

THE MEANING OF LIFE

A Scripture Study
by
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Study # 8

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CONTENTS

	PAGE No.
Preface	3
Evolution versus Creation	4
Man's Place	6
Why are we here?	7
Summary	9

PREFACE

Scientists, Geologists, Philosophers, and many others often make extravagant, and often unprovable and conflicting statements as to the age and origin of the universe, earth, and humankind. Although they often disagree with each other, they still tend to present their many unprovable theories as though they were established facts.

Generally, atheistic ‘scientists’ claim to have most of the answers for life’s origins. They tell us that everything started with enormous clouds of gasses, dust, or atomic particles that were floating in space. These particles came together, compressed, and then exploded, (The Big Bang). From that explosion, all the suns, planets, etc. (including Earth) that we know of, were formed. Then by chance, some atoms came together amongst some slime and formed life.

From this microscopic life, all life on earth is supposed to have formed. Man is supposed to have evolved from a fish, a bird, a monkey, an ape, or even a spider. Depending on which so-called scientist you speak to. According to them, man is here by chance. There is no God, and therefore after death, there is nothing.

Geologists pull dates, and ages out of the air to tell us how old the earth and fossils are. Some say the earth is thousands of years old. Others say millions, and yet others billions. The method they use to arrive at these ages, can best be told in their own words. The British geologist, R.H.Rastall, states the following, *“It cannot be denied that from a strictly philosophical standpoint geologists are here arguing in a circle. The succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.”* - (“Geology” – Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1956, x, 168.). (It sounds a bit like a dog chasing its tail, doesn’t it.)

Philosophers tend to tell us that we are our own masters, our own god, and our destiny is entirely in our own hands. This life is all that there is, and we need to get all that we can out of it. We should eat drink and be merry, for tomorrow, we die, and then there is nothing. Notwithstanding, there are many great men and women, in all the above categories and more, who by adhering to the facts, have contributed greatly to all these fields, and to humankind generally.

After the above, there is really no need for any other preface, than that which we find in the following Scripture portions.

- Psm. 14: 1. *‘The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God”.*
- Gen. 1:1. *‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth’. - (Read also, Psm. 104, & Job 26, 38 & 39.)*
- John 1: 1-3. *‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made’.*
- Prov. 9: 10. *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”.*
- Psm. 19: 1 – 4. *‘The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world’.*
- Rom. 1: 20. *‘For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse’*

EVOLUTION VERSUS CREATION

Man in his 'wisdom' says, "There is no God", and believes that we all came into existence by the chance creation of life, and by chance evolution, or 'survival of the fittest', from the lowest to highest forms of life.

Yet, in spite of the extravagant claims of evolutionists, there never has been one proven case of any species evolving into another. God has put a lock on each species, - We read in Gen. 1: 24, '*Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so*'.

And in, 1 Cor. 15: 39, we read, '*All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds*'.

All species have been given the inbuilt ability to adapt to environment, diet, etc. Genetic faults also may cause variations within species. This however is not evolution; they remain within the same species.

Men say that because we cannot see God, then He does not exist. Yet they tell us about all the gasses, dust, atomic particles or whatever, that came together and kicked off their big bang theory, but cannot tell us where they came from. Nor can they tell us from where the endless space came from that housed them, and now the whole universe. It all had to have a beginning; but the Bible simply tells us that God is eternal, (no beginning, nor end), and He created all things. Though many 'scientists', claim that everything has come about as the result of evolution. The considerable lack of evidence for this should be enough for people to question this hypothesis. Humankind has come a long way (with his God given creative ability), in attempting to copy some of the created wonders of the human body.

The eye, has inspired such things as cameras and T.V.

The ear, " " " " " phones, sonar, cochlear implants.

The voice box " " " " microphones, loud speakers.

Then we have; artificial hearts, hips, knees, and there are many others. Yet, in spite of man's 6,000 years of progress, none of these can compare with the perfection of God's creation. Can any evolutionist honestly explain even, just how a human's eye, or a fly's eye, could possibly have evolved? For that matter, there is a multitude of variations of eyes, to suit a great number of different species, all of which are perfect for their own needs. It takes a lot more faith to believe that these randomly evolved, than it does to believe God created them perfectly.

Some people put great faith in carbon 14 dating methods, which are used by many to claim extravagant ages for historical relics. But; - consider the following; -

C¹⁴ dating of a **living** mollusc shell showed it to be **2,300 years old**.

(*'Science'*, vol. 141 (1963), pp. 634-637.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **freshly killed** seal showed it had **died 1,300 years before**.

(*'Antarctic Journal'*, vol. 6 (Sept. – Oct. 1971), p.211.)

C¹⁴ dating of a **living snails shell** showed it had **died 27,000 years before**.

(*'Science'*, vol. 224 (1984), pp. 58 – 61.)

The fact is that there are a lot of factors, present and past, natural and unnatural that can, and does dramatically affect the outcome of carbon 14 dating.

For some more truths regarding fraudulent "scientific" claims go to;

<http://nwcreation.net/evolutionfraud.html>

For some truths regarding creation & science go to <http://www.answersingenesis.org/>

In 1912, Charles Dawson put together parts of a jawbone of an ape, some teeth, and fragments of a modern human skull. He claimed it to be the 'missing link', and it became known as 'Piltdown Man', and 'Dawn Man'. Our 'scientists' were fooled by this, and accepted it, until tests carried out in 1953 revealed it for the fake it is.

Likewise, the Java 'Ape Man' held sway from 1891 to 1923, when the skullcap was found to be that of a gibbon.

Then we have 'Neanderthal Man'. A skeleton of a stooped man found in 1908 was used to establish a so-called 'missing link'; i.e. 'man's bent over stature, before walking upright'. This was accepted until 1957, when Dr. W.L. Straus Jr., of Johns Hopkins, Medical University examined it. He found it to be the skeleton of an everyday (equivalent to modern) man, except he had a greater brain capacity, and had been afflicted with severe arthritis.

So much for the accuracy and reliability of atheistic 'scientists'.
Give me the proven truth and reliability of God's Scriptures any day!

For further proof of evolutionists frauds, go to:

http://www.deeptruths.com/articles/big_lie_exposed.html

and

<http://mbbc.us/creation/species.htm>

and

<http://nwcreation.net/evolutionfraud.html#anchorhumans>

MAN'S PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN

Very few people believe in Hell, or the possibility that they may go there after death. Most however believe in a heaven of some sort, and most believe that they will eventually attain to it. This shows that most people, while not believing in a spiritual God of spirits, still believe that they themselves have a spirit within them. Yet evolution can give no answers regarding mankind's inner spirit, nor its origin, purpose or future. It is only God; the creator of mankind's spirit, who can answer these questions.

In Gen. 2: 7, we read, *"And 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"*. It was God's breath, which gave man his spirit life.

Why did God create man and give him life? – There are many answers to this question. - I believe the first is found in Gen. 1: 26-28. It reads, *'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." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 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"'*.

This shows that man was to be God's representative, steward, and caretaker of all the creation on earth. By making us in His own spiritual image, He also gave us a God consciousness with the ability to think, imagine, and create. – He thus gave us more authority, power, and responsibility than any other created being on earth. Yet, by looking around us, it is not hard to see we have failed miserably in this area. It is this God given spirit, which gives man a spirit consciousness, and awareness of an afterlife, and of the spiritual realm.

This all shows how that man was created physically and spiritually, and gives some of the physical purpose for his creation. It does not however reveal man's spiritual purpose. For this, we need to look at Mat.22: 35-40, of which verses 37-40 reads, *'Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." "This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself." "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets"*.

By way of illustration:

When a master painter creates his greatest masterpiece, it is because he has poured all his effort and love into it. It then becomes his pride and joy, and should that masterpiece suffer damage or destruction it will grieve him deeply. – Or when an animal breeder achieves his greatest result, he is likewise full of love and pride towards that animal. Now, because that animal is a living thing, he will gain even greater satisfaction should that animal reciprocate the breeders love and care.

These illustrations however, cannot possibly do justice to the greatest artist and creator of all. I hope to some degree, it never the less helps to bring home the point, that outside of the spiritual realm, humankind is God's greatest creation. For as we have already seen in Genesis; He created us in His own image.

So, what is God looking for in return?

He expects that we should carry out our duty of looking after the earth, and all that is on it, and be accountable to Him. – Because we are living beings with an indwelling eternal spirit, He also looks to us to return to Him our love, adoration, respect, and gratitude: Worship, is one way of showing this.

We read in, Mat. 4: 10, *'Then Jesus said, "For it is written, "You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."'*

Read also, - John 4: 23, & Eph. 5: 1, 2.

WHY ARE WE HERE
&
WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE

God could easily have made us all, with our minds completely controlled by Him. That way it would be impossible for us to do any wrong. In essence, we would be robots. Now think for a moment: If you had a pet dog, and at all times you were in complete control of its thought processes, would you really get much pleasure from it? - You may indeed enjoy the novelty for a short time, but you would quickly tire of it. For it would be void of spontaneous thought or action. It could not return affection to you. - God also did not want robots. He gave us all a free will. - We see this in Josh. 24: 14 - 16, of which verse 15b reads, "... **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**" - Read also, Prov. 2: 24-33.

God wants the love and worship of His creation, and it must come as the result of our own choice. God therefore gave us the ability to choose evil or good, Satan or God, - eternal death, or eternal life. - Without a free will, we are robots. With a free will, the choice is ours and ours alone. This is our reason for being here.

Our life in this world is our testing ground experience. - As an auto-mobile manufacturer tests his vehicles before putting them on the market, so God tests us, for our suitability into eternity with Him. Also, just as an auto-mobile manufacturer knows what is best for his vehicles, and supplies it with a Service Manual. Therefore, God has given us the Bible, in order that we might run at our best and last well. - This is our testing ground. The end of our test comes in one of two ways: It is either by death; or by conversion.

John 3: 3 reads, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*"

And in John 3: 16 '*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* - God loves us all, and wants us all to choose to give our allegiance and love to Him. He loves us so much, that He sent His Son, to pay the penalty for our sins. He died for us that we might live for, and with Him. - Our reason for being here is to give us the opportunity to choose between God and Satan, eternal life and eternal death, Heaven and Hell.

This life is the test, as to what we do with our free will. - The God who loves us, and has done so much for us, has planned that His Kingdom will be populated only by those who love Him. That is, those who by the exercise of their free will, have chosen to love, worship, and serve Him. These ones, God has told us, He adopts into His own family. Rom. 8: 14 - 17 reads, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father". The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*"

For the Christian, there is no fear of death, or what lies beyond it. We read in 2 Cor. 5:8, '*We are confident, yes well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*' - Read also, 2 Cor. 5:12.

Some Christians will not taste death, but will be caught up with the 'Rapture of the Church'. This happens immediately prior to the 'Great Tribulation'. - For details on this, refer to Study # 1, entitled, 'Past, Present, and Future', page 8. - The meaning of life is to be found in the choice we make with our free will. That choice determines our destiny in eternity. For those who in this life have refused Christ's offer of salvation, (Their choice by free will) we must look at the following verses.

John 3: 18. "*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*"

- Heb. 9: 27. *'And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.'*
 2 Cor. 6: 2b. *'Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation.'*
 Mat. 10: 28. *'And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.'*
 Mark 8: 36,37. *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

The outcome of all this is; we are either adopted into God's family and spend eternity with Him, or we are condemned to an eternity away from God's presence and in Hell.

Attaining to salvation, (to be in God's presence eternally) requires no good works, nor good living on our part. We cannot earn or pay for our salvation in any way. Eph. 2:4-10, reads;

(4) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

God has paid for our salvation (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and that salvation can only be credited to us on the basis of our faith, which in turn is based on our belief and trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross. – It is **after** we have responded to God's love with our love to Him, (have been saved) that we **then will want to please Him** by righteous living. A righteous life, does not bring about salvation, but should be the outcome of it. (Read Rom. Chapter 6), and Rom. 10: 9-11, reads;
(9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

SUMMARY

Now to summarise the 'Purpose and Meaning of Life';

1. We are God's special creation, made in His image.
2. God has a special love for us all.
3. God desires our love and worship, by our own free will.
4. Our life on earth is the test of our free will.
5. Our choice determines our relationship with God.
6. Our choice determines where we will spend eternity.
7. Should we fail the test, there is no one to blame but ourselves.

In other words, - The meaning of life, is all about our free will, and what we do with it. This does not necessarily mean that if we have chosen a sinful life, we are therefore automatically rejected. For with God all things are possible. For God gives us the chance to exercise our free will to repent, right up to the point of death. – The thief on the cross, repented in his dying hours, and was accepted. Therefore, while we have breath in our bodies, hope remains. – Only a fool however, would put off choosing Christ to the last. For we never know what the next moment may bring, or when we will be called to account.

Have you sorted out your purpose and the reason for your being?

Have you sorted out where you will spend eternity? – The choice is yours.

Jude 1: 24, 25, reads, '*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To God our Saviour, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.*'

*The author highly recommends
the free Christian literature available through*

<http://www.christiansunite.com/>

<http://www.ebcwa.org.au/>

<http://www.heraldofhope.org.au/books.html>

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/>

<http://www.biblegateway.com/>

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