

What is Man? Adam, Alien or Ape?

Review by Rev. Jenno Sijtsma, February 8th, Epe, The Netherlands

The title of the book states without a doubt an essential question. Never before has there been a time when the search for Man's origin has been the subject of so much attention. Darwin's theory of evolution has conquered its millions, while at the same time many millions more don't know at all what to do with the theory - especially regarding the origin of Man. Anyway, it is a serious matter when the author of this book tells us that he investigated all kinds of solutions that perhaps could explain the phenomenon of 'Man' in the context of cosmology, biology, psychology, and - in the last part of the book - in de context of the biblical worldview.

The author

First a few words about the author, who has looked at this important subject from several different angles. Dr. Andrews is Emeritus Professor of Materials at the University of London and an international expert on the science of polymers (large molecules). He was born on December 16th, 1932, in Didcot (Oxfordshire), England. He was trained as a physicist and obtained a BSc in theoretical physics, a PhD in applied physics (specifically solid-state physics) and a DSc (a higher doctorate) in physics. In 1967 he set up the Department of Materials at Queen Mary College, University of London, and served both as its Head and later as Dean of Engineering. He has published well over 100 scientific research papers and books, together with several Bible Commentaries and various works on science and religion and on theology. His book *From Nothing to Nature* has been translated into ten languages. *What is Man? Adam, Alien or Ape?* is the sequel to *Who made God? Searching for a Theory of Everything* and can be read as a stand-alone book.

The divisions of the book

Dr. Andrews has divided his book into the following three parts: (1) Man and the Cosmos, (2) Man and the Biosphere and (3) Man and the Bible.

Man and the cosmos

Today we are provided with several plausible answers to the question: What is Man? These answers, according to dr. Andrews, are marked by two extremes: David and his psalm (8) and Darwin and his theory of evolution or the theory of common descent. Within these two extremes we find a range of several alternative theories, which dr. Andrews discusses extensively in his book.

When it is supposed that our consciousness somehow came into existence (emerged, or was awakened) by a conglomeration of neurons, chemical reactions and electrical impulses in what we call our brain, dr. Andrews maintains that an emerging or awakening consciousness doesn't happen by chance. And the notion that the universe created itself out of nothing and that the sheer existence of the laws of nature simply *had* to lead to a spontaneous creation of the universe, is parried by dr. Andrews with the contention that 'something or someone with an immaterial nature had to have created these laws of nature', and that they must have 'existed in the mind of an immaterial being.' That implies that these atheistic theories logically lead to the necessity of the existence of a creating God. Thus, the logic of the atheist is unsound. Dr. Andrews deals with many other subjects too, such as the chance of the existence of extraterrestrial life, mankind's uniqueness on a cosmic scale, the origin of the cosmos, and the multiverse. Andrews concludes: 'The answer to the question 'What is Man?' is not to be found in all kinds of 'multiversal ideas'.

Man and the biosphere

We don't find any materialistic explanation for the wonderful uniqueness of Man, and so it must be said: the uniqueness of Man among all the other self-conscious creatures is undeniable. Dr. Andrews explores the great and many differences between Man and his 'closest relative', the chimpanzee. It is now evident that there are more than 200 differences between human beings and chimpanzees, and that Darwin's theory of common descent is a myth of enormous proportions. This also means, says Andrews after making out his exciting and easy to read case against this theory, that the chimpanzees in the nearest zoo are not your closest relatives, and

that you don't have to send them a birthday card. He also shows that we can learn but very little about ourselves by studying the fossil remains of primates, and the problem with the ^{14}C dating method of Willard Frank Libby is that you can't use it to date anything that is older than 40,000 years. The part dealing with the brain and the mind of Man is very profound, and dr. Andrews shows that when we die our mind survives the dissolution process of the brain, because if every human mind is archived in the mind of God, the mind of Man survives the destruction of the brain in which it once resided.

Man and the Bible

In the previous two parts, the author dealt with the attempts of atheists, evolutionists and materialists to find the explanation for life, the universe and many other things. Of course, all these theories and speculations deliberately leave God out of the equation, but it becomes clear that none of them can offer us a definite answer. In refuting the claims of the sceptics, the author speaks plainly and doesn't beat around the bush. His claims are firmly grounded in Scripture and are based on the unique creation story in the book of Genesis: the fall of Adam and Eve and the results thereof. He is as honest as the day is long when he remarks that many who dismiss the first chapters of Genesis as total fiction, will not agree with his short (!) analysis, but, and I quote: '(...) the position I have outlined is, I suggest, the only one that allows us to take seriously the biblical claims that we must now examine, namely, (1) that God created Adam and Eve in 'his own image' and (2) that Jesus Christ came into the world to 'seek and to save that which was lost.' This God still continuously upholds His creation, and the future - the vision of John in the book of Revelation - will reveal where the purpose and destination of Man will eventually be fulfilled. And that will also be the last and ultimate answer to the question: What is Man?