

February 2003

## CAVEMEN—MISSING LINK?

Have scientists discovered evidence that humans are descended from ape-like ancestors? Are there *real* “missing link” fossils to prove this? Well, one of the reasons the term “missing link” is what it is, and includes the word *missing*, is that the evidence has long been—missing. Some have argued that this or that fossil is the “missing link”, so we will examine a few of them.

There has been Piltdown Man, which was admittedly a hoax. The teeth were filed, and the bones chemically stained to alter the appearance. Then there was Nebraska Man, which was built out of a pig’s tooth. This tooth was presented as evidence for evolution at the famous Scopes trial.

It is suspected that Neanderthal Man was simply a normal human with some medical problems—possibly arthritis, rickets, or acromegaly. Scientists now classify him as human.

But what about the drawings? We see pictures showing the “missing links” with their hairy bodies, their crouching gait, and so forth. Since this is what they looked like, weren’t they obviously ancestors of humans? These pictures *do* show something between a man and an ape; however, the question is *not* whether the pictures show something between man and ape, but *whether the actual creatures looked at all like the pictures*. So, did they?

Boyce Rensberger, quoted by Charles Scott Kimball on his Web page <http://xenohistorian.faithweb.com/genesis/gen05c.html>, said in *Science Digest* in 1981:

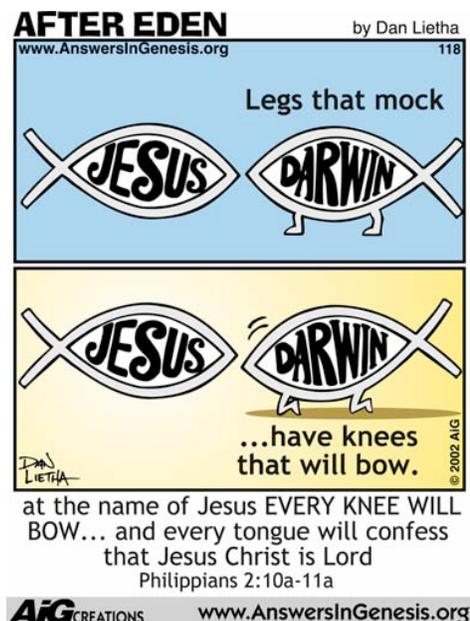
“Unfortunately, the vast majority of artist’s conceptions are based more on imagination than on evidence. But a handful of expert natural history artists begin with the fossil bones of a hominid and work from there... Much of the reconstruction, however, is guesswork. Bones say nothing about the fleshy parts of the nose, lips or ears. Artists must create something between an ape and a human being; the older the specimen is said to be, the more apelike they make it... Hairiness is a matter of pure conjecture. The guesswork approach often leads to errors.”

We cannot trust that the pictures give an accurate portrayal of what the creatures actually looked like. In the

case of *Ramapithecus*, based on nothing more than jaw bones and teeth, a model was created and displayed. Nebraska Man was pictured as a family group of apemen. Remember now that this was based on nothing more than one tooth, and that of a pig (erroneously labeled as an ape-like pre-human tooth). So artwork may look ape-like, human, or something between, but that does not prove what the creatures really looked like.

Quoting again from the above web page:

“In 1992 Dr. Ian Tattersall stated in *Evolutionary Anthropology* that ‘it is increasingly clear that *Homo Habilis* [sic] has become a wastebasket taxon, little more than a convenient recipient for a motley assortment of hominid fossils from the latest Pliocene and earliest Pleistocene...’ In other words, any primate bones they can’t label as ape or human may become *Homo Habilis* [sic] specimens.”



*Pithecanthropus erectus* was discovered by Eugene Dubois. He admitted late in his life that this was not a man, but a giant gibbon (a type of ape).

Now, consider *Australopithecus*. One problem mentioned by some researchers is that there are not any bones of chimpanzees near the locations where bones of *Australo-*

*pithecus* have been found. Although bones of other animals are found nearby, the bones of modern apes are **not**. *Why?*

What if the missing *ape* bones **are** the bones of *Australopithecus*? This would explain their absence—the “missing” ape bones would then actually be present.

Could such an error be made? Consider the case of *Ramapithecus*. This “missing link” was described as walking upright by its discoverer. However, there were no leg or hip bones found—only jaw bones. Yet these jaw bones were enough to describe the creature as walking upright. Later, the discoverer admitted that he had said that it walked upright simply because he had *wanted* it to walk upright (not because of any evidence to that effect). Later, after discovery of more bones, it seems that this creature is actually an orangutan.

One of the top forensic anthropologists in the country has stated that often medical men (pathologists) mistake pig bones for human bones. Sometimes, people find what they are looking for, even if it’s not there.

A book by an evolutionist described this phenomenon—of allowing what one *wants* to find to distort one’s conclusions in spite of, and even contrary to, the evidence. The book is *The Mismeasure of Man*, by Stephen Jay Gould. In it he describes how one man let his preconceived opinion determine his description of what his experiments proved, even though the data he published with his conclusion showed his conclusion wrong. (The experiments were measurements of the size of human skulls.) In this case the desired conclusion was claimed, even though the evidence did not support it.

Thus, when no bones of modern apes are found in the same location where *Australopithecus* bones are found (even though bones from other animal species are found nearby), we find a possible explanation. We can explain this if we assume that the missing bones *are* there—they are simply mislabeled as being bones of *Australopithecus*, instead of bones of an *ape*.

Well, this accounts for a few of the so-called “missing links” or cavemen—but what about others? Well, there are not that many others. An evolutionist has said that all such fossils would fit into an ordinary coffin.

In short, it seems that many of the “cave man” fossils can be accounted for as being one of the following:

- apes
- humans with medical problems affecting their bones
- mixtures of bones from apes and humans
- mis-identifications of other animals
- hoaxes

Does the evidence support evolution of man from so-called “cave-men”? We see from the above that much that has been claimed as evidence for the evolution of man does not actually prove, nor does it support, the evolution of man from “missing links”.

In conclusion, let’s look at a statement by an evolutionist. An evolutionist once asked another evolutionist, who was the co-founder of punctuated equilibrium theory (a theory attempting to explain aspects of evolution), if he could name even a single example of a species, whether in the lab or in the fossil record, that he could *document* that had arisen from another species. He could not name *any* human, hominid, or ape-like species!<sup>1</sup>

We can therefore put to rest the arguments that the so-called “missing links” have scientifically proven that man has evolved. When closely examined, the evidence does not prove evolution of man from “cave-men”. ❧

*Joe Spears*

<sup>1</sup>In fact, he could not name any species at all. He mentioned a species *with* a parasitic symbiotic relationship (as supposedly arising from the same species *without* the parasite) as the closest thing to this that he could come up with.

## BIOCHEMICAL VISION

Michael J. Behe, associate professor of biochemistry at Lehigh University, has presented a biochemical sketch of the chemistry of sight. The sketch is extremely technical and I do not expect most of us to understand it, but I present a short résumé to acquaint us with the complexity and wonder of vision.

A photon of light strikes a retinal cell, and interacts with a molecule, 11-cis-retinal, which changes within a brief picosecond to trans-retinal. This binds to a protein, rhodopsin, which binds to another protein called transducin, which had already bonded with GDP. Several proteins and chemicals then interact and reduce the sodium ions in the retinal cell, which causes an electric current to be transmitted down the optic nerve to the brain, which interprets the vision.

The supply of 11-cis-retinal and sodium in the retinal cell would be depleted unless restored. This restoration is accomplished by a full paragraph of biochemical reactions.

The cycle is complete when trans-retinal becomes separated from rhodopsin by the action of several protein enzymes.

Darwin and millions of evolutionists have accepted the belief that the eye and vision could be formed and function by natural selection through unplanned, undirected chance. Now that we have this knowledge of how the eye works, there is no sense in believing that blind chance is our Creator. ❧

*Isaac Manly, MD*

## EVIDENCES FOR CREATION OVER EVOLUTION

*Editor's Note: The following is the first part of a short series of arguments to appear in this newsletter compiled by various persons who believe that true science and biblical Christianity go hand in hand. It was produced jointly by the Creation Research Society, St. Joseph, MO, and Skilton House Ministries, Philadelphia, PA. Editors: Paul G. Humber and Glen W. Wolfrom. Contributors: Harry Akers, Robert Gentet, Ed Garrett, Lane Lester, Ron Pass, Dave Sack, Curt Sewell, Helen Setterfield, Doug Sharp, and Laurence Tisdall.*

**Introduction:** We often hear in the secular media as well as in many non-Christian religious arenas that man is basically good and that this good can be encouraged and promoted until the world is at peace and all is harmonious. This point of view denies the God of the Bible and His Word of truth about our true condition as sinners. Increasingly, today, the idea of humanism—that man is the determiner of right and truth—is being taught in the media, our public schools, and even in some churches claiming to be Christian. Along with this humanist approach, we then find that abortion suddenly becomes a “right” for a woman, and even that religious objections to this are based on religious myths and outdated ideas.

The scientific approach used by humanism is organic evolution—the idea that all forms of life on earth are the result of changes happening to an original cell which just happened to come together to form life. Evolutionary ideas also stretch beyond this, declaring the universe itself originated in an unexplained sudden expansion billions of years ago, and that this sudden expansion resulted in galaxies, including our own, and eventually resulted in life itself. Thus, even our consciousness and our ideas of right and wrong, good and evil, are said to be the result of an accident, or series of accidents, which took place over enormous amounts of time. This not only denies the God of the Bible and the messages of creation and redemption and accountability to Him, it denies any supernatural intelligence.

There are those who try to combine humanistic science and what God says. Theistic evolutionists say God “did it through evolution.” God certainly could have done it that way, but the fact is He says He didn’t. Genesis records six days of Creation, of various “kinds” of life

being created supernaturally and separately and only being able to reproduce “after their own kinds.” The two ideas—evolution and creation by God—are at odds with each other. In order to intermingle them, you must fudge important aspects of one and/or the other. Thus, theistic evolutionists find themselves in a position of needing to believe current science to an extent that requires ignoring or re-interpreting God’s Word, the Bible.

In order to help those who wisely believe that God knows how to communicate and means what He says, the following points should be noted about creation vs. evolution:

1. Either matter was created or it is eternal. Christians believe God created matter. Humanists believe that matter, after evolving its own intelligence, “created” God. Any argument *against* one of these two views is an argument *for* the other. Similarly, creation itself is either the result of intelligence or it is not. The theory of evolution argues for a non-intelligent cause and process. Creation in any form (there are non-Christian forms of creation beliefs) argues for an intelligent cause and process.

2. You perhaps have heard the question, “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” Did you know that the answer to the question poses a huge problem for evolutionists? If the egg came first, then it could not have been a fertilized one. (You may be unaware that eggs you buy in the store are not fertilized and would never hatch chickens). Roosters, which are needed to provide sperm cells, are kept away from the hens. Under normal circumstances, hens store sperm cells from the rooster internally to fertilize an egg before the shell is formed. Now if the egg came first, there would have been no rooster to provide sperm nor hen to store it. Therefore, both the chicken and the rooster came first, and they had to be fully functional to produce eggs and, after hatching, chicks. The evolutionist cannot move backward, in a reductionist fashion, to diminish this complexity to something less but still functional. The creationist, on the other hand, sees the complexity of roosters and hens and rightly concludes that these marvelous creatures were created together in the beginning. The computer you use was obviously designed by someone, even though you may never have seen him or her. Living roosters and hens are far more complex than any inanimate computer!

## COMING EVENTS

**Thursday, February 13, 7:30 P.M., Providence Baptist Church, 6339 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh**  
Rapid Geologic Processes by Dan Reynolds, PhD