

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

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Over the past year or so there have been many protests involving hatred of one group of people toward another based on skin-color, from light to dark and shades in-between. Regardless of varied political opinions, it behooves us to be reminded of the basic truths about human beings as revealed in the Holy Bible which is the only 100% reliable source of information. Therefore, the topic which will be considered in this month's bulletin is: **racial realities**.

So-called "evolution" is a lie of man's science-falsely-so-called, for **Genesis 1:1** clearly states: **"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."** Furthermore, human beings were created by God and did NOT evolve from lower forms of life, for the Triune **"God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them 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. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."** (Genesis 1:26-27)

A bit more detail is given to us concerning man's creation in **Genesis 2:7**, where we read: **"the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."** **Genesis 2:18-24** adds: **"the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."**

Comment: Observe that human beings are superior to the animals, the birds, and the fish, since God gave human beings a SOUL, while the animals, birds, and fish are soulless creatures.

Interestingly, **Genesis 3:20** reports: **"Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."**

Comment: Adam was the first man and Eve was the first woman. Note well that Eve is the mother of ALL living! Thus, EVERY subsequent HUMAN BEING IS DESCENDED FROM EVE, REGARDLESS OF SKIN-COLOR.

Yes, it's a fact that every human being since the creation of Adam and Eve is descended from Eve, regardless of skin-color, for **Acts 17:24-28** informs us: **"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath,**

and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”

Comment: ALL nations, ALL peoples of the earth, are from ONE BLOOD – Adam and Eve being our first parents – be we red, yellow, black, or white in skin-color.

There’s a big problem we’ve ALL inherited from our first parents regardless of our skin-color: SIN! You can read details about the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:1-19. The result of our first parents’ fall is evident in **Romans 5:12**, which declares: **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”**

*Comment: Note that sin and death entered the world by the fall of our first parents into sin. It’s a fact that people of ALL skin-colors die. Hence, it’s true we are all conceived and born in sin, for in honesty we must all confess as did David the Psalmist: **“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” (Psalm 51:5)** Yes, it’s a fact that we human beings are all sinners regardless of skin-color, for, **“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.” (Job 14:4)***

Thankfully, God in His grace and mercy sent the sinful world of human beings a Savior, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the promised Seed of the woman. God said to the devil: **“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)** Thus, we all have reason to be grateful to God, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)** **“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)**

There was NO “ice-age” as man’s science-falsely-so-called teaches. RATHER, there was a WORLD-WIDE FLOOD. **“GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.**

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” (Genesis 6:5-22)

Comment: Noah and his wife, and Noah's sons with their wives, were the surviving human beings from whom the earth was again populated after the world-wide flood. Accordingly, ALL races (ALL skin-colors) came forth from those couples.

“And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan. These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread. And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.” (Genesis 9:18-27)

Comment: Noah's getting drunk was sinful. However, Noah's youngest son named Ham (also known as Canaan) was more sinful in that he disrespected his father, failed to cover him, shared the incident with his two older brothers, and made a joke of the situation. Hence, note that Ham (Canaan) was cursed to be a servant of servants (the lowest of the low) to both his brothers. Nevertheless, throughout history people who served as slaves were NOT ONLY dark-skinned descendants of Ham. For example, in the Holy Bible the term “servant” is often equivalent to “slave” as is evident in the following Scripture passage in which a Jew purchased another Jew: “If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.” (Exodus 21:2-6) Another example of slavery can be read about in the New Testament book of Philemon. A man named Onesimus was servant {Greek “doulos” = bond-servant, slave} to a man named Philemon.

Some interesting historical racial facts follow:

Ham's descendants include people with a dark skin-color, as found on the African continent, for we read in **Psalm 78:51** about: **"...Egypt; the chief of their strength in the tabernacles of Ham"**

Shem's descendants notably include the Jews (also known as Semites)— the Hebrew people from whom Jesus Christ came, according to the flesh. **"And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli... of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor, Which was the son of Saruch, which was the son of Ragau, which was the son of Phalec, which was the son of Heber, which was the son of Sala, Which was the son of Cainan, which was the son of Arphaxad, which was the son of Sem, which was the son of Noe, which was the son of Lamech..."** (Luke 3:23, 34-36) [Shem = Sem {Greek form}; Noah = Noe {Greek form}]

Japheth's descendants are the European peoples, generally folks with a light skin-color. **"The sons of Japheth; Gomer, and Magog, and Madai, and Javan, and Tubal, and Meshech, and Tiras."** (1 Chronicles 1:5) **"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog... Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel."** (Ezekiel 38:1-2; 39:1-2) Note that the region of Gog is the "north parts"— the lands well north of Israel.

Comment: Regardless of the history of the various races of people, the truth remains that people of ALL skin-colors are related and are ALL sinners in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ! **"The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."** (Psalm 14:2-3) *Thankfully,* **"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."** (1 John 4:9-10) **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."** (John 3:36)

Therefore, having viewed **racial realities** from the Holy Bible, let us remember that people are people, conceived and born in sin no matter what skin-color they may have. Thankfully, **"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** (2 Corinthians 5:19-21) Indeed, the Gospel of Christ is meant for ALL. Let us pray that folks everywhere of all skin-colors would sincerely repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, for, **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12) Let us strive to be loving to all our fellow human beings since our Lord Jesus says: **"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."** (Matthew 22:37-40)

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