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Human Beings: Biblical Analysis and Perspectives

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Abstract

The aim of our study is to try deeping deep into the understanding of the concept of human beings. The emphasis is made on a biblical appraisal of the phenomenon. To achieve this goal, the methodology used is based on critical littérature review, phenomenology and Biblical methodology which is a method that seeks to shed light upon the historical processes which give rise to the biblical texts. It proceeds from textual criticism to redaction criticism, operating with the help of scientific criteria. The objective of our study is to answer a number of questions useful to shed more light on the impact of sexual practices on the physical, psychological and spiritual lives of people and ultimately to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The interest of this work is spiritual, philosophical and social. The results of our analysis show that Man as created in the image of God is full of unexplored abilities that we could see in Jesus Christ with the ability to heal, feed multiple people, dominate the waters, winds, minerals, animals, subdue the earth. Man's real issue is the internal or the inner being not the external things of the world which only come as a result of our beliefs. In a nutshell, Man's fall into sin didn't destroy or remove the image of God. It somehow disfigured it. We need therefore to turn back to God through Jesus Christ who is the only way, truth and life we are deeply in need of.

Keywords: Yahweh, Humankind, Bible, Occultism, Dominion, fall, Redemption

1. Introduction

We are Humans but who are we really ? It appears that our origins, our final destination, the relationship with the true God, our full capacities, what we are made of, why things are the way they are, globalization and related topics such as robotics and others lead us to interrogate ourselves on our real nature and fate as human beings.

The root of the word human usually refer to earth and man. According to jewish culture, humans come from the word adamah, which means ground or earth. The idea is that the first human beings were made from soil. Earth from what man comes from is a symbol of receiving vessel, humility, wisdom, knowledge, power, growth and prosperity.

As revealed in Genesis 27, God made human in a special way making them special creatures with each special and specific talents as well as unique value. As the scriptures said : « *the best wine was served at the end through a miracle of the Lord* » thus man is a miracle in his conception.

Yahweh taking the simplest, dirt of dust, clay mixed with the best himself or breath of life. Signifying Man is capable of the worst or the magnificent as Yahweh himself. He was special because God arranges a place different from others just made for him to live. Though Man was lower than angels, he was handed dominion on earth, he was a form of supreme being in his own environment making him in the image of the true living God.

But the reality of today made of suffering, humankind is living under slavery, famine, hunger, poverty, fear, powerless in front of events and situations, pose a problem in between Man as GOD made him and what we observe nowadays, whereby the following questions :

1. How was humankind created ?
2. When was humankind created ?

3. Is there a difference in between Human kind according to science and based on Holy Scriptures ?
4. What about age, sex, race, countries, etc ?
5. Whose image was man made and what does it imply ?
6. What are the capacities of HIM in whose likeness Man was made ?
7. What does that imply let man have dominion ?
8. What are the original capacities of Human beings ?
9. What is dominion over the fish of the sea ?
10. What is dominion over the birds of the air ?
11. What is dominion over the cattle ?
12. What is dominion over all the wild animals of the earth ?
13. What is dominion over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth ?
14. Is Man still in the image and likeness of Him by who he was created ?
15. Is Man still having dominion over all the creation and why ?
16. Moving with the spirit or moving with the flesh ?
17. What are the perspectives for a better Humanity ?
18. What is the nature of the relationship between humans and angels ?

2. How Was Made Human Kind ?

The Bible reveals how Mankind came into being. In Genesis 2:7, it is said that God created humanity in His own image. Humanity was made in a way that is very different from the physical world. The Holy Scriptures say in this regard : « *Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* ».

Therefore from the Bible, we understand that the raw material for the construction of Man is dust of the earth and he was made intelligent, reactive or living thanks to the breath instill in him by God. In the example of a vessel, a pot, a robot that owe its existence to the source of energy who is no else than the creator. This means that if cut from that source, death is a matter of time. A mobile phone is useful as long as there is energy, it needs to be recharged just like Man whose source is only God.

In addition, it is important to know that each creation or construction is for a purpose : such as a road for traffic, a boat to sea navigation, a plane for the air, a knife to cut. In the same way, Man was created for relationship with God and others. This is the key to joy and peace. That is part of properly taking care of the garden i.e tasks, missions assigned to each of us.

From the Biblical perspective, we were not formed by evolution. Instead, we descend from an historical Adam and Eve who were made in the image of God to work where God placed them. Hence in a nutshell human kind was created by Divine's decree, in God's image and were created man and woman.

Scientifically a number of theories are trying to explain the origin of mankind such as the theory of natural selection, the theory of evolution, functional creation, progressive creation, the gap theory, etc just to name but a few main ones.

There are basically three different theories of evolution which are Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection, Mutation theory of evolution and Modern Synthetic theory of Evolution. According to the evolutionary theory, Modern humans originated in Africa within the past 200,000 years and evolved from the now extinct Homo erectus. However if this theory tries to give some tips about the evolution of our

specie, it does not tell us how we were made, so appears incomplete compared to the Holy Scriptures.

Based on the theories of the functional creation, Old Testament scholar John H. Walton has argued that modern readers have misunderstood the true meaning of Genesis 1. Given its ancient Near Eastern context, Walton says the creation account is not about God making material objects, but merely assigning functions. On this basis he sees no conflict between Genesis and evolution. According to the author, God created by giving meaning to already existing chaos and not by creating actual matter from nothingness.

Progressive Creationism (also called "process creation") is the belief that God created the heavens and the earth over a period of billions of years. A major problem with "Progressive Creationism" is its insistence that animals (and even pre-Adamic "men") died long before Adam sinned. The individual days of creation are interpreted to each represent millions of years. This is called a Day-Age interpretation. Some go to the extend of stating that according to 2 Peter 3:8 which tells us that one day of God's time is a thousand years of man's time. Therefore, when we read Genesis 1, it is not telling us that God created in six 24-hour days. Each day in God's time might just be a reference to long periods of time on the Earth.

The "gap theory," also known as the "ruin-restitution" theory, preserves the literal, recent six twenty-four-hour-day creation but assumes that the vast ages so well attested to by science occurred prior to this set of events. In other words, Earth and life were created before the creation week of Genesis.

3. When Was Human Kindmade ?

According to science, the beginning of human kind is not really precise. It is stated that Homo sapiens, the first modern humans, evolved from their early hominid predecessors between 200,000 and 300,000 years ago. The fossils of early humans who lived between 6 and 2 million years ago come entirely from Africa.

From a spiritual and religious background, such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, etc, the first person was believed to be Adam and according to Hindu beliefs, the first person was Manu, the forefathers of humanity. Using the numbers associated with the genealogies in Genesis, Exodus, Kings, and Chronicles, Ussher and Lightfoot determined that Adam was created on October 23 at 9 a.m. 45th meridian time, in 4004 BC.

According to Islam, Adam is the first creation, and he was probably created like 14000-20000 years ago according to calculations. According to the Puranas, Manu's story occurs before the 28 chaturyugas in the present Manvantara which is the 7th Manvantara. This amounts to 120 million years ago. It appears that the exact date of birth and even the name or the identity of the first ever man to exist is subject to debate. As the answers vary from one religion to the other and from one scientific approach to the other. This proves again that only God is the true master of the universe and the king of time.

4. What About Issues Regarding Age, Sex, Race, Countries, Etc ?

According to science¹, « *Human "racial" diversity is a result of people in a geographic area intermarrying, being exposed to a number of biological processes, and adapting slowly to local environments* ». Etymologically, sex refers to gender,

genitals, males or females in other words section, division into male and female. Sexual relationship implies intercourse in between a male and a female.

The Institution for creation research stipulates that the Bible does not explicitly give us the origin of the different "races" or skin colors in humanity. For «God hath made of one blood all nations of men" (Acts 17:26). All of mankind springs from our first parents, Adam and Eve, and then through Noah's family.

However various races are mentioned in the Bible such as the Hebrew, Egyptian, Persian, Babylonian, Ethiopian, romans, greek where are they coming from and what was their skin color and why such differences ?

Concerning the hebrews, "Hebrew"² refers to « people who have descended from Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. The term refers to an Israelite or descendant of Abraham. "Hebrew" is heavily associated with the culture and religion of the Jewish people ». They are the descendant of Noah's first son named Shem 'renown'. Shem as one of the believing sons of Noah. Some sources even identify Shem as a prophet in his own right and that he was the next prophet after his father. In chapter 11 verses 10–26 a second list of descendants of Shem names Abraham and thus the Arabs and Israelites.

As far as the Egyptians are concerned, "The ancient Egyptians were not 'white' in any European sense, nor were they 'Caucasian'. The earliest population of ancient Egypt included African people from the upper Nile, African people from the regions of the Sahara and modern Libya. Ancient Egypt in North Africa was one of the most powerful and influential civilizations in the region for over 3,000 years, from around 3100 B.C to 30 B.C. Egyptians even go back before the time of Abraham. The Egyptians are more than 1000 years after Adam and Eve and are descendants of Ham, son of Noah, who is more than 7 generations after Adam and Eve. Adam was only Noah's great-great-great-great-great-great-grandpa. Abraham is a descendant of Noah. Sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth. Ham's « hot, warm, servant » descendants: the forefather of Cush, Egypt, and Put, and of Canaan, whose lands include portions of Africa.

- study.com
- robert morkot in 2005

Japheth meaning 'abundance, opened, enlarged, handsome' is the eldest son of Noah. The descendants of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras which are referred to today as Armenia, Turkey, modern day Russia, Persia, Iran, Greece, Romania, etc

5. In Whose Image Was Man Made ?

The will of God is to make man in his own image. In Genesis 1:26 it is said that : "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." In the following verse it is written "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him." If both "image" and "likeness" speak of resemblance as central to the Bible's teaching about mankind, some questions arise such as what is the image of God ? What is the likeness of God ?

The concept of image refers to a copy, an imitation, portraits, photographs, paintings, sculptures, resemblance, shaped, figure, shadow, identical. This implies that Man was a duplication of his creator who is Yahweh. If image is in line with the external aspect, the Bible by insisting on likeness means also internal resemblance.

In fact, the concept of image is usually linked with the outward appearance, while likeness often refers to the inner qualities of the person. This means we are like God in form and implies that, like Him, we have a spiritual capacity which animals, plants, minerals do not have. Humans are therefore in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature.

6. What Are The Capacities Of Those In Whose Likeness Man Was Made ?

In plain words humans should have the same qualities with God among which unity, trinity, omniscience, omnipotence, spiritual, eternity, infinity, self sufficient, goodness, love, merciful, creative, innovative, simplicity, perfection, ubiquity, immutability, holy, just, gracious, faithful, truthful, patient, wise. God knows everything, has the power to do anything, and is perfectly good. When we look at the situation of man today can we say he possesses these qualities ? What is the reason why he does not present all the characteristics of his creator in whose image and likeness he was made ?

Humans today are characterized by injustice, famine, wars, sickness, wickedness, poverty. The world today is marked by a variety of challenges, great negative changes, uncertainty ranging from climate change to economic inequality, unfortunately in the midst of advancing technologies. How to explain that a creature made in the image of the Almighty, All-knowing and omnipresent creator is living such a miserable life.

The answer is in our choices as we are responsible for them and their consequences. To be like God is to assume a free will with the possible choices and repercussions. There is therefore the need to be restored in Christ Jesus in order to become a new creation back to the original form. The Bible says in that regards that "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:13-14).

7. What Does That Imply Let Them Have Dominion ?

Having dominion or to dominate implies that you are in charge of something or rule it, you have dominion over it. In the Bible God grants Man dominion over other animals i.e to rule over them. As it is clearly stated in Luke 4:18. Dominion is a God-given gift to His people that requires His supernatural Anointing. It surely belongs to Man, but it should be understood that isn't automatic. It requires faith, walking in love, and operating in the anointing to exercise such a dominion.

God created Man as a leader meaning that dominion over the animals or other things was in order to care for, tend to, and use those animals and other creatures to their fullest potential in a just and fair manner. This is what God meant when he created Man in his own likeness to have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

It should also be emphasized here that dominion is not ownership and control, but rather stewardship and caretaking under God's authority. The key for Man to walk on dominion was to remain in God's presence through obeying his rules, pray, being faithful and meditate the word of God day and night. God wants to see in us justice, kindness, and humility.

8. What Are The Original Capacities Of Human ?

Humans are special and different from the rest of the creation

on which they were given dominion. Humans have souls, minds, emotions, and creative capacity that are unique to the rest of creation. The truest image of God and what Yahweh wanted man to be like is Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. The main characteristic of Jesus was obedience and faithfulness to his father. He decided each day to carry out his Father's will, and this led to faithfulness. He trusted in God and loving Him through all circumstances, following His commandments even when he would rather choose a different path.

John Calvin of the Institutes of the Christian Religion said that *"We are not to look to what men in themselves deserve but to attend to the image of God which exists in all and to which we owe all honor and love."*

Therefore if we focus on the image of God in us we shall be supernatural doing miracles and wonders, hovering over the waters, dominating but if we look at what we think we are, deserve, are capable of we are drowning into idolatry and fall of man. An illustration is the case of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, we leave from glory, wealth, dominating of earth to be like less than animals eating grass without direction. Only God can make us really humans and attain our destiny and fulfilling our mission. With God we have the greatest value and price but without him we are useless, short lived and divided as well as impoverished.

9. What Is Dominion Over The Fish Of The Sea ?

Jesus is the perfect example of Man as wanted by God. He exercised dominion over seas as he could walk upon them, control the winds, operate a miraculous catch of fishes. Nowadays humans have developed various means to explore and exploit water resources through sophisticated technology and ships. God's will was for Man to take care of this precious resource which is the marine world.

In fact, dominion over all living creatures is not a license to abuse them, but a contract from God to care for them. The deep sea has always been an important area for human exploitation. As such, resources like fish, oil and gas have been taken from the sea for many decades. Unfortunately human activities tend to destroy the environment and particularly oceans and seas. For instance more than 10 million metric tons of plastic, around 85% of marine litter, ends up in oceans around the world every year.

Seas and waters teach us how to flow and avoid being rigid, we therefore learn from what we are supposed to dominate. We cannot have control over what we don't master. Water is about adaptation, giving bountifully, it doesn't fight obstacles but go around them. We should work on cultivating physical and mental flexibility, be open-minded. We learn to find serenity in stillness through meditation and relaxation. Water reflects the sky clearly, so should we reflect Godly values and principles clearly in our lives. Water is ever-changing, from liquid to ice to vapor. So should we be able to embrace change in all situation. We should equally learn patience, purity and clarity. Waters are about connection so should we learn sound sociability.

Lessons from sea's and waters creatures such as turtles, whales, sea horses, copepods. These animals are clear evidence of faithfulness, true love, resilience and capacity to face difficulties. In addition, ocean ecosystems reveal new sources for medical therapies and vaccines, food, energy, and more as well as inspire inventions that mimic adaptations of deep-sea animals.³ Men can learn from sea creatures adaptation in the sense that to adapt, those creatures' body are

streamlined and hence, they can swim easily. They have gills as the respiratory organs.

Importance of seas and waters to man's existence is obvious, the *Ocean Conservation Trust*⁴ states that without waters, most of our planet would be desert. The Ocean provides proteins to nearly 3 billion humans and every plant, vegetables and animal has grown through access to water produced through the water cycle driven by the Ocean. So, everything you eat is connected to the Ocean. The ocean sustain us. It provides oxygen, food and medicine and is a source of recreation, discovery, identity and culture.

1. NOAA Ocean Exploration - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
2. <https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/facts/why>
3. The Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) is a charity dedicated to taking positive action in the restoration and protection of the ocean.

Oceans and seas can be unpredictable environment due to the powers of waters which can drown people and also because of dangerous species and animals found in there. In fact, the most dangerous animals in the ocean include sharks, barracuda, jellyfish, and stingrays. These animals can all cause serious injury or even death to humans. There are large, powerful predators, areas and plants that can attack or cause harm without warning. Therefore dominating implies also being careful, wise and intelligent in the way Man does and interact with nature. Leadership lessons from oceans and seas are awesome and useful to better up human condition. One of these is that we can never grow in our comfort zone in the same way we cannot cross waters if we are afraid to lose sight of the shore. One must be able to adapt to changing circumstances and environments. Great leaders also have a voice that resonates. It carries vision and hope. Leadership isn't just about speaking. It's about being heard, understood, and followed. *"Good leaders remain lifelong learners. They are never content with the status quo, always looking beyond, always seeking to know more."* *"Leaders understand that they're only as strong as the team behind them."*⁵

While the physical sea is the interconnected system of all the Earth's Oceanic waters, including the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans, the spiritual sea refers to a place where are found some spiritual beings living in the underwater spiritual realm. Underwater Spirits are powerful beings said to inhabit the watery below world.

10. What Is Dominion Over The Birds Of The Air ?

Dominion is not the authority to work against God's creation, but the ability to work for it. Dominion over the birds of the heavens imply exploring, catering, learning from and developing the potentials and resources provided by the heavens and its creatures such as birds.

The reason God wanted Man to have dominion over birds of the air is for various reasons in the sense that birds play a vital role in controlling pests, acting as pollinators, and maintaining island ecology⁶. Birds play an essential role in the functioning of the world's ecosystems, in a way that directly impacts human health, economy and food production. About 5% of the plants humans use for food or medicine are pollinated by birds. Birds' poop is important fertilizer. Their spore-spreading can keep entire forests healthy. Birds are environmentally friendly exterminators.

- 1- https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fskipprichard.com%2F7-leadership-lessons-from-under-the-sea%2F&psig=AOvVaw1n6X20WHn3tIfPifgxF_4r&ust=1737543499275000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CAQQn5wMahcKEwi1dyY04aLAXUAAAAAHQAAAAAQBAA
- 2- UK health alliance on climate change

In addition, birds are useful in protecting our drinking water by preventing erosion. They slow the spread of disease. They keep the furniture industry supplied with timber. As far as human technology is concerned, birds have detected poisonous gases in mines, helped us convey messages to soldiers and alerted armies to the arrival of enemy aircraft in wars. They inspired air navigation and space exploration as well as atmospheric controls.

Spiritually, in Matthew 6:26, birds are taken by our Lord Jesus as an example of God's care for his creation. Powerful birds as eagles are used in the Bible as pictures of strength, and owls representing desolation (Isaiah 34:11). Birds carry deep spiritual symbolism in the Bible, often representing freedom, divine messages, and human soul. Jesus uses the birds to teach us not to be anxious about our needs because we are of greater value to God. Trust in God's providence.

Dominion according to God is to give, to save, to develop by a good leadership. The dominion of man over elements of the nature was a symbol of God's great love, for Man

to control the environment he depends on which was provided to him in abundance by God.

But the sin of man, his selfishness, lust of the flesh, materialism, love of money has led to a brutal and irresponsible dominion that led to pollution such as plastic and oil spills, to more invisible pollutants like light and sound which destroy the ecosystem and kill birds. Ozone pollution directly harms birds by damaging their respiratory systems, and indirectly harms their food sources. Studies have confirmed that birds, which share the air that we breathe, are afflicted by the same respiratory problems as humans when exposed to air pollution. Birds are on the decline globally, threatened by climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, over exploitation, and human-wildlife conflict.

11. What Is Dominion Over Cattle ?

The Bible tells us that God gave humanity dominion over the animals, it was in order to care for, tend to, and use those animals to their fullest potential in a holy and pure manner. The idea is to protect them, not to abuse them for our own ends. Dominion over all living creatures is not a license to abuse them, but a contract from God to care for them. Just in his own image humans are supposed to learn to rule over one's lower nature, including physical, emotional and mental bodies.

The cattle are a part of the brute creation that lies under the curse of God, because of man's sin. Dominion is the right to make decisions and to rule. Dominion does not necessarily mean ownership but rulership. God being the only true and rightful owner of every creation as their maker.

12. What Are The Original Capacities of Human ?

Central to the teachings of the Bible, is the fact that humans beings are in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27, James 3:9). The image implies the capacities that set man apart from the other animals and creatures. The Bible

indicates that humans only and alone were exclusively created in God's image and likeness. Each human is a being of immeasurable dignity created in the image and likeness of God, with a spiritual and immortal soul (or spirit)

Humans are in the image of God but are not God. The specificity of human nature is precisely a spirit-body-soul composite with corresponding capacities, such as a will, mind, and emotions, intellect, emotions, fears, passions, and creativity. The particularity of Man was his sovereignty within the cosmos, his capacity for social existence, and his knowledge and love of the Creator. Which are all rooted in his inner being and heart.

13. What Is Dominion Over Every Creeping Thing That Creeps Upon The Earth ?

Animals that creep on the earth refer to the species that crawls including reptilia. Their particularity is that they either creep or crawl on the ground, they lay eggs also on the ground, they lay hard-shelled eggs and very few give birth to live young, their body is covered with scales or scutes, they are cold blooded. They include different kinds of vertebrates that includes, lions, all kind of animals living on the earth ground, snakes, lizards, alligators, crocodiles, turtles, worm-lizards, caimans, ant, butterfly, crab, moth, lobster and spiders.

Today is familiar to see men killed by animals and the reverse is more important in the sense that poaching has caused serious damages to the animal wildlife. The effects of poaching can be seen on extinction and systemic loss of biodiversity, loss of natural resources and severe economic repercussions. In addition to imperiling highly valued, rare species, Dobson and Lynes (2008) argued that poaching reduces the effective size of natural areas, catastrophic loss of wildlife and biodiversity in the natural world. This is in total contradiction of God's will who has always wanted Man to cater for as a steward i.e. to protect and preserve God's creation for future generations.

14. Is Man Still In The Image And Likeness Of Yahweh ?

Man exists only in the context of God. When we refer to the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1), the idea is all about how man was made prior to the fall. According to the scriptures, though Adam and Eve sinned (Genesis 3), and man has "fallen," Scripture indicates that men still bear the image and likeness of God.

In fact, Man's fall into sin didn't destroy or remove the image of God. It somehow disfigured it. But even a broken mirror can be mended. Even broken or damaged we do not lose our nature, we need repair until our last breath. In that sense, the New Testament confirms that God's image isn't lost by pointing out that all people, not just Christians, "are made in the likeness of God" (James 3:9, ESV).

Being in God's image refers to the fact that humans are supposed to be a copy of God in their moral, spiritual, intellectual and emotional beings. The question whether this is a reality nowadays can be asked but will a lot of suspicions. In nowadays society, moral decadence is the order of the day. Moral decay manifests in various forms, such as the breakdown of trust, a decline in empathy and compassion, a disregard for honesty and integrity, and a lack of accountability. Many reasons are assigned to such situation namely inadequacy of religious education, the influence of media, poor parenting, injustice in society, economic disparities, materialistic approach, discriminatory rule of law and absence of content in school curriculum are the main

causes of the moral decay in society.

3- Science.direct.com

15. Is Man Still Having Dominion Over All The Creation And Why ?

As the Bible tells us in Psalm 8:6, GOD has made Man to have dominion over the works of his hands; He has put all things under Man's feet. This implies that God has put all things under man's control. So that he might serve himself, not only of the labour, but of the productions and lives of the inferior creatures. In reality God is the sole and true ruler of the universe including earth. God has sovereign power over His creation and has delegated the authority to mankind to have dominion over material creation (Genesis 1). But God's rulership is based on holiness, justice and fairness. In several instance Man has abused over his power in the use of natural mineral, vegetal and animal resources. The effects of abuse of power can be devastating, leading to loss of trust, respect, and credibility.

Having dominion is all about preserving nature and human habitat. Unfortunately due to Man's destructive action on the cosmos he was assigned to cater for, we can notice habitat fragmentation and destruction, extinction of some key organisms in ways that make them extremely vulnerable to natural disturbances, climate change, or further human disturbances. This at the end questions as to the true dominion by men or by some evil forces deceiving and exploiting Man's potential as given to him by God.

16. Moving With The Spirit Or Moving With The Flesh ?

« *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh* » says Galatians 5 : 16. We are therefore called upon to walk, and keep on walking, by the Spirit's power and guidance. Becoming a Christian does not mean the flesh is automatically dead. Rather, it means a struggle starts within for control of our life between the flesh and the newly revived human spirit. The expression walk by the Spirit is a metaphor that Paul uses to describe the way in which believers are called to live. But what does that mean to walk by the spirit ?

This means that there is a war between flesh and spirit. In fact that flesh lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that we wish to do. Hence evil spirit influence negatively our flesh to pose acts contrary to the wish of God operated by the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Ghost focuses on how God's Spirit gives those in Christ the power to serve others in love. As Jesus said, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." The flesh is our old, carnal nature. It must be dominated upon and veiled with the new nature which is spiritual in order to remove the weak-willed man in us.

17. What Are The Perspectives For A Better Humanity ?

God's will for us is to always be joyous and happy. He calls upon us to pray continuously without ceasing. We must also be grateful in all circumstances and situations. This is revealed to us in the Bible in 1. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. It is stated : "*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" However humanity is facing a number of calamity and suffering nowadays such as famine, hunger, suicide, depression, sickness, suffering, criminality, civil disorder, terrorism, war, biological/chemical threat, cyber-attacks, etc.

which makes man not to experience happiness, joy, and abundance as wished by God.

The only way to change for good of humanity is to come back to God. Natural disasters and sickness have highlighted individual and societal vulnerability, none is great or powerful enough in front of nature. There is a need for a better sense of connection among the poor, rich, and everyone in between. The way we raise and educate our children should change with great emphasis on the fear and service of the Lord. Citizens and political leaders should strive to be holy and uncorrupt for the glory of God and the betterment of everyone living conditions. The whole idea is to change perceptions and behavior to see God in Man and vice versa.

18. What Is The Nature Of The Relationship Between Humans And Angels ?

In the book of Psalm 8 :5, it is written that « *For you have made Man a little lower than the angels. You have crowned him with glory and honor* ». This implies according to scriptures that the love of God for Man is so great that Jesus chose to become a man to save humankind accepting to be lower than angels who served him as the Son of God Himself (Hebrews 2:9 applies Psalm 8:5 to Jesus). Christ was made temporarily lower than the angels because it opens up the possibility of death, something which angels do not suffer.

We are therefore called upon to feel special and show humbleness considering the fact that despite humankind being lower than the angels, God appointed us to rule the earth. The question we would like to answer here is how do we relate with the heavenly creatures such as angels ?

It should be noted that there are some common features between Men and angels for instance the fact that both were created by the same God Yahweh for the sole purpose to act in order to worship and glorify their creator. However some key differences prevail such as their role, their procreation methods and the uniqueness of Man's image according to God's own image as he is the only being created in the image and likeness of God.

Angels don't have a direct relationship with mankind, they usually are at the service of God and are therefore in contact with him, obeying, praising and worshipping him. However, there are instances in which angels spoke to human beings such as Zechariah to tell him that his infertile wife would have a son, the angel Gabriel visit to Mary, an angel communicating with Hagar (Genesis 16), twice (Genesis 21:17-18), to the mother of Samson (Judges 13), to the women who came to Jesus's tomb on the third day (Matthew 28:1-7). We even have instances where fallen angels, called "sons of God" (ben Elohim) in Genesis 6, were taking women, called "daughters of men," for sexual relationships which led to the birth of nephilim, giants and renowned men of old.

Through the Holy scriptures we realize that angels can interact with human by procreation, eating human foods and enjoying their shelter (Genesis 6:1-4). This could imply that angels either possess human characteristics or can transform in some circumstances to possess them. For instance, the angel in Genesis 32 uses a human form to wrestle with Jacob on even footing.

There is a belief in a supernatural world other than the earthly one in which we live. It appears that supernatural beings exist on Earth. This is confirmed by the Bible referring to angels, demons and nephilims. To get in touch with the supernatural, people use ways such as witchcraft or magic. A practice

which is contrary to God's will who desires a clear distinction in between the two worlds and forbids such practices : *“Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God »*. The books of Samuel contain many references to supernatural sub-divine beings, including angels, cherubim, and spirits.

19. Man As The Greatest Treasure

In the Book of Mark 8 : 34 – 38, it is written : *« For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? »*. This extract demonstrates the preciousness of the three dimensions of Man above all material gains and riches in this world. Some authors refers to Man as the three treasures which are the soul, the spirit and the body.

The soul etymologically refers to breath or in other words breath instilled or given to Man by God and that enables him to be in motion or alive and therefore capable of operating in this life. It is somehow the disembodied person of a human being. It has the particularity of being everlasting, immaterial, the source of life, the spiritual principle in all human beings, the human rationale. It is all about our feelings, thoughts, intelligence, emotions. It is considered as the seat of human existence, will and emotive riches. The soul deals with our personality, specificity, identity, memory, seat of consciousness, soul is the subject matter, importance, rationale, objective, aim and existential value of a human being.

It is in other words its value, but none can value God's gift of himself to Man. The soul is what makes Man to be a divine creature so special beyond all riches, above all other creation, capable of the best and the worst and inevitably the purported dominion of the universe after Yahweh. Man is the masterpiece of God's creation and so his souls. That is why he was created the last day before God rested after taking so much time and skills to make someone who resembled him. The soul of Man is a best piece of the nature of God, the image of his wealth and riches.

As far as the body is concerned, the etymology refers to the physical, material, earthly dimension of a human being. The body gives life to physical or material existence and is bound to earthly laws such as physical food and well being. The body is the visible part of a human being making possible earthly existence. The human body is made up of a coherent and complementary set of parts, organs, tissues, blood, bones that constitute the human organism.

According to the Bible, Man was made out of ground meaning. The word « ground » takes its origin from the terms bottom; foundation; surface of the earth, residue at the bottom of a liquid. Dust of the ground from which Man was made therefore implies the fine, dry particles of earth so light that Man could be raised and carried by the wind. A grain of dust is usually something of no value (humbleness is the foundation of the creation of Man). So the only thing valuable in Man is the presence of God who can carry him to greatest heights, the body is worthless in itself if disconnected from God.

Concerning the spirit, it refers to the breath or breathing. It is the starting and lasting point of any creature. This is considering the fact without air or breathing there is no existence. In Genesis 2 : 7, it is clearly stated that LORD God formed Adam out of the soil of the earth,

and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. What therefore makes something living is God's breath without which the thing is dead. In other words living without Christ tantamount to death. In Greek spirit is linked to pneuma known today as pneumatics which is indispensable in any life, technology, industry, mechanics, systems.

The spirit is the animating or vital principle of life. It is independent from any other material unlike the body and soul. It is linked with imagination, creativity and innovation. The most prominent and superior spirit is the Holy Ghost which has capacities such as eternity, omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. Man is the combination of these three great and precious gifts which are the body, the soul and the spirit. Nothing even the whole world cannot buy. Therefore killing is the greatest theft and destructive act of life.

20. Man As The Demonstration Of God's Greatness

Man was created on the 06th day, the figure 06 represents balance, harmony, and perfection. It is minus 01 that is lesser than a God though having all the attributes. It became the symbol of imperfection due to disobedience to Yahweh and the introduction of sin in a holy and perfect environment. This sin led to his decadence spiritually, morally, physically and in all the various dimensions of life. But from the onset and as true as God is real, Man's greatness need to be under covered in various aspects such as his dominion over demons, over forces of nature, over physical weaknesses, over psychological barriers, over challenges due to distance and time, over worries, fears, over temptations. These powers makes him special and able to communicate but argue and see reason with Yahweh who has always wanted Man as a companion, a son, a close aid to rule over the Earth and co-rule over the universe.

Concerning dominions over nature that is the environment and animal reign, the role to assign names to all creatures being plants trees and animals was given to Man. By such it can be deduced that he was given wisdom, knowledge and special capacities to decide the fate of each creature of God. The name determines the fate, the reputation and the importance given to a thing or a being. By so doing God really made Man to be like him that is a creator of content, of life and of the world of nature under his dominion.

Regarding minerals, the control of waters, minerals under the soil such as diamond, gold, cobalt, etc as well the other on surface are exploited, used and controlled by man for his well being. But unfortunately, water pollution, mismanagement are the order of the day demonstrating that the fact that Man has turned his face against his God has twisted his original conception and image such as a god in the likeness of the only true God Yahweh.

As far as peoples are concerned relating to kingdoms and empires that has long been existed and still exist, it appears glaringly clear that most empires under human dominion such as Hebrews, Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Medes, Macedonian, Greek, Romans, have all risen and fallen due to their rivalries, ungodly, immoral and irresponsible attitude towards Men and God.

Man appears hence as the demonstration of God's greatness in the sense that he can do so much beyond imagination. The world is the product of only around 10% of man's abilities. This is because he is debased and distracted. Human beings focused on God will make heaven but far away from him it is

hell. Knowledge, omnipotence, omnipresence are the main characteristics of God and man has always struggle to be like the source of his existence who is Yahweh. Only one hurdle prevents him from doing that which is sin and unbelief.

21. Man And All Creation Is Not About Him But About The Creator

The creation is in a nutshell the manifestation of God's greatness and love (Isaiah 43:7; Isaiah 60:20; Romans 11:36). God wants to share with others what He is and Has. The immensity, the depth, the height and richness of the world is simply the expression of Yahweh's limitless capacity, creativity, greatness, glory, mercy and blessings. He alone corresponds to such criteria. When we read the Bible it appears clear that all was made by Him and without Him there is only chaos and void (1 John 1: 3; Hebrews 11:3). The Bible tells us that there is no excuse for not knowing God in the sense that nature is just a way to display God's invisible qualities. Creation is of God and by consequence its purpose is for Him first and foremost rightfully. God made of nothing something immensely valuable such as the universe out of His loving creativeness. Creation declares the glory of God (Psalm 19 :1).

22. Conclusion and Perspectives

The aim of this research was to examine the nature of Mankind. This implied questioning Man's origins, final destination. But also his relationship with the true God, his full capacities, what he is made of, why things are the way they are. Moreover, globalization and related topics such as robotics and others lead us to interrogate ourselves on our real nature as human beings. Humans are in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature.

The nature of humankind, his origins, his final destination and his relationship with the true God is determining who truly Man is. Current issues such as globalization, robotics, environment protection necessarily led us to question the essence and the deep nature of humanity.

It appeared from our various analyses that Man is a product from the ground of the earth implying that he is the symbol of receiving vessel and was meant as such to portray humility, wisdom, knowledge, power, growth and prosperity. Man is the best wine that God served at the end of the creation. Man is capable of the worst or the best as Yahweh himself. Man is like the special guest that comes last.

it is important to underline the fact that each creation or construction is for a purpose, for instance a road is meant for traffic, a boat to sea navigation, a plane for the air, a knife to cut. In the same way, Man was created for relationship with God and others which is the key to joy and peace. Contrarily to a number of theories such as evolutionism, *human kind was created by Divine's decree, in God's image and were created man and woman.*

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