
SUMMER IN THE SYSTEMATICS

ANTHROPOLOGY



“Modernity stokes [the] fires of human pride by simultaneously marginalizing God and elevating the self as an alternative to God. It is in the self that meaning and morality are sought. And its authority is rendered absolute by the fact that it typically finds no substantial connectedness in the world and hence is simply left to itself.”

David Wells

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“Defiance of God is quite unnecessary; he has been quietly replaced in a spiritual coup d’etat. The sun is now in eclipse, its bright light blocked by the impenetrable darkness of the self. The modern self has experienced the exhilaration of the complete freedom to choose a destiny without reference to God, without a thought to what is ultimately right or, for that matter, what anyone else may think or how they might be affected.”

David Wells

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“In most quarters, however, this brief exhilaration has passed, and a weariness of soul has set in as the self creaks beneath the weight of all the functions it is now being called upon to serve.

The tension, anxiety, and bewilderment that usually follow have become the calling cards of modernity.”

David Wells

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“Our world is not characterized by a disillusioned indifference to values originally grounded in religious faith. Rather, it often seems to revel in an ecstatic destruction of all that was once considered sacred.”

Carl Trueman

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“If the major issue of the sixteenth century was that of acceptance (how many may be forgiven by God), and the major issue of the twentieth century was that of authority (whether the Bible is inerrant), then the major issue of our time is that of anthropology.”

Owen Strachan

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II ANTHROPOLOGY II



“Does the human person live in an ordered cosmos and have an appointed identity, or does he make his own identity in a world without God? Beyond the finer points of the various debates we face today, this is the question of our age.”

Owen Strachan

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“Anthropology” is the doctrine of man — and specifically, man’s relation to God and the world in which God has placed him.

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“What is man[?].”

Psalm 8:4

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“After Buddha was dead, his shadow was still shown for centuries in a cave—a tremendous, gruesome shadow. God is dead; but given the way of men, there may still be caves for thousands of years in which his shadow will be shown. And we—we still have to vanquish his shadow too.”

Friedrich Nietzsche

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“The prevailing view in critical circles today is that mankind is a blank slate, evolved from an eons-old combustion of gases. Humanity has no divine origin, but an accidental one. No creative figure guided the human race’s formation or shaped the human person’s identity. Chaos and randomness account for the order (such as it is) that we find before us.”

Owen Strachan

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“The human race is not really distinct from the beasts; we are a higher animal, nothing more. We have no greater story, no telos, no ordained end to which we are traveling. Atoms collide, and so does mankind. Because of our godless origin, we have no greater body of ethics, no summons to a certain code of conduct.”

Owen Strachan

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“We are here; we die; we dissolve into nothingness.
Nothingness is whence we came; nothingness is whither we go.
Until then, we create our realities; we become who we want to
be.”

Owen Strachan

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“What is man[?].”

Psalm 8:4

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“To ask the question ‘What is man?’ is to reveal the staggering nature of what it means to be human even in advance of any answer. No other creature on the face of the planet can ask such a question of itself. No amoeba pauses to reflect on the nature of amoebic existence.”

Carl Trueman

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“And as close to human beings as they are in many ways, there is no evidence to suggest that chimpanzees and gorillas ever meditate upon the meaning of their existence. Only man has the capacity to pose the question about his own nature and significance.”

Carl Trueman

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“Mankind reveals aspects of God’s being that are not seen in the rest of the created order but must be seen if we are to understand God.”

James Montgomery Boice

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“... since we cannot have a genuine knowledge of God unless it is accompanied by a corresponding knowledge of ourselves, we must at least know ourselves—made in God’s image, fallen and yet redeemed—if we would truly know and reverence our Creator.”

James Montgomery Boice

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THE ORIGIN OF MAN

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Where did we come from?

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I. UNBIBLICAL VIEWS OF MAN'S ORIGIN

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2. THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN'S ORIGIN

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I. UNBIBLICAL VIEWS OF MAN'S ORIGIN

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“It is, to speak as a theologian, the task of the scientist to explore the works or creation of God, and that of the theologian the speech of God in the Bible.”

Bernard Ramm

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ATHEISTIC EVOLUTION

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“(1) Variation results in some offspring being superior to their parents, (2) A struggle for existence eliminates the weaker, less fit varieties, (3) A process of natural selection is constantly at work by which the fittest survive . . .”

Charles Darwin

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“... (4) Through heredity, new and better qualities produced by variation are passed on and gradually accumulated, (5) New species come into existence by this method, after the passage of sufficient time”

Charles Darwin

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“What, then, is the answer of evolution to the question of man’s origin? It is that he came into existence through a completely natural process, having his beginning in lifeless matter.”

Robert Lightner

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“... all the objective phenomena of the history of life can be explained by purely naturalistic or materialistic factors ... Therefore, mankind is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind.”

George Gaylord Simpson

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“In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky; and you won’t find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good. Nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

Richard Dawkins

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THEISTIC EVOLUTION

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“ . . . the primordial history of Genesis 1–11 includes elements which, if taken literally, would be so extraordinary as to be clearly false. Take, for example, magical trees with fruit that, if eaten, would impart the knowledge of good and evil or immortality, or the presence of a talking snake that tempts the man and woman to sin.”

William Lane Craig

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“Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and
breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man
became a living being.”

Genesis 2:7

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PROGRESSIVE CREATIONISM

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“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of Yahweh your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female slave or your cattle or your sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Yahweh blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.”

Exodus 20:9-11

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GAP THEORY

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“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep . . .”

Genesis 1:1-2

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2. THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN'S ORIGIN

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LITERAL CREATIONISM

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“ . . . the facts of man’s origin, nature, and destination cannot be known apart from what God has revealed in His Word. Any opinion that is not grounded on and governed by this revelation will be conjectural and faulty. As human beings, we should seek to learn what the Creator has revealed about mankind. As saved people, we should accept this revelation as absolute truth and base our understanding on it.”

Floyd Barackman

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“One of the basic presuppositions of the Christian view of man is belief in God as the Creator, which leads to the view that the human person does not exist autonomously or independently, but as a creature of God.”

Anthony Hoekema

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“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1:26-27

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“Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and
breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man
became a living being.”

Genesis 2:7

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“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, and said, ‘FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH’?”

Matthew 19:4-5

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“Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground . . .”

Genesis 2:7

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“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19

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“All came from the dust, and all return to the dust.”

Ecclesiastes 3:20

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“Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and
breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man
became a living being.”

Genesis 2:7

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God “stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him.”

Zechariah 12:1

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|| ANTHROPOLOGY ||



“Then Yahweh God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and so the man became a living being.”

Genesis 2:7

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“Let us make man in Our image.”

Genesis 1:26

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|| ANTHROPOLOGY ||



“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Genesis 1:27

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God “created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.”

Genesis 5:2

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“Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. And Yahweh God fashioned the rib, which He had taken from the man, into a woman . . .”

Genesis 2:21-22

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“... this one finally is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh.”

Genesis 2:23

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“... it was Adam who was first formed, and then Eve.”

1 Timothy 2:13

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“For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man”

1 Corinthians 11:8

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“It is not good for the man to be alone.”

Genesis 2:18

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“I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:18

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“ . . . for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:20

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“ . . . ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and inquire from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything been done like this great thing, or has anything been heard like it?”

Deuteronomy 4:32

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“It is I who made the earth and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, and I commanded all their host.”

Isaiah 45:12

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“Know that Yahweh, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves.”

Psalm 100:3

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“... for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.”

Exodus 31:17

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“He made from one man every nation of mankind to inhabit all
the face of the earth . . .”

Acts 17:26

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“Even if evolution could prove its doctrine of the survival of the fittest, it cannot account for the arrival of the first.”

Henry Clarence Thiessen

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2. THE BIBLICAL VIEW OF MAN'S ORIGIN

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“To say that humanity is the most important part of creation might be thought to be a provincial or chauvinistic statement (that is, as if we were fish, we would undoubtedly say that fish were most important). But men and women actually are, and sense themselves to be, higher than forms of the creation around them.”

James Montgomery Boice

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“ . . . it is as though God put exclamation points here to indicate that there is something special about the creation of man.”

Francis Schaeffer

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“... how can man be both a creature and a person at the same time? To be a creature ... means absolute dependence on God; to be a person means relative independence. To be a creature means that I cannot move a finger or utter a word apart from God; ...”

Anthony Hoekema

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“ . . . to be a person means that when my fingers are moved, I move them, and that when words are uttered by my lips, I utter them. To be creatures means that God is the potter and we are the clay (Rom. 9:21); to be persons means that we are the ones who fashion our lives by our own decisions (Gal. 6:7-8).”

Anthony Hoekema

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“Though we cannot rationally comprehend how it is possible for the human being to be a creature and a person at the same time, clearly this is what we must think. Denial of either side of this paradox will fail to do justice to the biblical picture. The Bible teaches both man’s creatureliness and man’s personhood.”

Anthony Hoekema

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“Sometimes it addresses the human being as a creature: for example, when it speaks of God as the potter and man as the clay (Rom. 9:21). More often, however, it addresses him or her as a person: ‘Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve’ (Josh. 24:15); ‘We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God’ (2 Cor. 5:20).”

Anthony Hoekema

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“He made from one man every nation of mankind to inhabit all the face of the earth.”

Acts 17:26

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“... just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 5:12

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“... in Adam all die.”

I Corinthians 15:22

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“... while the guilt of Adam’s first sin is imputed immediately (judicially) at conception, the depravity and moral/spiritual pollution of that sin runs down through the genetic bloodlines, i.e., the physical unity of the race from Adam through Eve.”

Rolland McCune

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“Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

John 17:5

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“You loved me before the foundation of the world.”

John 17:24

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“Bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”

Isaiah 43:6-7

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“In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, to the end that we who first have hoped in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.”

Ephesians 1:11-12

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“Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

I Corinthians 10:31

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“Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.”

Psalm 73:25-26

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“And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory . . .”

1 Peter 1:8

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