

Answers... with Ken Ham

Where did the
'races' come from?

STUDY GUIDE

Where did Cain get his wife? and *Where did the 'races' come from?* are two of the most commonly asked questions by the secular world when challenging the Biblical worldview. As Christians strive to uphold the basis of their faith and Biblical authority, it is important that they be able to provide answers to these questions (1 Peter 3:15).

1. Biblical view of human ancestry:
 - a. Adam was the first man (1 Corinthians 15:45).
 - b. Eve was the first woman (Genesis 3:20, literally: *she was to be the mother of all the living*).
 - c. Adam and Eve had sons and daughters (Genesis 5:4—note, this does not say when they had them, so many could have been born before Seth).
 - d. Originally, brothers and sisters married and had children together. So Cain's wife was either his sister or other close relative.
 - e. Noah and his family were the only people left on Earth after the Flood, so all modern humans are descended from them (who in turn descended from Adam and Eve), and are, therefore, all related (Acts 17:26).
 - f. At Babel, the language barrier caused family groups to split from each other. Each group took with them certain genetic characteristics (e.g. genes for the production of more or less melanin (skin-coloring pigment)), which eventually gave rise to the so-called 'racial differences' between various people groups (these 'differences' are actually very minor—the genetic difference between any two people is .2%, while the differences attributable to what we think of as 'racial' variation are only 6% of that, i.e. .012%. The differences between the mean of any two 'races' is less than the differences within any one 'race'! Along with genetic characteristics, the groups also took with them accounts that had been passed on to them of the beginning of the world and the great Flood that occurred during the time of their forefather. There are over 200 different accounts of a great flood told by various people groups.

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- g. 'Cave men' were merely men who lived in caves—some people even do this today! Most people today, if isolated from civilization like the groups after the Babel dispersion, would be unable to smelt metal or build houses, so could make use of stone tools and live in caves.
 - h. The effects of Adam's sin were passed to his children, so that all of his descendants are in need of salvation (Romans 5:12, ff).
 - i. Jesus Christ, took on human nature to become the 'Last Adam' (1 Corinthians 15:45), a member of the human race, to save descendants of the First Adam from sin by dying on the cross and rising from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
2. Objections to Biblical worldview:
- a. Laws against incest exist today. However, incest is a modern word describing a variety of actions, some of which have always been sinful. The Biblical laws against brother-sister marriage were first instituted for the Israelites around 2000 years after Adam—during the time of Moses (Leviticus 18).
 - b. Serious genetic defects can occur in offspring of close relatives today. However, in the beginning, because Adam and Eve were created perfectly, the genetic mutations were non-existent, and only began accumulating after his disobedience.
3. Secular worldview:
- a. At least four main 'races' have arisen over time: Caucasoid (European, 'white'), Mongoloid (Chinese, American Indian), Negroid (African, 'Black'), Australoid (Australian Aborigines).
 - b. The idea that one 'race' has evolved more than another provides a basis for the acceptance of racist ideas.

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CONCLUSION

There is only one 'race' of humans (Acts 17:26), all members of which are in need of salvation from their sin. Because only descendants of Adam can be saved, it is vital to understand that all humans are descendants of one man. Modern science confirms the Biblical teaching by classifying all humans as *Homo sapiens sapiens* (i.e. same genus, species, sub-species). Understanding the true, Biblical teaching regarding the origin of humanity provides the proper basis for understanding why we should evangelize all people groups who have lost the knowledge of their Creator.

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Q U O T E S

www.abcnews.com, Science page, We're all the same, September 10, 1998.

In an article in the summer issue of the *Journal of Counseling and Development*, Cameron and Wycoff argue that the term 'race' is so meaningless that it ought to be discarded. In the field of genetics, researchers have concluded that the genetic differences between the so-called races account for only 0.012 percent of human biological variation.

What the facts show is that there are differences among us, but they stem from culture, not race.

As Day adds, 'It's kind of like if all of us are recipes. We have the same ingredients, maybe in different amounts, no matter what kind of cake we turn out to be.'

Spoken before the American Association for the Advancement of Science Convention in Atlanta, by Robert Lee Hotz, *Los Angeles Times*, 1995.

'Race is a social construct derived mainly from perceptions conditioned by events of recorded history, and it has no basic biological reality,' said C. Loring Brace, a biological anthropologist at the University of Michigan. 'Curiously enough, the idea comes very close to being of American manufacture.'

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important for a Christian to be able to answer the question, 'Who was Cain's wife?'

2. Explain, in your own words, the answer to this question: 'Who was Cain's wife?'

3. Read Genesis 4:17. Did Cain actually find his wife in Nod?

4. Who was Cain frightened of so that he fled to the land of Nod?

5. Why is it important to evangelism to defend that all people groups are descended from Adam?

RESOURCES

One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism
by Ken Ham

Where did Cain get his wife?
by Ken Ham

The (Revised and Expanded) Answers Book
edited by Dr Don Batten

Where did the 'races' come from?
by Ken Ham

Four Big Questions
edited by Dr Don Batten