

THE ORIGIN OF MAN

The study of man and his origin is foundational to our Christian witness. It is important for us to know where we came from. We know that one of the biggest theories these days is that there is no God. Man came about through a process of slow development over millions of years of ape-like ancestors until we reached the stage we are today.

Some homely truths

Most scientists assume that the material world is all there is. Evolution is accepted as an indisputable fact. They know where men came from. These assumptions determine how they view the world. The quotations below illustrate this, with emphases added.

This is what Richard Lewontin, a geneticist and renowned champion of Neo-Darwinism says:

“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated, just-so stories, ***because we have a prior commitment to materialism.***”

It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, ***on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a divine foot in the door.***”

Lewontin is, in effect, telling us that “we do not know what we are talking about, but we will not let anyone else tell us otherwise, because we are committed to the notion that there is no God. Anything to do with God, we must exclude.”

The second truth is this. Christians tend to misunderstand the meaning of evolution. Let us be clear about what evolutionists are trying to tell us. Evolution was **not** put forward as a theory to explain how God made the world and all living things. Evolution was put forward as a theory to explain how the world and all living things came about **without God**. With evolution, you do not need God. Man is either created by God or evolved all the way from a single cell through an ape-like ancestor. Evolutionists maintain you cannot have it both ways. You do not win their respect nor bring anybody to Christ by sitting on such a fence. Your friend may then very well ask you, "What about the miracles recorded in the Bible? They should be explainable according to the laws of nature." For instance, the miracle of feeding the 5000 hungry people by Jesus must have been due to the large gathering shamefully bringing out their hidden lunches because of the selfless act of one little boy offering his for Jesus to use. (Matthew 14:13-21)

Beliefs of Evolution

Standard evolutionary teaching states that the tenets of evolution are death of the unfit, natural selection of the fittest over long periods of time. According to astronomer Carl Sagan, in his Cosmos series of 1980, evolution requires the deaths of enormous numbers of lifeforms that were imperfectly adapted for their environment. A slow change of an organism from a long succession of small mutations was needed. These tiny changes were by accident, adaptive and thus requiring vast periods of time for the accumulation of these lucky mutations. Time, it would seem is the hero of evolution.

The following quote is from the 1995 official statement American National Association of Biology:

"The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies and changing environments."

“Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind”, said George Gaylord Simpson, the famous biologist and anthropologist.

The official view is driven by the belief that there is no God, although holding to this belief is against intuition, against reason. They do not want His divine foot in the door, because, once allowed, we would have to admit that we owe our existence to a Creator. Admitting that, what should be our response as to how we should live our lives? So they shut Him out.

The Origin of Man

On the origin of man, we have the famous diagram of the Tree of Life. This diagram is meant to show how starting from a single cell plant life, animal life and then dinosaurs, apes and finally man emerged. All this is purely hypothetical. The Tree should not have solid lines connecting various biological groups but rather dotted lines. This would be more factual because the connections between these groups, if any, are hypothetical.

To begin with, why should a collection of atoms like us have thinking ability, enabling us to contemplate where we came from? No one, and certainly not the evolutionist, is able to explain this. How does mind emerge from mindless matter? It goes against commonsense and intuition. It is not a sensible argument to say it just occurred and that's that.

When God made man and placed him to look after the garden in Eden he also commanded the man saying, “You may eat of any tree of the garden, but the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for the day you eat it you shall die.” (Genesis 2:16,17)

The first man was created with a name, Adam. He did not evolve from a hairless ape. His wife, Eve, was made from a bone of his side. Death came after man's disobedience to the command. The Bible teaches that there was no death before the Fall. Creation then became subject to decay and man to the hardship of living off the land.

The Bible puts it this way. Creation has been subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in the hope that Creation itself would be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (Romans 8:20,21).

This is the Christian's hope when Christ returns to restore and renew God's creation. We cannot even imagine what it will be like; it will be so glorious!

There are scientists who see through the utter impossibility of producing even a living cell through evolution by chance mutation and natural selection from simple chemicals even over long periods of time.

Jacques Monod, a French Nobel Laureate biochemist puts it: ***“He who is God has the liberty to choose other mechanisms. Why would He have to start with simple molecules?”***

Why not create man right away, as the Bible teaches? If God is God, why does He have to start with simple molecules?”

Some Christians assert, “Why don't we combine evolution and creation? God could have used evolution.”

If God had used evolution He would have recorded it **unequivocally** in Genesis. We want to defend the Bible teaching of creation but do not want to offend anyone. That is our problem.

If God is indeed all-powerful and all-knowing He does not have to “start with simple molecules” as Monod says. God does not need to wait for a collection of cells to become fish, amphibian, mammal, then ape, struggling through millions of years to finally become man.

That is not what the Bible tells us about our loving, great and glorious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have such false ideas please get them out of your head. You are not listening to what Scripture teaches.

'Ancestors' from studying bones

You must read widely to compare what the Scripture says with what is taught by the standard textbooks. Otherwise you will not understand where evolutionists are coming from.

For a general survey, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Evolution*. The cover has an image digitally altered to reflect the assumed connection between apes and humans. Then there is the book by Roger Lewin, "*Bones of Contention: Controversies in the Search for Human Origins*". The periodicals *Science*, *Nature* and *New Scientist* give good coverage to these topics.

For the Christian viewpoints there are Marvin Lubenow's *Bones of Contention*, Phillip Johnson's trilogy *Darwin on Trial*, *Reason in the Balance* and *Defeating Darwinism*. The websites such as www.icr.org and www.answersingenesis.com are very helpful with topical details.

The basic assumption is that we need ancestors. Apes are a natural choice as there are the obvious physical similarities. Keep in mind though that physical similarities do not prove descent by evolution. It could be used to support the theory of a Creator using a common plan for his creatures.

If man is the product of a gradual process of change the question is where are these ancestors. If millions of years are required for the physical changes there should be thousands of fossils of such intermediate ape-to-human forms. The fact is that there are very few such fossils that could be considered as candidates. It is sometimes argued that such fossils have been destroyed by geological changes. Why, on the other hand, are there are lots of fossils of animals said to be geologically older and younger than man?

A point of logic. There is the very basic problem of calling something an **'ancestor'**. Assuming that we are descended from the apes and must therefore have ape-like ancestors is no proof that the theory is true. Not any more logical than demanding a Spanish birth certificate from a stranger because you have already assumed that he was born in Spain.

In the book *Darwin on Trial*, Professor of Law, Phillip Johnson raises the question: ***“What is the basis for calling something an ancestor? By calling it an ancestor in the first place, you are coloring your interpretation of what may be called an ‘ancestor’. You have to prove it first! Not assume it. “***

Findings from fossil-hunting expeditions

One famous fossil discovery is that of *Australopithecus africanus* in 1934 by Professor Raymond Dart of the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. He made this pursuit into a fashionable discipline called ‘paleoanthropology’, that is, trying to find and study human remains from the past. The Olduvai Gorge and Ethiopia in East Africa became hotbeds for this sort of research. It is assumed that our ancestors must have lived near water, and so fossil hunters go to a river bed or a lake that has dried up and dig around it for fossils bones. There are many other sites, in Europe, Israel, and SouthEast Asia but the best known are in Africa. Many famous names such as those of Louis and Mary Leakey and their son Richard Leakey are associated with such explorations. Donald Johanson discovered *Australopithecus afarensis* (nicknamed ‘Lucy’) in the Afar region of Ethiopia in 1974.

Note how these specimens are named. Evolutionists recognize these are apes, because that is the name they use to refer to their specimens. *Australopithecus* means southern ape. Claiming apes to be our ancestors is a leap of faith based on the doctrines of evolutionism.

Interpreting the fossil evidence

How does one deduce the history of human evolution using fossil bones? Let us see how they interpret their finds.

Richard Leakey examined the fossil skull labelled ‘1470’. One point of uncertainty is the angle at which the face is attached to the cranium. Alan Walker, another paleoanthropologist, recalls an occasion when he, Leakey and another researcher were studying two sections of the skull. These were experts, mind you, with pieces of bones in front of them.

Alan commented that, “You could move the maxilla or upper jaw attached in a more protruding fashion so the face is long, or you could stick it further in so that the face is short. How you held it really depended on your preconception, and it was interesting to see what people did with it.”

You know what Alan is saying? You hold the jawbone one way and it looks like one animal, and you hold it another way it looks like something else. You have pieces of bone, depending on how you join or articulate them, you come with different conclusions. This expert confesses that interpretation of fossil evidence is an uncertain exercise. Students of fossil primates have not been very cautious in the conclusions they draw. The record of conclusions drawn is so astonishing that it is legitimate to ask how much science there is at all.

So, is what we are told of human evolution a fact or an interpretation of the purported evidence? Having examined several *Australopithecine* skulls mentioned above, Lord Solly Zuckerman, Professor of Anatomy and an expert in primate behaviour, commented that he found no link between these skulls and human skulls. That’s only an interpretation, was his opinion. People just ignored him. If you ignore something, it does not get into the textbooks. It is so embarrassing to the establishment to be shown that they are all amateurs playing around with bones, sticking these fragments in various places and making up stories.

Indeed, they say so themselves.

“If you were to spend your whole life picking up small bone fragments of a jaw or a cranium, there is a very strong desire to exaggerate the importance of these fragments”, says Greg Kirby, Senior Lecturer in Population Biology. So they see ape-men everywhere. They discover hominids and every discovery is mooted as a potential ancestor in the *New Scientist* or *Nature*.

Summary of ape-man 'history'

We talk about ape-like ancestors, but this is confusing when we consider modern apes. They seem to have sprung out of nowhere! No ancestors, no fossil records. The true origin of man - naked, bi-pedal, big-brained man is a mystery if we are honest with ourselves. So we say, we come from apes. Well, where do the apes come from? We must then postulate that apes having ancestors, which, in the grand tradition of evolutionary thinking, **must** have existed.

Summarising, let us travel back in time. The skeletal remains of 'modern man' *Homo sapiens* are plenty and found all over the world. Then there are the Neanderthals whose bones are human-like, so they are considered *Homo neanderthalensis*. Neanderthals with their craggy features seem to be good candidates among our possible 'ancestors'. However we are finding that they are not primitive at all. In the 1870s, they were depicted as ape-like. Progressively, they were depicted as more human-like. In a German museum, they put a Neanderthal in a modern suit, and the similarity to an ordinary man is striking. In fact, the Neanderthals seem to be far more intelligent and capable than many anthropologists have suspected. In other words, they were just like us. Strikingly, they buried their dead with flowers. If we look at examples of **Neanderthal art**, we discover reports in the scientific journals that *Homo neanderthalensis* could fashion and play musical instruments.

Before them, we have *Homo erectus* and *Homo habilis* and then we come to the *Australopithecines*, namely *A bosei*, *A africanus*, *A afarensis*. There are other subgroups which I have not listed.

Tracing the hypothetical lineage even further back, we eventually come to an ape-like ancestor who is supposed to have lived in the trees. The reason was that there were more forests than grasslands. We are supposed to have evolved from this animal that lived in the trees that decided to hop onto the ground. It is called the '**terminal ape-like ancestor**', because from this point it becomes more and more human-like, from *Australopithecus* to *Homo*. The textbooks say that creatures swinging from tree to tree descended to the grasslands because of a change in climate. Somebody has made the point that an animal just learning to

walk on the savannahs would have been very vulnerable to predators. There would be lions just waiting for these ape-like animals to come down!

A Biblical View

In truth, the available facts fit so much better what the Bible says about man who is made in the image of God. God said, “Let us make man in our likeness. Let him rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air, the livestock over all the earth, over all the creatures that move on the ground.” (Genesis 1:26)

Man was made fully man in the beginning. If we compare ape skeletons and human skeletons, we notice that the ape’s centre of gravity is in front of its body. This is why an ape has to amble, arms hanging in front touching the ground (a posture called ‘knuckle-walking’), or it will fall over. Humans walk upright, with the head and the centre of gravity in line with the rest of his body. This accounts for our upright, arms free-swinging, bipedal gait. Hip structures between the two also show wide differences.

How can an ape-like creature become like us? Going from a shuffling to our upright gait requires major skeletal and soft tissue changes. These changes must be well coordinated so that while they are going on the creature must be fully functional. Otherwise a functionally compromised animal (such as not being able to run properly to escape predators) will not be expected to last long, being unfit to survive.

The position where the spinal cord emerges from the base of the skull is so starkly different in man and ape. You cannot transform an ape skull into a man’s without major genetic changes occurring simultaneously by chance, and evolutionists must be aware of this.

Man and apes are different creatures designed by God to live and flourish in different environments.

Intelligence and the human genome

Human physiology and the associated genetic information are extremely sophisticated creations. Molecular biologists have acknowledged the amazing design in the individual cells that make up our body. A design requires an intelligent Designer. This is a self-evident truth. That goes for all life forms - man, apes and every living thing.

And, not surprisingly, for non-living objects as well.

Bill Gates declared: ***“The understanding of life is a great subject. Biological information is the most important information you can discover, because over the next several decades we will revolutionize medicine. Human behaves like a computer program, but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”***

Computer programs are composed of information and creating information requires the intelligence of software specialists. Information cannot arise from chance. Mutations, on the other hand, are chance events. In fact almost all chance changes in the gene are harmful. That is why we have metabolic diseases due to such gene changes. By the way, that is also the reason computer programs have to be debugged!

For one part of an animal to change to another requires many ‘lucky’ events to happen at the same time so that the organism can continue to function while these changes are taking place. That is too much to ask from ‘Chance’

For instance, the human eye could not have arisen by chance mutations and natural selection as some imagine. You must have all the anatomical structures that make up the eye plus the connections to the brain plus the requisite neural connections to interpret what you see. Darwin himself was amazed at the thought of how the human eye could have evolved.

Computer generated models are available on the Internet which show how a light-sensitive patch of skin could ‘evolve’ into an eye. These animated videos, intelligently written and entertaining, serve only to prove the point they are meant to demolish.

The evolution of the brain is supposed to have occurred over 3 million years from our ape-like ancestors. It is strange that the functions of our evolving brain should far exceed the needs for **mere survival**.

For instance, humans are able to memorise the entire musical score of a symphony, or exhibit the remarkably fine control of the hand seen in the visual and musical arts.

A further curiosity is that once the brain was fully formed, the enormous differentiation of culture occurred over only a few thousand years. A mere twinkling of the eye in geological time separates us from the earliest records of any civilisation. Simply put, it means that we have more capabilities than we really need. You do not need all that skill merely to survive. You do not need a brain that is capable of playing blindfolded chess against 50 opponents simultaneously. All this only makes sense if you and I are made in God's image. When God created man He imbued him from the beginning with intelligence, language, creativity, manual skills and moral values.

The origin of language

The hard thing to explain is how we come to possess the complexities of vocabulary, syntax, grammar, culture and so on. Adam and Eve could converse with God in the beginning. When they sinned, they hid from God until He asked, "Where are you, Adam?." If they had no language, Adam and Eve would not have understood what God was saying to them. This is the way we are made, to talk with God and with each other.

Even our infants have the ability to recognize simple rules of grammar without being taught. I once asked a language expert how language came about, and he replied, "Which theory would you like me to quote you?"

Emperor Frederick who ruled the Roman Empire in the 13th century AD thought he would conduct an experiment to discover what the original language of mankind was, whether it be Hebrew, Greek, Latin or whatever else.

So he isolated a few infants from the sound of human voices to observe what language they spoke when they began to speak. They were fed, but kept in complete silence. He reasoned that if they were isolated from anything prejudicial, whatever language they spoke would be the original language.

So nurses caring for these infants were sworn to absolute silence. They were not to engage in any vocalization in any way. From the moment they were born, these infants never heard even a whisper by any human being. Sad, is it not? No mothers' voice, nothing. Absolute silence.

Do you know what happened to them? Within a year, they all died.

This is how God designed us in His image. God made our children to hear their mother's voice. Our five senses have to be stimulated or their neurons start to atrophy. The moment babies hear, the neurons start working and making interconnections. A 10-month old baby can identify several hundred characters. Language is hardwired in us because God made us that way.

How 'old' is man ?

The evidence is overwhelming that humans have always been humans. For instance, images of so-called Stone Age tools, a 2 million-year-old chopper and a heavy duty scraper used by *Homo habilis* were found in a gorge in Ethiopia and in Tanzania. A hand axe was also found, purportedly made **a million years later**. Does it take a million years for man to progress from a chopper to an axe?

As reported in the scientific journals, 'Stone Age' musical instruments look very much like the instruments we have today.

The Bible records that "Cain lay with his wife and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city" (Genesis 4:17)

A city will have buildings and streets!

“He called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son. Now to Enoch was born Irad, and Irad became the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael became the father of Methushael, and Methushael became the father of Lamech. Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock.”

How many generations were there between Adam and Lamech?

Yet they were already living in tents and raising livestock! What evolving hunter-gatherer society are we talking about?

“His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes.”

They already had stringed and woodwind instruments! No surprise, if man is made in God’s image, manifesting His creativity.

“Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of bronze and iron.” The Iron Age and Bronze Age came very early. (Genesis 4:18-22)
Civilisation arrived very early indeed!

The human genome

We are told that our genetic makeup is very similar to that of apes. This similarity is found in only 4% of the total genome. The remaining 96% of the total genome we dismissively call ‘junk DNA’ because its functions are not yet properly understood. The difference between us and apes or zebras may very well lie in the ‘junk’ DNA because the ‘junk’ contains essential controls on how the 4% portion of the genome is expressed.

What about our physical similarities? We, apes and all air-breathing animals need lungs. The genetic blueprint for making lungs where there is an exchange of carbon dioxide for oxygen cannot be that different. We have blood, apes have blood too. Our pancreas secrete insulin and so do theirs, except that our proteins are somewhat different in the finer details.

Also, the quantity of DNA (how big the genome) is not the important among living things. Some plants have **more** DNA than we human beings. It is what controls the expression of the DNA that determines how we look – our physical form and function.

To be sure, there are more exciting discoveries to be made of the genome.

The Biblical account of creation and the Fall

What the Bible tells us is true. All of creation was made over a 6-day period. God made the flower-kind, fern-kind, frog-kind and man-kind, everything after its own kind. If you love God and interpret the Bible faithfully, then this is what it says. He made everything to reproduce after its own kind. You and I are not at liberty to change it and speculate that God used evolution.

So God created man in His own image, male and female He created them. He gave them names. In the beginning, we had an ideal world. Evil came into the world through the fall of man, tempted by Satan.

There was no reason for the temptation to succeed. The Tree of the knowledge of good and evil with its forbidden fruit was in the middle of the Eden. You would really have to make an effort to go to the middle of the garden to look for it. Were Adam and Eve hungry, searching for food? No, they were not. Every fruit in the garden was good for eating. Our first parents simply chose to disobey.

Several thousands years later, there was another man who fasted forty days and forty nights. That man was Jesus. He was tempted to make bread out of stones by the same tempter, but He resisted. Adam and Eve had not fasted for forty days and nights. There was no reason for them to disobey God, just as you and I have no reason to disobey God. But we disobey nevertheless as a matter of free choice, and that is why we need forgiveness and cleansing.: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us of all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Out of touch with His Creator, Man has become a cosmic orphan by believing his own evolutionary stories about the origin of life. We seem to be living out Jeremiah 2:27: **“They say to wood, ‘You are my father’, and to stone, ‘You gave me birth’. They have turned their back to me.”**

I like this quote from John S. M’biti, an African Christian:

“By nature, Africans are neither angels nor demons. They can be as kind as the Germans, but they can be as murderous as the Germans. Africans can be as generous as the Americans, but they can be as greedy as the Americans; they can be as friendly as the Russians, but they can be as cruel as the Russians; they can be as honest as the English, but they can be equally hypocritical. In their human nature Africans are Germans, Swiss, Chinese, Indians or English – They are men.”

We are men and women made in the image of God, but we decide to be wilful and that is why we must be redeemed.

Ancient history

What we really know about Earth’s history is that it does not span billions of years. The oldest **human civilization** we know of is that of the Sumerians, about 5000 – 7000 years old. The cradle of civilization is located in Iraq. Wheat and grain cultivation originated there. So did writing. This is consistent with what the Bible teaches, where we can trace our ancestry all the way back to Ham, Shem and Japheth. The history of mankind – how and why we are here – is more consistent with what the Bible tells us than what evolution teaches.

There is a story about the Chinese character for ship, 船. The left side radical is another pictogram for ship, while the right side radical depicts 8 mouths. As we know, the Ark had Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth with their 4 wives and that makes 8 persons. Perhaps the Chinese descended from one of those families that had migrated east. There is a saying in Chinese that when we die, we go back to the West – where they had originated.

The well-known palaeoanthropologist Richard Leakey said this:

“If pressed about man's ancestry, I would have to unequivocally say that all we have is a huge question mark. To date, there has been nothing found to truthfully purport as a transitional species to man. If further pressed, I would have to state that there is more evidence to suggest an abrupt arrival of man rather than a gradual process of evolving.”

These statements should be put up somewhere in a museum of natural history.

The Miao accounts reveal the ancient roots of their religion

In Myanmar, the Miao people had never come into contact with missionaries before, but they have written records. When missionaries came, they looked at those records and found this creation myth. Bear in mind that they had never met any missionaries before. Edgar A. Truax translated their creation myth. Reading it, I hope it deepens your belief in God's Word about the origin of mankind. (www.icr.org/article/genesis-according-miao-people)

“One day, God created the heavens and the earth. On that day, He opened the gateway of light. On the earth, He made heaps of earth and stone. In the sky, He made bodies of the Sun and Moon. On the earth, He created the hawk and other birds. In the water created the lobster and fish. In the wilderness made He the tiger and bear, made verdure to cover the mountains, made forest extend with the ranges, made the light green cane, made the rank bamboo.”

According to the Miao, creation by the one God followed a certain order, with light first. On the earth, God then created man from dirt, referring to Adam. (Genesis 2: 7). Remarkably, the story states that woman was created out of man. (Genesis 2:21,22)

The next part emphasises the intelligence of the man made in God's image

“On the earth He created a man from the dirt. Of the man thus created, a woman He formed. Then the Patriarch Dirt made a balance of stones. Estimated the weight of the earth to the bottom. Calculated the bulk of the heavenly bodies. And pondered the ways of the Deity, God. The Patriarch Dirt begat Patriarch Se-teh. The Patriarch Se-Teh begat a son Lusu. And Lusu had Gehlo and he begat Lama. The Patriarch Lama begat the man Nuah. His wife was the Matriarch Gaw Bo-lu-en. Their sons were Lo Han, Lo Shen and Jah-hu. So the earth began filling with tribes and with families. Creation was shared by the clans and the peoples.”

Do we not hear echoes of Biblical characters in Nuah, Lo Han, Lo Shen and Jah-hu? The next part of their myth explains the origin of sin:

“These did not do God's will or returned His affection. But fought with each other defying the Godhead. Their leaders shook fists in the face of the Mighty. Then the earth was convulsed to the depth of three strata. rending the air to the uttermost heaven. God's anger arose till His Being was changed; His wrath flaring up filled His eyes and His face. Until He must come and demolish humanity. Come and destroy a whole world full of people. So it poured forty days in sheets and in torrents. Then fifty-five days of misting and drizzle.”

It goes on to talk about the tower of Babel (Genesis 11):

“Lo-han then begat Cusah and Mesay. Lo-shan begat Elan and Nga-shur. Their offspring begotten became tribes and peoples; their descendants established encampments and cities. Their singing was all with the same tunes and music; their speaking was all with the same words and language. Then they said let us build us a very big city; Let us raise unto heaven a very high tower. This was wrong, but they reached this decision; not right, but they rashly persisted. God struck at them then, changed their language and accent.”

SUMMING UP

God is our Creator, and we are His people, the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100) Churches that have compromised or deserted God's Word in favour of a materialistic interpretation of man's miraculous origin have tragically lost their spiritual power to draw men to Christ.

If the Bible has told man the truth about the world and myself, what should I do now? I would acknowledge it with thanksgiving, knowing that I am not the result of blind forces but the creation of a loving God. The extent of that love is seen in His sending His Son to save us from the consequences of our sin.

To be a Christian is to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. Not just coming to a church or being in a church committee, or donating your wealth. These will not bring you forgiveness or to heaven.

"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalm 73:25,26)

Such a personal relationship with Jesus has been made possible by our Creator God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life."

John 3:16.

For those who have committed themselves to Jesus as Lord and Master I would like to close with words from the heroine of Memoirs of a Geisha:

"Ever since I saw you, every step I took was to draw myself closer to you."

This geisha lady loved the man deeply, and made it the aim of her whole life to be near him.

If human love could be like that, how does our love for the Lord compare?
How do we pursue our relationship with God?

POINTS TO PONDER

- 1 How would you answer someone who says that the basic unit of life is a 'simple' cell ?
- 2 What would you list as the main differences between the Biblical account of creation of man and the evolutionary story of his origin ?
- 3 Would you like to comment on this statement by Francis Collins, Director, National Human Genome Research Institute ?
“ If God, who is all powerful and who is not limited by space and time, chose to use the mechanism of evolution to create you and me, who are we to say that wasn't an absolutely elegant plan ? “
- 4 How would you explain to someone what Paul was saying to the intellectual audience in Athens, as recorded in Acts 17
“ The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands . . . and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth . . . being the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.” (verses 4,26, 29)
- 5 In what ways, do you think, a man who denies the existence of God will find it a problem to live with the conclusions of his own system of unbelief.