

# The Battle for Truth?

## Part 10 – Race

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### INTRODUCTION

God knows ALL things. Isaiah 46:10 declares that He knows the end from the beginning. This tells us that when He breathed life into Adam, that He would have to breath that life out upon the cross in order to redeem mankind. There are no surprises for God as “He is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). In God’s omniscience, He knew that Adam would sin, and the world world grow so evil that He would destroy it with a great worldwide flood. When God created living things, He designed them so they could adapt to a post-flood world.

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## INTRODUCTION

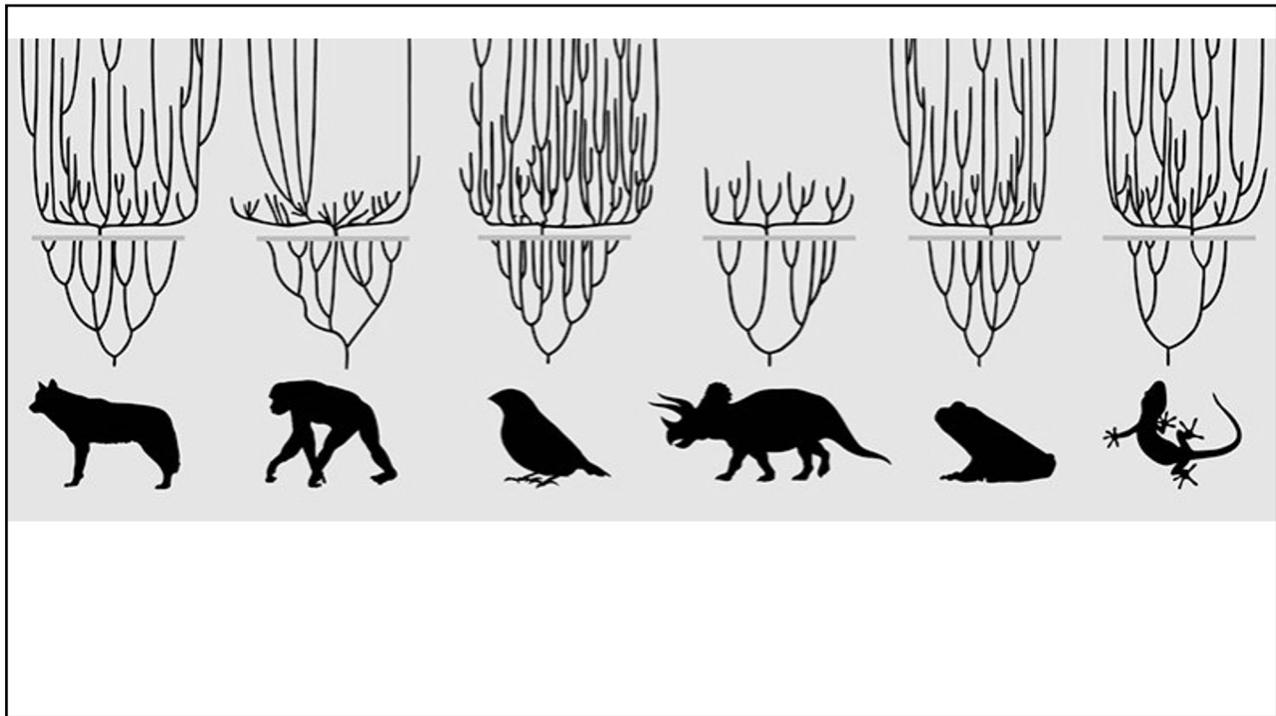
Everything that God created was designed with a vast amount of genetic variation. God did not create house cats, tigers, and lions. He created a cat "kind" which contained the DNA that could unfold into lions, and tigers (but not bears as that was a different kind).

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## INTRODUCTION

This genetic potential allows for the variation which allowed animals to diversify and move into the new ecosystems after the flood. This is not evolution but the unfolding of the genetic potential that God placed in each kind. One kind does not evolve into a different kind.

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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?

When God [Jesus] created man on day 6, He created a kind. We see this in our vocabulary – mankind!

Genesis 5:2

He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them **Mankind** in the day they were created.

Jesus did not create multiple kinds or races. The “kind” that God created only came in 2 forms – male and female (Genesis 1:27; Mark 10:6).

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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?

Like all the “kinds” that God created, mankind was also created with a great amount of variation and beauty. When Eve was taken from the flesh from Adam’s side, God took Adam’s cells that contained the life God breathed into Adam. From Adam, God fashioned Eve (Genesis 1:27). We know that God reworked Adam’s DNA to make Eve a woman, but He may have created additional variation for mankind.

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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?

In Adam and Eve lay all the Genetic variation we see in mankind today. Look at all the differences we see today. We can talk about eye color, hair color and texture, height, stature, and the amount of melanin in a person’s skin.

There is only one skin color which is melanin. What makes us look different is the amount of melanin present in one’s skin. Melanin is essential to our wellbeing as it filters out UV radiation that is harmful to our skin and bodies. This is why people get a suntan – it is the bodies defense mechanism to UV radiation to the body.

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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?

We do not have time to go into a detailed science lecture on genetics. To summarize, the amount of melanin is controlled by 2 independent sets of genes. Each set has 2 genes. One was given by each parent. This allows for 5 basic genetic combinations. One can have 4 dark genes to 4 light genes (DDDD, DDDL, DDLL, DLLL, LLLL). These potentials are acted on by other genetic and environment factors to produce a wide arrange of beauty. One of my irritations lies in pictures that make Adam and Eve look like white blue eyed Scandinavians – they did not!

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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?



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## WHAT ABOUT MAN?

Every human being is related. We all come from Adam and Eve, but also from the eight people on Noah's ark.

Listen to what Paul states:

Acts 17:26

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.

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## PEOPLE GROUPS AND CULTURE

When Noah and his family left the ark, they entered into a vastly different world than the one they left. Earth had lost much of its protective canopy that filtered out the sun's radiation and equalized temperature. As animals, plants, and people spread throughout the world they faced many challenges. The potential that God placed into the "Kinds" began to unfold so certain combinations can thrive in some ecosystems, while other combinations did not. We see this for animals and plants, but what about man?

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## PEOPLE GROUPS AND CULTURE

The sun's radiation falls most directly on the equator. Without Earth's protective canopy, the harmful UV and other shortwave radiation is higher here as well. This radiation shatters DNA and causes mutations. This is one of the major causes of skin cancers. The gift that God gave mankind is melanin. Those that can produce higher levels of melanin have the better chance of survival accounting for darker skin in this region.

We have discovered that dark skin also radiates heat more efficiently giving added blessing to those in warmer climates, but a disadvantage in cold.

These factors account for lighter skin at the poles and darker skin at the equator.

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## PEOPLE GROUPS AND CULTURE

Mankind was divided into different groups by numerous factors.

Because of man's rebellion at Babel, God confounded language and helped spread man around the world. Other natural barriers such as mountains, rivers, oceans, and deserts were overcome in migrations, but made day to day travel difficult.

People traveled in these new areas in people groups that became isolated from one another. As people intermarried with those in their isolated areas, and as some genes were lost, the gene pool for individual groups became more uniform, causing people in these areas to begin to look more alike and more different from other people groups (Genesis 10:5).

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## PEOPLE GROUPS AND CULTURE

As these groups are isolated from other groups by, rivers, mountains and language, they begin to form their own views, values, and traditions.

We understand this as culture.

To me, I see all the diversity in appearance and culture as beauty. I believe that God sees it that way also.

Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

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## Racism

One of Satan's primary strategies in his war against God is to bring division. He preys on people's national and cultural identity to see others in an "us" "them" perspective. This leads people to see themselves as "us" and as superior and right. People then see "others" and inferior and wrong.

This is the foundation of prejudice. The very word speaks of pre-judgment. It is a judging of a person based on preconceived ideas.

A prejudicial person has made their mind up based on enteral looks without even getting to know the other person.

Prejudice has been a major hinderance to the spread of the Gospel.

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## Racism

Prejudice gives way to racism. It should be an ugly beast in the eye of the believer. It is shallow and only sees the external differences in others.

We need to remember that we are all related. We are all made in the image of God and contain a sanctity of life placed in us by God. He molded and fashioned us in our mother's womb, and He declares all of us to be fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139).

Let me make this clear. **TO CRITIZE OTHERS WHO SHARE MINOR GENETIC DIFFERENCES FROM YOURSELF IS TO CRITIZE THE VERY HANDIWORK OF GOD.** You have set yourself up to be like God to declare what is good and evil. You have fallen into Satan's sin!

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## Racism

Miriam, Moses' sister struggled with racism. Moses married a woman from Ethiopia. She most likely had very dark skin. Miriam and Aaron joined with the people in criticizing Moses and questioning his leadership. God was angered and had Moses, Aaron, and Miriam stand before the Tent of Meeting (Tabernacle). The cloud of His presence fell on them and when it ascended, Miriam was consumed by leprosy. Leprosy was a symbol of sin. Miriam being cursed by leprosy was a declaration before all of Israel that God viewed her actions as sin (Numbers 12).

Moses interceded for her, and God removed her disease (a picture of grace and forgiveness). However, Miriam had to spend 7 days outside the camp, demonstrating that such attitudes and rebellion need to be removed far from us.

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## CHURCH DIVISIONS

Prejudice and racism was (and is) a major problem in the Church.  
The book of Acts details Paul's battle against the Religious Judaizers whose prejudice against Gentiles, made it difficult to accept non-Jewish believers into the church on an equal standing with themselves.

The church of Ephesus was dealing with this very problem. Many Jews and Gentiles had been saved and were growing in their faith in Jesus. We know that Judaizers had moved in and were creating division. Listen to Paul's argument.

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## CHURCH DIVISIONS

Ephesians 4:1-6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>*There is **one body*** and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in **one hope** of your calling; <sup>5</sup>**one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** <sup>6</sup>**one God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

We (the Church) have been unified together. We each need to love, serve, minister, and accept others above ourselves for we are ONE!

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## SO WHAT...

The problems coming out of racism will not be cured by hate, distrust, and further division. Our constitution states the Biblical Truth that all are created equal. However, not all people are treated as equals. As a result, there is much hurt and anger.

We cannot change the world, but we are responsible for our own actions and attitudes. God sees all people as equal. The only division He makes is if one is a believer or rejector of His Son.

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## SO WHAT...

In the church we are all “us” and the “them” is the mission field. We must not look down on the unsaved as we were the “them” before we were saved. Our identity must not be in one’s ethnic or national pride but IN CHRIST as He makes us ONE!

Being in the church does not diminish “culture.” God’s Truth gives us cause to celebrate it. Missions does not replace one culture with another but brings Christ to transform it. I rejoice in the cultures in this church. Each of you brings something special to this gathering of believers.

**Racism can only be overcome through UNITY in Christ!**

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