

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Evolution as Shown in the Bible

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**W**here have we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? Let us seek the answers to these questions in the Bible.

### Part 1: The Creation of Form

*John* 4:24 says: "God is spirit." *Revelations* 1:8 says: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." The 'Alpha and the Omega' means 'the beginning and the end'. *II Corinthians* 4:18 adds: "For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." Thus, the unseen Spirit, which we call God, was in the beginning, is now, and will be for all future time.

*James* 1:18 says: "Of his own will he brought us forth." In *Proverbs* 8:22-31, wisdom is portrayed as saying:

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work the first of his acts of old.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth; before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the sons of men.

Thus the unseen Spirit, God, first formed wisdom. He conceived the patterns according to which Creation was to be formed before making the forms themselves.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." *John* 1:1 "By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear." *Hebrews* 11:3 In *Genesis* 1, the creation of form is described as a process in which God spoke forms into being. "And God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. . . .And God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' . . .And God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' . . .And God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation'. . . .And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years.' . . .And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures.' . . .And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures.' . . .Then God said, 'Let us make man in our own image.'"

When we speak, we make the air vibrate. By setting our lips and tongue in different positions we make the vibrations occur in specific patterns which are heard as words. Thus we may picture God as having set up some sort of patterned vibration, which appears to us as matter.

All that is was created by God. ". . .in him all things were created,

in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible." *Colossians* 1:16 Note that it says that all things were created *in* Him, so that that which was created is still within God and still a part of Him. "In him we live and move and have our being." *Acts* 17:28.

Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

If I ascend to heaven, thou art there!

If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!

If I take up the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. *Psalms* 139:7-10

Since God made all and is in all, He knows all. In *Jeremiah* 23:24, God is recorded as saying, "Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? . . . Do I not fill heaven and earth?" In *Psalms* 44:21 it is said of God: "He knows the secrets of the heart." *Matthew* 6:8 adds: "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him."

Concerning the creation of man, *Genesis* 1:27 tells us: "God created man in his own image." Since God is a Spirit, man also is a Spirit. Man's Spirit is temporarily clothed in a body. When the Spirit leaves the body it extracts from the body and keeps the experiences it has gained in the body, and these form the soul. Paul describes this in 1 *Corinthians* 15:42-44:

What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body.

The spiritual body referred to here is the soul.

Since man was made in the image of God, and since God's Spirit is eternal, it may be inferred that man's Spirit is also eternal, even though his physical body is transient.

Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things

that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. *II Corinthians* 4:16-18

Under ordinary circumstances man's soul is kept until its essence is amalgamated with the Spirit (the exception being the case of one who becomes so tightly connected with the forces of evil that he becomes unredeemable). "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." *Matthew* 10:28

Originally each human was double-sexed, each being a complete creative unit. But humanity then was lacking a brain. In order to build the brain, half of the creative force was turned upward. This left only half of the creative force available for pro-creation, so that thereafter a partner was needed to pro-create. This is described, symbolically, in *Genesis* 2:21-22:

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman.

The Hebrew word which was translated as "rib" should have been translated as "side" in this passage.

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## THE "MYSTERIUM MAGNUM" OF THE ROSE CROSS

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you by your fruits; therefore *say little, serve much.*

It is to the everlasting praise of Mahomet that his wife became his first disciple, and it speaks volumes for his kindness and consideration in the home, an example we shall all do well to follow, if we would win our friends for the higher life. Though all religious systems differ outwardly, *the kernel of all is love.*

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"Open your eyes to your strength, close them to your weakness."

—L. Adams Beck