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Man Has a Problem, and He Knows It

“All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one” (Romans 3:12).

Man has always known he has a problem—a problem preventing him from keeping perfect peace and justice and from reclaiming paradise. Every culture has acknowledged it in one way or another. The Greeks called it “Hamartia” or the **tragic/fatal flaw** (“to err; to miss the mark”). It was the inherent defect or shortcoming in man that brought tragedy. (It is also the Greek word translated in the book of Romans as “sin” in English). Man’s tragic flaw causes him to wage war, massacre innocents, pillage, steal, murder, deceive, and betray. It brings death and makes “good” people do BAD things. Ancient man didn’t take responsibility for it; instead, he blamed it on his gods who he claimed had made him this way!

While man no longer blames his fatal flaw on “gods,” he still will not take responsibility for it—he now blames it on evolution (*Nature made him the way he is*)! But with his growing power today, the fatal part of man’s flaw has alarmed the great atheist minds of the world. As famed scientist Stephen Hawking explains: **“we are entering an increasingly dangerous period of our history.** Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially, along with **our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill. But our genetic code still carries the selfish and aggressive instincts that were of survival advantage in the past. It will be difficult enough to avoid disaster in the next hundred years,** let alone the next thousand or million. Our only chance of long-term survival is not to remain inward-looking on planet Earth, but to spread out into space.” Billionaire business magnate Elon

Musk agrees: “Either we spread earth to other planets, or we risk going extinct. An extinction event is inevitable and **we’re increasingly doing ourselves in.**” He formed SpaceX to try and save mankind from self-destruction by making a “way of life” for man in space. But even this would not save man from himself, for he brings his nature with him, and he still suffers the fatal end of his flaw—DEATH.

Man cannot save himself from his “selfish and aggressive instincts” because he is responsible for causing them: *“through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Rom. 5:12). The source of man’s flaw is himself, and it is spiritual. God made man without a flaw—man “flawed” himself in rebelling against God. This is why he is trapped in his tragic cycles of creation and destruction; joy and sorrow; life and death. Yet man refuses to admit that he is responsible for sin and that he must address it with God or face judgment (eternal death). Man will try any “way” other than admit his guilt. There is always *“a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”* (Prov. 14:12).

In love and mercy, God provided His Son, Jesus, as the *only* WAY of LIFE for man to be saved from his fatal flaw. Jesus took the judgment for our sin upon Himself, and offers us exemption from its fatal cost if we accept Him as our Lord. Jesus reconciles us back to God and life: *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus”* (Titus 2:11-13 ESV), Who will resurrect to sinless perfection those who trust in His gift of salvation. He alone will establish paradise on Earth through His sinless Millennial Kingdom! Even so, Amen!

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