



# Think & Believe

A Publication of Alpha Omega Institute

May/June 1986: Vol. 3 No. 3

## In the Image of God

By Dave and Mary Jo Nutting

Where did man originate? Were his ancestors some kind of ape or was he created as man? Does it really make any difference anyway? The atheistic evolutionist has no doubt that man came from some kind of animal ancestors. Many Christians also accept this idea, though they believe that God somehow directed evolution or stepped in at some time to inject a "soul" into man. Other Christians believe that man was specially created as man, "in the image of God." How can we evaluate these different positions? What *is* the evidence?

We will deal with some of the fossil evidence on page 3, but let's examine Biblical evidence here. The Bible says, "And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Gen. 1:27). Can this passage be taken literally or is it just a myth?

First of all, the Genesis account of creation week is written in a straight-forward, historical manner. There is nothing about the account itself that would indicate that it is mythical. Later Biblical writers accept it as historical and speak of Adam as a real person. Paul refers to Adam as "the first man" in I Cor. 15:45 and says that Adam was formed first, then Eve (I Tim. 2:13). In Romans 5 he states that death reigned from Adam to Moses and then goes on to compare and contrast Adam with Jesus Christ. Evidently Paul, a distinguished, well-trained Hebrew scholar, accepted the Genesis account as history. Luke, a trained physician, also accepted it. Note the detailed genealogy in Luke 3 which goes all the way back to Adam. Even Jesus Himself quoted the first part of Genesis when teaching about marriage (Matt. 19:5). Thus, it seems reasonable to accept the historical accuracy of the Genesis account.

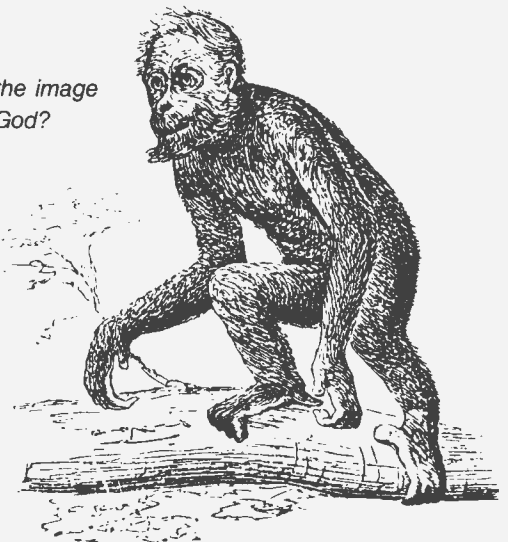
Furthermore, the Bible says that "through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin"

(Rom. 5:12). Adam's act of deliberate disobedience had enormous effects, resulting not only in his own death (first spiritual and later physical), but also in the subjection of the entire creation to corruption (Rom. 8:20-22). However, if evolution is true, there must have been millions of deaths before man came on the scene. In the evolutionary scheme, man is the *result* of years of death and struggle, but the Bible says man is the *cause* of it.

Perhaps, however, the most important aspect for Christians to think through is the logical implication that follows in rejecting the accuracy of the first chapters of Genesis. If Adam was not a real man, and did not literally fall into sin, there is no need of a Savior and the whole New Testament becomes meaningless.

Let us not try to ground our beliefs in the quicksand of changing scientific theories. We do not need to compromise what the Bible says about man to fit "modern scientific thought." As we shall see later in this issue, modern thought is very speculative and is based on very little evidence anyway.

*In the image  
of God?*



# NOTES & QUOTES

■ According to many of today's writers and educators, if you do not believe you evolved from ape-like creatures, you just aren't in the swing of things:

- Since Darwin, every knowing person agrees man descended from the apes. Today there is no such thing as the theory of evolution. It is the fact of evolution. (Ernst Mayr, *OMNI*, Feb. 1983, p. 74)

■ We would certainly hope there is a tremendous amount of evidence to make such assertions, but there isn't. Evolution teaches that man and ape are supposed to have a common ancestor in primitive insectivores like tree shrews. What is the evidence? Nothing!

- The transition from insectivore to primate is not documented by fossils. The basis of knowledge about the transition is by inference from living forms. (A. J. Kelso, *Physical Anthropology*, 2nd Ed., 1974)

■ What leads from ape-like creatures to "primitive" man? Nothing!

- Amid the bewildering array of early fossil hominoids [man-like creatures] is there one whose morphology marks it as man's hominid [same family as man] ancestor? If the factor of genetic variability is considered, the answer appears to be no. (Robert Eckhardt, *Scientific American*, Vol. 226, No. 1, 1972, p. 94)

■ Even though we are often led to believe that there is a tremendous amount of evidence for human evolution, in reality we find there is very little. What there is, is very fragmentary, yet a tremendous amount of information is gleaned from the pieces:

- The bones are old and dry. Nearly all are shattered fragments, fragile bits of jaw, pieces of skull, parts of hand or foot bones. Some are a million years old or more; some merely a few thousand. They are a motley collection, but they are also a priceless heritage, for they are the core of evidence for how the human species came into existence. (Boyce Rensberger, *Science* '84, April 1984, p. 29)

■ Since so few fossils have been found, paleoanthropologists must utilize each fragment. Before we allow scientists to convince us that a tremendous amount of information can be attained from a fossil fragment, we should remember the case of Nebraska man. A complete reconstruction of a half-ape/half-man was based entirely on *one* tooth. Creationists said, "No way!" Evolutionists said, "Trust us, we know what we are doing. From that tooth we can tell what he ate, how he walked, and that he used tools." Trust indeed!

The tooth was later found to be the tooth of an extinct pig, *not* an apeman.

■ Sometimes a note of certainty is indicated, not only with the nature of the remains, but with their antiquity. We must not allow apparent certainty without facts to convince us.

- The story opens 1.6 million years ago, that we know. (*National Geographic*, Nov. 1985, p. 625)

■ Why didn't they mention the wide discrepancy in dates that was found with other finds? Original volcanic samples associated with Leakey's Skull 1470 were dated at 220 million years. This seemed impossible, so new samples were submitted and dated at 2.6 million years, which seemed more like assumed (or hoped for) dates. Consequently, this last figure was taken. Let this be a warning to be cautious in accepting what is reported. We should also be diligent to point out these problems to our children.

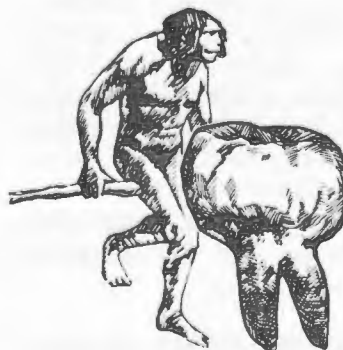


## Book Review



This month we are spotlighting the book, *Evolution: The Challenge of the Fossil Record* by Dr. Duane Gish (Creation-Life Publishers, El Cajon, CA, 1985). We first became interested in the topic of creation science about 12 years ago when we read an earlier edition of this book, *Evolution: The Fossils Say No!* The strength of the evidence presented caused us to do further research and re-evaluate what we'd been taught about the evidence for evolution.

This updated and much expanded revision contains a well-documented critique of the fossil evidence and powerfully demonstrates the superiority of the creation model in explaining it. It contains an in-depth section on the fossil evidence used to support human evolution. This would make an excellent gift for high school or college students! (Available from Alpha Omega Institute, Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502, for \$7.95 + \$1.00 shipping and handling.)



*Nebraska Man* was reconstructed from a tooth that later was found to belong to an extinct pig!

# SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

## Human Evolution

The November 1985 *National Geographic* deals with human evolution. It has raised questions among some, established evolution as "proven" among others, and prompted some to cancel their subscriptions. Although the evidence looks very convincing, there are some serious problems with the scenario of the human evolution as presented. Starting on page 574, we find a 4-page foldout with an impressive line-up of pre-humans evolving into modern man. Each is shown in progressive running position. Unfortunately, many young people are convinced of evolution merely by seeing such pictures. A vast majority do not ask the question: What is the evidence? Can they really tell that much? Were they really that adept at running?

As stated in "Notes and Quotes," the evidence is very fragmentary and many features are added by an artist without facts to back them up. Did they run as well as pictured? The first four — the Australopithecenes (meaning "southern apes") probably weren't built to move in an upright fashion. Lord Zuckerman, after studying *Australopithecus* with his research team for 15 years, concluded it did not walk (let alone run) upright, but instead was merely an ape, not at all related to man. Other research involving multi-variate analysis by Oxnard led him to conclude it had a mode of locomotion similar to an Orangutan.

It is interesting to note that when Johanson found the Australopithecene he called "Lucy," he immediately declared it to be an upright walker. This procedure certainly does help hit the newspaper headlines quickly and keep the grant money rolling in, but it is not the careful analytic research as characterized by Lord Zuckerman and Oxnard. Which is more trustworthy? We would vote for the latter method.

Did Lucy walk upright? Even though Zuckerman did not study Lucy specifically, he did study the group she was placed in and found them to have non-human locomotion. Stern and Susman found, based on their analysis, that Lucy probably walked upright only in a manner similar to chimpanzees and gorillas which are more highly suited for tree climbing and swinging than walking.

Many times scientists have made spur of the moment decisions (which hit the headlines) but later had to retract them. The retractions rarely make the headlines. The interpretations of Lucy have already started to go the same way.

Another example is that of *Homo habilis*, #5 on the *National Geographic* line-up. This was originally put into the genus *Homo* based upon the size of the brain

capacity (still half that of humans). A foot was also found and was reconstructed to look very human. However, much controversy has arisen. In fact some say *Homo habilis* should be lumped in with the Australopithecenes. The "human foot" has been found by several to have been put together in an erroneous fashion and is merely that of an ape. Therefore, the story is changing also for *Homo habilis*.

A pattern seems to have been prevalent for many decades. As soon as a fossil discovery is made it is hailed as the greatest ever found and pronounced an important link in our "evolution." Even small fragments are seen to be important finds of upright walking (bi-pedal) human ancestors. This sensationalism sweeps the country in bold headlines. After a few years when investigation becomes complete, the creature loses its status as a human ancestor. Newspapers, however, seldom seem to take notice and the public is rarely told they were led to believe a lie. We should exercise caution as Oxnard says about Lucy and friends:

But because there has never yet been hailed a new find that was not a human ancestor, and because there has never yet been announced a new find that was not bipedal, we may prefer to be extremely circumspect until the fossils are widely available for study by the entire range of methods and investigators of the present day. (C. E. Oxnard, *Homo*, Volume 30, p. 243, 181 as quoted in *Evolution: The Challenge of the Fossil Record*, by Duane Gish, 1985)

What we have seen of the evidence is summed up by Pilbeam's frank admittance:

... perhaps generations of students of human evolution, including myself, have been flailing about in the dark, that our data base is too sparse, too slippery, for it to be able to mold our theories. Rather, the theories are more statements about us and ideology than about the past. Paleoanthropology reveals more about how humans view themselves than it does about how humans came about. (David Pilbeam, *American Scientist*, Vol. 66, 1978)

We conclude that the first 5 creatures pictured in the *National Geographic* article did *not* run — the picture is very misleading to young readers. In the next issue of *Think and Believe* we will climb further up "our family tree" and answer the question, "What is a caveman?" Check the Book Review if you wish to have more detailed information on human evolution.



## Recent Events



■ **Corvallis, OR:** 5 presentations at 3 different churches, 4 school lectures, 1 teacher's workshop, 1 all day seminar. Thanks again to the people at Zion Lutheran for their hard work to make this a well-organized, effective week.

■ **Cimarron, CO:** All day seminar at Youth With a Mission Discipleship Training School. We appreciated the interest and questions that kept us going overtime.

■ **Loma, CO:** Mini-seminar at Loma Community Church. We were pleased with the good turn-out from this small farming community.

■ **Scottsdale, AZ:** Full week-end seminar at Calvary Church of the Valley. The obvious warmth and receptivity for the message were encouraging.

■ **Loveland, CO:** All day seminar at All Saint's Episcopal Church. Many good questions were raised.

■ **Fort Collins, CO:** Colorado State University. We appreciated the thinking and interest demonstrated by the students who gave up a Saturday night to attend. (1½ hours of lecture, 2 hours of questions!)

■ **Montrose, CO:** All day seminar, at Trinity Christian Academy. We were encouraged by the many young people in attendance.

■ **Grand Junction, CO:** Public school sixth graders. Dave challenged the students to evaluate evidence and think for themselves.

■ **Grand Junction, CO:** Field trips to nearby dinosaur fossil sites for 3 different groups. It's fun to see geology come alive for people.

If you have written to us recently and not received a reply yet, now you know why! It seems impossible to keep up when you're working a full-time job and doing presentations on the weekends. For those of you who have sent donations but not received a receipt yet, thanks so much. We do appreciate your help!

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Would you like additional information about any one of the condensed articles or on another subject that we haven't even touched upon as yet? Write to us and we will gladly send you some.



## Videotape Planned



It has become very obvious that we cannot personally keep up with the need for seminars. Many people have suggested that we videotape our seminar to make it more readily available. We are planning to produce a creationism series that could be used in a variety of ways, but particularly designed for high school or adult Sunday school classes. We hope to include a student study guide and complete teacher's guide. If you are interested in this project, we would certainly like to hear from you. Any suggestions on topics, format, etc. would be most helpful. Also, we would certainly appreciate financial donations to help with the cost of producing the series.



## Upcoming Events



- June: Research in preparing for videotaping.
- July 8-12: YWAM Discipleship Training School, *Anastasis*, Victoria, BC.
- July 17-29: Teacher's Workshop and research at the Institute for Creation Research, San Diego, CA
- Aug. 10-15: YWAM Discipleship Training School, High Park Ranch, Cimarron, CO
- Aug. 17-22: Family Camp at Camp Redcloud, Lake City, CO. Get your reservation in *soon!* We hope to see you there for a week of fun, fellowship, and learning.

*Think and Believe* is published bi-monthly by Alpha Omega Institute, P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies of this publication are sent free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Alpha Omega Institute is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your donations are tax deductible.

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