The Nature of Man  Our Key Verses - Genesis 1:27-2:3: Romans 1:19-32

1. Original Man - Destiny Given

Created to live in a loving and purposeful relationship with God, at the head of the natural, created world. Adam was to rule the earth and enjoy the support it provided, but always as keeper of God’s paradise, never owner. All other created things on earth were connected to the purpose and destiny for which Adam was made.

Created for a purpose with a destiny in an eternal Sabbath - Deuteronomy 30:6
- Tend God’s paradise (Garden of Eden).
- Worship God - Isaiah 26:9; Psalm 63:1-8; Luke 1:46
- Fellowship with God - Leviticus 26:12; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 John 1:3

Given:
- A soul - the seat of his eternal existence - Matthew 16:25-26; Ecclesiastes 3:11
- God’s image - Genesis 1:27
- Free will (choice) - Joshua 24:1;5; Luke 7:50; Romans 6:11; Galatians 5:16-17; Revelation 3:20
- A capacity for great love - Mark 12:30; John 14:15; 1 John 4:7

2. Ruined Man - Destiny Lost

Man is ruined, (fallen) in both this life and the next by his choices.
- Eject God from his life
- Exclude His counsel from being considered worthy, true or valid
- Reject God’s Word in favor of a lie

Consequences:
- Adam and Eve are ejected from Paradise and all the resources and blessings it provided.
- They and all of the natural world are subject to a perishing - dust to dust.
- The endless sabbath is no more and a spiritual sunset comes over the soul of humanity. Hell waits for him - 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 21:8;
- Everything must die a natural death as a precursor to spiritual death. Ezekiel 18:1-4; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 20:10
- Sin enters and dominates the human experience. Genesis 4:1-6; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 10:28
- Man is corrupted by evil and himself becomes a corruptor - Matthew 23:33
- Nature and even demons (rebellious angels) are burned (affected) by man’s sinful state - 2 Peter 2:4
- Love is corrupted - hate enters and becomes the new dominant passion of humanity - Genesis 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; John 8:44; 1 John 3:12
- Death becomes the condition of the soul. Darkness envelops the mind. All hope was lost - Psalm 143:3; Ephesians 2:12
- Further texts on consequences: Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Job 14:1 and 4; Isaiah 40:6; Matthew 12:39; Matthew 15:19-120; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 2:14-15;

MAJOR BONUS TEXT!

A ‘picture’ of man’s intended glory and the reality of his fallenness - Ezekiel 1:1- 19. We are all ‘kings’ in some sense - once we have dethroned God as king of our lives.
Destiny given. Destiny lost.

3. The New Man - Destiny Restored

- Our purpose and destiny is restored to us through the intervening work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary - Matthew 16:21; Matthew 20:18; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 8:34 and 37-39; Ephesians 2:10
- Peace with God - Access to God - Romans 5:1-2
- Sin and (spiritual) death is neutralized by the power of God’s grace, if I repent of my sin - Acts 3:19; Romans 5:12-19
- We have life under the care and provision of God (back to the Garden, or at least a downpayment of heaven) - Colossians 3:3; 1 Peter 2:24-25
- We are made NEW (nature, heart, spirit, mind, values, relationships) - 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 2:14;
- Out of forgiveness (redemption) we have an eternal inheritance - Ephesians 1:7-10