

## Why Are There Different Races?

There is only one 'race' – the human race. We are all related, we are all human. We can trace our ancestry back to Noah and through him to Adam and Eve. Eve is the 'mother of all living', all humans come from her. The differences we see are mainly cosmetic, such as skin colour, eye shape, the shape of other features such as noses and lips. Most of the differences that set us apart from others are cultural, not racial. The idea of race has no biological reality, it is a social construct. Darwin's Theory of Evolution teaches that different 'races' of people evolved at different times and rates so that some peoples are closer to their supposed ape-like ancestors than others and thus less developed as people. This leads to the idea that some peoples are inherently superior to others and can treat others accordingly. This is totally foreign to the teaching of the Bible. No matter what their colour or culture all men are descendants of Adam and as such are sinners by nature in need of a Saviour. The Bible makes no distinction, it says 'as in Adam all die, so in Christ are all made alive', 1 Corinthians 15:22.

### *...'one blood'*

The Bible does not use the term 'race' to refer to different human beings, it calls us all 'one blood', Acts 17:26. So, if we are all 'one blood', all descended from Adam and Eve, then where do all these differences come from and why do they seem to be geographically centred? In order to consider this we need to look at what happened after the world-wide Flood, recorded in Genesis 6-9. The Flood reduced the human population to just 8 people – Noah's family. Because of the variety of skin colours we have today it is likely that this one family were mid brown in their colouring. This would enable Noah's sons and wives to produce quite a wide variety of skin shades in just one generation. The next big event to be recorded in Genesis is the rebellion at the Tower of Babel –

Genesis 11. Up until this point the human population of the world had stayed together in one area and they spoke one common language. God judged them at Babel and confused the languages. They could no longer understand each other so naturally split into language groups and drifted apart geographically. This resulted in a splitting of the gene pool, a reducing of its richness. In time this would lead to different characteristics being emphasised in each culture group which grew more prominent as more generations were born.

### *...Climates*

Some characteristics would become general in a particular people group due to various selection processes such as environmental, sexual etc, and these characteristics would be encouraged by the presence of mutations. For example, the protective factor of melanin would mean that those with more of it in their skin would be more likely to survive in the areas of the world where the sunlight is more intense. Hence darker skinned people would tend to thrive in hot climates while fairer skinned people would not. It is also the case that since melanin blocks out the sun's rays those with darker skin actually need stronger sunlight to produce sufficient vitamin D and avoid diseases such as rickets, so, not only could they survive in the hotter climates, they actually needed the increased sunlight to be healthy. It has been shown that darker skinned people living in cooler climates can have problems with a lack of vitamin D. Modern technology has made it possible for people from different people groups to inter-marry, something not common generations ago. The reduced gene pools can then be enriched though it is unlikely that we will ever get back to the richness of the genetic make-up of Adam and Eve or even of Noah and his family. For further reading on this subject go to <http://www.answersingenesis.org/get-answers>