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The Dawn of Man – the Fall – Death.  
A New Interpretation of Key Issues in Theological Anthropology

SUMMARY

This work addresses essential issues of theological anthropology: the origins of mankind, the fall of man and its legacy, the death as a consequence of sin.

Regarding anthropogenesis, the perspective of theological anthropology was juxtaposed with data from empirical sciences. A hypothesis concerning the crossing of the *hominization threshold* by the protohumans was put forward, that the most significant of the criteria of humanity is the capacity for a relationship with God, revealed in prehistoric protoreligion.

Analysis of the biblical and theological data allowed to put forward a hypothesis, that the sin of the first men happened at the very dawn of mankind. Right after crossing the threshold of hominization mankind broke the communion with its Creator, which was revealed in the invasion of sin into the world. The original sin is transmitted through human nature, which should be perceived in both metaphysical and social aspects.

Death is a significant consequence of sin. Analysis of the biblical and theological data allows to conclude that it is primarily spiritual death. Bodily death is also, in a sense, a consequence of the fall. Although integral to human nature, after the fall it became a tragic experience. Its original meaning as a gateway to the eternal life was restored by Christ. This is evident from the *dormition* of the Blessed Virgin Mary and *transitus* of saints.

