

Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask Part III

How did the entire human race come from Adam and Eve if their children weren't inbreeding (brothers marrying sisters)?

If inbreeding was involved, why is it wrong today?

Where did Cain get his wife?

- Related Questions:
 - Does the Bible state that the entire human race came from Adam and Eve, and is it actually important that Christians believe this?
 - Is it possible that there were other human beings that did not descend from Adam and Eve who could provide husbands and wives for Adam and Eve's children?

What does the Bible say?

- God created the Heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)
- God created man in His own image on the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:26-27)
- Creation of Adam
 - **Genesis 2:7** – The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being
- Adam was the first man, not one of many
 - **1 Corinthians 15:45** – So it is written: "The **first man Adam** became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit

What does the Bible say?

- Creation of Eve
 - **Genesis 2:20-22** – So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. **But for Adam no suitable helper was found.** ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.
- “No suitable helper” resulted in the creation of Eve
 - This implies there were no other human beings with Adam initially

What does the Bible say?

- All mankind descended from Adam and Eve
 - **Genesis 3:20** – Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the **mother of all the living**.
- Some have speculated that in order to avoid inbreeding, there must have been other races on Earth for Adam's children to marry
 - This is clearly not the case because the Bible indicates that all human beings came from Adam and Eve
 - Foundational Christian beliefs depend on all human beings descending from Adam and Eve

The Fall of Mankind

- The Bible teaches that mankind sinned
- AGC Statement of Faith (Article #5):

“We believe that human beings, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from their high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that they totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.”

The Fall of Mankind

- Genesis 3 describes the fall of mankind due to Adam and Eve's direct disobedience of God's commandment
- This resulted in a spiritual death and separation from God for all of mankind
 - **Ephesians 4:18** – They are darkened in their understanding and **separated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts
 - **Psalm 14:2-3** – The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. ³All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt; **there is no one who does good, not even one**

The Total Depravity of Humans

- AGC Statement of Faith (Article #6):

"We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of human beings, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature."

The Total Depravity of Humans

- **Romans 5:12** – Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned
- **Romans 5:19** – For just as through the **disobedience of the one man** the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous
- **1 Corinthians 15:21-22** – For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as **in Adam all die**, so in Christ all will be made alive

“Original” or “Inherited” sin

- Sin entered the world through one man: Adam
- Adam = Head of human race, Adam’s sin imputed on us
- Jesus = New Head, Jesus’ righteousness imputed on those who accept him as their head
- Imputed = Attributed or counted to a person
- All descendents of Adam inherit a sinful nature and are sinful even at birth
 - **Psalm 51:5** – Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me

Who did Adam & Eve's children marry?

- How does this relate to the original question?
 - Without an actual historic Adam of which all mankind descends from, it undermines the theology of original sin and the biblical basis for Jesus' work of redemption
- Jesus and Adam are linked together
 - Sin entered the world because of Adam's actions
 - We are saved from the punishment of sin because of Jesus' actions (sinless life, death & resurrection)
- No other created humans beyond Adam & Eve
 - Would bring into question whether or not all mankind fell into sin
- Only Biblical option is Adam & Eve's children married one another
- Adam & Eve had other children to marry one another
 - **Genesis 5:4** – After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters

Isn't inbreeding wrong?

- Leviticus 18 forbids sex with close relatives
 - **Leviticus 18:6** – No one is to approach any close relative to have sexual relations. I am the LORD.
 - **Leviticus 18:9** – Do not have sexual relations with your sister, either your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she was born in the same home or elsewhere.
- Example in the Bible of brothers and sisters marrying
 - Abraham and Sarah, a marriage God blessed as this resulted in the Israelites
 - **Genesis 20:12** – Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. *[Abraham speaking about Sarah]*
- Is this a contradiction?
 - God forbids sex with close relatives
 - God placed Adam and Eve's children in a situation where they had no choice but to marry one another
 - God commands mankind to "be fruitful and increase in number"

God's Law

- Not a contradiction because of timing
 - Mosaic law was introduced well after Adam and Eve died and centuries after Abraham and Sarah
- Example:
 - Early US Presidents like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson did not pay income taxes
 - Evading income taxes can result in fines and jail time
 - Should Washington and Jefferson have been thrown in jail for tax evasion? No, because income taxes did not become law until after they died
- Why were laws against incest introduced at this time?
 - To separate the Israelites from other nations (like Egypt and Canaan – Leviticus 18:3-4)
 - To protect God's people from the physical consequences of inbreeding like a higher frequency of harmful genetic traits

Genetic Consequences

- Inbreeding causes an increase in homozygosity
 - Everyone carries 2 sets of genes (1 from each parent)
 - An individual is homozygous for a trait if the genes from both parents are the same
 - A harmful recessive gene does not exhibit itself if there is a dominant gene from the other parent
 - If a person inherits the same harmful recessive gene from both parents, the harmful trait will exhibit itself – This is more likely if both parents are closely related
- Inbreeding results in **Inbreeding Depression**
 - **Definition:** “Reduced fitness in a given population as a result of breeding of related individuals. Breeding between closely related individuals, called inbreeding, results in more recessive deleterious [*harmful*] traits manifesting themselves.”^[5]

Genetic Consequences

- In general, populations with more genetic variation do not suffer from inbreeding depression
- Severe examples of Inbreeding Depression:
 - The Vadoma tribe of Zimbabwe
 - Small population and limited contact with outsiders
 - Majority of the tribe have a trait that results in having only two toes
 - The Ulas family
 - Live in a rural community in southern Turkey
 - Due to a developmental disability, some members of the family have problems balancing on two legs and walk on all fours

Genetic Consequences

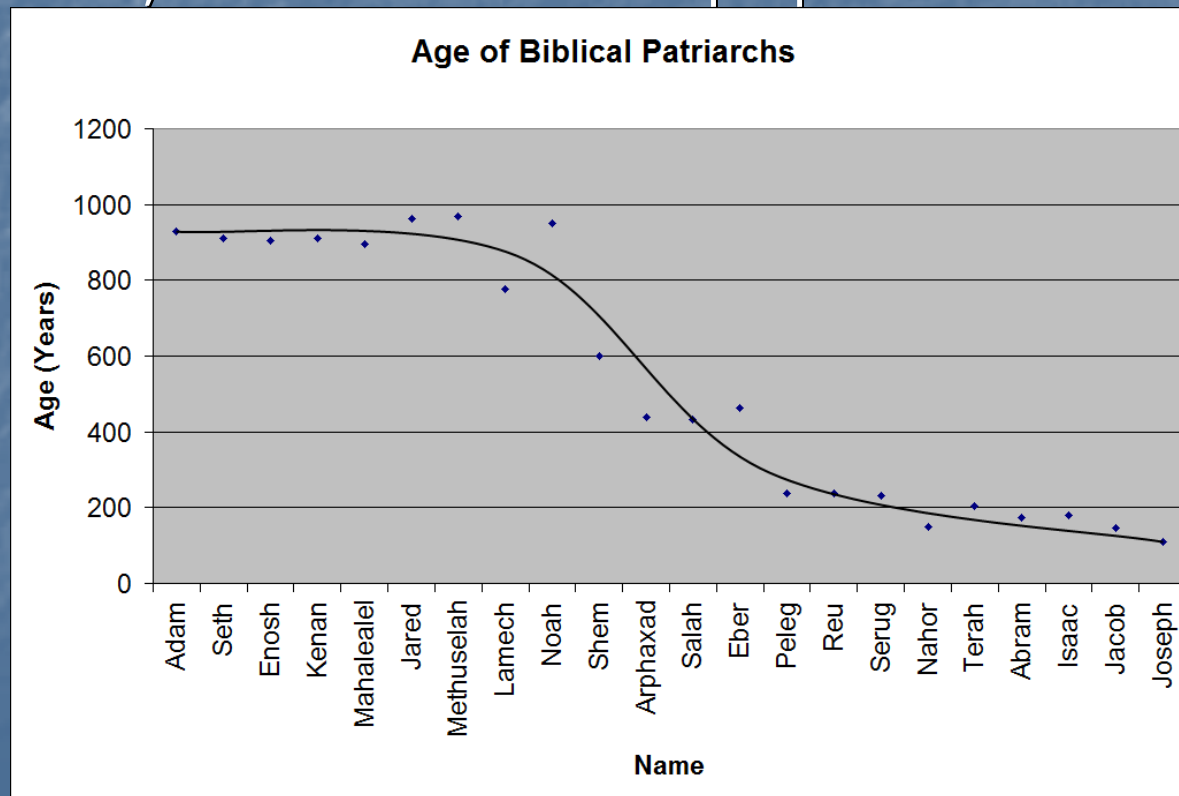
- Inbreeding depression not a problem for Adam & Eve
 - Made physically perfect with no genetic mistakes
 - **Genesis 1:31** – God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.
- God's perfect creation began to degenerate after Adam sinned and the ground was cursed
 - **Genesis 3:17-19** – To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Genetic Consequences

- Bert Thompson, Ph.D and Trevor Major, M.Sc, M.A.
 - “There was no need for strict laws on marriage partners in the early Patriarchal Age (apart from the divine “one man, one woman, for life” institution), and for at least one good reason: during this time, man was in a relatively pure state, at least physically, having left not long before the perfect condition in which he was created and the Garden that had sustained his life....[N]o harmful genetic traits had emerged at this point that could have been expressed in the children of closely related partners. However, after many generations, and especially after the Noahic Flood (Genesis 6-9), solar and cosmic radiation, chemical and viral mutagens, and DNA replication errors, led to the multiplication of genetic disorders. God protected His people by instituting strict laws against incestuous marriages in the eighteenth chapter of Leviticus” [3]

Reduction in Lifespans

- Adam (930 years) to Joseph (110 years)
- Greatest drop after Noah and the flood
 - Before Noah, more marriage options
 - After Noah, mankind reduced to 8 people



Conclusion

- Does the Bible state that the entire human race came from Adam and Eve?
 - Yes, the Bible indicates this and Christian theology requires it
- Who did Adam and Eve's children marry?
 - One another
- Isn't inbreeding / incest wrong?
 - Yes, Leviticus 18 clearly forbids it, but this law was introduced well after Adam and Eve
- Why were laws against incest introduced at this time?
 - To protect mankind from harmful genetic consequences that were not initially a problem

References

1. Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, and Carl Wieland. "Where did Cain get his wife?", 2001, <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-c004.html>
2. AGC, "Articles of Faith and Doctrine", June 2004
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4. Wikipedia, "Inbreeding", <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inbreeding>
5. Wikipedia, "Inbreeding Depression", http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inbreeding_depression