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WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS GOD?

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III.

IN preceding articles it has been shown that man may know God, and that this knowledge, though not absolute, may be progressive; also that our conception of God has been biased, perverted, and obscured by theological, national, and personal influences; and further, that the true conception of God is dawning through the development of the germinal principles of Wesleyan theology. We shall now endeavor to show that God is the natural father of man.

THE NATURAL FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

Man, as man, in his creation, as well as redemption, stands out distinct from and superior to "every living creature." Of the latter, God said: "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind." But of the former, God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." *Literally*, "Let us cause to be made the red soil, earthy or material one, into our species, or essential nature, according to our manifestation." From this, we see that God's purpose was to take pre-existing matter, perhaps organized animal life, and cause it to take unto itself His own "image" (nature), and reproduce His own "likeness"