



*Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28,29*

## Who is Man?

Author: Kurian Abraham

**Introduction:** Man has a natural quest to know about his origin and the purpose of life. These are fundamental questions and the answers to these questions will profoundly affect our outlook and the way we live. Though modern man is on the path of many great discoveries he still fails to understand the significance of his life on earth. We are here because God created the world and He created us to inhabit it.

**The origin of man:** Philosophers through the years have reached to different conclusions about the origin of man. The ancient Egyptians believed that the origin of man was from a kind of worm that lived in the clay on the bank of river Nile. Some scientists believe that men evolved from apes. Some suggest that man came to exist by accident. Others say that life always existed in some form and endlessly revolving. But none of these theories can stand the test of science and logic. Man did not evolve out of some unknown place on his own. To speculate that man is a chance product of some unplanned process and life began spontaneously, one must have more faith to believe it than to believe the Bible account on creation. The Bible says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Man was made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26).

**The nature of man:** Unlike animal man is a triune being. He has a soul and a spirit and a body (1 Thess 5:23). When men suggest that man is simply a body, he responds to this theory by living as mere animal finding gratification for his natural instincts. Body gives sensation to surroundings and is the seat of world consciousness. Soul is the centre of emotion, reason and decision. It is the seat of self consciousness (Psalm 42:5). The spirit is everlasting and the seat of God consciousness (Rom 8:16). Soul and Spirit are the immaterial parts of man. Man is distinct from animal. Animals have body and soul but they do not have spirit. This makes man unique from animals. Man is the capstone of God's creation because he is created in the image of God. Since our conscience can be defiled by sin, it should be kept without offense (before God (Titus 1:15; Acts 24:16)).

**The image of God in man:** Man was created in the likeness and image of God (Gen 1:26). God does not have a human form. Being in God's image means man shares some of God's moral attributes imperfectly and finitely. They are life, personality and morality. So man has the capacity to have fellowship with God. God is in essence one yet He is three. Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. This image of God in man is stamped by his personality. Man is a self-conscious being. Man lost his moral likeness of sinlessness with God when he sinned. But man still retains his natural likeness of personality such as intellect, emotion and will (Gen 9:6; James 3:9). Every man has a consciousness of a divine power to a certain extent. This image of God in man also contains the God-given power to rule and reign over the creation. When God created man He gave him the freedom to choose to love or hate Him. He takes delight when a person loves and serves Him willingly than when he does so out of compulsion.

**The purpose of the creation of man:** Man was created to possess the earth and rule over it (Gen 1:28). However sin spoiled that. Christ will restore that at His second coming (Heb 2:5-8). Adam was created to know God and fellowship with Him (Gen 3:9,10). He was created to do God's will (Gen 2:16,17). Adam was created with a capacity to enjoy God forever (Mark 8:36). We are created in God's image so that we can glorify Him and love each other (Acts 17:26-27; Heb 2:10).

**Sin and fall of man:** When man sinned against God he lost his blessings and failed to understand the purpose of his existence. Now we are ignorantly, helplessly, and willfully lost in our own sin (Isaiah 53:6). Instead of God we worship and love our own things. Though there remains in us a desire to know we are unable to find Him (Job 11:7). We are at enmity with God and our greatest need is to be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:20). God has created man with free will and he is responsible for his actions. When Satan tempted man, he failed. Even though God gave man all the necessary instructions to keep him away from sin, he misused his freewill and disobeyed God (Gen 3). Thus the Adamic race became sinners and we need a Savior. (Rom 5:19).

**The future of man:** Jesus Christ became man to take away our sins. To redeem us from the curse of the law and penalty of sin, He died on the cross on our behalf (Gal 3:13). God wants everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth (1 Tim 2:4). It is a dreadful thing to reject this great Savior. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation (Heb 2:3).