

# Lesson 1 - The Origin of Man

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## Central Point: God created us for His Glory

Before we can fully appreciate all that Jesus has done for us in His death, burial and resurrection, we first need to understand God's original design for His creation.

## The Origin of Man

Let's first begin with a meeting where Paul was addressing a group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers in Athens:

- **Please Read: Acts 17:22-28**

**Question:** Have you ever noticed there is a void in the heart of men and women, which drives them to fill it in order to feel complete inside, but nothing satisfies the soul except God?

- The people of Athens were very "religious" according to Paul
  - o They created idols or images to worship in vain
  - o John 4:24, *"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*
- The heart of God is that mankind would seek Him, and reach out for Him, and find Him
- Throughout all generations, He has revealed Himself to those who reached out to Him
- **Mt. 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

## Created to Rule

- When God created us, He created us to rule over this earthly creation of His

**Genesis 1:26**, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

- It's important to note that God sees "Man" as male and female – two individuals as one
- Just as "God" is made up of three individuals- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God
  - o The terms "God" and "Man" are plural terms

**Genesis 5:1-2**, "When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them 'man.'"

- **Question:** Why do you think God created us in the first place?
- Was God lonely, bored or somehow incomplete without us- neither? For His Glory!

### Isaiah 43:7

“Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

- **Please Read: Psalm 8:3-9**
- Notice that God made man a little lower than Himself- “elohiyim” is the name for GOD
- Some translations say “Angels or Heavenly Beings” others say “God”
- Why is this point important, because God made Adam and Eve the gods of this world!
  - o Psalms 82:6, *“I said, You are ‘gods’; you are all sons of the Most High.”*
  - o It’s because of this God ordained position that Satan coveted it for himself

**John 10:34**, “Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I have said you are gods’? If he called them ‘gods,’ to whom the word of God came-and the Scripture cannot be broken.”

### Created as Eternal Beings

**Genesis 2:7**, “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

Man was created a tri-cotomy just as the glorious Godhead is referred to as the Divine Trinity. We are not just a physical body just as the Godhead is not the Father God only. I am a spirit, I have a soul, and I live in a body. The Godhead is comprised of God the Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Spirit. The three parts to our identity are: spirit, soul & body.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**, “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”

- With our spirit we contact the spiritual realm; conscience is the voice of our spirit
- With our Soul we contact the intellectual realm; reason is the voice of our soul
  - o Soul has three parts- Mind, Will & Emotions
- With our Physical body we contact the natural realm; feelings is the voice of our body
  - o Our brain is not our mind, it’s an organ that processes/responds sense info
- Our spirit and soul are eternal, can be developed and has a nature to it

**Question:** Have you met people in your life who are dominated either by their spirit, soul or body and the difference in made in their lives?