

# GENESIS ACCEPTED



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<b>Lot - A Reappraisal</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Creation Matters: The Origin of Man</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Thorns</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Miscellany</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>The Breath of Life</b>	<b>9</b>

# LOT - A Reappraisal

I am sure you are all aware of the way words change their meaning or emphasis as time goes on. New words are constantly being added to our vocabulary, sometimes as new inventions come along and take over our lives, whilst old ones are redefined in the popular mentality. 'Gay', of course, is one of the latter. What was once a lovely word is now, in my mind, a term of opprobrium, though I'm not supposed even to think this let alone speak it or write it. I'll be as homophobic as the Bible: not more, I trust, and definitely not less!

Fads come and fads go in the media. It was around 1990 and Barbara and I were at a wedding. The reception was being held in a university building which housed a small library. I think we were at the 'being bored whilst waiting for the photographs to be taken' stage so I picked a volume off one of the shelves. It was a book about disabled people, written in 1976, and, flipping through the Index, I noticed an entry listed under the word 'Aids'. I said to Barbara, "I didn't know they knew about AIDS, or had identified it, in 1976." I turned to the relevant pages and... they didn't know about AIDS in 1976! I was looking at aids for the disabled to help them get around, but so conditioned had my mind become to think of the term 'Aids' only in the new context that I'd forgotten the old one. Mind you the old one still exists legitimately, unlike the poor old word 'gay' which has all but been erased. Could an opera singer today sing the song 'A Bachelor Gay am I' and carry its old meaning forward without somebody sniggering or smiling knowingly in the audience?

## Being swamped by sin

With these sorts of things going on all around us, don't you ever feel that we are in danger of being swamped by the sin and increasing godlessness of our society in general? Don't you almost feel yourself becoming inoculated against its evils so that instead of a feeling of righteous indignation you feel numb at best and totally helpless at worst? If we are not careful, we can be lulled into a situation which is not that we don't care but that we've given up and retreated into our own special world where our standards apply, feeling that all we can do is let God sort it out in His own time and in His own way - which almost always never seems fast enough for us. I see faithful Christian parents with grown-up children living with their 'partners' and all the parents can do is shrug their shoulders and say shamefully apologetically, "It's the modern way; they're all doing it nowadays." And we know they are right when they say that. It is the modern way, but it's still not right, no matter how many are doing it that way now!



Take the case of the 13-year-old boy who is supposed to have fathered a 15-year-old girl's baby daughter (picture above). He looks as if he's just out of nappies himself! There are many shocking aspects to it. First of all both he and the girl broke the law for having sex under 16. They should pay the penalty and be locked away in some form of detention, if the law were to be strictly enforced. Few in authority want to go down this line believing that it would serve absolutely no purpose at all. Well it just might if by being somewhat draconian in this instance made others think that doing the same might not be worth the aggravation. Since we can't measure things which don't happen, we would never know how many had been deterred. I'm not advocating a swingeing response from the law but I certainly do question the educational practice of insisting on sex education in schools for children and that it must be morally neutral. It is hardly surprising that some will want to try out what they have been taught. When I was 13, my leisure-time was spent thinking about football and cricket not girls!

But what's even more shocking to me is that two other boys have come forward and claimed that they too could well be the father. That is why I said that he is 'supposed to have fathered' the child. The authorities are going to do DNA tests to establish true paternity. Nobody seems at all ashamed about this. The girl has not denied having had sex with three underage boys and has tacitly agreed that any of the three could have been the baby's father. Her parents seem to be delighted at the attention she is attracting, especially as there is obviously going to be serious money to be gained by selling her story to the media. Indeed that was the motivation behind the other boys' claim to paternity; they see '£' signs flashing before their

eyes. Shame at the sin and what used to be seen as a disgrace to the family, to be dealt with quietly and very privately, has completely gone out of the window. What a mess! What have we done to our youngsters and, just as importantly, what have we done to our society? Well we've kicked out the Bible and God's teaching on morality for a start - but that's nothing new.

## Empathizing with Lot

If you join with me in the above observations, maybe we can begin to see and understand how Lot felt whilst living in Sodom. Peter tells us about it in his Second Letter. Here he is using the example of men of old like Lot to illustrate how God punishes sinful disobedience. Note the special reference made to Lot by Peter.

*'For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.'* (2 Pe 2:4-10, emphasis mine).

## Lot in the popular mind

When drawing lessons from the life of Lot, as given in the Old Testament, it is common to run him down, especially when placing him in comparison to Abram (as he then was). If we didn't have Peter's aside concerning Lot's feelings, we probably would have to agree with the popular image but does this stack up on further, closer investigation?

The popular view is expressed in the footnotes in the NIV Study Bible. There we read the uninspired observations of learned men about Genesis 13:9-14. *'Abram always generous, gave his young nephew the opportunity to choose the land he wanted. He himself would not obtain wealth except by the Lord's blessing'* (13:9). *'Lot... pitched his tent near Sodom. Since the men of Sodom were known to be wicked..., Lot was courting temptation by choosing to live near them. Contrast the action of Abram'* (13:12).



*'Lift up your eyes... and look... Lot and Abram are a study in contrasts. The former looked selfishly and coveted (v. 10); the latter looked as God commanded and was blessed' (13:14).*

Now, I'm not going to suggest for one minute that Lot was in any way as great a man as Abram, either spiritually or in character. The Bible would have it no other way, but let us point out several things not generally considered.

#### **The available choices**

The footnote said that Abram 'looked as God commanded and was blessed' and that Lot chose to court temptation in contrast to Abram. This is nonsense. Abram did not choose beyond giving Lot first pick. He got the leftovers which happened to be the best from God's point of view, but he didn't choose it thus. There were only two choices. Had Lot not chosen Sodom, Abram would have had to have gone there. Lot did not choose Sodom because it was sinful but because he was indeed more selfish than his uncle and chose what he thought was the best land for his flocks and herds. We can contrast the two men on the selfishness front but not because Abram deliberately made the more godly choice. He, though righteous, did not positively choose to live in the poorer, but less sinful area. He got it by default.

#### **Godly advice or lack of it!**

The footnote said that the men of Sodom were known to be wicked, but if you read the account carefully, all it says is: 'Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord' (13:13). This is a comment on the situation by the writer of the account - Moses, of course - but not a comment on whether Abram and Lot knew this prior to their choosing. Indeed it seems more likely that neither had any idea at all what the men of Sodom were like. Lot discovered it to his cost when it was too late.

That this has to be so can be seen by the silence of the righteous, godly older man. Abram and Lot looked at the choices they had and the conversation was simple: "You pick which way you want to go." We read of no dialogue between them of the spiritual implications of choosing the fertile valley near Sodom. The spiritual guide and leader did not say: "I do not think it would be spiritually wise to expose you to the evils of Sodom therefore I will go there," which is what should have happened had they known. If they did know and Abram was silent, there must be a huge question mark over his spiritual leadership or lack of it at that point; or it could be that he had every confidence in the spirituality of his nephew so he didn't have to worry about it. If he had no such thoughts while they were choosing which way to go, he must have had them when we read what happened in chapter 14.

#### **Lot's faithfulness**

Despite Lot's seemingly selfish choice,



Photo from *The Book* (CD)

**Abram and Lot separate**

there is no indication at all that it had any adverse effect on his personal spirituality. He was unhappy there, as Peter tells us, but he himself maintained his moral and spiritual integrity - despite the fact that he was later to make what, to us, was the dreadful offer of his daughters as a means of satisfying the sexual lust of the perverted men of Sodom (Gen. 19:1-11 especially verse 8), thus preserving his guests from disgrace. His preserving his integrity in Sodom is to his great credit, and we often forget it, but it accounts for the fact that God took great pains to ensure he was rescued by the angels before He destroyed the two cities. He truly was a righteous man living in a sinful city.

#### **The incident in Genesis 14**

To assess Lot's integrity and spirituality correctly, we need to look at what happened in Genesis 14. When we read this account we tend to focus on the Melchizedek incident (vs. 17-20), which plays such an important pivotal rôle in the Letter to the Hebrews, and forget what happened to Lot.

Here we read of a local, tribal war between several kings, one of whom was the king of Sodom (vs. 8-9). Though we are told it was four kings on to five, it was the five who lost and the king of Sodom, along with Lot and his family, were taken captive. Abram hears of it, rallies his personal troops - which indicates just what an important chieftain he had become - and rescues Lot and the king of Sodom. He

then restores Sodom to the king and puts Lot right back there too! The economic reasons for their parting must still have been important.

Again, there is no attempt by Abram to dissuade Lot from living in Sodom for the good of his spiritual health. Abram was either being extremely lax in the oversight of his nephew's spiritual situation or he was totally confident that Lot was spiritually strong enough to remain upright wherever he was. The latter certainly seems to have been the case. Sometimes we have little or no choice about where we dwell and how our neighbours behave, but we always have choices about our own spiritual integrity. San Francisco is probably the so-called 'Gay capital' of the world today. Does that mean that all of our brethren who live and work in that city are ill-advised, or going under spiritually beneath this torrent of wickedness? Lot appears to have had little room for manoeuvre once the die was cast. Had Abram been the one to have to go towards Sodom to live, not Lot, he too would have been in the same fix once he got there.

#### **Testimony from Sodom**

We know that Lot was righteous in a sea of wickedness because God rescued him, as we said earlier, but also surprisingly because of the unintentional testimony to it from the lips of the men of Sodom! It is in chapter 19 of Genesis that we read about the great sinfulness of Sodom and how God rescued him and his family. We are all familiar with what happened when the angels arrived there. Lot



Photo from *The Book* (CD)

### Lot's wife becomes a pillar of salt

met them and took them into his home, feeding them and showing generous hospitality, as was customary in those days in that part of the world. The men of Sodom heard that they were there and demanded Lot break his sacred trust as host, so they could rape them. Lot offers his daughters, as we've already noted, but these men were not interested in heterosexual sex. They wanted the men. As Lot refuses they chide him: *'This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them.'* (Gen 19:9). They still recognized him as a stranger, an 'alien' as the NIV puts it, and definitely not 'one of them'. Yet Lot had been living amongst them for many years. He wasn't married when he went there but now he had a wife and grown-up children. That they never saw him as having integrated, and therefore they would deal even worse with him than with the angels, is ample proof that Lot was different. It's when strangers won't integrate and prefer to maintain different standards of social and moral conduct that natives get uneasy, and can turn hostile when the chips are down. The strangers pose a threat to their society. This is why the current problem with Muslims in our society is seen as dangerous and could well explode seriously in the not-too-distant future in the West. That Lot was seen as a threat after all these years speaks volumes about his standards and life-style. Like Christians today being forced to live in an increasingly wicked world, Lot's righteous soul grieved and no doubt he felt as helpless as we do at being unable to do much about it. We can just keep our light shining in our small corner and refuse to bow to sin's pressures.

#### Just how hard was it for Lot in Sodom?

One wonders what Lot did to try to alter things. Did he preach in the market place? Did he witness and talk to his neighbours? Or did he simply live a godly life, refusing to join in with anything he felt was wrong, and that this stood out simply by being different?

His waiting at the gate to see if any strangers needed hospitality would have marked him out as different and was a witness to the rest. Peer pressure is very hard to resist. Yet as a foreigner it would be hard for him to exert much political influence. Sodom had a king so there was some form of government however corrupt it must have been. Nevertheless it seems that the king was as bad as the rest. Lot's lone voice or vote, against that which offended the law of God, would have had even less chance of influencing authority than our protests against palpably and patiently immoral and ungodly Acts of Parliament. We can at least vote or lobby our MPs, and proportionally there are more of us to do so. I have no idea how big Sodom was when Lot lived there but we remember that God couldn't even find 10 righteous people living there. If we feel frustrated, isolated and almost alone in our day, how helpless and alone did Lot feel? It was very hard indeed for him, but he did it!

#### Lot's example to us

When we think about the lessons to be learned from the Old Testament worthies about faithfulness and righteousness, Lot's name is not one which readily springs to mind. Like poor old apostle Thomas, who is famous only for doubting and not for the great affirmation that Jesus was 'My Lord and my God!' (John 20:28), so Lot is famous for his selfish choice, made on one emotional occasion, and not for his great righteousness over many years living in arguably one of the most immoral places of all time. True, he made mistakes and bad choices but he was a man who knew how to sustain his faith in isolation amidst a world of wickedness. He had great spiritual strength of character and we can take heart from his story because, at the moment, his problems far outweighed any that we face.

He teaches us that we must preserve

our spiritual integrity because just as God destroyed Sodom, so He will destroy the wicked of our generation - though how and when is not ours to say. Lot's worldly, probably evil, sons-in-law merely laughed at him when he said that Sodom would be destroyed. They died laughing! Paul warns us in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, *'...God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marvelled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.'* Wickedness will be judged just as Sodom was, though admittedly it could well come after we have died. Whether the Lord comes before we die, or whether He comes after we are dead and acts directly on some succeeding generation, there will be a fiery judgement on wickedness which only the righteous will escape. He will give us all the help we need to succeed but we can only be saved if we do as we are told - ask Lot's wife!

#### Conclusion

Like Lot, we too have to learn to be oases of righteousness in a desert of sin. This does not mean that we might as well not bother to see if we can alter things in our generation, for we don't know exactly what he tried, though we do know that he failed! He succeeded in getting across the fact that he was not like them and that he would not yield to their standards, so they were prepared to ill-treat him for it.

As Christians we have no choice about having to live righteous lives no matter what pressures we face, but if we feel comfortable and untroubled by the sin we see around us, we are not in the same spiritual league as Lot. He may have had his faults but he didn't lack the courage to witness to his faith nor did he have the insensitivity or spiritual shallowness not to feel alienated by what he saw.

It is my belief that Lot has had a bad press down the years largely because he didn't measure up to the stature of his uncle Abraham. He suffered by comparison. But I wonder how we would measure up to Lot, let alone Abraham, if our stories were written up and presented in a book for public scrutiny by people like us thousands of years later. Lot was a good deal like us and his situation was like ours in many ways too. May we then have the courage to stand out against evil, and then may we too be considered worthy of being rescued by angels from the wrath and judgement to come.



# The Origin of Man

King David, the Psalmist, mused on the question, 'What is man?' (Ps. 8:4), however he was not thinking about man's origins but rather about why a wonderful God could be bothered with him. Both the biblical and the evolutionary accounts of the creation of man put him at the pinnacle as the final product of the creative process. How he got there is what this debate is all about since the answer to the conundrum will ultimately answer the questions, 'Does God exist and if so what sort of God is He?'

## Total Incompatibility

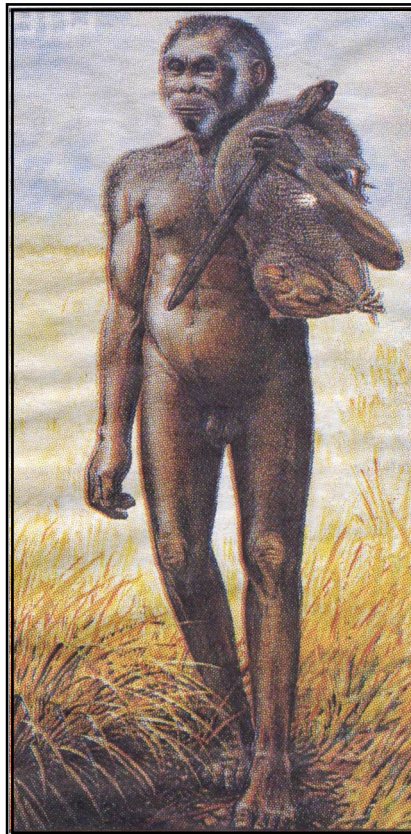
Apart from the above point of agreement in the accounts of origins, there is absolutely no compatibility at all. The Bible says that, '...the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature' (Gen. 2:7). Biblical time would place this event around 6,000 years ago. Evolutionary theory says that man evolved from apes and that all life evolved from single-celled creatures through a series of chance mutations over billions of years, having its genesis in a Big Bang something like 15,000,000,000 years ago. That truly is some serious difference between the two! The two accounts could both be wrong but there is no way that both could possibly be right. Ultimately we have to decide which account best fits the facts as we know them.

## Ape-Men: Fact or Fiction?

From all around the world scientists have unearthed skeletal remains of men and women which, from all accounts, are millions of years old and are part man and part ape. That, at least, is the impression most people have been given by the scientific community. The truth is that all the remains yet discovered could comfortably be contained within a single coffin and no complete skeleton has been discovered. Most remains are fragments and put together more by imagination than by any other method. The pictures which appear in the popular media of what these 'people' looked like come solely from the fertile imagination of the artists concerned who have a brief to make them look ape-men-like. It is impossible to tell what a face looked like from the skull alone. There is no way of knowing the length or breadth of the nose, let alone what the facial and body hair was like.

## The Hobbits

As if to demonstrate this point, in 2004 skeletons of a race of small people, subsequently called 'Hobbits', were found on an island in a remote part of Indonesia. They



**The Hobbit**  
An artist's evolutionary drawing of a 'Hobbit', an Indonesian race of small ape-men based on a skeleton found in 2004.

were thought to be of a missing link, and an artist's impression of them was produced (see picture above). But in 2005 the *Daily Mail* was able to find these shy people still very much alive and, yes, they are small but, in fact, don't resemble the artist's impression at all. Indeed they don't remotely resemble it! Nevertheless it will be the supposedly accurate artist's impression which will have made the most impression in the minds of the casual reader, and the evolutionary paradigm will have been reinforced yet again.

## Dating Ape-Men fossils

When we read about skeletal finds purporting to be of Ape-Men an approximate age is usually assigned to them, and it is always measured in millions of years. These ages are normally assessed from the ages given to the gravels or strata in which they were found. Any radiometric dates which differ from the expected ones are discarded as unreliable and the believed

date is the one publicized. We looked at some of the implications of this in *Genesis Accepted* Number 5 - 'A Question of Age'. The Creationist would argue that all of these skeletal remains are post-diluvian and therefore less than 4,500 years old. Though millions died in the Flood, God wiped them off the face of the Earth so most of their bodies, bones and all, were shredded and vanished never to surface again.

## The Climate of the Times

Towards the end of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth, there were moods and movements, fads and fancies, in society, just as there always are. Today society is 'taken' with global warming, carbon footprints and the like. The double Darwin anniversaries of 2009: his birth on 12th February 1809 and the publication of his most famous, or 'infamous'(!), book *On the Origin of Species*, 24th November 1859, have produced an Evolutionary onslaught in the media to promote his godless Theory as fact. It was never really off the agenda in the 150 years since it exploded on to the scene and this was the case as the century changed in 1901. Also in the air was imperialism and nationalism and many nations wanted to be seen to be of primary importance in the overall scheme of things. There were jealousies over many things which, in once instance, tragically led to the First World War. In the scientific arena there was kudos in being seen to be a leader in a field. Many seemed to want a piece of the evolutionary action and one of the best ways



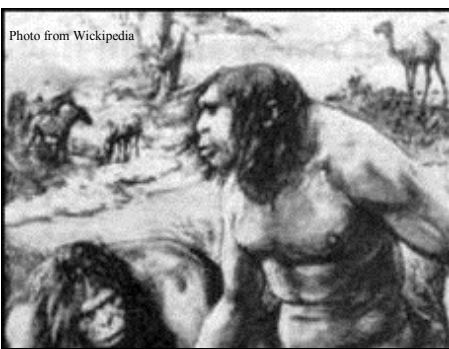
**What the 'Hobbits' really look like!**



to achieve such notoriety was to find a fossil skeleton - or piece of one - and claim it to be the oldest known to mankind. There was great pressure on anthropologists, archaeologists and geologists to find the most primitive 'man' so that 'their' country could claim to be the place where civilization originated.

### Famous Missing Links

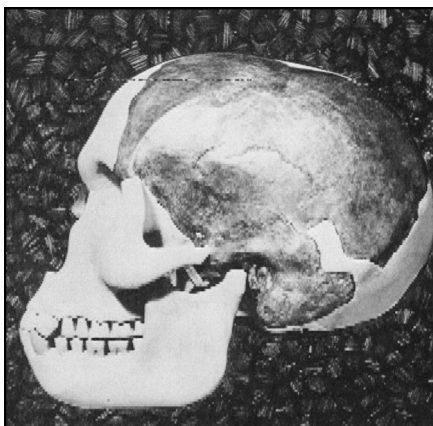
So great were the pressures in some cases that some scientists 'saw' what they wanted to see rather than what was there. Many countries wanted the missing link to be found within their borders. Thus in America in 1922 the tooth of an extinct pig was found in Pliocene strata (evolutionarily dated to about 2 million years old), declared to have characteristics of a human, a chimpanzee and Pithicanthropus (a so-called ape-man of the Java Man type), and was used to pour scorn on the anti-evolutionary side during the famous Scopes Trial. In England this find was supported by Sir Grafton Elliot Smith, Professor of Anatomy at Manchester and soon the *Illustrated London News* had published a drawing (below) of 'Mr and Mrs Hesperopithicus' -



Mr & Mrs Hesperopithicus

all from one tooth! Many saw the illustration (above) and read claims about its ancestry. Very few were made aware that it was indeed an extinct pig's tooth when the news of that broke because, as is generally the case, such news is buried on inside pages and not given banner headlines. **Nebraska Man** had done 'his' worst.

The British contribution to this desire to produce the missing link was not to misidentify a tooth of an extinct pig but rather to manufacture a skull fraudulently. **Pitldown Man** burst on the scene in 1912-13 and was only exposed as a hoax in 1953, some 40 years later. (We considered this event in some detail in *Genesis Accepted* Number 13, 'Pitldown Encounter'.) Had it remained strictly within the scientific world, that would have been bad enough, but what it did was undermine many people's faith and lead them to accept Evolution as proven fact for nearly half a century. Few people have access to such finds and the British Museum jealously guarded the original bones, thus preventing legitimate scientists, let alone enthusiastic amateurs, from recognizing its questionable characteristics. They made casts



Skull of Pitldown Man  
(Only the white parts are the bones)

and let those be examined but casts don't give the game away.

In the case of **Pekin Man** there were many skull bones found in what was clearly an area of human-like industry. They were studied and odd bits from various parts of a cave were put together to try to form a single structure. The skull fragments, however, strongly resembled monkey skulls and appeared to have been part of the diet of the humans who worked the site. Quite mysteriously, and very conveniently for the evolutionary cause, all these fossil bones disappeared! All we are left with are the studies made by people who were keen to demonstrate their ape-man-like qualities, but the evidence points to their being nothing more than monkey remains. The bones conveniently disappeared during the turbulent times of the Second World War.

The earliest of the 'accepted' missing links was **Java Man**. Eugene Dubois, a



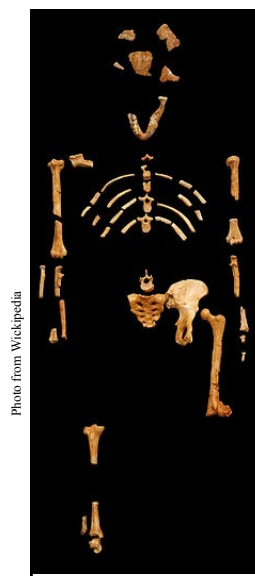
The original Java Man find  
(Two teeth, a skull cap and a femur)

Dutch physician, was determined to find the missing links which Darwin had predicted would be found if people would only look hard enough for them. In 1889 he set off to Sumatra to find a missing link. Remote areas of South East Asia or Africa

were the then current 'favourites' for such discoveries. He found nothing significant there but heard that over in Java a fossil skull had been found in Wadjak. He obtained the skull and went to the site, where he found another. Since both were too human-like for his purposes, he kept quiet about them. Travelling north he found his 'man' at Trinil. This consisted of two teeth, a skull cap and a femur (see picture above). The skull was found 46ft (14m) away from the femur, which was 10ft (3m) away from the second molar. He also discovered four more human femurs and a human tooth, but kept quiet about them too for many years. At first he thought the skull belonged to a chimpanzee. However, later, pondering the situation, he decided that the skull definitely belonged to the femur and he announced that he had found what he was looking for. The 'world' was glad to accept his findings and he neatly failed to tell 'it' that he had found human remains in the same area and strata. He neglected this little piece of information until the late 1930s. If human remains existed alongside missing link remains, the missing link creature could not be ancestral to humans but rather contemporary. He had actually joined a chimpanzee's skull to a human femur and produced his own hybrid. By the time he came clean about it the scientific world simply put it down to his eccentricity and carried on believing what it wanted to believe. Now it is accepted as being human because evolutionists have moved on and they have decided that the true cradle of the human race is exclusive to Africa, so anything from elsewhere can be disregarded. Java Man is now classified as part of the species they call *Homo Erectus*, but, as with Nebraska Man, Java Man had already done 'his' worst.

### Truly Human Fossils

Africa, currently being considered as the ancestral home of evolving apes, has thrown up a few skeletons - the most famous of which is called 'Lucy' (see below). 'She' is



Lucy's bones



**Neanderthal Man**

Photo from Wikipedia

in fact a 'he' and is nothing more than a monkey, as are all the so-called australopithecines.

On any chart of Evolutionary development there is always a place for **Neanderthal Man**. He is seen as being a stooping, semi-upright creature, more ape-like than modern humans and comes originally from the Neander Valley area of Germany. 'He' is the archetypal primitive because he was short (males averaged about 5'5" (163cm), females 5'1" (152cm)) and heavy built, with robust bones, strong arms and legs, and ridges across his brows. His brain capacity, however, was larger than most people's today being some 2,000cm<sup>3</sup> (ours is around 1600cm<sup>3</sup>).

Originally Neanderthals were accepted as being true men. Then, after Darwin popularized Evolution, they were classed as apes. Now they are back in the human fold once more! It is believed that the reason why they are stooped and had other bone deficiencies is because they are thought to have suffered from arthritis and rickets. There seems to have been a widespread lack of vitamin D when Neanderthals were prominent. This could be due to dietary problems or maybe a lack of sunlight during the post-Flood Ice Age. Whatever the cause, these people buried their dead, painted pictures and fashioned tools. As for the ridge across their eyebrows, there are people today who have exactly the same skeletal structure. If they

were dressed as we are and were walking down our high streets, we wouldn't even notice them.

Finally we turn to **Cro-Magnon Man**. 'He' was found originally in the Dordogne area of France, with a brain capacity of about 1,590cm<sup>3</sup>, just like ours today. Indeed there are people of this type surviving in the Dordogne, and also in parts of Sweden. He was healthy and comfortably reached 6ft (180cm). He, even more so than Neanderthal Man, would have been lost in a modern crowd. He painted and did everything we would associate with modern people.



**Conclusion**

After careful examination of all so-called missing links turn out to be either true man or true ape/monkey. No missing links between ape and man have ever been discovered because they never existed. These finds simply catch the imagination and are used to mislead people into believing in Evolution.

A recommended book on this topic is: *Ape-Men: Fact or Fallacy?*, Malcolm Bowden, Sovereign Publications, 1977.

**THORNS**

I want to take you with me down a thought process in this article. I was thinking about the perfect world which God created, and what definitely wasn't present in Eden. It occurred to me that one of my favourite flowers, the rose, wouldn't have been there because there were no thorns before sin entered the world. Also there would be no thistles or cacti, or gorse, or... you think of any flowers with thorns and they would be missing (unless they have a thornless variety, of course).

**Post-Flood beauties of nature**

This naturally led me to thinking about other things which were not present in the perfect world but which came in after the Flood and which, though presenting us with evidence of God's wrath and judgement, nevertheless still make us stop in awe and wonder at the beauty and majesty of God's amazing creativity. These would include things like majestic mountains with deep, ice-carved valleys, waterfalls and breathtaking scenery. There are volcanoes like Mount Fujiyama in Japan with its almost perfect cone and ice topping, Niagara Falls, and so on. I hadn't drawn up a definitive list in my

mind but, of course, the rainbow has to be included in that picture. But it didn't develop because my mind seemed to settle on thorns.

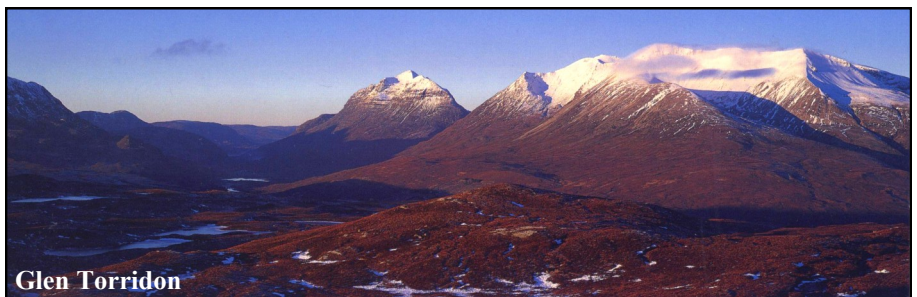
**The Cross: the reversal of the Fall**

One of the marvels of Bible study, even when you dwell on very familiar passages, is that sometimes you see things and make connections you've never made before. Dwelling on thorns made me see something which I want to share with you, excitedly, because for all of my 67 years I'd never before made the connection or seen any link. And it's this: The events surrounding the death of Jesus, the Second Adam, are an almost perfect reversal of the events surrounding the first Adam and the

Fall. Well, they would be, wouldn't they, since Jesus was reversing what happened at the beginning of time?

**Thorns and the curse**

The curse of the thorns is a well-known part of the story of the Fall in Genesis 3. However, there is an even better known occasion in the Bible where thorns play an even more important rôle. At His trial soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head (John 19:2). Here the symbol of the curse of sin at the Fall was placed on the head of the One who was to bear, or who was already bearing, as the hymn writer wrote, '*Our dreadful curse on Calvary*'. Suddenly the link seemed obvious, though the soldiers had no idea they were making it. Thorns symbolised



**Glen Torridon**

**Mountains and glaciers were not part of the original creation**





Photo from Wikipedia

Painting by El Greco 1580

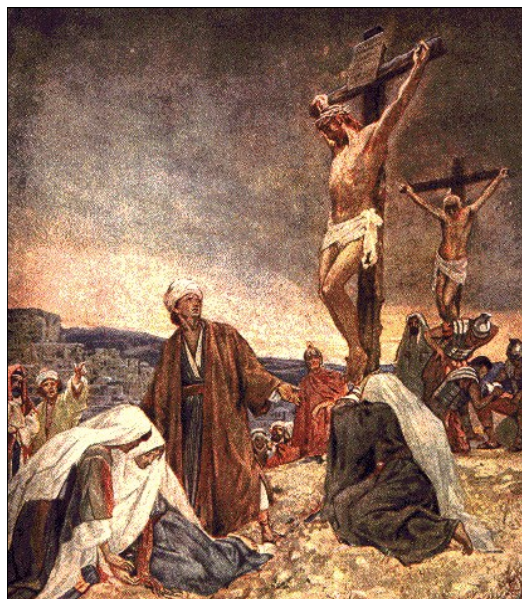
the curse and the curse was placed on Jesus' head. This idea had never struck me before and I thought it was interesting and appropriate but it was only the start, for it was not the only link like this between the Cross and the Fall, as I began to realise.

#### Modest crucifixion!

When you see paintings of the crucifixion there is always an anomaly in them. Every painting I've ever seen has a loin cloth around the Lord's waist to preserve His modesty. This, however, is wrong. Criminals were crucified naked. They were subjected to every possible degrading act, and nakedness to a Jew was even more degrading than it might be to many of us today. Hitler knew all about this and the Germans paraded many of their Jewish victims naked in the camps. It's nice to think that artists don't want to exercise their imaginations at this point, but there would have been no loin cloth to spare Jesus' blushes. He died naked and ashamed.

#### Nakedness

Before he fell, Adam was naked and not ashamed. In his perfect state there was no shame attached to his unclothed condition, but as he sinned so he moved from unashamed nakedness to shame-covering clothing. (Clothing was not introduced for warmth but as a covering for sin!) As Jesus moved from His perfect condition to being our cursed sin-bearer, they stripped off His garments, exposing Him to the world so He became naked and ashamed. As his situation changed, the first Adam moved from nakedness to clothing but the second Adam was forced to move in the opposite direction, from clothing to nakedness, because He was reversing the situation for us. *'Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood.'*



The traditionally modest Crucifixion

#### The very first to die

It is interesting to note that when the first sin occurred there was a blood sacrifice made to cover the sin. The Lord had to slay an animal to provide the skins to hide the shame of Adam and Eve, so if you are ever asked, 'What is the first recorded death in the Bible?' the strictly accurate answer is not 'Abel' but the unknown animal who gave its blood to cover their sin. When our sins were finally, once and for all, covered, a blood sacrifice was offered at Calvary, and both coverings were provided by the Lord.

#### Work

So Adam was expelled from the Garden, along with Eve, of course, and he had to work and sweat to live. He was condemned not only to work but also to discover that no matter how hard he worked he could not work his way back into Eden, or perfection, again. As Toplady said in 'Rock of Ages':

*'Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy laws demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save and Thou alone.'*

But in a wonderful reversal, we read in Ephesians: *'But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.'* (Eph 2:4-10). No, we can't work our way back into heaven. It comes as a gift; a great big wonderful gift

from God in an astonishing reversal from what might have been expected and certainly not deserved. Jesus did it all for us. *'Hallelujah! What a Saviour!'*

#### Dust

But in the great final act of reversal, we read that God said to Adam, *'You are dust and to dust you shall return'* (Gen. 3:19). This was to be the lot of the man of dust, and all other men and women of dust ever since, apart from two exceptions, Enoch and Elijah. Of the Lord we read of a prophecy in Psalm 16:10, *'For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.'* This was quoted in several places in Acts when the apostles were proclaiming the resurrection of the Lord. They merely transposed the word 'Sheol' into 'Hades' – it's the same idea and place, the abode of the departed souls. The first Adam's fate was to die and his body would return to the ground and thence to become dust again. His soul would go to Sheol (Hades) and remain there, for he brought death to the world and this is the fate of death. Reversing this situation, the second Adam's body too was placed in the ground but it would not become dust nor would His soul remain in Hades. He brought life to the world and this is the fate of life, or better still, the triumph of life. *'For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.'* (1 Cor. 15:22). *'Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous... so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.'* (Rom 5:18-21).

#### Conclusion

It was not the fact that Jesus reversed and restored what Adam lost by sinning, which took me by surprise. That's a very well-known theological point made by Paul in Romans and Corinthians particularly. No, what I'd not noticed was the reversal of the incidental details like the crown of thorns, the nakedness, work, and the returning to dust.

*'The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty victor's brow.'*

There is no necessary need that these incidental details should so perfectly fit into the picture too, but they do. I'm glad now that I began by thinking of the thorns and what was, or wasn't, originally in Eden. I didn't expect it would lead me on to thinking afresh about the Cross but we shouldn't ever be surprised at that because the story of the whole Bible is the story of Christ, the Cross, and our redemption, so it shouldn't have surprised me to discover even these sorts of links between the Fall and the Cross.



# Miscellany

## Are We Winning The War?

In *The Sunday Telegraph* for 1st February 2009, there was a news article that 'Half of UK population 'believe in creationism''. The report goes on to say: 'More than half of the public believe the theory of evolution cannot explain the full complexity of life on Earth, and that a "designer" must have lent a hand, the findings suggest. And one in three believe that God created the world within the past 10,000 years.'

The survey was by respected polling firm ComRes. Predictably Richard Dawkins was invited to comment and he felt that 'the findings revealed a worrying level of scientific ignorance among Britons.'

'In the survey, 51 per cent of those questioned agreed with the statement that "evolution alone is not enough to explain the complex structures of some living things, so the intervention of a designer is needed at key stages". A further 40 per cent disagreed, while eight per cent said they did not know.'

'Asked whether it was true that "God created the world sometime in the last 10,000 years", 33 per cent agreed, 60 per cent disagreed, while eight per cent said they did not know.'

A Biology teacher and Anglican cleric, Professor Michael Reiss, was forced to resign as the Royal Society's director of education for daring to suggest that Creationism should be discussed in lessons if the issue arose naturally. He believes 'that one in 10 children was from a family which supported a creationist rather than evolutionary viewpoint.'

A spokesman for the group Theos, Paul Woolley, which commissioned the survey, said: "'Darwin is being used by certain atheists today to promote their cause. The result is that, given the false choice of evolution or God, people are rejecting evolution.'"

Richard Dawkins, who incidentally appears to be a very polite, gracious and gentle man, and unintentionally one of our best allies in that he stirs up the public, keeps the issue before the public mind, and by his bigoted approach actually undermines his cause,



Richard Dawkins

weighed in in typical style. He 'expressed dismay at the findings of the ComRes survey of 2,060 adults, which he claimed were confirmation that much of the population was "pig ignorant" about science. "Obviously life, which was Darwin's own subject, is not the result of chance," he said. "Any fool can see that. Natural selection is the very antithesis of chance.'

"The error is to think that God is the only alternative to chance, and Darwin surely didn't think that because he himself discovered the most important non-theistic alternative to chance, namely natural selection."

[Just a few extra points from the above: God is the only alternative to chance.

'Life' was not Darwin's own subject. He was not a trained Biologist.

He did not discover 'natural selection'. It had been written about at least 30 or 40 years before 1859. He popularised it and made it the mechanism for his theory. All natural selection does is provide variation amongst kinds. It does not lead, and never has led, to the creation of new kinds, just to different sorts of creatures within the given kind. Thus dogs will always be dogs. God or Evolution is not a false choice! The two do not mix, though some try to. - Ed]

## Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons?

Some artists used to ponder this question before painting their story in Eden. Looking at Michelangelo's famous picture (see page 9) we see that he gave him one. However, neither Adam nor Eve spent any time gestating in a womb but were created as a special act by God. They had no umbilical chords so would not have had belly buttons. This anatomical oddity could have been used by them to convince their descendants about how they were indeed formed.

## Did Adam go around with a rib short?

No. The rib is the only bone in the body which can regenerate if removed. Adam's ribcage would have healed up very quickly!

## INDEX OFFER

I have been keeping an Index for my own purposes since *GA* began. I printed it in Number 6 but now it is too big to repeat. If any of you would like a copy, covering Numbers 1-15, please let me know and I'll oblige.

Graham

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

This issue marks the end of our fifth year of publication. How time flies! Unfortunately all sorts of things mutate upwards including the cost of postage, ink cartridges, paper, envelopes, etc., not by random chance but by intelligent design. Not having made any increase over these five years, I'm afraid I will have to ask for 50p more for a year's copies, i.e. £5. (Many of you already do this voluntarily, for which I am truly grateful.) I hope you will feel that it is still good value and will continue to support us.

Subs are now due any time before September when Number 16 is published, but prompt payment makes my life a lot easier, if you are able to oblige.

Thank you and God bless,

Graham



Daily Mail

# The Breath of Life

There are many brethren who see little or no point in the Creation/Evolution debate. This is sad, and a cause for concern, because it is crucial to our understanding of the rest of the Bible. The first 11 chapters of Genesis encapsulate all the major themes of the scriptures, and lay the foundation of their fundamental nature in our spiritual understanding and development. It is therefore not surprising that right back in the earliest part of this, the first Book, we find the Spirit being present both in the physical creation and the specific creation of man. Grasping some of what this means enables our understanding of important truths in the rest of the story of the Bible.

## The nature of initial life

Right back in the very first paragraph the Spirit is present and working. In verse 2 we are told that He *'...was hovering over the face of the waters.'* The word for 'Spirit' can also be translated as 'breath' or 'wind', and part of the skill of the translator is to decide exactly which alternative best expresses what Moses, in this instance, was trying to convey. So during the creation process God simply commands and by His Word things like vegetation and animals come into being, fully formed with life, and in the case of animals, breath in them. We are left in no doubt that both the Word, whom we later know as the Son, and the Holy Spirit, played pivotal rôles in Creation: themes developed later on in the narrative, especially in the New Testament. The whole Bible is beautifully linked from start to finish, and to neglect one part as being unimportant, especially the foundational part, is most unwise. Can you fully understand a novel if you never read chapter one?

## Mankind is different

God, however, did not command Adam into being. Mankind was to be special, very special, and though both male and female were not created in identical fashion, nevertheless both were crafted by God precisely and carefully, as if He were taking even greater pains to get it right with this pair. When everything else had been made by command, it's as if the plurality of the Godhead took a careful look at what needed to be done and that all three personalities were crucially involved in it and wanted us to know it. *'Then God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'* (Gen 1:26). This being was to be different: made in the image of God. Nothing else in all Creation was made like humankind. We were crafted with amazing care, unlike the other animals. There was this huge difference in our genesis and it is very important.

Animals, as we've said, were called into being and had the ability to, and the necessity of, breathing air, so 'the breath of life' - in this sense - was given to them instantly. This is mentioned in Genesis 1:30 where God says: *"And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food."* Adam was fashioned deliberately from the dust and then, in Chapter 2 verse 7 we read that God *'breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.'*

There was something very different about the 'breath of life' given to man and that received by the animals and birds

when they came into being. Yes, man was given the ability to breathe the air, just as the animals do. That was essential for his survival because we share the same physical environment, but being 'made in the image of God' gave him another dimension not afforded to the animals. This difference is crucially important. When 'the breath of life' was deliberately breathed into man, it was also 'the spirit of life' which was being given to him. To be 'in the image of God' meant that man was to be a spiritual being and not just a physical being. What were, and are, some of the implications of this?

## Man, a tripartite being

To give man the spirit of life created him as a tripartite being: spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23). This is a complex issue and difficult to comprehend - especially the differences between *the spirit* and *the soul*, since many times they seem to behave like, or expressed as if, they are interchangeable concepts. However, the body and soul were essentially 'his' (man's) but the spirit somehow belonged to God (cf. Eccles 12:7 - 'the spirit returns to God who gave it.').

## God gave of Himself

It was a formidable and awesome event when man was given a spirit. The moment God did this, He gave man of Himself in a way not given to the animals. God was external to the animals, just as we are external to anything we create, but when He made man and breathed a spirit into him, God uniquely became a part of man and intertwined with him as He does not do with animals. God dwelt 'in' man.

It was an awesome and formidable event because once God gave of Himself in this



Photo from Wikipedia

Michelangelo's iconic picture of the creation of Adam from the Sistine Chapel



way, He could not reverse it; He could not remove it and He could not destroy it. He gave man an immortality which can never be annihilated, or wiped out in any other way.

### Why immortality?

The Spirit gave life. The reason why it was immortality which God gave, which can never ever be destroyed, removed or annihilated, is because 'God is spirit'; Jesus said so in John 4:24. Now, if 'God is spirit', spirit cannot be destroyed, removed or annihilated for, if it could, God could be destroyed or annihilated! Though Solomon thought it returns to God who gave it, it is still uniquely 'our' spirit and will be dealt with according to God's decrees about salvation, either to live for ever with Him, or without Him.

### No problem initially

This was no problem while man was living in perfect harmony with God. He dwelt in man uniquely and the bond was perfected in love. Once sin came in and destroyed that perfection, God could no longer intertwine with, and within, Adam as before. He was driven out of man by man's will and sinfulness, but He could not destroy the spirit He had given him since spirit is indestructible. It is immortal.

### The problem after the Fall

The problem was, therefore, what to do about the situation once man sinned. Since spirit cannot be destroyed, it must either live for ever apart from God, or in harmony with Him. To live apart from God is to suffer spiritual death and experience hell, but this is definitely not spiritual destruction or annihilation. The spirit which refuses to accept God's solution to the problem will still be immortal but cannot exist with God. It must, therefore, exist apart and entirely separated from God. Just as God can choose to forget sins, and they remain forgotten for ever, as if they never existed (cf. Is 43:25), so He can choose to forget those who refuse to allow Him to restore their spirits to what they should have been for all time and eternity. And when God chooses to forget, whatever it is remains forgotten as if it - or in the case of unregenerate spirits, they - never existed.

### Everlasting Life

To live with God is to have everlasting life. The only way we can do this is by our

inviting the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives and dwell within us, once more intertwining uniquely with us, thereby letting God be in our lives as He always intended to be. Just as our sin and disobedience spoiled that relationship and pushed God out, so our obedience and love can reverse that process and welcome Him in. Once we let Him in, the process of our spiritual regeneration and sanctification can begin. The problem is that though we may well welcome Him in through our faith and obedience, we are still tripartite beings which have been corrupted by sin. Our bodies and souls being thus corrupted are unable to let the Holy Spirit dwell in us as fully as He would have to do for us to be perfectly perfect. That can only happen the other side of Resurrection Day at the end of time, when we will be given new spiritual bodies in which righteousness dwells and our souls will be totally cleansed from sin.

### Meanwhile!

Meanwhile, just as our sinful wilfulness drove God out and spoiled the perfection we once shared with Him, so our loving 'wilfulness' can make us strive conscientiously to try to be the people He wants us to be. We cannot do this if we quench the Holy Spirit - and we can - Paul said so in 1 Thess. 5:19. We can also grieve the Spirit. And how do we do this? Paul told the Ephesians exactly how!

*'Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labour, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'* (Eph 4:25-32).

### God's original plan

God never intended us to be eternally separated from Him. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (Mt. 25:41). As spirit beings created to inhabit the spiritual realm for ever, they saw the might and power of God in Creation (Job 38:4-7). They witnessed the marvels of His universe and knew fully of His love, beauty and majesty. They walk by sight and not by faith so they are without excuse - and the sinful ones will not be offered one! When Adam was given the spirit and made in the image of God, all of God's initial creating was over; the universe was fully in place. To witness this was impossible for him so he had to believe it in faith. Though later he sinned, Adam was given the opportunity to receive the grace of God so that his soul would not necessarily exist in the state of eternal death. It appears that he took the offer, as far as we can tell.

### The intent of Scripture

The Scriptures are designed from start to finish so that we might all come to realize the true nature of our condition and accept God's offer to restore us from death to life. We do this when we let the Holy Spirit dwell in us again AND let Him have an effect on the people we are and how we live. Our bodies then become a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19). He gives us blessings as the fruit of His indwelling becomes evident in our lives (Gal. 5:22-23) as we surrender our wills to His. The epistles especially were written to keep those who have accepted this gift of grace from God from losing what we have been given and thereby remain faithful.

### The God-breathed Breath of Life

We understand that 'all scripture is breathed out (inspired) by God' (2 Tim. 3:16) and when God breathes He breathes life. The Scriptures are the Word of God given to show us the means of obtaining life: eternal life, of course. Since the inspiration underpinning them is the Holy Spirit from start to finish, whichever way you look at it, be it indwelling the Christian to make him holy and bring him to sanctification, or in the Scriptures to lead him to Christ and keep him faithful to the end, the Breath of Life is completely and utterly intertwined in life from start to finish.

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All quotations are from the *English Standard Version* of the Bible (Anglicized version, 2002), unless otherwise indicated.



