

one race.

one origin.

one Savior.

ONE BLOOD

KEN HAM

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CONTENTS

Introduction	4
1. Defining Race	7
2. Biblically One Race.....	17
3. Alien Races?.....	33
4. Scientific Racism?	45
5. The True Origins of the Species	73
6. The Human Kind	109
7. What Should We Do About It?	147
8. One Flesh	167
Conclusion	183
About the Author	185
End Notes	187
Bibliography	191

INTRODUCTION

Racism is still a problem in America.

A 2021 Gallup study found that 64% of Americans “believe racism against Black people is widespread in the U.S.,” the highest numbers since 2008.¹ A 2024 public opinion poll announced that over two-thirds of US adults see racism as a serious problem, with half of them noting it is a very serious problem.² A 2025 Pew Institute study found that “five years [after the “race riots” of 2020] ... 72% of American adults said that the increased focus on race and racial inequality ... did not lead to changes that improved the lives of Black people.”

Clearly Americans feel that racism still exists, and we need to do something about it ... but what? The momentum of the civil rights movement seems to have fizzled out and the idea of “color blindness” is no longer in vogue. Corporations and universities have been applying critical race theory (CRT), diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, and woke intersectionality, all grounded in Marxism, only to walk them back after public outcry and changing political winds. Riots have broken out over real and perceived injustice only to result in billions of dollars of damages, loss of life, but with no real, lasting positive changes.

In other words, the world's solutions aren't working—and that's no surprise. Anything grounded in the shifting sands of human opinion will fail at best and wreak havoc at worst (we've seen both in recent years!).

As Christians, we must address these pressing issues through the lens of God's Word and the history He has given us. We also need to have a right understanding of what's gotten us here. And for that we're traveling back to the mid-1800s, as the sailing ship the *Beagle* cut through the oceans.

On board was a man who started his education studying theology but specialized in biology and geology. He was serving as the ship's naturalist, studying and collecting exotic specimens never before seen by European science. As he did so, he was formulating an idea. Without the insight of modern-day genetics and supported by superficial observations, he sketched out a hypothesis: the belief of naturalistic evolution.

In his history-altering book, *The Origin of the Species*, Charles Darwin conceptualized a world where life spontaneously came into being and then changed over time by the forces of nature into the phenomenal complexity and diversity of life (including human beings) we now see on this planet.

His atheistic, naturalistic ideas caught on, first among other scientists, then among society, education,

government, and even the church who blended his beliefs with biblical teaching. It didn't take long for society to see the ugly consequences of evolutionary thought, particularly in the area of racism.

Of course, evolution is not the cause of racism—sin is. But Darwin's evolutionary ideas fueled a particular kind of racism that still impacts us today. While Darwin himself probably never imagined the impact his idea would have on the culturally diverse peoples of the earth, history has shown us how evolutionary thought fuels racism and how racists use evolution to justify their hatred for those who are different from them.

In the pages ahead, we will lay the biblical and scientific foundation to properly understand the human race, and we will explore the tightly knit relationship between Darwinian evolution and the racism still plaguing us today. Historically, scientifically, and (most importantly, of course) biblically, we will deal with the devastating problem of racism.

And, spoiler alert, we'll discover that the answer to racism, like the answer to all the problems of the world, has always been, and will always be, the truth of God's Word beginning in Genesis and the saving gospel.

— Ken Ham

DEFINING “RACE”

RACE: (dated) a group of people sharing a common cultural, geographical, linguistic, or religious origin or background.

— *Merriam Webster online dictionary, 2025*

It was 1975, and I was a new high school science teacher at a country school in Dalby, Australia. As a Christian, I taught the curriculum but also taught students the history of mankind based on God’s Word (we had more freedom to do that back then!).

After I had explained how the event of the Tower of Babel resulted in the human population being split up into groups that moved away from each other, developing different people groups, I shared that all humans were related to each other—all one family.

At the end of the lesson, three students from the Australian Aboriginal people came up to me and asked me to explain further. I realized that because

of the influence of Darwinian evolution, this group of people had shockingly been treated as less than human. I was burdened to help these young ladies understand they were my relatives and descendants of Adam and Eve—like every other person who has ever lived or will live. What a difference I saw in them when they understood this. This situation spurred me to study this topic, and I determined to do my best to confront racism in the church and culture in any way I could.

When I visited the USA in the 1980s, presenting in various churches during my speaking tours, I was shocked by the prevalence of racism among church people. At one church in Georgia, the pastor showed me gravestones in the church graveyard without names on them; “These were the graves of slaves who weren’t allowed to have names put on their tombstones,” he explained.

I was shocked, wondering *How could people in the church justify such things?*

That pastor asked me to specifically speak on the topic of race because of racism in his church. I did so, and after the service, the pastor pointed to a group of people huddled together outside. He said, “There are some of the elders probably plotting my demise because I had you speak on the race topic.”

I was all the more burdened to help deal with this topic biblically as well as scientifically.

Defining Terms

So what is “race”? In a book dealing with the origin of the so-called “races” of humans, we first need to define what is meant by the word.

The Merriam Webster online dictionary in 2025 defines the word “race” this way:

1. a. any one of the groups that humans are often divided into based on physical traits regarded as common among people of shared ancestry; *also* : the fact of dividing people, or of people being divided, into such groups: categorization by race
 - b. dated : a group of people sharing a common cultural, geographical, linguistic, or religious origin or background
 - c. archaic : the descendants of a common ancestor : a group sharing a common lineage
2. a. a group of living things considered as a category
 - b. archaic : breed
 - c. obsolete : the act of breeding or producing offspring

3. biology : a group within a species that is distinguishable (as morphologically, genetically, or behaviorally) from others of the same species; also : a usually informal taxonomic category representing such a group that is often considered equivalent to a subspecies
4. archaic : a group of people sharing some habit or characteristic (such as profession or belief)
5. obsolete : temperament, disposition

According to this dictionary (category 2a), “race” can mean “a group of living things considered as a category.” By this definition, we can use “race” as in the “human race,” one group of people (all humans)—and, spoiler, that’s how I will be using it as I assert there is only one human race biologically.

Generations ago, people would use the word “race” to refer to different ethnic groups. For instance, they would talk about the Irish race, the English race, and so on. It’s interesting how the Webster’s Dictionary of 1828 defined the word at that time:

RACE, noun [Latin radix and radius having the same original. This word coincides in origin with rod, ray, radiate, etc.]

1. The lineage of a family, or continued series of descendants from a parent who is called

the stock. A *race* is the series of descendants indefinitely. Thus all mankind are called the *race* of Adam; the Israelites are of the *race* of Abraham and Jacob. Thus we speak of a *race* of kings, the *race* of Clovis or Charlemagne; a *race* of nobles, etc.

Hence the long *race* of Alban fathers come.

2. A generation; a family of descendants. A *race* of youthful and unhandled colts.
3. A particular breed; as a *race* of mules; a *race* of horses; a *race* of sheep.

Of such a *race* no matter who is king.

4. A root; as race-ginger, ginger in the root or not pulverized.
5. A particular strength or taste of wine; a kind of tartness.

Note the first definition, “Thus all mankind are called the *race* of Adam.” And certainly that’s how I will be using the term “race” in this book—the “race of Adam,” meaning all the descendants of the first man.

But the problem with using the term “race” is that the ideas of Charles Darwin have permeated people’s thinking all over the world. In his book *The Descent of Man*, Darwin referred to lower and higher races of people in an evolutionary sense when he

stated that some were “more advanced” and “less advanced” on the mental scale. Darwin did state that a moral sense sets humans apart of animals, but he also stated that man evolved from animals and this moral sense was actually an evolved trait.

I will discuss in more detail Darwin’s claims about different “races” of humans later in the book. As a Christian, and because I base my worldview on the Bible, I emphatically state that man did not evolve from animals, there is only one group of human beings, and all are descendants of one man and one woman, Adam and Eve, as recorded in Genesis. Thus biologically, there is only one race. I will also document that observational science confirms this.

The Bible teaches that:

- ◆ All human beings belong to one group, thus one race, all descendants of the first man, made directly from dust by the work of God, and the first woman, made directly from his side (rib) about 6,000 years ago.
- ◆ The human race was judged at the time of Noah, about 4,300 years ago, and only eight survived on Noah’s ark to restart the population.
- ◆ About a century after the flood, mankind rebelled at an event called the Tower of Babel. God judged their rebellion by confusing their

language, resulting in distinct language groups that moved away from each other, forming the different cultural groups/nations.

The history of the human race from a biblical worldview perspective can be summed up with this illustration:



Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the

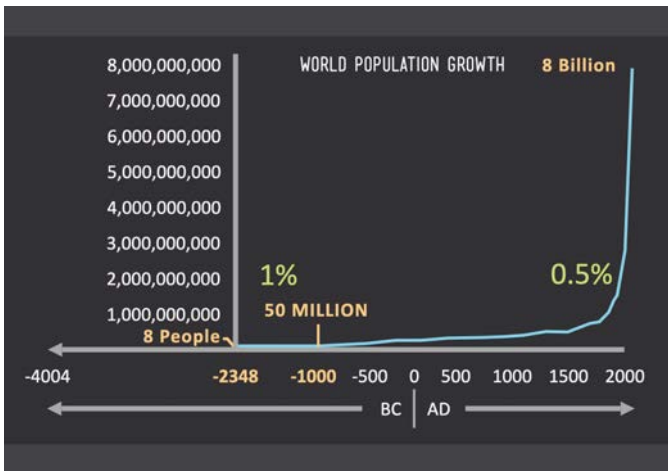
whole earth.” And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. (Genesis 11:1–9)

Noah’s flood occurred around 4,300 years ago. Skeptics claim there is no way we could get the world’s population of eight billion or so (as of 2025) in just 4,300 years. But population growth is exponential. Even assuming a conservative percentage for population growth, it is easy to see how eight billion people could arise from a population of eight (and really all descended from just six, the three sons of Noah and their wives) in just 4,300 years.

It is well accepted that around 1000 B.C. there were approximately 50 million people. Today, 3,000 years later, we've crossed eight billion. Growth rates have varied over the last three millennia, with the most recent 600 years seeing a rate of 0.5%, or 2.3 children per couple per generation.

Is it possible to go from eight people to about 50 million in a mere 1,300 years (the flood to 1000 B.C.)? Science confirms it is very possible with a growth rate of 2.8 children per couple per generation. To go from eight people to about 50 million, in around 1,300 years, you only need a growth rate of 1% which is double the growth rate in the recent past. So can we go from eight people 4,300 years ago to eight billion? Yes, the graph shows this clearly.



Actually, it's not creationists who have the problem—it's evolutionists! We would expect at least eight billion people in 4,300 years, but evolutionists claim modern man evolved 300,000 years ago. This means the population had to remain small until suddenly, about 4,300 years ago, for some reason it started to grow exponentially. No, the biblical timeline fits what we observe regarding population numbers and population growth.

But could the whole population of human beings, with all the diversity we observe, really descend from a single pair?