

Composition of the Body of Christ

- Colossians 1:24, "the body of Christ, which is the church"
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 talks about "hand, the eye, the ear, the nose, the foot," as though each member plays an integral part, operating somewhere in the body of Christ.
- The Christian is both part of the whole and of one another, and all belong to Christ.
- Christians are simultaneously both individual and corporate members. 1 Corinthians 12:27, "Now you (plural) are Christ's body, and individually members of it." Literally, "members from a part of it (ἐκ μέρους)."

Made in the "Image of God"

"Some scholars argue that the image of God has a corporate dimension: There is no one human individual or group who can fully bear or manifest all that is involved in the image of God, so that there is a sense in which that image is collectively possessed. The image of God is, as it were, parceled out among the peoples of the earth. By looking at different individuals and groups we get glimpses of different aspects of the full image of God."

Reference: Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 377).

What is "Race"?

- According to modern culture, **Race** is the sum of inherited **physical** traits that characterize people into groups according to **outward features such as cranial shape, facial features, skin color, etc.** (Creation Ministries).
- Webster's (1994), "persons of common descent, blood, or heredity."
- No word in the Bible corresponds to the modern idea of "race."
- "KJV (1611) has no word "race" except a competitive event where people run. This was the English Bible until 1901 (American Standard Version), where the word "race" first appeared in a Bible.
- The best modern translation (NASB 1995) mentions "race" only 6 times: 2 OT and 4 NT.

"Race" in the OT

Zera, זרע "seed"

Ezra 9:2, "For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has intermingled with the peoples of the lands; indeed, the hands of the princes and the rulers have been foremost in this unfaithfulness."

Mamzer, ממזר "bastard of incest"

Zechariah 9:6, "And a mongrel race will dwell in Ashdod, And I will cut off the pride of the Philistines."

"Race" in the NT

Genos (γένος): descendant, ancestry, posterity

Mark 7:26, "Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophoenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter."

Acts 7:19, "It was he who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their infants and they would not survive."

“Race” in the NT

Genos (γένος): descendant, ancestry, posterity

1 Peter 2:9, “But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Phusis (φύσις): nature, essential character

James 3:7, “For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.”

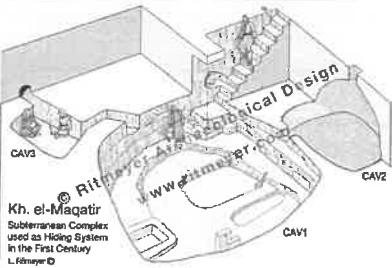
God’s Redemptive Plan



Painting by Hyatt Moore, depicting the famous scene in heaven, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Revelation 5:9). Shown here, left to right: Crow of Montana, Berber of North Africa, Masai of Kenya, China, Ecuador, Afghanistan, Jesus, Ethiopia, Tzeltal of Mexico, Canela of Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Salishi of British Columbia, Mongolia, www.hyattmoore.com.

Israeli Skeletons Discovered at Ai

In 2013, archaeologists unearthed skeletons of 7 women and one teenage boy who died violently at the hands of Roman soldiers in 69 AD, evidenced by location of arrowheads and shoe studs.



Kh. el-Maqatir Subterranean Complex used as Hiding System in the First Century
L. Edmeyer ©



Jesus Condemned Racism

Jesus rebuked His disciples for their hostility to the Samaritans (Luke 9:53-56). The disciples "went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. ⁵³ But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But He turned and rebuked them, *and said*, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; ⁵⁶ for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village.

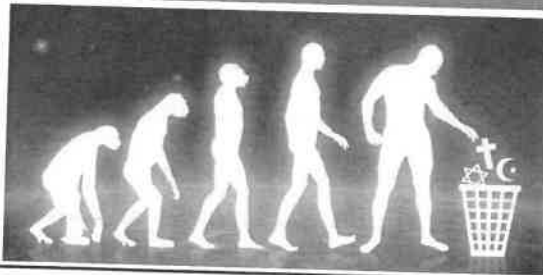
Biblical Perspectives on "Race"

- [God to Samuel]: "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1Sam 16:7).
- [Jesus]: "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment," (John 7:24).
- [Jesus]: "You people judge according to the flesh; I am not judging anyone," (John 8:15).
- [Paul]: "From now on we recognize no man according to the flesh," (2Cor 5:16). (MSB commentary: we are not to "evaluate people according to external, human, worldly standards" (including "race").

Biblical Perspectives on "Race"

- Every human's value and dignity and worth is inherent.
- Every human's value and dignity and worth is not an achievement.
- Every human has been created in the image and likeness of God. This is what gives human beings their value.
- Every human's value and dignity and worth is infinite.
- BUT one's value and dignity and worth doesn't exceed anyone else's.

"Race" is an Evolutionary Concept



Generations Since Creation

<u>Dispensation</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Generations</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Adam to Abraham	2,500	20	Genesis 5; 11; Luke 3
Abraham to David	1,000	14	71 y/gen (Matthew 1; Luke 3)
David to Jesus	1,000	42	24 y/gen (Luke 3)
<u>Jesus to 2021</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>83</u>	24 y/gen
Total	>6,000	159	

Long Term Evolutionary Experiment

LTEE being led by Richard Lenski, tracking genetic changes in 12 initially identical populations of asexual *Escherichia coli* bacteria since 24 February 1988. The populations reached the milestone of 50,000 generations in February 2010 and 66,000 in November 2016. Lenski and his colleagues have reported a wide array of phenotypic and genotypic changes in the evolving populations. These have included changes that have occurred in all 12 populations and others that have only appeared in one or a few populations. For example, all 12 populations showed a similar pattern of rapid improvement in fitness that decelerated over time, faster growth rates, and increased cell size. Half of the populations have evolved defects in DNA repair that have caused mutator phenotypes marked by elevated mutation rates. The most striking adaptation reported so far is the evolution of aerobic growth on citrate, which is unusual in *E. coli*, in one population at some point between generations 31,000 and 31,500. Lenski took the decision to pause the experiment on 9 March 2020 when his lab temporarily closed as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. All of the long-term lines have been placed into ultra-low-temperature storage until such time as they can be defrosted for the experiment to continue. "E. coli long-term evolution experiment", Wikipedia (accessed 06/07/2020). https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._coli_long-term_evolution_experiment

Critical Race Theory

<u>Fundamental Questions</u>	<u>CRT</u>	<u>The Bible</u>
Who are we?	Group Members	God's image bearers
What is our problem?	Oppression	Sin
What is the new birth?	Works	Regeneration
What is the solution?	Liberation	Jesus Christ
What is our duty?	Liberate the oppressed	Great Commission
What is our purpose?	Work for collective salvation	Glorify God

Ref: Andy Woods, Chafer.edu, 2021.

Conclusions

- There is no biblical concept of "race" as our culture defines it.
- There is no place for racism or evolution in the biblical text.
- If you are a human being, you are made in God's image and likeness, therefore equal to every other human being.
- The Body of Christ is still under construction, both in time and space, a global, all-inclusive, fully integrated, multi-generational, multi-cultural, enterprise that began on the Day of Pentecost in spring of AD 30 and continues until today.
- John 13:34-35
