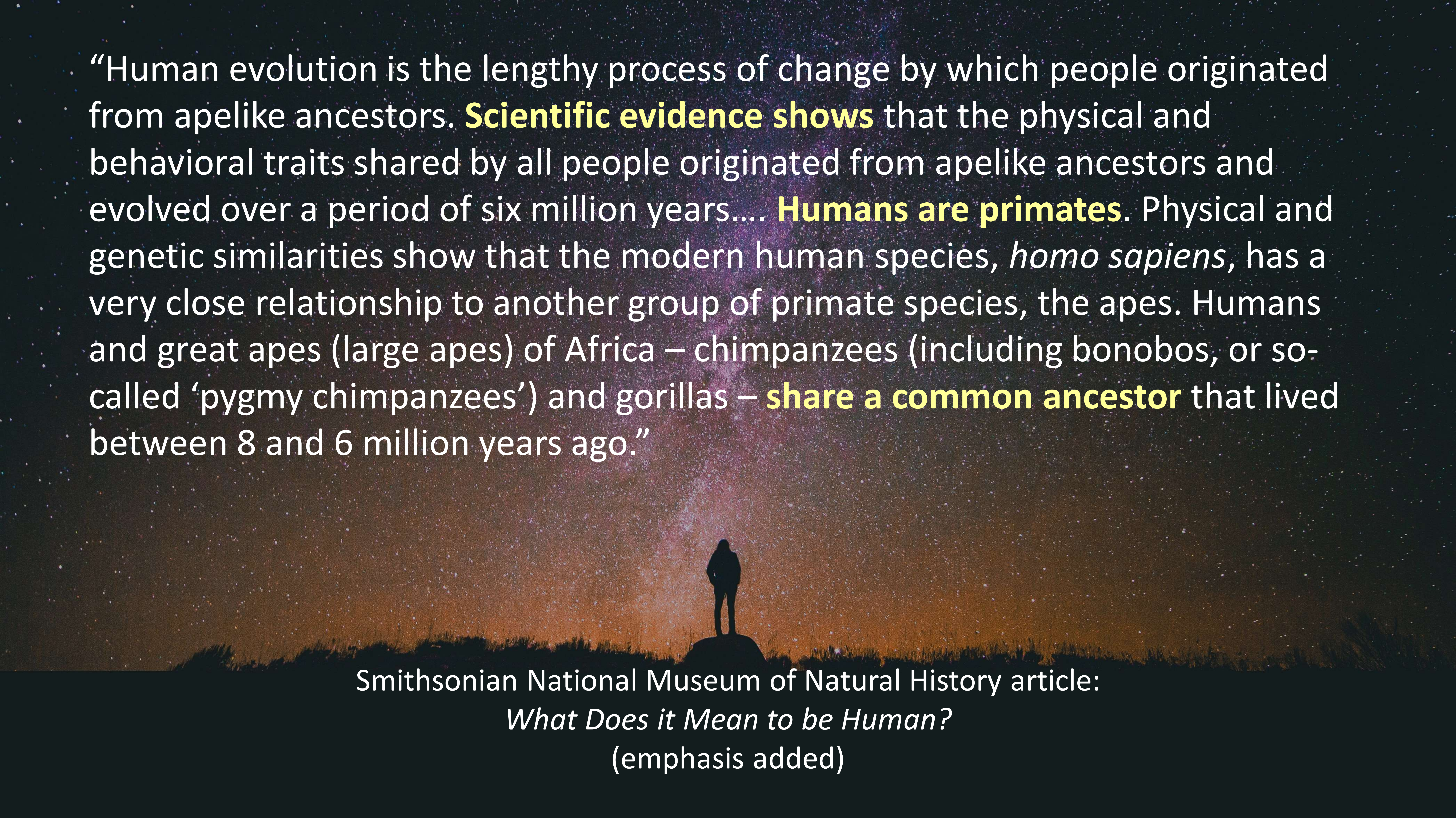
A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the center of the frame. The person is standing on a small rock or mound of earth, looking up at the stars. The overall scene is dark and awe-inspiring, with the bright stars and the colorful band of the Milky Way providing the main light source.

# THE MAJESTY OF MANKIND: THE SIXTH DAY

GENESIS 1:24-31  
(Part 2)

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING



“Human evolution is the lengthy process of change by which people originated from apelike ancestors. **Scientific evidence shows** that the physical and behavioral traits shared by all people originated from apelike ancestors and evolved over a period of six million years.... **Humans are primates**. Physical and genetic similarities show that the modern human species, *homo sapiens*, has a very close relationship to another group of primate species, the apes. Humans and great apes (large apes) of Africa – chimpanzees (including bonobos, or so-called ‘pygmy chimpanzees’) and gorillas – **share a common ancestor** that lived between 8 and 6 million years ago.”

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History article:

*What Does it Mean to be Human?*

(emphasis added)

Our need for Christ's cross is set and sealed  
in the theological cement of creation.



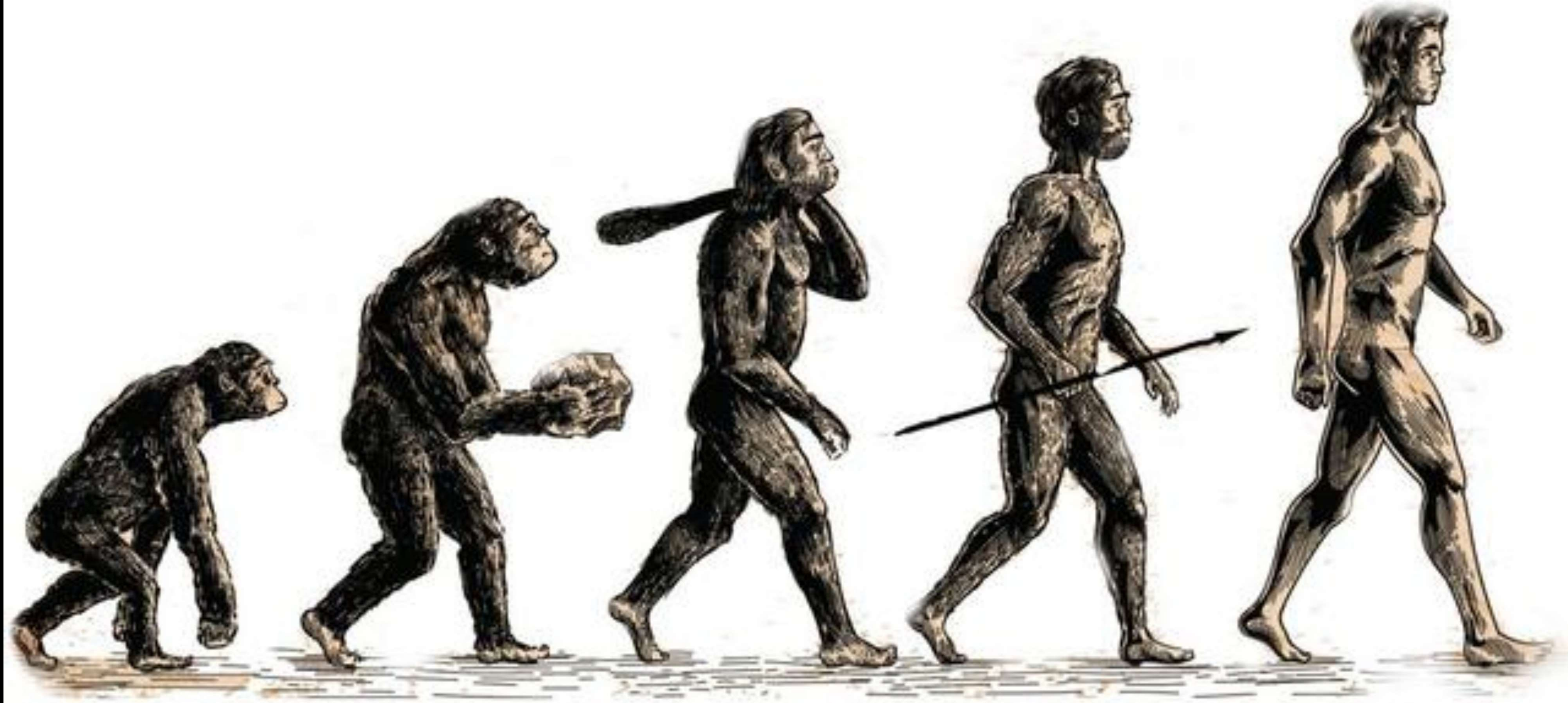
## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

There are ways we are **like** God and reflect Him, and there are ways we are **not like** God and **cannot** be like Him.

Theologians refer to God's **communicable** and **non-communicable** attributes.





Austra-  
lopithecus  
(Hominid)

Homo  
Habilis

Homo  
Erectus

Homo  
Neander-  
thalensis

Homo  
Sapiens  
Sapiens

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

The **one aspect** of God's image unmistakably reflected in human beings is **personhood**.

We reflect the **relational, personal nature** of the Triune God of the universe – the “**Us**” and “**Our**” of Genesis 1:26.

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

Unlike the animals, we were made with a **God-consciousness** – a God-mindfulness. We were made to have a **mindful, personal** knowledge of God through a **communicative relationship** with Him. And we were made for each other.

**God's chosen descriptions:**

*“Let us make **man...**” – adam = **mankind**.*



## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

*“...and let **them** rule over...”*

The plural pronoun “**them**” refers again to mankind and not to a solitary person.

Humankind is composed of two distinct creatures.

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

Verse 27 further defines mankind:

*"...**male** and **female** He created them. God blessed **them**; and God said to **them**...."*

With people, we are dealing with personal **identity** – your maleness or femaleness is fundamental to who you are in relationship to God and to each other.

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

In those **perfect distinctions**, God created **complements** – corresponding, soul-stirring, and life-giving attributes **designed** for our joy in life as we reflect His image in our **humanity**.

– **marriage**.

A **central feature** in our very **worship** is **submitting** to God in the distinctiveness and corresponding nature of being male and female. We can't escape or destroy what God put into us.

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said*: **Mankind** (Genesis 1:26-28)

Biblical anthropology – **God's view of mankind**

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

“...we need to see humanity afresh. We have been told that we people are the chance result of impersonal chaos working its dark magic on the universe; we have no divine origin, there is no design or *telos* [divine meaning] ... to our bodies and identities, and – this last part is taken almost for granted today – there is no God. The outcome of such thinking? Humanity is **disenchanted**. We are not made by God, we have no greater purpose in life, spirituality is just mystic make-believe for the emotively oriented, children are a burden, and on the desultory creed goes.” (*Owen Strachan*)

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said*: **Mankind** (Genesis 1:26-28)

These lies are always about **who God is**  
and who we are **in relation to Him** as our **Creator**.

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

“We find ourselves in a contest of anthropological visions.... The culture rages [over the doctrine of man].... If the major issue of the sixteenth century was that of **acceptance** (how man may be forgiven by God), and the major issue of the twentieth century was that of **authority** (whether the Bible is inerrant), then the major issue of our time is that of **anthropology**. Does the human person live in an ordered cosmos and have an **appointed identity**, or does he make his own identity in a world without God? Beyond the finer points of the various debates we face today, this is the question of our age.” (*Owen Strachan*)

## VI. God's Good Way: The **Sixth** Day – Land Animals and Mankind

The Good of *God Said: Mankind* (Genesis 1:26-28)

“The witness of the Scripture and of the church that loves the Scripture is not that the knowledge of God helps in our formations of **self**-knowledge. The witness of Scripture is that **we cannot know ourselves without knowing God**.... To know God and His intentions for humanity, we must start where the Scripture starts: **Genesis 1**. Many Christians derive their doctrine of origins from this chapter. This landmark text, however, offers not simply knowledge of God's creative work, but **knowledge of God's design of humanity**.” (*Owen Strachan*)



A person is silhouetted against a night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The person is standing on a small rock or mound of earth, looking up at the stars. The Milky Way is visible as a bright, colorful band of light stretching across the sky, with a purple and blue hue. The background is a dark, starry sky with many small, bright stars scattered throughout. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

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