

MAN AND SIN

Haldane's statement:

"Such is the entire consistency among themselves of the doctrines of Scripture, that whenever any one of them is misunderstood, it invariably leads to the misunderstanding of the rest" (p. 158).

The basic doctrine of Scripture: the doctrine of God - the Trinity and their attributes. All truth is to be understood in the light of what God is. This is why the doctrines of Scripture are referred to as Theology, from Θεός and θέωσις, the knowledge of God.

Since we are just now studying this at church, I'll ask you to review it for yourself, but we will go on to MAN AND SIN.

Man really needs to be looked at four stages in Scripture. We are going to be concerned now with the first two. We will get to the third one when we consider GOD AND SALVATION. The four stages are:

- 1) man as he was created, before he sinned.
- 2) man after he had sinned.
- 3) man when he is saved.
- 4) man in heaven.

We are entirely dependent upon Scripture for our knowledge of these four stages in the history

of man. These have to do with the man who is saved. The unregenerate man never moves beyond the second stage in his life, and he is doomed in it for all eternity after death.

- I. Man at creation. Cf. Gen. 1: 5:13; 26-28; 2:7; 3:22. See 9:6 - and the reason behind capital punishment. Also see 1 Cor. 11:7 as it relates to man in his position in connection with women. Cf. 1 Cor. 15:49. See Jas. 3:9.
What does it mean?

A. It has reference to the immaterial part of his being - not his body. Some say only soul, others say soul and spirit. Man is a spiritual being as well as physical.

B. It does not mean completely like God - man was not made Deity.

Note the temptation of Satan - Gen. 3:4,5.

Note also Gen. 3:22 - where it obviously means more like God.

Then see Eph. 4:22-24; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18.

Finally, Rom. 8:28-30.

Do these passages indicate that man was not created as Deity, nor as all that God

intended he should eventually be, but never to lose in the image and likeness of God.

c. What does it mean?

1. It means he was created without sin. man would be included in the statement of Gen. 1:31. He was innocent; many prefer to say, righteous. Cf. Isd. 53:10.
2. It means that he was not subject to death of any kind. See the warning in Gen. 2:16, 17. Obviously man would have lived forever physically.
3. It means that man was capable of fellowship with God, and included in this was his ^{moral} responsibility to God.
4. It means that man was given great authority, great power over creation. Cf. Gen. 1:26, 28
5. man had great knowledge (although not all knowledge). Cf. Gen. 1:16, 17 and 19, 20, as example.
6. Man was given a will; Gen. 1:16, 17 implies this. This is probably the only time we could say that mans will was

in any sense, free. He could submit to God, or disobey God

7. man was given emotions.

Marriage, e.g., preceded the period of man's sin

This was to be seen also in Adam's relationship with God.

Being created in God's image, man was capable of love, of joy, of compassion, of anger, etc.

Volumes have been written on this subject. It is an area where there is much that we do not know, and yet where we can continue to learn much from the Word - our only authority for such knowledge.

The next thing we need to consider is:

II. man's fall, i.e., into sin.

Cf. Gen. 3:1-6.

How did it come about? How did man become a sinner?

A. It was engineered by Satan who was already in rebellion against God.

B. It was brought about through an attack upon God and upon His Word.

C. It was ~~sick~~ solely man's willful disobedience.

Cf. Rom. 5:12; 1 Tim. 2:14.

III. The results of the fall.

Apart from the doctrine of God, no doctrine is more influential with regard to salvation itself than what we believe about sinful man!

What happened to Adam and to the human race when Adam sinned? Note the connection between the two (Adam and the race) in Rom. 5:12 and 1 Cor. 15:22.

A. Man died (which never means cease to exist, but was separated, or was being separated, in three ways):

- 1) Spiritually -- from God (Gen. 3:8).
- 2) Physically -- Gen. 3:19 b.
- 3) Eternally -- as the ultimate judgment. Cf. Gen. 3:22-24.

Note: We need to realize that God would have been perfectly just if He had decided to leave men right there, i.e., to do nothing about man's salvation.

We are primarily concerned here with the fact that man died spiritually. This meant

that he was devoid of spiritual life, incapable of fellowship with God, and unable to do anything about it.

Cf. Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 2:13a; Gen. 6:5

This immediately affected man's attitude toward God and toward the Word of God.

Cf. Rom. 1:18-32.

- B. A part of spiritual death is man's attitude of self-sufficiency. He depends upon himself and upon his fellow-men instead of God.

This is lucism.

Hans does not deliver from sin, but leads to greater and greater involvement in sin.

- C. Man became a rebel against God, an enemy of God. Cf. Col. 1:21, 22; Eph. 4:18, Rom. 8:7, 8; Jas. 4:4

- D. man became a sinner by nature - Eph. 2:3; Mt. 15:10-20, Mark 7:14-23.

- E. In complete matters, man is blinded, ignorant, of his condition. He refuses to believe the truth about God, about himself and mankind, about sin. Cf. 2 Cor. 4:4; 3:14-16

Mt. 15:14;
1 Cor. 2:6-16;
Eph. 4:18

- F. The consequences of Adam's

sin were transmitted to the whole human race. Cf. Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:21, 22.

See the evidence of this in Cain, and in the subsequent history of man. Cf. Gen. 4:1-8; 8:21; Psa. 51:5^{58:10}; Job. 25:4-6; Isa. 48:8; 64:6.

This not only affected the total of each person, but it equally affects all men of every race in every generation. Cf. Psa. 14:1-3; 10:4-11; Rom. 3:9-18

Conclusion as to the results of the fall of man: TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

Cf. Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:9-20. See also John 2:23-25

It is very important, if we are to understand GOD AND SALVATION (the next section) that we have the preceding section clearly in mind as to what it means that man now by nature is a sinner.

If we understand this, then we will understand verses like John 6:44 a, "no man can come ~~unto~~ me." See also John 6:59-65.

Thus we are led to believe

- 1) By the nature of man and
- 2) By the statements of Scripture that, if there is to be salvation for man, that salvation will have to come from GOD!