



"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1)

REASONS TO BELIEVE - SEATTLE AREA CHAPTER

NEWS AND VIEWS

JANUARY 2005

What's Happening?

Chapter Meeting

The chapter will meet Saturday, January 29th, at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 18826 3rd Avenue NW, Shoreline. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 8:30 A.M. Award winning producer and director Michael Lienau will speak from 9:00 to 10:30. Please join us.

Dembski in Seattle

Willam Dembski will visit Seattle January 17 to speak on the growing challenges to Darwinian theory. The event will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Discovery Institute. You must register to attend. More information is available on the Discovery website at www.discovery.org.

RTB at Willow Creek

Hugh Ross will be the featured speaker at a conference at Willow Creek Community Church in Illinois, February 11 & 12. This will provide tremendous exposure for Reasons to Believe. Please pray about this. For more information about the event, go to: www.willowcreek.org.

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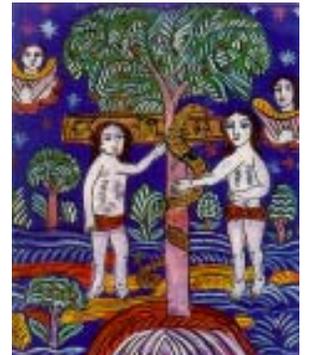
When Did Adam Live?

GREG MOORE

Most creationists believe Adam and Eve were real people specially created by God as the biological parents of the human race. On this point, there is little disagreement among those who are committed to the inerrancy of Scripture. However, when it comes to dating the appearance of Adam and Eve, there is much less consensus. Young-earth creationists insist it was a few thousand years ago. Old-earth creationists maintain it was tens of thousands, or even 100,000, years ago.

Those who support a recent date for Adam and Eve are forced to reject the findings of mainstream science. The fossil record indicates modern humans appeared in the Old World about 40,000 years ago. Even in North America, the evidence of modern humans dates back before 12,000 years.¹ Likewise, the archeological record indicates human civilization arose long before the dates used by young-earth creationists.

On the other hand, placing Adam and Eve in the ancient past seems to conflict with the Bible. The generations listed in the Genesis genealogies appear to place the timeframe of Adam and Eve's appearance in the recent past. Similarly, the cultural setting described in Genesis 4—livestock, musical instruments and metal working usually associated with Neolithic Period or earlier—suggests Adam and Eve lived less than about 10,000 years ago.²



Many Christians are under the impression the choice is between science and the Bible. I disagree. I believe it is possible to establish a reasonable date for the appearance of Adam and Eve that is faithful to Scripture and consistent with the findings of mainstream science.

GENESIS GENEALOGIES

There are two views on the Genesis genealogies. *Closed chronology view* proponents maintain the information is sequential and complete and clearly intended to provide a precise genealogical record. Thus, like Archbishop Ussher, they use the

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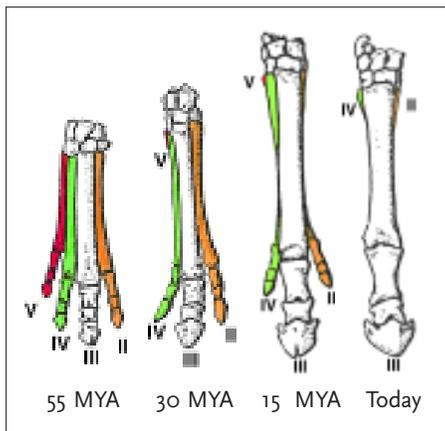
Horse Fossils: Proof of Evolution?

CATHY BAKKEN

Horses and their changes through time are often used as an example of evolution. The horse is said to have evolved from a five-toed foot to a one-toed foot that was better suited to running along plains. Its body size also became larger, evolving from the 12-inch-tall Hyracotherium toward its current size.

However, the evolutionary line evolutionists have come up with for horses is problematic. The horse allegedly arose via this genealogy: Hyracotherium (eohippus) → Orohippus → Epihippus → Mesohippus → Miohippus → Parahippus → Merychippus → Dinohippus → Equus (modern horse).

The origin of Hyracotherium (eohippus), the first horse, is unknown, as there are no fossils connecting it to its alleged ancestors. Hyracotherium, Orohippus, and Epihippus are all found from the same age of rocks and are very similar apart from a sequential decrease in size.



One of the features of the horse that has changed through its history, and that is commonly used as an example of evolution, is its legs and feet. This diagram from the Fossil Horse Cybermuseum (www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/vertpaleo/fhc/firstCM.htm) illustrates the changes.

The problem is these changes appear suddenly, without real explanation. Between Epihippus and Mesohippus, there is a morphological

gap as the size increases about 50 percent and the number of toes on the front feet suddenly decreases from four to three. Mesohippus, Miohippus, and Parahippus are very similar and do not involve major evolutionary changes. The transition to Merychippus involves a significant instantaneous increase in size, and the transition to Dinohippus a sudden decrease to one toe. From there it's a straight shot to modern horses.

Another problem is the horse series was constructed from fossils dispersed across the world. Nowhere does this succession occur in one location. So while the horse fossil displays in museums around the world tell the story of evolution, it is not possible to say they match the truth. What appears to be true is that God likes horses and through time created different kinds of horses designed to match the environments they lived in.

For more information see: "Icons Still Standing: Jonathan Wells Comes Up Clean Despite Harsh Criticism," by Casey Luskin. Available at www.arn.org/docs/wells/cl_iconsstillstanding.htm

Cathy Bakken is secretary of the Spokane Chapter of Reasons to Believe. She is a librarian and is in the process of completing the RTB apologetics training course.

In the NEWS...

[Was Darwin Wrong?](#)

National Geographic's November Issue asks this question and answers no. Jonathan Wells, author of *Icons of Evolution*, explains how the article misstates the evidence and fails to make a case for Darwinian evolution. Go to www.discovery.org/csc/notabene.

[Top 10 Discoveries of 2004](#)

Hugh Ross discusses the top 10 scientific discoveries of 2004 that support RTB's Testable Creation Model. For a list of the discoveries and audio files discussing each discovery, go to the RTB homepage: www.reasons.org.

[The Siloam Pool](#)

Archeologists in Jerusalem have unearthed a paved assembly area and water channel at the site of the Siloam Pool, where Jesus gave sight to a blind man. To view this article, go to: www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=scienceNews&storyID=7169636.

[Cultivating Change in Your School](#)

This article in the Focus on the Family magazine by Eric Buehrer discusses strategies parents can use to stem the tide of the anti-religious movement in public schools. Go to: www.family.org/fofmag/pp/a0031495.cfm.

[Worldview Boot Camp](#)

Charles Colson states the lack of worldview awareness among today's students is appalling. He then discusses strategies for teaching them discernment. Go to: <http://www.pfm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=BreakPoint1>.

[Icons Still Standing](#)

Jonathan Wells has received harsh criticism for his book, *Icons of Evolution*. In this article, Casey Luskin, examines the arguments raised in "Who's the Real Fraud," a paper rebutting Wells' claims. Available at www.arn.org/docs/wells/cl_iconsstillstanding.htm.

[Religion Weblog](#)

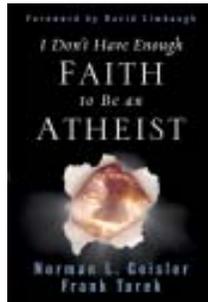
Jim Slagle of the Portland RTB Chapter writes a religion weblog for the online version of the Oregonian full of good articles. Go to www.oregonlive.com/weblogs/religionblog.

Book Reviews

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

Norman Geisler & Frank Turek
Crossway Books, 2004

Reviewer: Mike Brown



In the foreword, David Limbaugh expresses a frustration I have had. When someone asks you to recommend a book for a friend who is a skeptic, how do you pick one that will do the trick? You know the person will probably not agree to read *several* books, but you can't think of one that adequately addresses the major issues. After reading the first few chapters of this book, Limbaugh (and I) was convinced this is the book.

My daughter teaches apologetics at a Christian High School. One student, whose mother is a Christian and dad is an atheist, gave her a book his dad wanted her to read. It's titled *Losing Faith In Faith*, by an evangelist turned atheist. My daughter promised to read it if he and his Dad would read *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*. The student reports his Dad has been avidly reading it almost every night.

This is an excellent resource for *anyone* who wants evidence for Christianity—not just atheists. It is very readable, and provides convincing arguments and evidences for objective truth, intelligent design, the Creator of the Bible, and the deity of Christ! The authors also address such controversial subjects as the problem of evil, miracles, and the Jesus Seminar.

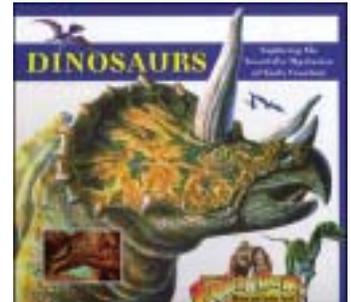
I have already incorporated some of the material into my apologetics class, including a great introduction to complex specified information by way of a humorous illustration. The authors tell the story of a young man who finds his Alpha-Bits cereal spilled on the table with the message "TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE—MOM" but chalks it up to mindless natural laws. He uses the same logic to dismiss a heart drawn in the sand with the message "Mary loves Scott", the names of the girl he likes and his best friend, but finally has to admit intelligent design when he sees "Drink Coke" written in the sky.

Lee Strobel said, "I wish [this book] had been available when I was an atheist—it would have saved a lot of time in my spiritual journey toward God." According to Josh McDowell, "If you're still a skeptic after reading [this book], then I suspect you're living in denial."

Dinosaurs

Michael & Caroline Carroll
Cook Communications, 2000

Reviewer: Mark Rambo



This book targets young readers ages 8 to 12. It makes an excellent gift for children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, etc., who are fascinated with dinosaurs. Kids will love the colorful pictures and amazing dinosaur facts. Parents can feel at ease knowing the information is written from a biblical perspective while providing a scientifically accurate view of geology and paleontology.

Subtitled *Exploring the Scientific Mysteries of God's Creation*, the book provides children the foundational tools for integrating the record of nature (science) with the Bible. As the authors state on the back cover:

Dinosaurs may have lived long ago, but we know they are part of God's creation, and they still fascinate us today. Nothing captures our imagination quite like these giant creatures thundering across the landscape. Sometimes we're not sure what to believe about dinosaurs, but science reveals a lot about them, and God's Word tells us how God created the world. With these two valuable tools, we can find out all we need to know.

The book addresses many of the common questions children ask about dinosaurs. It explains how fossils are made and how paleontologists find and interpret the bones. It shares the latest information on how dinosaurs lived—how they walked, flew, swam, cared for their young, hunted and hibernated. It also explains what happened to the dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs answers these and many other exciting questions as children take an exciting journey to the past. The beautiful illustrations alone are well worth the price of the book.

The World is Against You, Athanasius

DAMIEN SPILLANE

Some of my recent study time has focused on the history of Christian thought. I believe a habit for perusing some of the greatest minds in church history should be developed by all Christians. They offer a treasure chest of encouragement and lessons which we can adopt for our betterment as followers of Christ.

Athanasius was one such example. He defended the nature of Christ as the same substance as the Father, against the Arian heresy that looked at Jesus as only the first and highest creation of God. Thus, according to the Arians, Jesus like any creation is subordinate to, and lesser than, God the Father.

Standing like a rock for his convictions, Athanasius defended Christ as *homoousion* ("same substance) against *homoiousion* ("like substance") to the Father. The difference was only an "iota"—*homo(i)ousion* verses *homoiousion*. That "iota" however, held profound theological significance. The acceptance of *homoiousion* endangered the full and unqualified deity of Jesus Christ.



Athanasius' stand was costly, he experienced a great deal of persecution and was even exiled a number of times, as many of the church leaders were led into Arian compromise. He virtually stood alone in his defense of the identity of Christ and hence earned the title of *contra mundum* ("against the world").

Here stands the testimony of a great defender of Biblical orthodoxy. Athanasius was educated at the catechetical school of Alexandria and from an early age he was instructed by Bishop Alexander. His extensive training in the doctrines of the Christian faith would serve him well. His mastery over the essentials of the faith, along with a zeal to see them established in the church, no doubt contributed to the condemnation of Arianism that would later follow at the Council of Nicea. Arianism was again condemned at the Council of Constantinople in 381 AD. Athanasius' achievements should in no way be regarded as trivial, as for a while the orthodox doctrines of the faith rested solely on his shoulders.

According to church historian Adolph Harnack, "If not for Athanasius, the church would have fallen into the hands of the Arians." "The glory of St. Athanasius," according to C.S. Lewis, "is that he did not move with the times." May we all be encouraged by the persistent and diligent example of Athanasius and his uncompromising zeal for the truth.

Jesus whom I know as my Redeemer cannot be less than God.

— Athanasius

Damien Spillane is the leader of the Australian Chapter of RTB. Their website is www.ozreasons.org.

Apologetic TOOLS

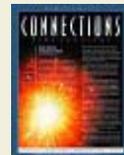
[Creation Webcast](#)

Join Hugh Ross each Tuesday, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM (PT), for an exciting discussion about how the latest scientific discoveries provide powerful evidence for the God of the Bible. Listen live through the RTB website. You can also listen to and download past episodes from the website.



[Free Newsletter](#)

RTB's newsletters are full of great articles on science and the Bible. They also provide updates on what's happening at the ministry. To subscribe, go to the RTB website and register. Once registered you can search and print past issues by clicking on the newsletter icon.



[Message of the Month](#)

Get fresh, faith-building messages each month while providing vital financial support to the RTB ministry.



This year's series is titled, "Adam: Miracle, Myth or Monkey?" Available on audio tape or CD. To learn more about the program, contact the chapter for a free tape or CD. Or, go to the RTB website and click on the M.O.M. icon.

[New Tract-Like Brochures](#)

RTB has introduced four new brochures for evangelism and initiating science and the Bible discussions. Topics include: How Did Life Emerge, What the Big Bang Says about God and Design, Is the Universe Designed for Humanity, and How Long Were the Creation Days. \$3 for a pack of 20 (one kind or 5 of each). Order at 1-800-482-7836.



[RTB Training Course](#)

Take RTB's Science and Evangelism Correspondence Course and become an official RTB apologist. The course retails for \$350 but is available through the chapter for \$150. Course materials include audiotapes or CDs, two videos (VHS or DVD) and seven books. For more information, contact the Seattle chapter. Scholarships are available from the chapter.





Ministry Endorsements

“Hugh Ross . . . has a strong, articulate voice in defense of truth. I appreciate very much his ministry, Reasons To Believe, and consider him a very valued ally in a great cause to defend truth in the world today, the one true God.”

Charles W. Colson
Founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries

“I have found Dr. Hugh Ross to be a man of integrity and sound wisdom as he has continued to offer ‘Reasons to Believe’ to an increasingly skeptical generation of seekers. In my conversations with him on the interpretation of Genesis chapters one and two, I found him solidly committed to the inerrancy of Scripture and to sound principles of interpretation. I commend his works to all for their thoughtful reflection on the magnificence of our great Creator living Lord.”

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.
President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, MA
Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Old Testament

“I am a strong supporter of the work of Reasons To Believe. Its publications and lectures clearly show that the facts of science force the unprejudiced to believe in God as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and all that they contain.”

Kenneth N. Taylor
Chairman of the Board, Tyndale House Publishers

“I have found Dr. Hugh Ross to be remarkably humble, and in my dealings with him I have been impressed by his gentlemanly response to disparaging comments. My impression is that he handles Scripture with great respect and in line with standard hermeneutical practice. Dr. Ross and the Reasons To Believe staff are providing a much-needed voice showing that science does not have to deny God. In fact, when science is approached without a naturalistic bias, it provides strong evidence for the existence of the biblical God.”

Dr. John Ankerberg
Host, The John Ankerberg Show

“Hugh Ross is committed to truth—of Scripture and of science. But his pre-eminent commitment is to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping people know Him. He wholeheartedly works to remove roadblocks to faith by demonstrating how science reflects what the Bible teaches.”

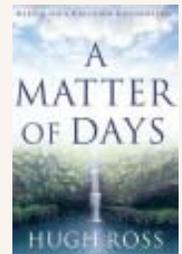
Dr. Jerry White
President/General Director, The Navigators

RTB Resources

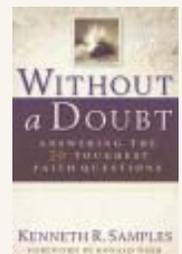
In this new book, *Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off*, Hugh Ross and Fuz Rana reveal how life’s beginnings can be tested. They examine the latest origin-of-life research and explode the myth of a naturalistic origin of life. *Intermediate/Advanced, Hardback, US\$ 12.95.*



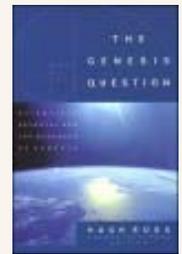
The length of time represented by the word “day” in the Genesis creation account is a source of controversy in the Christian church. In this new book, *A Matter of Days*, Hugh Ross explores how this controversy developed and addresses many of the key issues of the debate. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$ 9.95.*



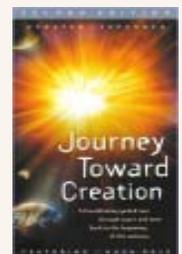
In this new book, *Without a Doubt*, RTB philosopher and theologian Ken Samples gives readers a great apologetics handbook. The question-and-answer format is easy to follow and addresses 20 prominent issues skeptics raise about God, the Bible and Christianity. *All Readers, Paperback, US\$ 9.95.*



Does the Bible teach the earth is 10,000 years old? How does science and the book of Genesis relate? In *The Genesis Question*, Hugh Ross examines these and other issues from an old-earth creationist position. A great book to share with Christians and skeptics. *All Readers, Paperback, \$US 9.95.*



Is life in the universe common or rare? What are the odds of finding other Earth-like planets? Take an amazing journey as Hugh Ross examines how the universe has been meticulously fine-tuned for human life using state-of-the-art computer animation. *All Viewers, VHS or DVD, \$US 19.95.*



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ages and relationships of the patriarchs stated in the genealogies to determine a date for Adam and Eve. Most arrive at a creation date of about 4000 B.C. based on the Hebrew text. Some calculate a slighter older date using the Greek text.³

Open chronology view proponents maintain the Genesis genealogies are not intended to provide a comprehensive genealogical record. Instead, they contend the genealogies are telescoped—a common practice where names are left out and only the names of key individuals are given. Thus, the genealogical information contains gaps and cannot be used as a timetable to calculate the date of Adam and Eve's creation.

The open chronology view was popularized by William Henry Green (1825-1900), the highly respected theologian and Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, and B.B. Warfield (1851-1921), the great Biblical commentator at Western Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary.^{4,5} Today it is supported by such conservative Bible scholars as Samuel Schultz, Professor of Bible Studies and Theology Emeritus at Wheaton College, and Norman Geisler, President of Southern Evangelical Seminary.^{6,7}

Here are a few highlights of the rationale behind the open chronology view:

- In modern times, genealogies are used to communicate detailed information about history and family relations. This is different from how genealogies were used and understood in biblical times. There was little need or reason to give a complete listing of names because it was ancestry that was important, not the exact number of generations.⁸
- While the genealogies seem to describe a father to son succession, this is not necessarily the case. In biblical Hebrew, *father* can mean “forefather” or “ancestor,” *begat* can mean “was the ancestor of,” and *son* can mean “descendant.” For example, although Jesus is described as the *son* of David, at least 1,000 years and 28 generations separate the two.⁹
- In comparing the various genealogies in the Bible, it is apparent names are omitted. For example, there are three missing generations in Matthew 1:8, six generations omitted in Ezra 7:2 and at least one generation missing in the Genesis genealogy. These and other examples demonstrate the Bible genealogies intentionally omit some names.¹⁰
- If there are no gaps in the Bible genealogies, implausible situations arise. For example, Adam would have been a contemporary of Noah's father; Abraham would have been born only two years after Noah's death; and Abraham's grandfather, Nahor, would have died before his great, great, great, great, great, great, grandfather Noah.¹¹

- If there are no gaps in the genealogies, significant population improbabilities arise. For example, if there are no gaps in the Mosaic genealogy (Exod. 6), Kohath, Moses' grandfather, would have had 8,600 male descendants, 2,750 of whom were between the ages of 30 and 50, all in the lifetime of Moses.¹²
- Nothing in the Bible indicates the Genesis genealogies are supposed to be used as timetables. The author of Genesis nowhere sums the numbers in the genealogies, suggests their summation or uses them as a timetable. In fact, there is no computation anywhere in Scripture of the time elapsed since the creation.¹³
- The structure of the Genesis genealogies indicates an intentional arrangement. Each line of descent includes ten names and ends with a father having three sons. This symmetry suggests the genealogy is artificial and does not register all of the names in these lines of descent.¹⁴

The open chronology view makes sense when one considers the fact that the genealogical records were passed down orally for many generations before they were written down. The exact number of generations that might be missing from the genealogies is not known. However, most open chronology proponents believe the genealogies are from 10 to 80 percent complete. This would place the appearance of Adam and Eve somewhere between 7,500 and 60,000 years ago.¹⁵

FOSSIL RECORD

Contrary to the claims of some Christians, there is ample evidence from the fossil record for the existence of bipedal primates dating back 4.5 million years ago. The ages and dates of these fossils are not widely disputed in the scientific community.¹⁶ However, other than an evolutionary bias, there is little basis for classifying these species as human. They display significant morphological and behavioral differences from modern man and there is also no demonstrated pathway of how they could have evolved into man.¹⁷

The first species that are considered human appear in the fossil record fairly recently. Some researchers maintain “archaic” *Homo sapiens* were the first human species, dated at around 100,000 years ago. Other researchers tie humans to the abrupt appearance of Cro-Magnon Man (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) about 40,000 years ago. The name “Cro-Magnon Man” refers to the caves in southern France where the first remains were found.

Viewed objectively, the evidence points to Cro-Magnon Man. While *Homo sapiens* (archaic) show some anatomical similarities to modern man, Cro-Magnon Man is virtually indistinguishable. *Homo sapiens* (archaic) display behavior that is more akin to the earlier bipedal

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primates. And, *Homo sapiens* (archaic) seem to disappear from the fossil record from about 80,000 to 40,000 years ago, suggesting they went extinct before the appearance of Cro-Magnon Man (*Homo sapiens sapiens*).¹⁸

Additional support for Cro-Magnon Man comes from DNA studies. Y-chromosome analysis has dated the first man at about 43,000 years ago and mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis has dated the first woman at about 100,000 years ago.¹⁹ Recent studies suggest mtDNA may mutate at a much faster rate than was assumed. If the mtDNA molecular clock is recalibrated to reflect a higher mutation rate, the date for the first woman becomes 40,000 years ago^{20,21}—very consistent with the Y-chromosome result and the timeframe for *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

Some critics point to fossil finds in Israel and elsewhere as evidence man was on the earth 100,000 to 130,000 years ago. However, these specimens display clear behavioral differences from Cro-Magnon Man. The dates are also based on newly developed dating techniques and must be considered estimates, at best.²² Others suggest the aborigines inhabited Australia as early as 75,000 years ago. However, recent studies have revised these dates downward to the neighborhood of 40,000 years.²³

As a side note, some young-earth creationists insist Neandertals were human. However, there is little basis for this claim. Neandertals disappear from the fossil record about 30,000 years ago.²⁴ There are significant differences in the Neandertal and Cro-Magnon anatomy.²⁵ In fact, the Neandertal anatomy suggests they were incapable of engaging in fine motor skills (e.g., carving and painting) and probably did not have the ability to speak.²⁶ There are marked differences in the Neandertal and Cro-Magnon tools and diets.^{27,28} And, most important, DNA analysis indicates there is no genetic link between Neandertals and modern man.²⁹

Some evidence suggests Neandertals may have buried their dead. However, religious sense does not denote a moral capacity. All that is needed for a religious sense is imagination and a notion of the unknown. Neandertals were intelligent creatures that would have been capable of conceptualizing on a fairly high level even without language but this does not prove they were human—creatures made in the image of God.³⁰

ARCHEOLOGICAL RECORD

The archeological record also points to *Homo sapiens sapiens* as the first human beings. With the appearance of Cro-Magnon Man, there are many significant developments. For example:

- There is a sudden increase in the complexity of tools. Prior to 40,000 years ago, the style and use of tools remained stagnant for hundreds of thousands of years.³¹

- Sophisticated works of art suddenly appear about 30,000 to 40,000 years ago. Prior to that, there is little evidence of art.³²
- The first evidence of religious expression (religious relics, idols, altars, etc.) appears about 27,000 years ago.³³
- Weaving, which is often cited as the earliest evidence of civilization, appears about 25,000 to 27,000 years ago.^{34,35}
- Finely-crafted bodily ornaments (beads, pendants, etc.) first appear around 20,000 to 43,000 years ago.³⁶
- The first use of musical instruments occurs about 30,000 to 37,000 years ago.³⁷

Homo sapiens sapiens also display a new mode of socioeconomic organization. There is a sharp increase in population density and an increase in the maximum size of local residential groups. There is a more specialized pattern of animal exploitation based on systematic hunting. And there is the appearance of more highly structured habitation sites, including evidence of hearths, pits, tents and other habitations.³⁸

All of this points to the conclusion that Cro-Magnon Man had mental powers considerably superior to his predecessors. It also suggests that *Homo sapiens sapiens* were the first creatures capable of the complex symbolizing necessary for true language.³⁹ If archaic *Homo sapiens* were the first human beings, gradual advancements should be observed in the archeological record. We do not see this. In the words of paleo-anthropologist Christopher Stringer, *Homo sapiens sapiens* exhibit “an extraordinary catalogue of achievements that seem to have come from virtually nowhere.”⁴⁰

CONCLUSION

The fossil and archeological data ties the creation of Adam and Eve to the appearance of Cro-Magnon Man (*Homo sapiens sapiens*) about 40,000 years ago. This is well within the timeframe allowed by the open chronology view of the Genesis genealogies. There is little basis for claiming humans appeared earlier. Nor are there compelling reasons to accept the young-earth creation date of 6,000 years ago. There are simply too many independent lines of investigation that indicate man was on the earth well before that time.

Some may ask if man has been on earth for 40,000 years, why does the evidence of human culture not show up until much later? For example, the earliest identifiable people belong to the Neolithic Natufian culture that spread from Palestine to Syria

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about 12,500 to 10,500 years ago.⁴¹ I think there are several possible answers to this.

First, it could be early humans maintained a nomadic hunter/gatherer lifestyle for many thousands of years until natural conditions forced them to abandon it. One condition that may have triggered this was the rapid climate change that started about 15,000 years ago in the Near East called the Younger Dryas.⁴² Thus, we would not expect to see signs of an organized culture emerging until about that general time period.

Second, it could be the human culture we see in the archeological record at 10,500 to 12,500 years ago is from the society that developed after the Genesis Flood. Whether the Flood was local or global, it would have destroyed most of the archeological record of the pre-Flood peoples. Thus, the advancements associated with human culture could have occurred much earlier, we just don't have any significant evidence of it.

Third, it could be future discoveries will push the evidence of human culture back further in time. In fact, this is happening. Activities that were thought to have occurred in the Neolithic Period are now known to have occurred much earlier. For example, the origin of pottery has been traditionally placed at about 8,000 years ago but pieces of pottery have now been found that date to over 25,000 years ago.⁴³

In the big scheme of things, there is little difference between a date of 6,000 years ago and 40,000 years ago for Adam and Eve. Both indicate mankind began very recently, both are defensible biblically, and neither supports evolution. The real question is which date better enables us to communicate with unbelievers? If our testimony on scientific matters is unreliable, how we can expect them to accept our testimony on spiritual matters? The answer is clear: we cannot. This is the major obstacle for the young-earth creation date.

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Seattle Chapter Reasons to Believe

Who Are We?

The Seattle Chapter of Reasons to Believe is a local extension of the worldwide, interdenominational Reasons to Believe ministry. We exist to support our parent organization and foster local involvement in the ministry. We serve the Puget Sound area and are composed of Christians of different ages and backgrounds.

It is our conviction the same God who created the universe inspired the Bible. Therefore, what God says through His word must agree with the facts of nature. We reject the notion that science and the Bible are at odds and seek to provide a scientifically-sound and Biblically-faithful alternative to Darwinism and young-Earth creationism.

What Do We Do?

Our mission is to remove the doubts of skeptics and strengthen the faith of believers. We provide scientific, historical and philosophical evidence that supports the Christian worldview and helps remove barriers to a belief in God, the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We carry out this mission by:

- Helping people access RTB and other scientifically and biblically sound resources.
- Bringing nationally-known speakers into the area to promote the scientific reliability of the Bible.
- Assembling a team of local apologists to address questions about science, the Bible and related topics.
- Working with teachers and homeschoolers to achieve a balanced approach to the teaching of origins.
- Building alliances with local churches, ministries and groups to maximize the exposure of the RTB ministry.
- Reaching out to unbelievers with gentleness and respect, encouraging them to evaluate their worldviews.

We welcome your involvement and support. For more information, contact us at seattle@reasons.org. Your tax-deductible donations can be sent to: Seattle RTB, PO Box 99683, Seattle, WA 98139-0683.

Questions? Get Answers.

Whether you are looking for scientific support for your faith or answers to questions about God, the Bible, and science, contact us at seattle@reasons.org. You can also call the RTB hotline seven days a week, 5:00 to 7:00 PM at 626-335-5282.