higher and separate from their own. So, regardless of whether they viewed themselves as ‘inspired’ in some sense, we have to acknowledge that they still viewed the inspiration/authority of the apostles as somehow different.”*

Kruger and Patterson then proceed to cite the book of First Clement and the writings of Ignatius, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus, all of which express the unique role and distinct authority of the apostles. Likewise, there is no indication that the early church fathers, as a whole, believed that writings produced in their own time were of the same authority as the apostolic writings and thus could genuinely be contenders for a spot in the NT canon.

The Early Church Fathers’ Approach to and Understanding of Creation

In our study here, we shall look at early church father from the death of the apostle John to the Council of Nicea in AD 325. The number of these leaders, according to various theologians and ecclesiastical historians, has varied between six and eighteen. For example, the *New World Encyclopedia* lists about one dozen in this group. The *Catholic News Herald* identifies nine in this time frame. In the *Oral Roberts Library* as many as eighteen are named as ante-Nicene fathers. Orthodox or Eastern church literature allows for about thirteen to be included in this fellowship of leaders. Further, for the sake of economy of space and time, we will confine our study to even a smaller group.

The Edinburgh Creation Group published a paper about “Creation and the Church Fathers” (article 43), addressing the ancient and contemporary views on the literal and symbolic interpretations of Genesis. The editor of this publication gave this explanation of that controversy: *“Of the twenty-four church fathers that I examined, fourteen clearly accepted the literal days of Creation; nine did not mention their thoughts on this subject, and only one held to a clearly figurative belief, which imbued from the Jewish liberal philosopher, Philo, who had, in turn, been greatly influenced by the pagan Greeks.”*

Terry Mortenson, author of *Searching for Adam* (Master Books, 2016), wrote, *“Patristic writers, working from an assumption of the theological connectedness of all Scripture, fill their comments on the creation, Adam, Eve, and the Fall with spiritual discussions and typological relations. They interacted with the pagan philosophies of the day as well as latent heresies, and sought to establish the unique sovereignty of God over the creation, the unity, and the triunity of God, and His calling all things into being out of nothing. The Genesis account is nothing less than a historical narrative, even though it is much more.”*

Selected Early Church Fathers on Creation and Adam

Here we will take a brief look at only nine of the earliest fathers of the church and their beliefs and writings, where available, regarding the Scriptures, creation, and the biblical Adam. Generally, these ante-Nicene fathers are placed in the order of their lifespan, but not necessarily in order of their influence, importance, or length of their leadership.

CLEMENT OF ROME (AD 30–100) was a disciple of both Peter and Paul. He is mentioned in Philippians 4:3 as one of Paul’s fellow workers. In writing of God’s particular grace given through Christ, Clement reminded his readers that *“all the generations from Adam to this day have passed away but those who by God’s grace were perfected in love have a place among the godly, who will be revealed when the kingdom of Christ visits us.”*



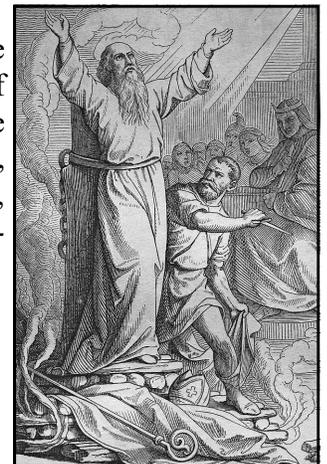
IGNATIUS (AD 50–117) was a disciple of the apostle John and bishop of the church at Antioch for 40 years. Ignatius indicated in his writings that the apostles were a distinct historical group and the agents through which Christ worked. He went out of his way to distinguish his own authority as a bishop from the authority of the apostles. Ignatius once said to his followers, *“I am not commanding you as Peter and Paul did. They were apostles, I am condemned.”* In his epistle to Hero, a deacon of Antioch, Ignatius wrote that *“the body of Adam was made out of the four elements, and that of Eve out of the side of Adam.”*



In AD 107, Ignatius was seized by the Romans and condemned to death for refusing to sacrifice to the emperor and deny Christ. Ignatius was martyred during the reign of emperor Trajan.

POLYCARP (AD 69–155) was a bishop at the church at Smyrna. Irenaeus tells us that Polycarp conversed with the apostles and many others who had seen Christ. He also sat at the feet of the apostle John and was well-versed in Paul’s epistles. His name is Greek; hence he is believed to have been a Gentile.

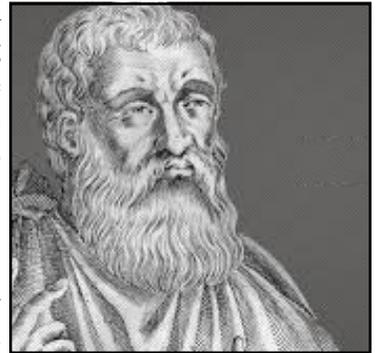
Polycarp occupies an important place in the history of the early Christian church. He was an elder of an important congregation that helped found churches in the region of Smyrna. That church is mentioned in Revelation 2. Polycarp was from an era whose orthodoxy is widely accepted by Eastern Orthodox churches, mainstream Protestants, and Catholics alike. One modern scholar of Christian biography and literature wrote, *“A high value was attached to the witness Polycarp could give as to the genuine tradition of old apostolic doctrine.”*



Biblical Adam (Continued)

Although no specific quote can be found in this brief research for Polycarp's view on creation and Adam, it can be reasonably assumed that, given his reputation of upholding to apostolic doctrine, he would have believed the Genesis account of creation. For refusing to burn incense to the Roman emperor, Polycarp was burned at the stake and pierced with a spear. On the day of his death, he is recorded as saying, "*Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong.*"

JUSTIN MARTYR (AD 150–165) was from Samaria; he studied philosophy and later converted to Christianity. Justin accepted at face value the statement that Adam was out of the earth and Eve from one of Adam's ribs. When Justin references Adam's role in introducing sin into the world, he takes great pains to say that all subsequent are responsible for their own sins, as was Adam. In one ancient document, Justin Martyr wrote that "*all the years from the creation of the world (to Theophilus' day) amount to 5,698 years and the odd months and days.*"

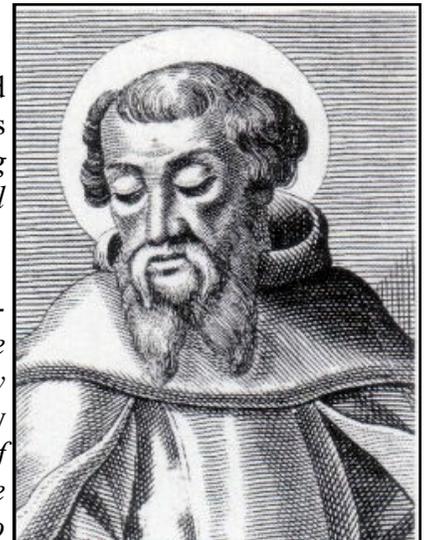


On the subject of the Flood, Justin gives a literal interpretation: the Flood was universal, covering the earth to the depth of 15 cubits, and only Noah's family survived. The first apologist, a philosopher and defender of the faith to pagan Roman culture and to non-believing Jews, Justin Martyr was martyred by beheading during the reign of Marcus Aurelius.

IRENAEUS OF LYON (AD 150–200) was raised in a Christian family, possibly in Smyrna, where Polycarp was a bishop and where he heard Polycarp as a youth. Irenaeus himself became a bishop of Lyon in Gaul (France). His most famous work is *Against the Heresies*, refuting false teachers in the church.

An Ancient Faith podcast (9-6-2013) called attention to Irenaeus's belief and teaching on the Genesis account of creation, and particularly about Eve. His insight and observation about the biblical text caused him to remark: "*Among all other living things, no helper was found equal and like unto Adam. In all of creation, Adam was unique: the human handiwork of the Lord.*"

One church historian wrote, "*Irenaeus did not author a commentary on Genesis, as did other early Christian thinkers. Nor did he write as much about the creative activity of God as other early Christian theologians. But no early Christian used creation to such advantage as Irenaeus of Lyons.*" Anthony Briggman, of The Henry Center (4-19-2070), wrote that "*Nothing is known of Irenaeus' death, which must have taken place at the end of the second or the beginning of the third century. In spite of some isolated and later testimony to that effect, it is not very probable that his career ended with martyrdom.*"



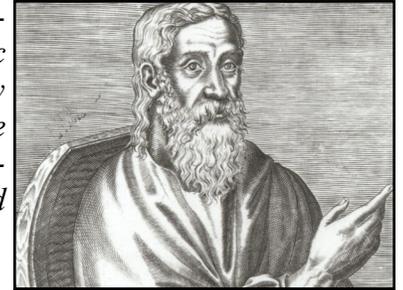
[PAGE 1](#)

[\(Continued on page 23\)](#)

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Biblical Adam (Continued)

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA (AD 150–215) presents a different kind of approach to the book of Genesis and the biblical Adam. *“While numerous patristic writers took up the pen against Greek philosophers that posited a progressively developing ancient earth, it was particularly in Alexandria that theologians like Clement of Alexandria, and his successor Origen, pursued a synthetic, allegorical approach to Genesis as they engaged with Greco-Roman philosophy and critics of Christianity”* (William VanDoodewaard, previously cited).

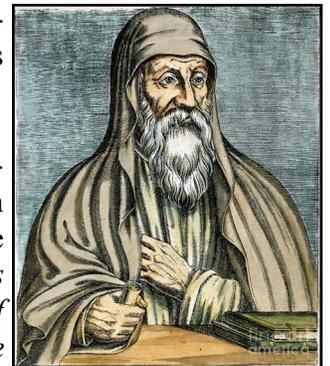


Clement stated that in his fall, Adam lost his God-given ability and thus was given over to death. But the sin of Adam affected him only; no evil or sin was transmitted by him to his descendants. While Clement spoke of the necessity of believing and obeying the gospel as being required to reach the goal of salvation, he also said that *“we have the greatest need of divine grace.”*

The School of Alexandria adopted the allegorical interpretation of Holy Scripture. Clement was influenced by Hellenistic philosophy to a greater extent than any other Christian thinker of his time. Plato and the Stoics also played a role in his thoughts, as well as Philo, the Alexandrian Jew. Although some evangelicals think that Clement of Alexandria held exclusively to a liberal view on creation, he actually had a mixed approach.

Clement had an historical date for creation of 5592 BC (*Stromata*, 1:24), and he said about the creation days: *“For the creation of the world was concluded in six days. . . . Some such else is indicated by the sixth hour in the scheme of salvation, in which man was made perfect.”* The date and location of his death are unknown.

ORIGEN (AD 185–254) has been called the father of Christian allegory because he assigned deeper meanings to literal texts. Steve Multz, writing in *Creation and the Church Fathers* (February 2014), commented that Origen *“rejected any literal understanding of not just the days of creation, but the Adam and Eve story too.”* He also believed in a concept of evolution, with God allowing part of His creation to develop and evolve independently, but always under His control.



Although Origen endured persecution and torture for the cause of Christ under the Roman emperor Decius in AD 250, and although he defended Christianity against certain heretics, he rejected the faith on one occasion and taught many gross heresies. Some theologians describe Origen as a *“compound of contraries, wise and unwise, judicious and unjudicious, the enemy of superstition, and its patron, a strenuous defender of Christianity, and its corrupter.”* It has been said of Origen that *“he was one of the church fathers of the allegorical method of Bible interpretation which turns the Bible into a nose of wax to be twisted as the reader sees fit.”*

[PAGE 1](#)

[\(Continued on page 24 \)](#)

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Biblical Adam (Continued)

TERTULLIAN (AD 160–240). Knowledge of the life of Tertullian is based almost wholly on documents written by men living more than a century after him and from obscure references in his own works. He was born in Carthage, which at the time was second only to Rome as the cultural and educational center of the West. Little is known of his early life except that his parents were pagan. Some historians write that Tertullian’s father may have been a centurion.



Tertullian was trained in both Greek and Latin, and after completing his education he went to Rome for more studies and eventually became a lawyer. While in Rome he indulged in the typical licentiousness of that society. Tertullian enjoyed the games in the arena and was profoundly affected by the testimonies of Christians who were martyred there. In midlife he was converted to the Christian faith and wrote extensively about the faith, conviction, and persecution of Christians. Returning to Carthage, Tertullian was eventually ordained a presbyter and continued writing books about the issues facing the church of his day.

The acclaimed historian Kenneth Scott Latourette, late of Yale University, wrote that Tertullian “held reason, the reliance of the philosophers, to be a false guide to truth. Truth was to be found in the revelation of God in Christ.” One of Tertullian’s most important works was *Against Marcion*. (Marcion was a heretic who believed that the world was created by the “evil” god of the Jews.) Tertullian did more than anyone to overthrow the influence of the Gnostics. Few references could be found in this brief search regarding Tertullian on Adam, except this: “*The human soul (which may be compared with the nascent sprout of a tree) has been derived from Adam as its root, and has been propagated among his posterity by means of woman, to whom it has been entrusted for transmission.*”

EUSEBIUS OF CAESAREA (AD 260–340) is known as the father of church history. Born in Palestine, little is known of his early life, except that his hometown, where he spent most of his life, was Caesarea. He was educated and baptized there and eventually became a leader or presbyter in the local church. Later, he became bishop of Caesarea. Scholars believe there were more than 30,000 books in the library there where many of Origen’s writings were preserved, including the *Hexapla*, a word-for-word comparison of the Hebrew Bible and the Septuagint.



Ryan Nelson, writing for the *Overview Bible Group* (8-17-2018), made the following statement: “Despite the nickname, Eusebius was not a church father. And while he was an influential bishop, he was not a saint. In fact, he was excommunicated from the church for heresy.” The heresy of Arianism was from a third-century priest who taught that Jesus was subordinate to God the Father, indicating that there was a time when Jesus was not preexistent with God.

In his thoughts on antiquity and patristics, Roger Pearse included this entry from Eusebius’s historical journal *Chronicon*: “Rather, we shall begin from the time that our human race experienced mortality and from the time of our first ancestor who set out on that path. That ancestor was the man named Adam, whose dying mortal span of years was calculated in Hebrew literature, for it was from this point that Hebrew chronology began” (rogerpearse.com, 10-20-2012). Without further search, perhaps there is enough presented here to understand where Eusebius begins his approach to Genesis, creation, and the biblical Adam.

Conclusion

In this overview it has become clear that the early church fathers did not regard themselves on par with the apostles, but they held those twelve in high esteem being chosen directly by the Lord himself. At the same time the inspiration, commitment to the gospel message, biblical understanding and witness of Jesus (in some cases) to death, all point to the great regard that is due to the leaders of the early church.

Not surprisingly, the period of the early church fathers is considered the most important in historical theology. This is true for two reasons: First, the early church fathers were close to the events of the life of Christ and the apostolic era. Moreover, the second-century apologists took the lead in defending Christianity against its first barrage of intellectual criticism. (Bible.org).

Dr. James Mook, writing for Answers in Genesis in 2015, stated that the church fathers AD 100–600 were theologians after the apostles who, based on Scripture, opposed naturalistic theories of origins. Some, including Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Augustine, interpreted Genesis 1 allegorically, but most of the church fathers interpreted Genesis 1 in a plain and straightforward way, as actual history. The Greek and Latin church fathers stood on biblical authority and held to traditional, biblical young earth creationism.



[PAGE 1](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Origin of Life (Continued)

It would take 2000 pages to type the base sequence for an E. coli cell and for a single human DNA molecule one million pages.

PCATCGATCGCGGATAGCGGATCGCGATCGCGATCGAGATCTCGAGGATCGAGCGTACGCGGATATAGCAGAGATC
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CGGACCAATTTCCGATTTACCAAGGCCCTGGACAGGCTGGACAGGCTGGACAGGCTGACAGGCTGACAGGCTGACAGGCTGAG

An imaginary base sequence for the chromosome of bacteriophage, one of the smallest bacteriophages known. About 2,000 of these pages would be needed to show the base sequence of the chromosome of a single E. coli cell, and about one million pages to show the base sequence of the DNA of a single human cell.

[PAGE 1](#)

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Year 2020 (Continued)

In response to this, the men of the company drafted the famous Mayflower Compact, which was patterned after the Covenant of their congregation, which submitted to majority rule. This was meant to be a temporary agreement until the company could obtain royal permission to settle in New England. There were forty-one signers of the Compact and it was used to govern the colony till 1691 when Plymouth Colony was taken over by Massachusetts Bay Colony.

On December 21, 1620, the location for the Plymouth Colony was chosen because of its high sloping view back down to the bay, so that it could be easily defended from any enemy approaching by sea. The location had been previously inhabited by the Patuxet Indians, part of the larger Wampanoag peoples. The Patuxet were wiped out by a plague brought over by English slave traders in 1617, the pilgrims were able to find corn and beans that had been stored by the Patuxet which helped them survive the first winter. The Pilgrims later reimbursed the Wampanoag for the food that they had taken. On December 25, 1620, the men began working on the common house which was the first permanent structure built at Plimoth Colony.

The Captain of the Mayflower was convinced to stay until spring when traveling back across the ocean would be safer, this allowed the women, children, and those too sick to work to stay aboard the Mayflower through the first winter. This was very fortunate as the newly constructed common house burnt to the ground on January 14, 1621, and everyone had to stay on the Mayflower till they could rebuild. Of the original 102 passengers on the Mayflower, four died before reaching Plimoth, and by the summer of 1621 another 46 passengers and 25 crew had perished. Also, the Pilgrims had built a very close relationship with the remaining Wampanoag people that lived near the colony. Massasoit, the great leader of the Wampanoag people brought Squanto, the lone survivor of the Patuxet people, Squanto had been abducted in 1614 and sold in Spain as a slave, he had returned to find that his village and his people had been completely wiped out by the plague. Squanto had learned the English language while in Europe and became invaluable to the Pilgrims. Without the help of Squanto and the Wampanoag, the survival of the Pilgrims and the Plimoth Colony would have been improbable at best. The partnership was also beneficial to the Wampanoag people because the colony gave protection from rival Indian groups in the territory who might have attacked the Wampanoag for their land.

The eventual success of the Pilgrims and the Plimoth Colony was that, even though they traveled to the new world to find freedom of religion, they were able to survive in Plimoth living with the Strangers, the Mayflower crew, and especially the Wampanoag people, whose land they had taken. William Bradford would faithfully govern in Plimoth for many years, and he also left "*of Plimoth Plantation*" the written account of his experiences. The importance of Plimoth, as well as all the other original settlers, and colonists are a testament in faith, devotion, and perseverance, most importantly the Pilgrim's love of God and their willingness to be obedient to His Word.

[PAGE 1](#)

[\(Continued on page 28 \)](#)

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Year 2020 (Continued)

In a culture where over 90% of Christian families allow the public school system to educate their children, where STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is the driving force of the educational system, the importance of accurate and true history has all but been forgotten. This philosophy is geared to produce well trained good citizens that will promote the nation's economy. Although this is not necessarily wrong it is not what a Biblical worldview would consider appropriate training for our children. Is it any wonder that God and Jesus Christ has been removed from our culture, families, and lives. God's Word clearly explains what a Christian based education should look like.

Moses instructed the people of Israel as they prepared to enter the promised land to:

⁶ “This is the command—the statutes and ordinances—the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, so that you may follow them in the land you are about to enter and possess. ² Do this so that you may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life by keeping all his statutes and commands I am giving you, your son, and your grandson, and so that you may have a long life. ³ Listen, Israel, and be careful to follow them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly, because the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁴ “Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol on your forehead. ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

¹⁰ “When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give you—a land with large and beautiful cities that you did not build, ¹¹ houses full of every good thing that you did not fill them with, cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. ¹³ Fear the LORD your God, worship Him, and take your oaths in his name. Deuteronomy 6:1-13 CSB.

The fear of the Lord is what is missing in today's culture, and that is because we as Christian people have neglected to train our children in the Word of the Lord! May God help us!

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[PAGE 1](#)

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World By Design Kid's Fun Page



Illustration by Chuck Dillon

Digging Up the Past

Can you find these hidden objects?



golf club



carrot



paintbrush



leaf



snake



fly swatter



tack



diamond ring



sock



sailboat



teacup



rubber duck



domino

This hidden things game can be found at Answers Kids on the Answers In Genesis Website, where you can print a pdf to color or play the game electronically.

<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/activities/quizzes/digging-up-past/>

World By Design Kid's Fun Page

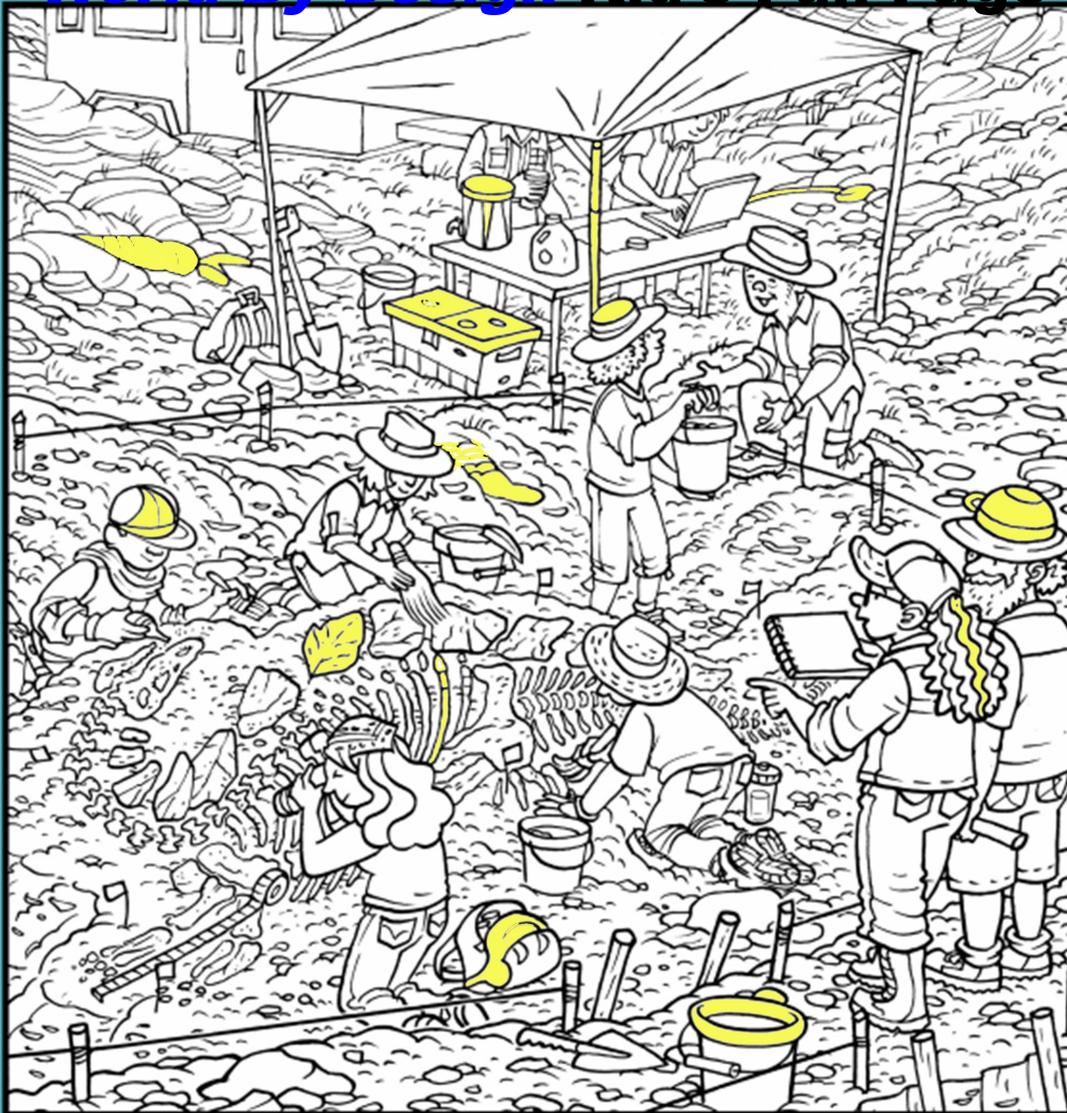


Illustration by Chuck Dillon

Digging Up the Past

Can you find these hidden objects?



golf club



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domino

PAGE 1

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