Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

TOPIC: Critique of Ape-to-Man DNA & Fossil Claims

- 1. Overview of Topic
- 2. Definitions of Terms
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1) Overview of Topic

i. Overview:

Evidences are reviewed herein that examine the claims and veracity of popular ape-to-man fossils. When it comes to DNA, DNA only talks about the physical make-up of an organism, not any mental or spiritual aspect of that organism. Whether it is a Banana, a Bacteria, a Chimpanzee, or a Human, our DNA all uses the same alphabet to construct our physical bodies. But, the are key differences between a banana, a bacteria, and a Human.

Almost all humans acknowledge the existence of the human soul (mind, will, and emotions), and over 50% of humanity also acknowledges the existence of a human spirit, which is separate and goes beyond the soul; the human spirit has the following attributes:

1) contemplates eternity,
2) is the seat of the conscience, and
3) is the element within that can interact with the meta-physical or spiritual world.

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Herein, we will explore the how similar Chimp and Human DNA Genomes are and review and critique purported ape-to-man fossils. Come and explore!

When it comes to dating fossils, evolutionary paleo-anthropologists typically use one of these first three methods, typically avoiding the forth method below, and selecting the method that best matches their desired interpretation:

a. Index Fossils in Strata (based on deep-time and evolutionary assumptions)
b. Strata Layer (based on deep-time and evolutionary assumptions)
c. Radiometric/Radiocarbon Dating (based on deep-time and evolutionary assumptions, see Session#12B for an evaluation of this technique)
d. Using Historic Records of earth events (which only goes back about 5000 years, therefore, because of pre-commitment to evolution and deep-time, secular paleo-anthropologists will typically reject this indicator)

2) Definitions of Terms:

a. Apes: Any of several large primates including the orangutan, gorilla, chimpanzee, and bonobo. One key difference between apes and monkeys is that generally monkeys have tails, while apes do not. Additionally, apes are typically larger, have wider chests, and are more intelligent than monkeys.

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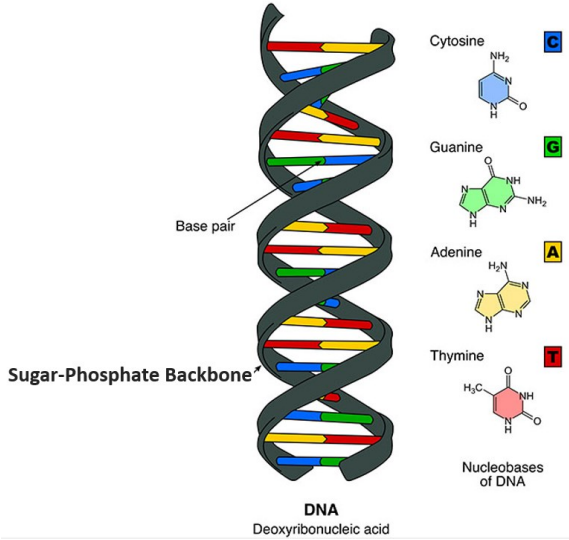
b. Base-pairs (in DNA): A base pair (bp) is a fundamental unit of double-stranded nucleic acids consisting of two nucleobases bound to each other by hydrogen bonds. They form the building blocks of the DNA double helix and contribute to the folded structure of DNA. For DNA, the base pairing rules state that adenine (A) pairs with thymine (T), while guanine (G) pairs with cytosine (C). C, A, T, and G, act as the alphabet language used in DNA.



c. Bonobo: A rare small ape (*Pan paniscus*) that has a more slender build and longer limbs than the common chimpanzee (*P. troglodytes*) and inhabits a small geographic region in equatorial Africa south of the Congo River. Very similar to a chimpanzee.

d. Chimpanzee: A small ape (*Pan troglodytes*) of equatorial Africa that is smaller and more arboreal (tree living) than the gorilla.

e. DNA: DNA, or deoxyribo-nucleic acid, is the hereditary material found in nearly all living organisms. It carries the genetic instructions for the development, functioning, growth, and reproduction of all known organisms. DNA is a complex molecule that consists of two strands coiled around each other to form a double helix structure. The DNA molecule consists of several key components:

i. **Nucleotides**: Nucleotide building blocks [Letters] of DNA: adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G), and cytosine (C). Each nucleotide consists of a phosphate group, a sugar group (deoxyribose), and one of the four nitrogenous bases.

ii. **Sugar-Phosphate Backbone**: The sugar-phosphate backbone forms the structural framework of DNA. The phosphate groups and sugar molecules alternate to create the sides of the "ladder," while the nitrogenous bases form the "rungs.

iii. **Base-Pairs**: (see definition above)

f. Dinosaurs: Are Extinct land-dwelling reptiles with Saurischia (lizard-like) or Ornithischia (bird-like) pelvises that have a hole in their hip socket which permits an upright stance. They existed as both carnivores and herbivores. The size of Dinosaurs range from that of a dog up to a gigantic size of 100 feet long and 30 feet high (Argentinosaurus, estimated to weight 70 tons), but most Dinosaurs were around the size of a large cow. It remains unknown if they were warm or cold blooded animals. Dinosaur fossils are typically found between water-laid sedimentary strata (mammal fossils have also be found buried along with Dinosaurs). *(See our Session#14A on the Global Flood)*

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g. **Genome**: The complete genetic information (DNA) set of an organism, typically expressed as a size based on the number of their base-pairs (Nucleotides, A, T, C, G). The DNA in an organism's genome is typically 2-5% gene DNA (codes for proteins), 10-20% regulation DNA, and 80-90% DNA is currently of unknown operation (once thought to be junk, but is now routinely being discovered as purposeful). The are 3 functional DNA sectional types in the Genome:

i. **Genes**: These code to make proteins (about 2%-5% of the Genome).

ii. **Codons**: A codon is a DNA sequence of three nucleotides (a trinucleotide) that forms a unit of genomic information encoding a particular amino acid or signaling the termination of protein synthesis (stop signals). There are 64 different codons: 61 specify amino acids and 3 are used as stop signals.

iii. **Regulators**: Controls genome activity throughout the life of an organism. This requires that complex information processing functions are encoded in, and operated by, the regulatory genome (about 15%-20% of the Genome).

iv. **Unknown Functional DNA** : This is the largest section of the DNA Genome and makes up to 75% to 80% of the Genome. Researchers originally thought this section was "junk", because it was unknown what it does, but researchers are slowly finding functions for these sections.

v. **Indels**, the Genome contain Indels, which is a molecular biology term for an insertion or deletion of bases (base-pairs) in the genome of an organism.

h. Humans: In addition to have a physical body, humans have a soul (mind, will, and emotions), and in most human cultures recognize that they possess a spirit also (that is, perception and awareness of a spiritual realm). Humans have large brains, and have advanced cognitive skills that enable them to thrive and adapt in varied environments, use a complex language to communicate, are creative, develop highly complex tools, and form complex social structures and civilizations. Additionally, other human attributes are logic, math, abstract ideas, music, love, worship, religion, the contemplation of an afterlife, and the meaning and purpose of life.

i. Legends: A legend has some basis in historical fact and tends to mention real people or events. A historical event can morph into a legend when the historic fact is exaggerated to the point that real people or events have taken on a romanticized, "larger than life" quality (like the city of Troy). In contrast, a **myth** is solely a type of symbolic storytelling that is never based on any historic fact.

j. Mammals: A warm-blooded vertebrate animals of a class that is distinguished by the possession of hair or fur, the secretion of milk by females for the nourishment of the young, and (typically) give birth to live young.

k. Naturalism: A presuppositional belief that all that exists in the universe is matter, energy, and fixed material forces; also known as “materialism.” In principle, it rejects the existence of anything non-material (i.e., soul or spirit) or any power, force, or entity that could supersede nature.

l. Uniformitarianism: The theory that all geologic phenomena and processes may be explained as the result of existing natural forces having operated uniformly and slowly from the origin of the earth to the present time. That is, all natural processes have essentially remained at their same steady rate; it rejects the possibility of any occurrence or times of significant acceleration of natural processes or the possibility of significant catastrophic events in Earth's history.

3) Presuppositions and Hierarchy of Evidence

a. **Presuppositions**: These are our elementary assumptions about life that we develop from our personal experiences and preferences. They are our personal values, and by definition, cannot be verified by procedure in natural science, and which we protect to the highest degree and are our least negotiable values or beliefs. (for example, that our memories are true and accurate)

b. Interpretations: Are conclusions we make about evidence as it is viewed in the light of our presuppositions**.**

c. Worldview Bias: Occurs when we subconsciously accept weaker evidence because it agrees with our worldview, but reject stronger evidence because it conflicts with our worldview. This may occur subconsciously.

d. Brief Review of Levels of Evidence:

i. Since Eye-witness historic records (see Session #6 – Domain of History) only go back to a maximum to 5100 years (and only 3900 years with actual calendar accuracy), every event in the world beyond that is pre-history and there must be delegated to the realm of assumptions and estimates. (See Session#2 for Review of Types of Evidence – click here.)

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ii. Check List for the Veracity of a Historic Evidence:

#	Proposed Rules for determining Veracity of Past Events	Yes	No
1	Is one or more Living, Capable, and Reliable Eye-witness currently available who: a) observed the past event, b) recorded the past event, c) indexed the past event into its place in history, and d) communicated it to others in their concurrent society?	[ ]	[ ]
2	Did one or more Historic, Capable, and Reliable Eye-witness observe the event, record the event, and communicated the event unto their then concurrent society, and which was accepted by them?	[ ]	[ ]
3	Was the historic event close in time and not far outside of recorded history?	[ ]	[ ]
4	Does the embraced model of estimating the past age of a proposed historic event have other independent (and non-associated) evidence models that estimate the same timeframe?	[ ]	[ ]
5	Are many assumptions used and required to be able to estimate the past date of the event?	[ ]	[ ]

For a full review of types of evidences, please refer to our past "Session #2, Hierarchy of Evidences."

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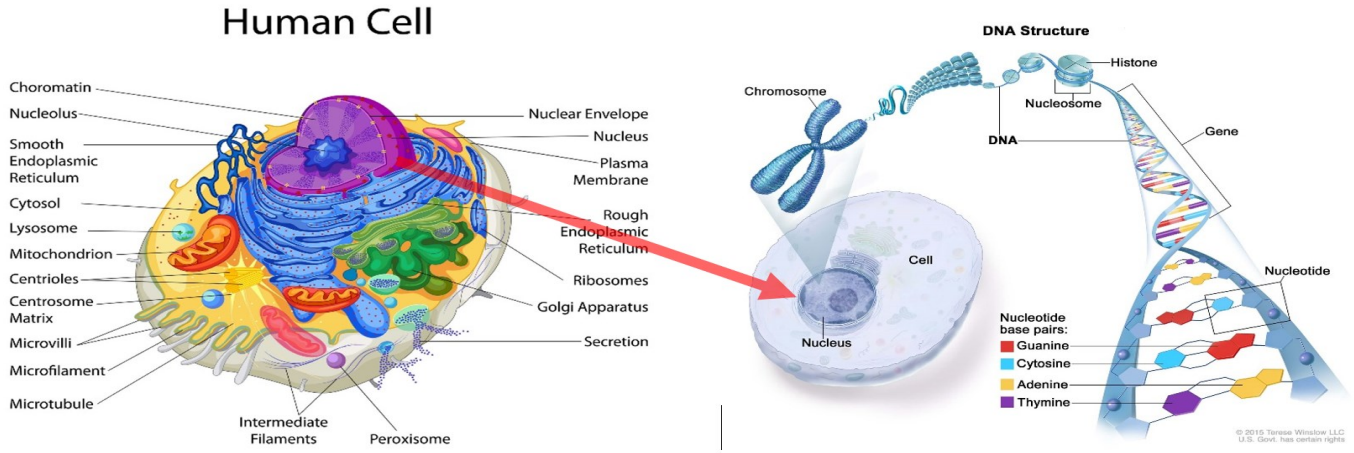
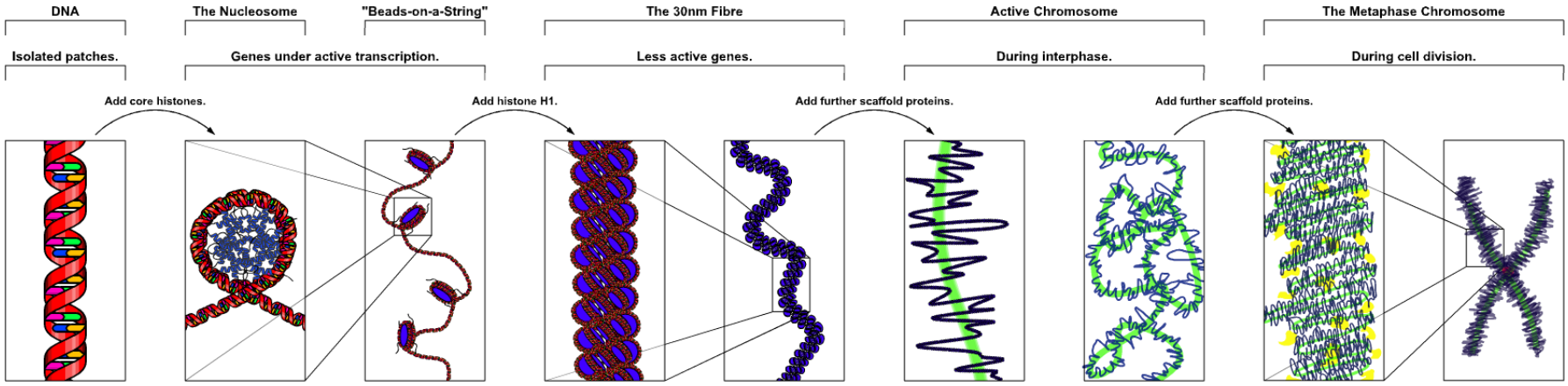
4) Brief Overview of the Cell & DNA





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5) Critique of the Chimp & Human DNA/Genomes

a. How Similar are Chimp and Human DNA Genomes?

i. Since 2005, Popular News and Science Media have commonly touted that there is a **98.7% similarity** between the chimpanzee genome and the human genome. But this percent is highly selective (and to some degree deliberately deceptive) as we shall see.

ii. Three different methods to conduct a Genome similarity study:

a. Compares the Gene Sections of the Genomes only (Genes make up 2-5% of the Genome).
b. Compares the Gene and Regulation Sections only (these makes up 17-25% of the Genome).
c. Compares all of the Genome to each other (100%).

iii. Specific Details:

a. The size of the Chimpanzee genome is **3.231 Gbp** (Billion Base-pairs).
b. The size of the Human genome is **3.099 Gbp**.
c. Only a section of around **2.4 Gbp** is considered similar between the Chimp and Human genomes, and is used for comparison.
d. Out of that **2.4 Gbp** section, in 2005, 98.7% was considered similar.

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iv. **The often quoted 98.7% Chimpanzee to Human DNA/Genome similarity is faulty and highly misleading, since**:

a. The Chimpanzee genome is 4% larger than the Human Genome.

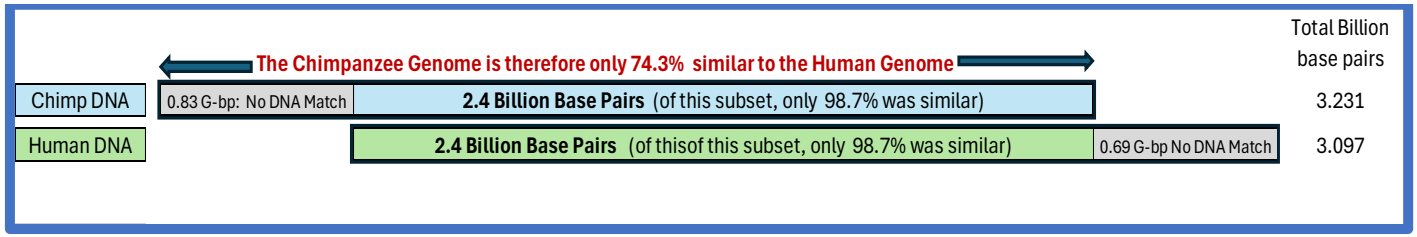
b. 18 percent of the Chimpanzee genome does not match anywhere in the Human genome, so it is ignored.

c. 25 percent of the Human genome does not match anywhere in the Chimp genome, so it is ignored.

v. Chimpanzee to Human Genomes actual similarity ranges from 74.3% to 84.38%:

a. **74.3% Genome Similarity**, based on MinuteEarth information (www.minuteearth.com); a group of scientists, writers, and illustrators. (Video Link, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbY122CSC5w)

i. Calculation: 2.4Gbp/3.23Gbp = .743 Max = **74.3%** maximum Similarity



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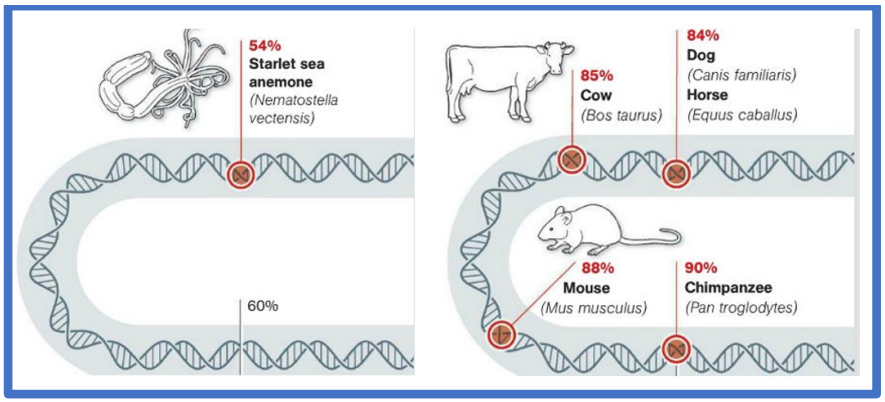
vi. **84.38% Genome Similarity**, as calculated by Professor Richard Buggs (Evolutionary biologist and molecular ecologist). Links: How similar are human and chimpanzee genomes? – Richard Buggs https://richardbuggs.com/2018/07/14/how-similar-are-human-and-chimpanzee-genomes/

vii. **For Perspective, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals states there is a 60% similarity between Banana and Human DNA.** (accessed 11-9-24, link: https://www.pfizer.com/news/articles/how_genetically_related_are_we_to_bananas)



% compared to Human DNA (p.102)

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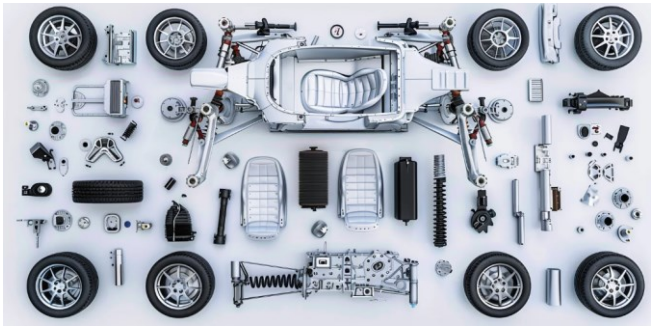
viii. **Reasons For DNA Similarities:** Naturalists are forced to attribute any DNA/Genome similarities to their atheistic "common descent" model, since, by their definition, they cannot allow a Divine (Designer's) Foot through the door. But "non-naturalists" are allowed to consider all options, including the existence of a "Common Designer-Engineer," that re-uses designed-modules in His creations (just like car manufacturers routinely do).



ix. Comparison of other Organisms' Genomes & Chromosomes:

		Chromosomes	Genome Size	Reference
Banana		33	523 Mbp (Haploid)	https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5080353/#:~:text=balbisiana%20to%20523%20Mb%20in,et%20al.%2C%202012).
Olive (Olea Europaea)		46	1.32 Gbp (Haploid)	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27346392/
Human (Homo sapiens)		46	3.097 Gbp	https://useast.ensembl.org/index.html
Potato (Solanum tuberosum)		48	723 Mbp (Haploid)	http://tgsol.seeders.co.kr/spotato/

		Chromosomes	Genome Size	Reference
Orangutan (Pongo)		48	3.065 Gbp	https://useast.ensembl.org/Pongo_abelii/Info/Annotation
Gorilla		48	3.063 Gbp	https://useast.ensembl.org/Gorilla_gorilla/Info/Annotation
Chimpanzee (Pan troglodytes)		48	3.231 Gbp	https://useast.ensembl.org/index.html
Fern (Tmesipteris oblanceolata)		TBD	160 Gbp	https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/this-tiny-fern-has-the-worlds-largest-known-genome-180984457/

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x. List of References & Links:

- **Genesis Impact Video,** 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc
- **Genesis Impact**, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf
- Link#1: NATURE, 2005, Initial sequence of the chimpanzee genome and comparison with the human genome,
- Link#2: 2005 BROAD, Comparison of human and chimpanzee genomes (96%)
- Link#3: SCIENCE, 2006, Relative Differences: The Myth of 1% (only 2.4 Gbp aligned)
- Link#4: 2015, MinuteEarth Video: Are We Really 99% Chimp? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbY122CSC5w (74.3%)
- Link#5: 2018, Professor Richard Buggs, How similar are human and chimpanzee genomes? (84.38%)
- Link#6: 2018, The BioLogics Forum, Buggs, Human Chimp Genome Similarity (84.38%)
- Link#7: Human Genome Size 3.099 Billion base-pairs https://useast.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Info/Annotation
- Link#8: Chimpanzee Genome size 3.231 Billion base-pairs https://useast.ensembl.org/Pan_troglodytes/Info/Annotation
- Link#9: Nat'l Geographic, pgs 102-104, July 2013: https://ia903408.us.archive.org/19/items/edg-ng-2001/edg%20NG%202013%2007.pdf
- Link#10: https://plants.ensembl.org/ (For Plant Genomes Info)
- Link#11: https://www.science.org/content/article/bonobos-join-chimps-closest-human-relatives
- Link#12: https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/humans-and-chimps-have-95-percent-dna-compatibility-not-985-percent-research-shows-614
- 1 Thomas, Brian. "Origin of Life Research Still Dead." Posted October 27, 2008. Institute for Creation Research. www.icr.org/article/origin-life research-still-dead/. Accessed September 22, 2020.
- 2 Biddle, Dan & Bergman, Jerry. "Strategically Dismantling the Evolutionary Idea Strongholds." Journal of Creation, 31 (1) (2017): 116 117.
- 3 Silvertown, Jonathan (ed), 99% Ape: How Evolution Adds Up. University of Chicago Press, 2009: 4.
- 4 Dr. Jeff Tomkins based these figures on the new 2018 PanTro6 build based on the Golden Path Length: Humans (3,096,649,726) and chimps (3,231,170,666) (http://uswest.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/Info/Annotation) and Chimps (https://uswest.ensembl.org/Pan_troglodytes/Info/Annotation). This results in Chimps having 134,520,940 more base pairs, or 4.34% larger than humans.
- 5 See Boyko, Adam R. "A Simple Genetic Architecture Underlies Morphological Variation in Dogs." PLOS Biology (August 10, 2010); Cohen, Jon. "Relative Differences: The Myth of 1%." Science Vol. 316 no. 5833 (June 29, 2007): 1836; Demuth, Jeffrey P. "The Evolution of Mammalian Gene Families." PLOS ONE (December 20, 2006); Mahler, Kimberly L. "Sequence divergence of Mus spretus and Mus musculus across a skin cancer susceptibility locus." BMC Genomics 9 (2008): 626. "The Chimpanzee Sequencing and Analysis Consortium. Initial sequence of the chimpanzee genome and comparison with the human genome." Nature 437, (September 1, 2005): 69–87.

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- 6 MinuteEarth, "Are We Really 99% Chimp?" Posted June 11, 2015. YouTube. https://youtu.be/IbY122CSC5w. Accessed September 21, 2020.
- 7 National Human Genome Research Institute. "New Genome Comparison Finds Chimps, Humans Very Similar at the DNA Level." Posted 2005. www.genome.gov/15515096. Accessed September 21, 2020.
- 8 Elsik, Christine. et al. "The Genome Sequence of Taurine Cattle: A Window to Ruminant Biology and Evolution." Science 324: 522–528.
- 9 Pontius, Joan. et al., "Initial Sequence and Comparative Analysis of the Cat Genome." Genome Research 17 (2007): 1675–1689. See also: www.eupedia.com/forum/threads/25335-Percentage-of-genetic-similarity between-humans-and-animals.
- 10 Background on Comparative Genomic Analysis (December, 2002). www.genome.gov/10005835.
- 11 NIH/National Human Genome Research Institute. "Researchers Compare Chicken, Human Genomes: Analysis of First Avian Genome Uncovers Differences Between Birds and Mammals." ScienceDaily (December 10, 2004). 187
- 12 Tomkins, Jeffrey. "Separate Studies Converge on Human-Chimp DNA Dissimilarity." Acts & Facts 47 (11) (2018); Tomkins, Jeffrey. "Comparison of 18,000 De Novo Assembled Chimpanzee Contigs to the Human Genome Yields Average BLASTN Alignment Identities of 84%." Answers Research Journal 11 (2018): 205–209.
- 13 We are grateful to Dr. John Sanford for his contributions to the Dismantled movie that led to the development of this section. See also: Sanford, John et al., "The Waiting Time Problem in a Model Hominin Population," Theoretical Biology and Medical Modelling 12, no. 1 (2015): 18.
- 14 Lynch, M & Abegg, A. "The rate of establishment of complex adaptations." Mol Biol Evol 27 (6) (2010): 1404–1414.
- 15 Dolgin, Elie. "Human mutation rate revealed: Next-generation sequencing provides the most accurate estimate to date." Nature (August 27, 2009).
- 16 Sanford, John. Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome. Elim Publishing, 2005.
- 17 Durrett, Richard & Schmidt, Deena. "Waiting for regulatory sequences to appear." Ann. Appl. Probab 17, no. 1 (2007): 1–32.
- 18 Schenker, N.M., Hopkins, W.D., Spoctor, M.A. et al. "Broca's area homologue in chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes): Probabilistic Mapping, Asymmetry, and Comparison to Humans." Cereb Cortex 20 (2010): 730 742.
- 19 Zeng, J., et al. "Divergent whole-genome methylation maps of human and chimpanzee brains reveal epigenetic basis of human regulatory evolution." American Journal of Human Genetics 91, 3 (2012): 455–465.
- 20 Thomas, Brian, "Stark Differences Between Human and Chimp Brains," Institute for Creation Research. www.icr.org/article/stark-differences between-human-chimp/. Accessed September 1, 2015.
- 21 Taylor, Jeremy, Not a Chimp: The Hunt to Find the Genes that Make Us Human. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2009: 222.
- 22 Semendefer, K., Lu, A., Schenker, N., & Damasio, H., "Humans and Great Apes Share a Large Frontal Cortex," Nature Neuroscience 5 (3) (2002): 272–6. 23 Ibid.

6) Critique of Key Purported Ape-to-Man Fossils

Natural history museums everywhere display a line-up of ape-to-human icons that supposedly show how humans evolved from ape-like creatures millions of years ago, yet historians acknowledge that recorded history only goes back to a maximum of 3100 BC, so the age of these fossils must be built upon many unproveable assumptions. Also, many of these purported fossil remains were actually found with bone pieces in "terrible condition," "literally crumbled when touched," and many pieces were found unconnected and far apart from each other.

Since many fossils are dated using evolutionary and uniformitarian assumptions, please review Session #13B to review the unproveable assumptions used in deep-age dating methods, especially radiometric dating.

What is truly amazing (and telling) is that no bona-fide clear transitional ape-to-man fossils have ever been found, and that so little Chimpanzee-like fossils exist at all; those that do exist are scant and fragmentary. Though naturalist purport that chimpanzees have existed for 8 million years, there are so few fossil pieces, and those that do exist can be placed in either the Ape camp or the human camp without injustice. Explore for yourself and come to your own conclusions.

Darwin himself even acknowledged ***"… as by [my] evolution theory, innumerable transitional [fossil] forms must have existed, why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the crust of the Earth …. Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated chain [as evolution requires]; and this, perhaps is the gravest objection which can be urged against my theory …. Why is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against [my] theory."*** (The Origin of Species, p.163, p.280, & p.323)

As previously noted, we must remain aware of how our human nature and our presuppositions can lead us to subconsciously see what we want to see and become blind to (or dismiss) what we don't want to see (or believe).

Recorded history shows that the cradle of civilization is typically pinpointed to Mesopotamia, but evolutionists and deep-time naturalists pick Africa instead, since their model of evolution requires the use of apes and chimpanzees, which are indigenous to Africa.

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a. Sahelanthropus-Tchadensis Fossil [purported 7 Million Years Ago (Mya)]

3D models of the fossil material of Sahelanthropus tchadensis. From left to right: 1 partial skull, 1 femur, in posterior and medial views; 1 right and 1 left ulnae [forearms], in anterior and lateral views.

i. Nearly 20 years ago (2001), a team of anthropologists presented the finding of this fossil skull that was very chimp-like in many respects. Based on evolutionary and uniformitarian assumptions, this fossil was originally dated approximately 7 Mya. It was stated that the skull had several unusual features that led to the claim that the ape-like creature was an early bipedal ancestor from the early stages of human evolution. **Sahelanthropus-Tchadensis** consisted of only seven fossil pieces plus a few teeth.

ii. Details (and references and links):

a. Now, new studies have presented a very chimp-like fossil femur that supposedly belongs to the creature and indicates that it habitually walked on all four limbs and was therefore not trundling down the path to humanness at all.

b. https://answersingenesis.org/human-evolution/is-sahelanthropus-bipedal-ancestor
   i. *"Sahelanthropus tchadensis was discovered at the Toros-Ménalla site in Chad (Africa) in 2001, and research of the remains has been ongoing. The site has been conventionally dated by cosmogenic nuclide [an evolutionary deep-age and uniformitarian] dating method to be between 6.8 and 7.3 MY. So far, the dig site has revealed a nearly complete cranium, three mandibles [lower jaw], and several isolated teeth as well as a left femur and two ulnae [forearms]."*

   ii. *Although all of these fossils were discovered in 2001, only the cranium, mandibles, and teeth were initially described as belonging to up to five individuals of Sahelanthropus. It took several more years to identify and describe the femur and ulna fossils (beginning in 2017 and concluding in 2020). This 16–19 year lag time in describing these post-cranial fossils has itself been controversial, with many researchers calling such a delay "inexcusable." (2022)*

c. https://journal-decoder.fr/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Nature-and-relationships-of-Sahelanthropus-tchadensis_final.pdf
   i. *"The lack of proof allows only to say that S. tchadensis was a hominid [primate] but **we can't be sure** that it was a habitual biped [walked on two feet], so it seems **even less likely than it was before** that S. tchadensis could be a "primitive" hominin [primate]." (2022)*

d. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sahelanthropus (accessed 11-21-24)
   i. *"In 2023, however, Meyer and colleagues examined its ulna [forearms] shaft and argued that Sahelanthropus is not an obligate biped [walked on two feet] based on the mathematical analysis of its locomotor behavior which indicated that its forelimbs had different functions compared to modern humans and hominins, and*

that it probably walked on its knuckles like modern gorillas and chimpanzees, *so more examination is required to truly identify its locomotor behavior."*

e. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047248423000325?via%3Dihub
   i. *"… [fossil #] TM-266 (assigned to* Sahelanthropus tchadensis*) fossils differ from other hominins by* ***falling within the knuckle-walking morphospace*** *[*possible shapes*], and thus appear to show forelimb morphology consistent with terrestrial locomotion. Discriminant function analysis classifies both OH-36 and TM-266 with* Pan [chimpanzee] *and* Gorilla *with high posterior probability. Along with its associated femur, the TM-266 ulna [forearm] shaft contours and its deep, keeled trochlear [joint member] notch comprise* ***a suite of traits signaling African ape-like quadrupedalism [walking on all fours]****." (2023)*

f. https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24833093-600-our-supposed-earliest-human-relative-may-have-walked-on-four-legs/ *(2020)*
   i. *"AFTER more than a decade in limbo, a crucial fossil of an early human relative has finally been scientifically described. The leg bone suggests that Sahelanthropus tchadensis, the [purported] earliest species generally regarded as an early human, or hominin, didn't walk on two legs, and* ***therefore may not have been a hominin at all, but rather was more closely related to other apes like chimps****."*

g. This fossil specimen fits best fully in the standard ape family.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

b. ARDI [Ardipithecus Ramidus fossil, purported 5 Mya)]

a. Ardipithecus ramidus, or "Ardi" is one of the famous icons, supposedly holding the "4 to 5 million years ago" time-slot. Ardi is displayed on the front cover of a Science journal and in school textbooks as if paleo experts are certain she holds a place in the purported ape-to-human progression.

b. Ardi was not found as a complete skeleton. This skeleton was reconstructed from over 110 disconnected bone pieces that was found scattered over a 30-foot area, took 3 years to dig up, and then took over a decade to assemble together.

c. The picture presented (below) is not of the real bone pieces, but only their digital reconstruction of what they found. What they actually found were bone pieces they said were in "terrible condition" and "literally crumbled" when touched. Their lead scientist said Ardi was like "road kill."

d. Her skull was found in 34 pulverized, scattered pieces that were compacted down to about one-and-a-half inches thick. The skull of this tiny ape can fit into the palm of your hand like a softball and her brain was about the same size as bonobo or a female chimp.

e. Due to its fragile condition the skull could not be pieced together physically and so its reconstruction was approximated digitally.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

f. Images and Figures:

Figure 2. *Ardipithecus ramidus* ("Ardi")[25]

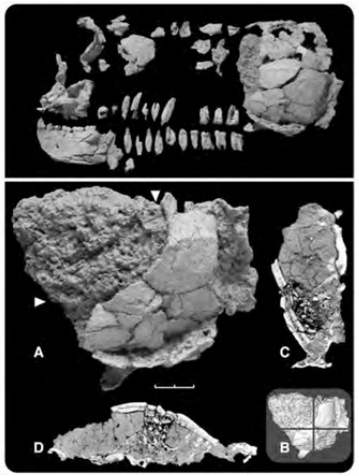


Figure 3. Ardi's Skull[30]

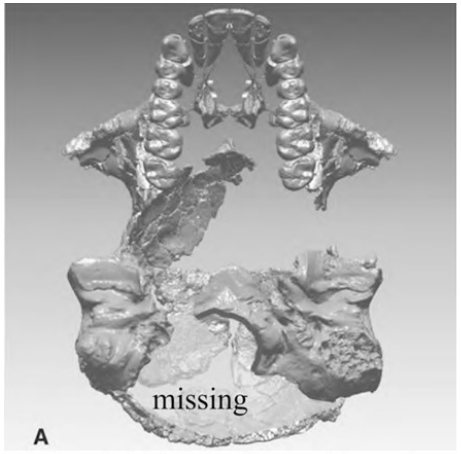


Figure 4. Ardi's Skull and Foramen Magnum (text and shapes added).[32]

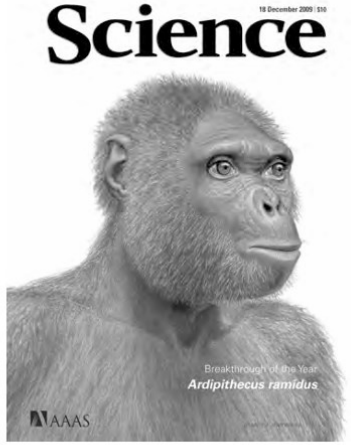


Figure 1. *Ardipithecus ramidus* ("Ardi") on *Science*.[24]

g. Evolutionists have actually claimed that Ardi walked upright like humans, partially basing this idea on a few pieces of the base of her skull. But note that they are actually missing most of her foramen magnum (the hole where the spinal cord passes to the skull) which can help determine whether she was an on-all-fours walker or upright walker. They also don't even have the last couple neck vertebrae that would have joined to the skull, relying on even more guesswork.

h. Evolutionists also claim Ardi walked upright because they imagined a "human-like curve" in her lower spine, called lumbar lordosis (see Figure below). But how much of her lower spine did they actually find? **None!** Despite this, Dr. Owen Lovejoy believes that her spine was probably long and curved like a human's rather than short and stiff like a chimp's.

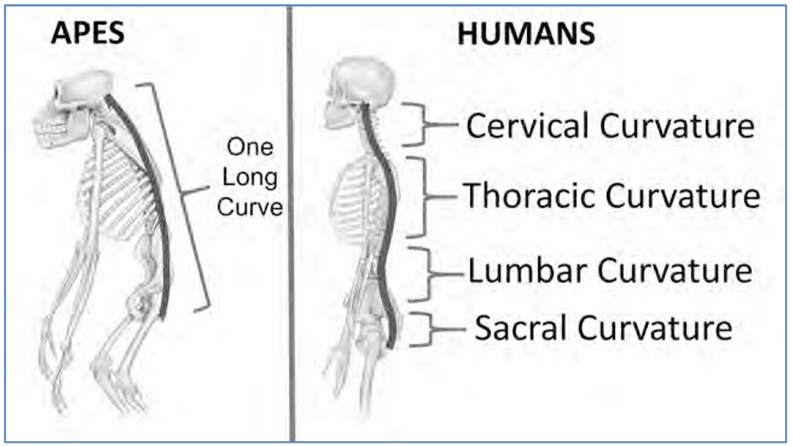
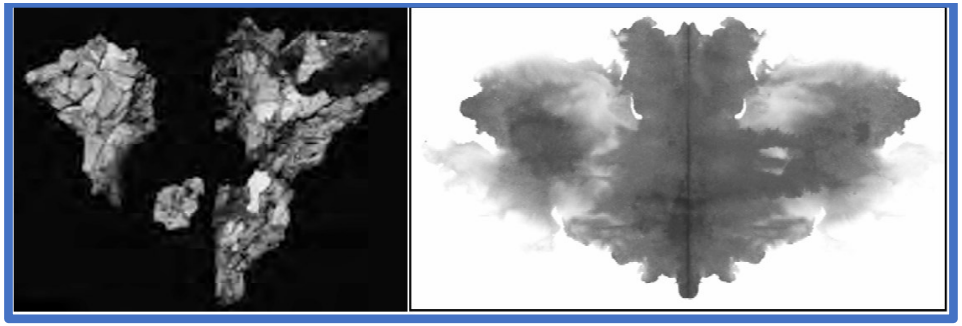


Figure 5. Ape vs. Human Spine Curvature.[35]

i. Humans have four curves in our spines to facilitate upright walking, but chimps have only a slight bend over their whole spine, making them better for walking on all fours. (See image above) In their paper published in Nature, Drs. Wood and Harrison stated: *"The claim that Ardi was a facultative terrestrial biped [living in trees and also walking upright on the ground] is vitiated [faulty] because it is based on highly speculative inferences about the presence of lumbar lordosis and on relatively few features of the pelvis and foot."*

j. So, if they're also basing the belief that she walked upright on her pelvis, what was her pelvis like? Well, for starters, it was too badly broken and fragile to take out of the matrix it was in, so Dr. Lovejoy made a reconstruction based on his knowledge of primate anatomy and a Micro CT scanner. Secular paleo-experts Drs. Wood and Harrison also expressed a great deal of concern about this— pointing out in a science journal that a whole lot of speculation went into the final pelvis reconstruction. Dr. Jungers even said that choosing the "correct" pelvis reconstruction was like seeing images in a "Rorschach inkblot" test and was not convinced of its accuracy.



k. Even Ardi's hands and feet looked ape-like, with really curved, long fingers and short thumbs, which are very similar to tree-dwelling apes of today that use them for getting around in trees. Her feet even had a grasping toe hanging off to the side (called a hallux), just like apes have today so they can use their feet like hands for grabbing branches while moving in trees (see Figure below). Dr. White said that her

toe *"… really doesn't differ from apes, and that's the surprising thing. It is fully apelike."*

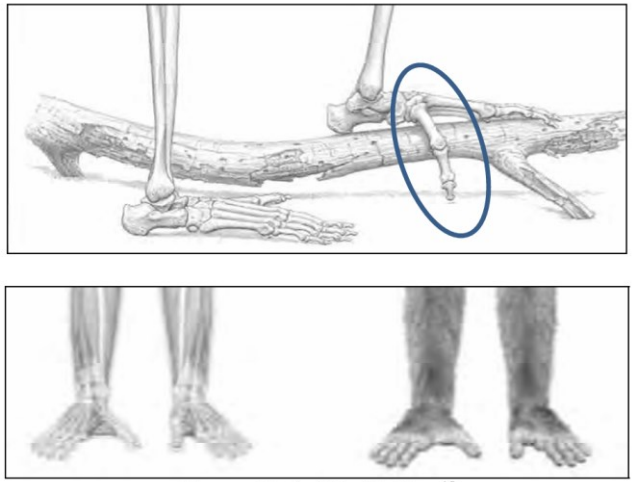


Figure 7. Ardi's Hallux[42]

I. It doesn't add up that she's some early human ancestor. Ardi had a brain the size of a chimp, with a tiny head like a chimp's, with an imaginary base of the skull and an imaginary curved spine. Her hands and feet were ape-like. But, because of a bump on her badly broken and speculatively reconstructed pelvis, some naturalist's guessed that she might have walked upright around like a human.

m. A lot of speculation is going on here: Ardi is missing many skeletal pieces, and most of the remaining pieces are badly damage, and their also seems to be some willful exaggeration here too. No amount of an artist's imagination or creative license can solve the problems associated with Ardi.

n. Ardi specimens fits best fully in the standard ape family.

o. <u>References and Links</u>:

i. **Genesis Impact Video,** 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc

ii. **Genesis Impact**, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf

iii. 24 SCIENCE2, 4 December 18, 2009 edition.

iv. 25 Image credit: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardi#/media/File:Ardipithecis_Ramidus_skeleton_1994-1996.jpeg).

v. 26 White, Tim, et al. "Ardipithecus ramidus and the Paleobiology of Early Hominids." Science Vol. 326, Issue 5949 (October 2, 2009): 64–86.

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viii. 29 Suwa, G. et al., "The Ardipithecus ramidus skull and its implications for Hominid origins." Science 326 (2009): 68, 68e1–68e7.

ix. 30 Fig. from Suwa, 2009 (ibid). The fragmented skull of ARA-VP-6/500. (Upper panel) Identifiable pieces of the skull after limited refitting for digital and physical molding. (Lower panel) (A) ARA-VP-6/500-032, (B) micro-CT rendered image of the same, with cross-sectional locations of (C) and (D) indicated. Arrowheads in (A) denote the positions of (C) and (D).

x. 31 Suwa, 2009, 5949.

xi. 32 Fig. 2 from Suwa, 2009 (ibid). Digital representations of the Ar. ramidus cranium and mandible.

xii. 33 Been, Ella (Editor), Gómez-Olivencia, Asier (Editor), Kramer, Patricia Ann. Spinal Evolution: Morphology, Function, and Pathology of the Spine in Hominoid Evolution. Springer (August 8th 2019): 276.

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xv. 37 Wood, B. & Harrison, T. "The evolutionary context of the first hominins." Nature 470 (2011): 347–352.

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xviii. 40 Jungers comments in an article in Archeology Magazine, "That's [the digital reconstruction of Ardi's hip] really kind of a 3-D Rorschach test if you ask me. I am still not convinced that it's necessarily completely accurate." See: Zorich, Z. "Ardipithecus: ape or ancestor?" Archaeology Magazine 63 (1), 2010.

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Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

c. LUCY (Australopithecus Afarensis, purported to be 3.5 Mya)

i. The next purported ape-to-human icon is Australopithecus afarensis, with the leading specimen named "Lucy." To create the Lucy icon we see in museums, scientists took hundreds of bone pieces and glued them together to make 47 skeletal parts. Even though they sifted through 20 tons of sediment covering a 160 square foot area (approximately, 12.6' x 12.6' x 3' deep) they only found about 20% of her bones if you count hand and feet bones, and they didn't find any of those, except a tiny finger bone (see Figure below). They believe Lucy is purported to be an adult female that weighed 55 to 65 pounds and stood 3 ½ feet tall—right about the same size as today's chimps or bonobos.

Total 47 pieces

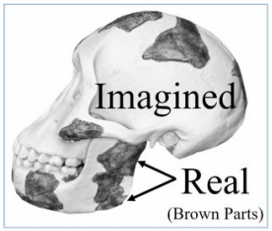

Figure 14. Lucy's Skull Reconstruction. Notice that the brown parts are what they found; the white parts used to fill in most of the skull are imagined.[52]

Only six small real pieces

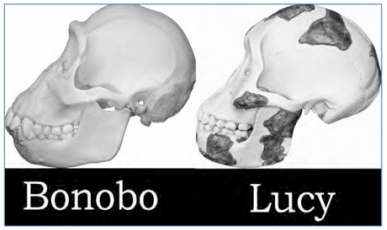

Figure 15. Lucy's Skull Profile Compared to a Living Bonobo.[54]

21st century Bonobo vs. Lucy's skull

Artist's imagination

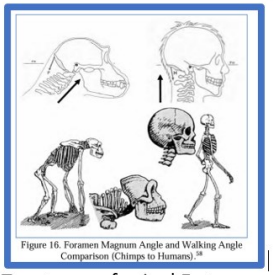

Figure 16. Foramen Magnum Angle and Walking Angle Comparison (Chimps to Humans).[58]

Two types of spinal Entrances

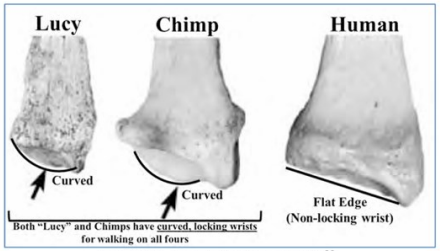

Figure 23. Lucy's Locking Wrist.[82]

Ape vs Human Wrists

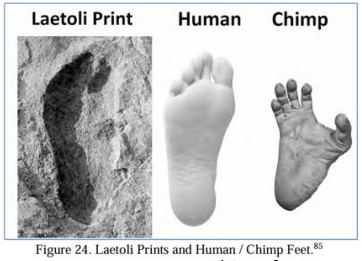

Figure 24. Laetoli Prints and Human / Chimp Feet.[85]

Human vs. Chimp feet

ii. There's no way to tell if all these bones are from the same creature, and they recently learned that at least one of Lucy's bones actually belonged to an extinct type of baboon. In 2015, press releases started coming out and showing that, even after 40 years of study involving hundreds of scientists, one of Lucy's bones (a vertebra) didn't even belong to her. In fact, it didn't even belong to Lucy's species, but was from a Theropithecus, a type of extinct baboon.

iii. Lucy is displayed in school textbooks with complete, human-looking feet (even though no feet bones were found). To further exaggerate Lucy and give her an imaginary human-like appearance, some Lucy models don't even have body hair! (see Figures Above).

iv. Does this make you wonder if we're really dealing with bones from a single individual with Lucy? Especially when Lucy was put together from hundreds of bone fragments that were found scattered along a hillside? After gluing Lucy's hundreds of bone pieces into 47 parts and creating models of what they think Lucy looked like, evolutionists came up with some surprisingly human-like creatures, with most models even including complete hands and feet (even though they didn't find Lucy's hands or feet).

v. Most Lucy models even include white sclera on the eyes, which no apes have, except for some that have a small rim of eye whites. This sure exaggerates Lucy's looks to give her human-like appearance in museum displays and books. Lucy's **complete** head and skull are shown in museums and school textbooks across America, yet all they found of her skull were just the few brown pieces shown in the Figure Above. So only about 20% of her skull exists (in six small broken pieces), all the rest is imagination.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

vi. As leading paleo expert Dr. Leakey noted: *"Lucy's skull was so incomplete that most of it was imagination made of plaster of Paris, thus making it impossible to draw any firm conclusion about what species she belonged to."*

vii. Notice Lucy's skull is sloped and ape-like. It's also the size and shape that closely resembles a modern bonobo (a cousin to the chimp). Lucy's brain was just one third the size of a human's, making it the same size as the average chimp's. Paleo expert Dr. Zuckerman said that *"The Australopithecine skull is in fact so overwhelmingly ape-like, as opposed to human that the contrary position could be equated to an assertion that black is white."*

viii. The foramen magnum is the hole in the bottom of the skull where the top of the spinal cord enters. The angle at which the spinal cord entered the foramen magnum of Lucy's species is nearly identical to a chimp's—indicating that Lucy's species walked hunched-over on all fours.

ix. One study conducted by evolutionary scientists showed that the angle of the foramen magnum [the oval-shaped opening at the base of the skull where the spinal cord passes through] of Lucy's species was "well below the range for our sample of modern humans … but closer to … (chimpanzees, specifically)."

x. Evolutionists claim that Lucy supposedly walked upright like humans. But how could this be true when her spine entered the base of her skull at an angle just like chimps today, putting her into a hunched over position? And her face was just as sloped as chimps today—so even if she tried walking upright and looked down, she'd be looking at her nose! Chimps can walk upright, but only for short distances.

xi. Human spines enter into the middle of the base of our skulls at a relatively straight angle so we can walk upright with ease, turning our heads as we walk. But in both chimps and Lucy's kind, the spine enters more toward the rear of the skull and comes in slanted, forcing her to walk hunched over so she could see where she's going.

xii. Skull scans of Lucy's kind have found another big problem with the idea that they walked upright. They found that their inner ears resemble those of African apes today and were "more like chimps than modern humans," leaving even evolutionary scientists to admit her kind was best suited for "facultative bipedalism," or walking occasionally on two feet like chimps do today.

xiii. Lucy had a locking wrist system for walking on all fours. This locking system included ledges and notches that are classic features for knuckle-walking apes and are not found in humans. The study conducted by these scientists concluded: *"Measurements of the shape of wristbones (distal radius) showed that Lucy's type were knuckle walkers, similar to gorillas."*

xiv. When interviewed about their study (published in Nature) they stated*: "It suddenly occurred to me that paleoanthropologists had never looked at the wrists of Lucy or other important early human ancestors discovered since the early papers were published…."* so while they were visiting the Smithsonian, they went to the cast collection, inspected Lucy's radius [forearm bone], and found that she had the "classic knuckle-walking feature." This became obvious when they *"saw a ridge of bone on the lower forearm that prevented Lucy's wrist, like that of a chimpanzee or gorilla, from rocking backward, but allowed it to lock in an upright position for*

easy knuckle-walking." See the Figure Above that highlights this "locking wrist" feature they found on Lucy's bones.

xv. Lucy's feet. One of the most profound stretches of the imagination made by evolutionists involve Lucy's missing feet and the Laetoli footprints (Tanzania) that were found 1,000 miles away from where Lucy was excavated (Ethiopia). Remember, they didn't even find Lucy's feet—and all the foot bones they believe are from Lucy's kind can fit into a small lunch box. But this doesn't stop natural history museums from showing Lucy walking around with perfectly human feet and claiming that Lucy's kind made the footprints, even though they widely admit the footprints look exactly like a human's, with some of them over 10 inches long.

xvi. Detailed anatomical analysis has long suggested that Lucy's kind did not walk upright. Respected anatomists like Dr Charles Oxnard (evolutionist and holder of professorships at the University of Western Australia and the University of California at Santa Barbara) have concluded from a detailed multivariate computer analysis of the bones that Lucy's kind (australopithecines):

a. did not walk upright in the human manner and,
b) were in their overall anatomy <u>not</u> intermediate between apes and humans.

xvii. The famous Laetoli footprints (in Laetoli, Tanzania) were probably not made by Lucy's kind at all. Since their discovery, the well-known Laetoli footprints (in volcanic ash) have long been acknowledged by all camps as having been made by two upright-walking individuals. Thus, because 'Australopithecus afarensis' was believed by naturalists to have been the human ancestor in the neighborhood at that point in evolutionary time, afarensis becomes the author

of the footprints, by 'default'. The prints, unlike the feet of chimps and Australopithecus africanus, have the big toe in line with the foot. Tim White, perhaps the leading authority on the subject, was quoted in a book by fellow evolutionary ape-man researchers as saying: *'Make no mistake about it, they are like modern human footprints. If one were left in the sand of a California beach today, and a four-year-old were asked what it was,* he *would instantly say that someone had walked there. He wouldn't be able to tell it from a hundred other prints on the beach, nor would you. The external morphology is the same. There is a well-shaped modern heel with a strong arch and a good ball of the foot in front of it. The big toe is straight in line. It doesn't stick out to the side like an ape toe, or like the big toe in so many drawings you see of Australopithecines in books.'*

xviii. Those Laetoli footprints equate to a size 9.5 shoe and a person that was likely 5 feet 9 inches tall. Remember—Lucy was only three and a half feet tall. That's putting some big, human-looking feet on this little creature! It sounds more like the human footprints were made by humans, and the dating timeline is off—way off.

xix. They also found 13 fossils in that region which they classified in the genus "Homo [humans]" because they looked human-like. So, if the footprints look unmistakably human and human looking bones were found closer to the Laetoli footprints than Lucy's kind (australopithecines), wouldn't it make more sense that the footprints were actually made by humans?

xx. There's a whole line-up of secular paleo experts who have similar concerns about Lucy. Dr. Oxnard in the "The Order of Man" wrote "*Australopithecines … are now irrevocably removed from a place in the evolution of human bipedalism [walking on two feet]… All this should make us wonder about the usual presentation of human evolution in introductory textbooks.*"

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

xxi. So, just what was Lucy? Lucy and other australopithecines are extinct apes—just like many other ape species that have gone extinct. She walked on all fours, ate the foods that apes eat, and lived among other animals that are like those that live around apes today in Africa.

xxii. These specimen fossils fit best fully in the standard ape family.

xxiii. References and Links:

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b. **Genesis Impact**, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf
c. 44 While almost every museum and book replicas of Lucy's skeleton do not show any foot or toe bones, Dr. Carl Morgan interviewed Dr. Donald Johanson in Arizona and photographed the copy of the reassembled Lucy skeleton and the two foot bones can be seen but only close up as they are suspended by a wire. Dr. Morgan also photographed these two toe bones on the Lucy skeleton on display at the Chicago field museum.
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e. 46 Licensed through Alamy. Photo Credit Franck Robichon/epa/Corbis.
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d. HOMO HABILIS (HANDY MAN): (purported age around 2 Mya)

i. Homo habilis. This creature fits into evolution's timeline about 2 million years ago, taking the slot right before Homo erectus supposedly appears on the scene. Before looking at this icon, let's consider something very interesting about this stage in evolution's old-age timeline. According to the current theory of human evolution, the time slot between 2 and 3 million years ago has almost no fossil evidence to support it. A National Geographic article puts it this way: *"Fossils attributed to 'Homo' [supposedly Human-like fossils] in the period two to three million years ago are exceedingly rare."* Quoting Dr. Kimbel, director of the Institute of Human Origins at Arizona State University, the article states: "*You could put them all into a small shoe box and still have room for a good pair of shoes."*

Figure 25. All the fossils that supposedly show the ape-to-human evolution in the 2–3 million-year timeslot can fit into a shoebox, with room left for the shoes.

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ii. *Inventing a new icon, Homo habilis, hasn't helped with this scarcity problem at all. In fact, they've* ***never even discovered even one Homo habilis skeleton.*** *This species was invented to categorize less than 100 small bone pieces into an "ape-to-human" transitional form they believe should be becoming more handy with stone tools, hence the name "handy man." While they've never found anything even close to a complete Homo habilis creature, that hasn't stopped them from displaying complete human-looking versions of it in museums and textbooks everywhere.*

iii. In fact, the best set of bones they have for this icon, which they refer to as the official "*type specimen" (OH-7) consists of just a jawbone with 13 teeth, a molar, a couple of skull fragments, and 21 finger, hand, and wrist bones,"* Mary Leakey.

a. **(https://www.amazon.com/Olduvai-Gorge-Search-Early-Man/dp/0002116138), Mary Leakey, 1979, p56)**

Figure 33. Two of the "best" *Homo habilis* fossil collections. OH 62 and KNM-ER 3735.[111]

Figure 27. *Homo habilis* "Type Set" (OH 7).[100]

In fact, the best set (OH-7) of bones they have for this icon, which they refer to as the official "type specimen" consists of just a jawbone with 13 teeth, a molar, a couple of skull fragments, and 21 finger, hand, and wrist bones.

These bone pieces were collected from a widely excavated area that was mixed with bones from cow, pig, horse, tortoise, catfish, and bird bones. After further study, however, this "defining specimen" turned out to be a mixture of bones from different animals, with 6 of the 21 finger bones belonging to a different creature, one of the finger bones mistaken for a vertebral fragment, and two others belonging to a monkey.

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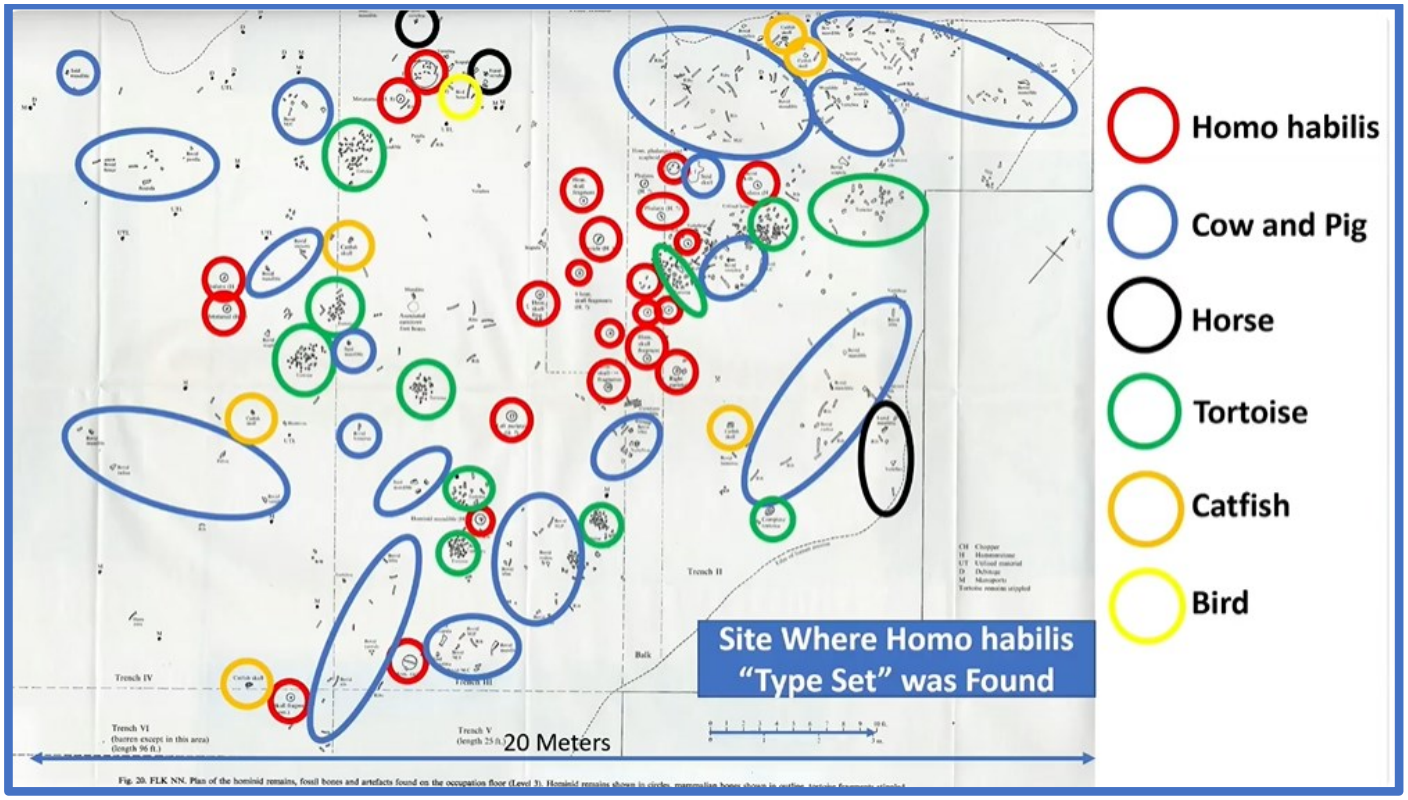
iv. From a personal communication with Dr. Bernard Wood, University Professor of Human Origins, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, George Washington University, Washington DC*:* ***"Most H. habilis fossils are in fossil collections from Olduvai, Koobi Fora, Omo-Shungura, with maybe a few fossils from some sites in South Africa. I would be surprised if there are more than 100 fossils reliably assigned to H. habilis. Some of those may come from the same individual, so my guess is that we know what we do of H. habilis from fewer than 100 individuals, and maybe as few as 50 individuals.***

v. On the proposed foot of "OH-8," a habiline (Homo habilis, Olduvai Hominid), Oxnard and Lisowski say that the Olduvai foot is <u>not</u> adapted for bipedality in the manner of man, and that it displays features (which resemble) the feet of arboreal (tree living) creatures, and that when it walked bipedally it locomoted with flattened arches rather than with the high arches of man. This conclusion is strongly supported by Wood — the foot of OH-8 (and OH-10 and OH-35, all fragments of one individual) **is very ape-like.**

vi. Since the limited fossils belonging to this new Homo habilis icon were found with **stone tools**, evolutionists cannot be certain whether the stone tools were **used by** Homo habilis, or **used on** Homo habilis by humans. They were in fact found broken apart and scattered over a 1,300 square foot area (approx. 36' x 36') just like all the other butchered animal bones in the region. It sure seems like humans were eating these creatures along with a lot of other types of animals. Think about the stone tools they found for a moment. The tools they discovered included choppers, polyhedrons, discoids, and many small tools like scrapers.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)



vii. The "best type set" of Homo habilis bones (red, see above) were found spread out over a 1,300 square foot area mixed with other butchered animal remains scattered over this entire area. Whoever used these butchering tools knew what they were doing because they were all hand-sized and most were made from a certain type of rock called quartzite, which can be flaked to a razor-like edge.

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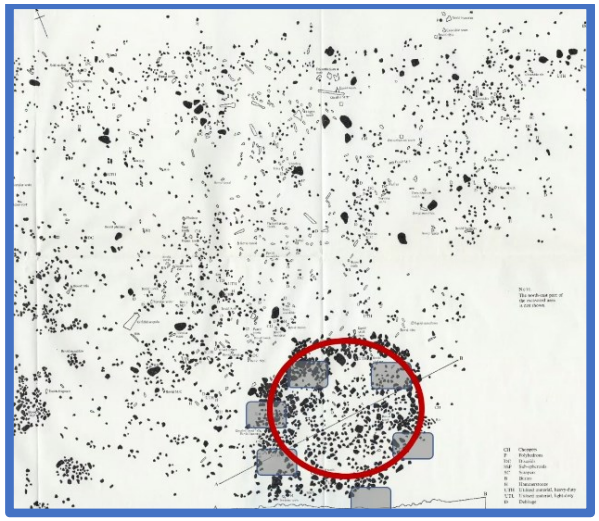
viii. But the clues don't end with stone tools. The evidence that humans were actually the inhabitants of this site is also confirmed by a 12-foot circular foundation made of lava stones for a hut shelter they found in the same archeological bed where Homo habilis bones were found. Mary Leakey even described this circular stone foundation as having a "striking similarity" to the dome-shaped hut shelters still made today by nomadic people in the same area and included this photo in her book covering Homo habilis.



ix. The case for human evolution even worsens when considering that they actually found the stone circle in a layer **beneath** Homo habilis bones! Now that's not faring well for the theory of evolution because whoever was there working with tools and building huts was on the scene before Homo habilis even showed up in the fossil record! This is exactly the opposite of what we would expect if evolution were true. The 348 animal bones they found scattered around the

hut included species from the crocodile, cow, hippo, elephant, horse, tortoise, giraffe, and pig families.

x. According to Mary Leakey, the lead paleo-expert over the site, said that the main evidence that the stone hut foundation was an "artificial" structure — meaning man-made (a term Mary Leakey actually used in her book) — was the six mounds of heaped rocks around the circle that were evidently used for support poles. The other amazing insight offered by the Leakeys—the very scientists who discovered Homo habilis — is that they found fossil evidence leading them to believe that **Australopithecus**, **Homo habilis**, and **Homo erectus** all lived at the same time! How is one species supposed to evolve into another over millions of years if the fossil evidence points to them living at the same time? Their position has perplexed many other evolutionary scientists, but they reported what they found: all three species discovered living at the same time. Now all this data about Homo habilis isn't holding up the theory of evolution very well.

xi. This species appears deliberately invented to categorize less than 100 small bone pieces into an "ape-to-human" transitional form they believe should be becoming more handy with stone tools, hence the name "handy man."

xii. The purported Homo Habilis fossils specimens best represent a random mixture of two distinct families. Some fossils fitting fully in the ape family, and the others fitting fully into the human family, since evidence points to both existing at the same time.

xiii. References and Links

a. **Homo Habilis**, 8min video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NkgUqaifYI&t=4s
b. **Genesis Impact Video**, 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc
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f. 95 Personal communication with Dr. Bernard Wood, University Professor of Human Origins, Center for the Advanced Study of Human Paleobiology, George Washington University, Washington DC: "Most H. habilis fossils are in fossil collections from Olduvai, Koobi Fora, Omo-Shungura, with maybe a few fossils from some sites in South Africa. I would be surprised if there are more than 100 fossils reliably assigned to H. habilis. Some of those may come from the same individual, so my guess is that we know what we do of H. habilis from fewer than 100 individuals, and maybe as few as 50 individuals.

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l. 101 Leakey, 1979, p. 92.
m. 102 Leakey, M.D. Olduvai Gorge Excavations in Beds I & II 1960–1963 (Volume 3). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 1971: Figure 20.
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o. 105 Leakey, 1971, Plate 3, Photograph by MacCalman and Grobbelaar.
p. 106 Leakey, 1971, p. 3, 23, 41 (Figure 19), and Plates 6, 30, 34. Also see Leakey, 1979 (The Stone Circle was found at DK IA, Level 3, Lower Bed I, and several Homo habilis bones were found above this structure).
q. 107 Leakey, 1971, Figure 7.
r. 110 J.T. Robinson and David Pilbeam have maintained the position that Homo habilis is the same as Australopithecus africanus. Louis Leakey (Richard’s father) stated: “I submit that morphologically it is almost impossible to regard Homo habilis as representing a stage between Australopithecus africanus and Homo erectus” (Leakey, Louis S.B. “Homo habilis, Homo erectus, and Australopithecus,” Nature, 209 (1966): 1280–1281. Dr. Leakey also reported that

Australopithecus, Homo habilis, and Homo erectus fossils lived at the same time at Olduvai Gorge (see Leakey, 1971, p. 272). In addition, Louis Leakey later reported the contemporaneous existence of Australopithecus, Homo habilis, and Homo erectus fossils at Olduvai Gorge (see Leakey, 1971, 272). Mary Leakey's discovery of the remains of a circular stone hut at the bottom of Bed I at Olduvai Gorge was found beneath fossils of Homo habilis.

s. 111 Associated ilium and femur from Koobi Fora, Kenya, and postcranial diversity in early Homo. OH 62 photo by Donald Johanson. Ward, C.V., Feibel, C.S., Hammond, A.S., Leakey, L.N., Moffett, E.A., Plavcan, J.M., Skinner, M.M., Spoor, F., Leakey, M.G. "Associated ilium and femur from 194 Koobi Fora, Kenya, and postcranial diversity in early Homo." J Hum Evol 81 (April 2015): 48–67.

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Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

xiv. HOMO ERECTUS (Pithecanthropus erectus, JAVA Man, et al.)
[purported age around 700K to 1.5 million years ago]

a. The other amazing insight offered by the Leakeys—the very scientists who discovered Homo habilis—is that they found fossil evidence leading them to believe that **Australopithecus** (Lucy), **Homo habilis**, and **Homo erectus** all lived at the same time! How is one species supposed to evolve into another over millions of years if the fossil evidence points to them living at the same time?
Leakey, Louis S.B. "Homo habilis, Homo erectus, and Australopithecus," Nature, 209 (1966): 1280–1281
Link: https://www.nature.com/articles/2091279a0

b. *Java Man, or Pithecanthropus erectus, also played its role in the lineup, even though it was based on just a single tooth and a skullcap and thighbone found about a year apart and 50 feet from each other in east Java. Link: Genesis-Impact-Book-Web*

c. *Java Man toppled in the 1930s and 40s when other experts studied the bones and re-classified them as Homo erectus, a label given to fossils that are simply human but vary in shape and size as humans still do today.*

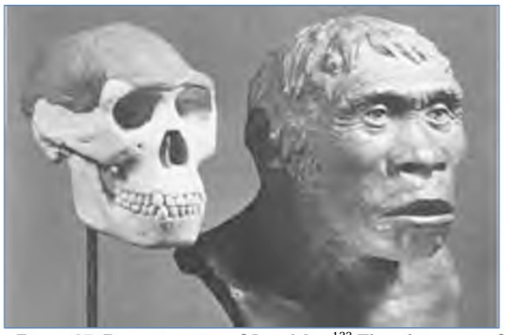


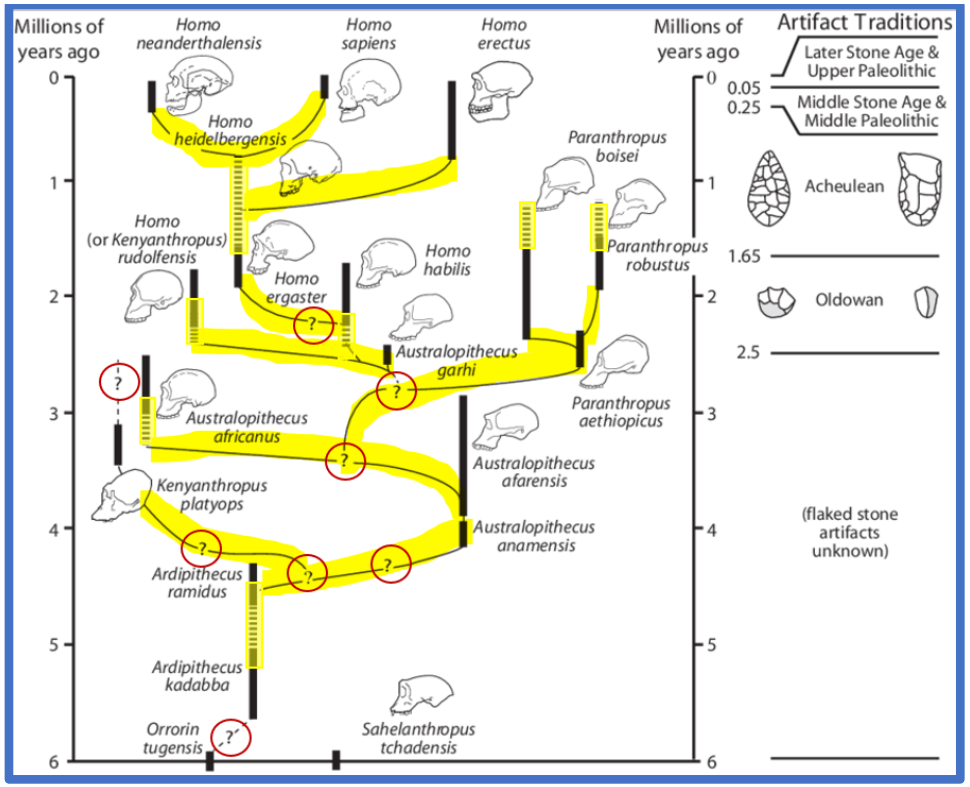
Figure 37. Reconstruction of Java Man.[122] The white parts of the skull and the facial reconstruction was based only on the skullcap, which is the dark part on the top.

Java Man Reconstruction

d. It seems like people who want to believe in evolution are quick to jump on the smallest amount of "evidence" that supports their theory and run with it, publishing volumes about such scant evidence. This is still true today with paleo-experts being incredibly motivated and well-funded to discover new fossils that paints the alleged "ape-to-human" connection.

e. Today you won't find a single human evolution tree or line-up that leading paleo-experts will agree on. But we can look at one that have been published in a leading source. The one shown in the **Figure Below** was prepared by Professor Klein at Stanford and was published on the 200th anniversary [2009] of Darwin's birth to show how much we've learned about human evolution since Darwin's time.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)



f. Notice the eight red question marks on the chart above. These represent the unproven "inferred relationships"—or guesses—between the different fossil icons. It's the same with the dashed lines and thin solid lines—they show the theoretical evolutionary connections between the fossil icons. These question marks, dashed lines, and thin solid lines **<u>are all based on guess work</u>** (there is no evidence for any bona-fide inter-connections).

g. If you take a close look at this chart, you'll find there's no fossil evidence connecting **Ardi** to **A. Afarensis**; none connecting **A. Afarensis** to **H. habilis**; none connecting **H. habilis** to **H. ergaster** or **H. erectus**, and no fossil evidence whatsoever connecting them to **Homo sapiens** through some "intermediate" form. The solid lines drawn from the early Australopithecine apes to the first humans is all speculation and inference. **See the Figure above**.

h. Harvard scientist Dr. Pilbeam made a good point when he said, ***"If you brought in a smart scientist from another discipline and showed him the meagre evidence we've got for human evolution he'd surely say, 'forget it: there isn't enough to go on.'"***
(Richard E. Leakey, The Making of Mankind, Michael Joseph Limited, London, 1981, p. 43)

i. **Homo Erectus fossil specimens fully fit within the human family.**

xv. References and Links:

a. *2011, A 150-Year Conundrum: Cranial Robusticity and Its Bearing on the Origin of Aboriginal Australians.* https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3039414/pdf/IJEB2011-632484.pdf
b. *2006, Webb, The First Boat People* https://www.amazon.com/Cambridge-Studies-Biological-Evolutionary-Anthropology/dp/0521856566
c. *Contested Bones, Rupe & Sanford, 2017.* https://www.amazon.com/Contested-Bones-Christopher-Rupe/dp/0981631673
d. Genesis Impact Video, 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc
e. Genesis Impact, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf

xvi. NEANDERTHALS (Purported age 40K to 400K years ago)

i. The final icon in the parade of ape-to-human progression displayed in natural history museums is typically Neanderthals, holding the "40,000 to 400,000 years ago" evolutionary time slot. Just decades ago, Neanderthals were regarded in museums and textbooks as gorilla-like cavemen. This is because their fossils were viewed through an evolutionary lens, being framed as some type of "last step" between ape-like creatures and humans.

ii. William King, the scientist who gave "Neanderthal Man" its name believed their "thoughts and desires never soared beyond those of a brute" and emphasized how their heavy brow ridges resembled those of chimps and gorillas. Another leading evolutionist, Ernst Haeckel, even proposed naming the species "Homo stupidus." Textbook and newspaper articles displayed them for decades as half-ape, half-human beasts, complete with clubs and primitive expressions.

iii. **Now, just decades later, evolutionists have re-positioned this icon into the human family.** In the span of just 100 years, Neanderthals have gone from brutish, club-wielding beasts to being portrayed as suit-wearing humans who would fit well into society today. From a biblical perspective, there is no such perspective change: they were just humans with distinct body type characteristics just like people groups vary today. The evidence fits this perspective perfectly.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

iv. They are found buried with people we would classify as “modern humans,” and jewelry, purses, artwork, and weaponry have been found in their graves.

v. Many people today still sport some Neanderthal-like features, for example, current Russian politician, Nikolai Valuev (pictured below).

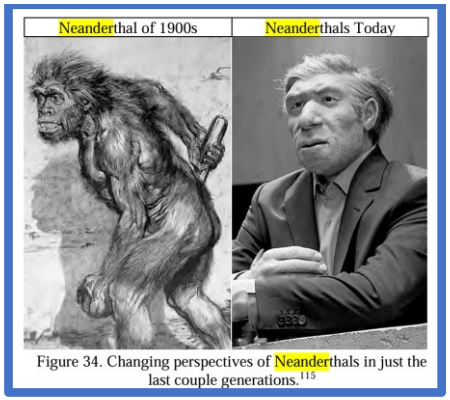
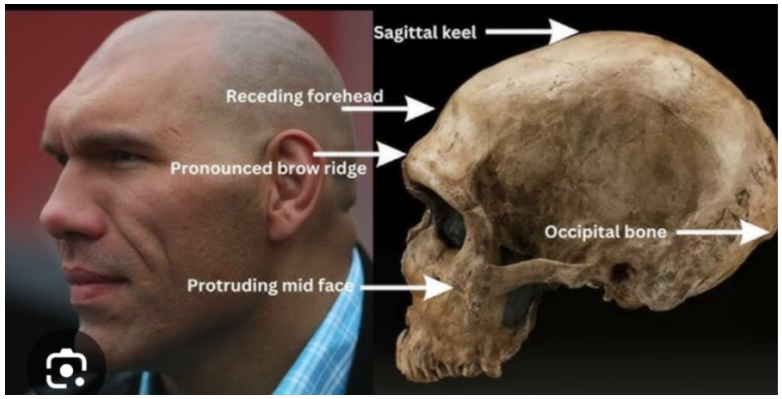


Figure 34. Changing perspectives of Neanderthals in just the last couple generations.[115]



xvii. Neanderthals were clever and scientists are still trying to replicate how they made an advanced type of glue for their weapons. This synthesized pitch was made using a process known by chemists today as “dry distillation,” and requires careful heat regulation and airtight pottery containers. Neanderthals were also great at making cordage and tying knots, controlling fire, preserving meat, tailoring clothes, and making shelters. They were not brutish, gorilla-like cavemen holding clubs as represented for decades. They were humans just like we are.

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xviii. Though the evolutionary timeline has Neanderthals going extinct 30 to 40 thousand years ago, the latest DNA evidence shows that they never actually went extinct, but just assimilated into other human populations. We agree with the Director of the leading Neanderthal museum: *"The irony is that the scientific community is going to have to come round to the acceptance that the Denisovans and the Neandertals also belonged to the species which we all call Homo sapiens."*

xix. Neanderthals where originally thought as vastly different from modern humans, but recent studies show that:

a. Neanderthals did interbreed with modern humans.
b. Many people today still possess a genome that carries 1-4% Neanderthal DNA.
c. Still today, there remain a great variety of physical traits among humans, from Andre the Giant (with his Gigantism) to the African Pygmies.
d. Even today slight skulls shape differences exist between modern Europeans, Africans, and Asians. (see Image Below)

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xx. "Detailed comparisons of Neanderthal skeletal remains with those of modern humans have shown that there is nothing in the Neanderthal anatomy that conclusively indicates locomotor, manipulative, intellectual, or linguistic abilities inferior to those of modern humans." Link: Hard Times Among the Neanderthals (http://ereserve.library.utah.edu/Annual/ANTH/1030/Brenner-Coltrain/hard.pdf)

xxi. Studies have established that Neanderthals did contribute to the modern human gene pool, with all humans who trace their ancestry beyond sub-Saharan Africa carrying Neanderthal DNA making up around 1–4% of their genome.
(Link: Neandertals revised, 2016, PNAS, page1, https://www.pnas.org/doi/epdf/10.1073/pnas.1521269113)

xxii. *"Many would say that a species is a group of organisms that can interbreed with one another to produce fertile offspring, essentially defining a species as a group of organisms capable of reproducing with each other within their population, separating them from other distinct species"* Therefore, since Neanderthals could interbreed with modern-type humans, they are the same species -- Human.

a. Link: Amazon.com: Neanderthal Man: 9780465054954: Paabo, Svante: Books, p. 237

xxiii. **Neanderthal fossil specimens fully fit within the human family.**

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

xxiv. Comparisons of Human Skulls:

xxv. **Current Renderings of Neanderthal Humans**:

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

xxvi. Neanderthals Demonstrated High-Level Skills :

Characteristic	Note
Burial of dead (p. 105)	
Cared for the disabled (p. 149)	
Used medicinal plants (p. 152)	Implies knowledge of plant taxonomy
Dental hygiene (p. 57)	Use of toothpicks
Complex hunting pattern of large animals (p. 81)	
Spoken language (p. 101)	
Created art and decoration (p. 154)	Usage of symbolism, abstract thought
Harvested sea food (p. 13)	Marine navigation
Used clothing and fire (p. 178)	
Created and used sixty-three types of tools (p. 96)	
Usage of tools to create other tools (p. 88)	
Creation of composite tools (p. 155)	
Trade networks (p. 156)	
Majority right-handedness (p. 148)	
Repetitive muscle actions (p. 148)	
Music (p. 155)	Use of flutes

https://www.amazon.com/Neanderthals-Rediscovered-Science-Rewriting-Revised/dp/0500292043

e. **References and Links**:

i. **Genesis Impact Video**, 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc
ii. **Genesis Impact**, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)

iii. Hard Times Among the Neanderthals http://ereserve.library.utah.edu/Annual/ANTH/1030/Brenner-Coltrain/hard.pdf
iv. Recent Humans with Archaic Features Upend Evolution | The Institute for Creation Research: https://www.icr.org/article/recent-humans-with-archaic-features
v. A new Neandertal/modern human fossil hybrid?: https://creation.com/a-new-neandertal-modern-human-fossil-hybrid
vi. Neandertal Man - the changing picture: https://creation.com/neandertal-man-the-changing-picture
vii. Neanderthals becoming more modern with time
viii. 112 Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-fossils/species. Accessed September 22, 2020.
ix. 113 Quarterly Journal of Science (1864).
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xi. 115 Left: This reconstruction of the La Chapelle-aux-Saints Neanderthal skeleton—discovered in France in 1908—was published in L'Illustration and in the Illustrated London News in 1909. Right: Wikimedia Commons (Creator: Clemens Vasters).
xii. 116 Strickland, Ashley, "Neanderthals combed beaches and went diving for shells to use as tools, study says." Posted January 15, 2020. CNN.com.
xiii. 117 St. Fleur, Nicholas. "Neanderthals Could Swim. They Even Dived." Posted January 5, 2020. NY Times. www.nytimes.com/2020/01/15/science/neanderthals-swimming-diving.html. Accessed September 22, 2020. Note: "Shell tools found in a Neanderthal cave may have been retrieved from water as deep as 13 feet."
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xvii. 121 The New York Times even ran a headline that stated, “Darwin Theory is Proved True: English Scientists Say the Skull Found in Sussex Establishes Human Descent from Apes.” (Sunday, December 22, 1912).

xviii. 122 Credit: “Java Man.” Posted July 21, 2020. Alchetron.com. https://alchetron.com/Java-Man. Accessed September 22, 2020.

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xx. 124 Klein, Richard G. “Darwin and the recent African origin of modern humans.” PNAS. 106 (38) (September 22, 2009): 16007–16009.

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xxii. 126 Barras, Colin. “Almost Human.” Evolution. (May 18, 2017).

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xxiv. 128 Shreeve, Jamie. “Oldest Human Fossil Found, Redrawing Family Tree: Discovery pushes back the origin of our genus, Homo, by half a million years.” Posted March 5, 2015. National Geographic. www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/3/150304-homo-habilis-evolution fossil-jaw-ethiopia-olduvai-gorge/. Accessed September 22, 2020.

xxv. 129 David Pilbeam is the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences at Harvard University and curator of paleoanthropology at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

xxvi. 130 Leakey R.E., The Making of Mankind. E.P. Dutton, New York, 1981: 43.

xxvii. Genesis Impact Video, 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc

xxviii. Genesis Impact, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf

7) Fraud & Deceit of Some Past Ape-Man Fossils:

Even though fossil fraud and deceit has in the past been identified and confirmed, this does not mean the majority of actual fossils have been doctored-up, but it does reveal that all individuals need to be cautious that their dearly-held-ideologies don't consciously or unconsciously cause them to participate in fraud or willful exaggeration.

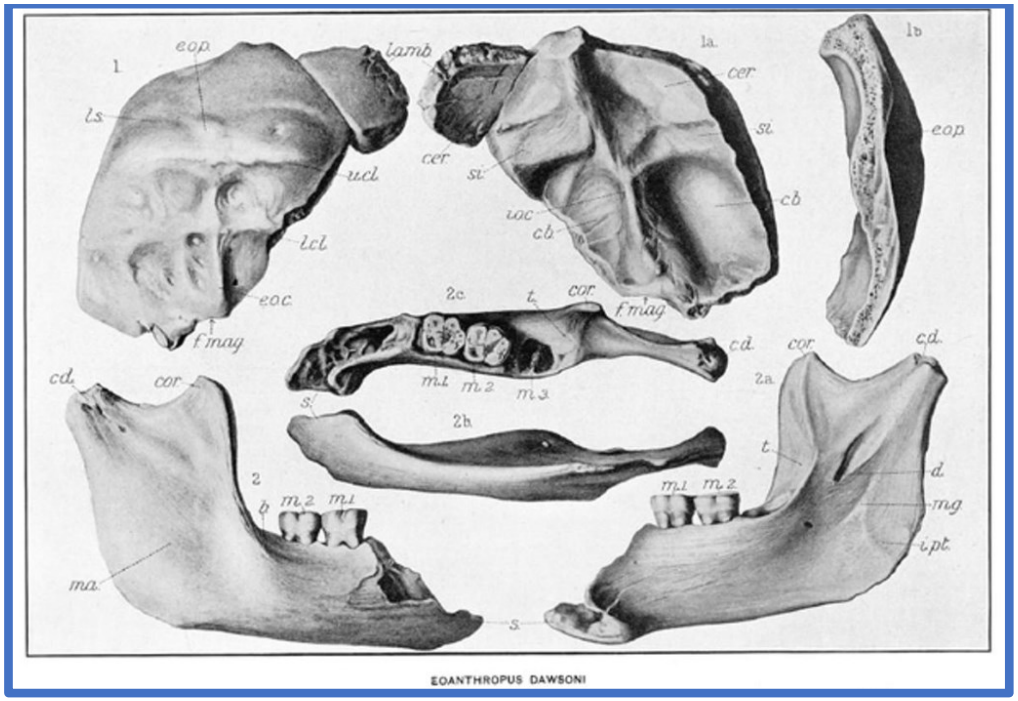
a. **Piltdown-Man Fossil Fraud** (1912, England)

i. Piltdown Man, or Eoanthropus dawsoni, was based on a skull found in England in 1912. This was thought of as the official "missing link" between ape and man and was portrayed in classrooms, textbooks, and museums as one of the leading proofs of human evolution.

ii. Sir Arthur Smith Woodward of the British Museum verified that the skull had human features and the jaw was ape-like. The fossils became known as Piltdown Man and were called *Eoanthropus dawsoni* which means 'Dawson's Dawn Man."

iii. It would appear that the best candidate for being the perpetrator of the Piltdown Man fraud is none other than Charles Dawson. He was always vague about the events surrounding the initial discovery and after he died in 1916, it was realized that all the historical artifacts that he had supposedly found and that were on display in Hastings Museum were forgeries.

Answers4Seekers: Session #14B (semi-technical)



Piltdown Fossil set

iv. Unfortunately, the fraudulent Piltdown Man fossil set was also purported as evidence for evolution in the 1925 Scopes Trial (Evolution vs. Creation) in Dayton, Tennessee.

v. Almost forty years later, in 1953, Piltdown Man was exposed as a forgery, mainly through the work of Dr Kenneth Oakley. He showed that the skull was from a modern human and that the jawbone and teeth were from an orangutan.

vi. The teeth had been filed down to make them look human. The bones and teeth had been chemically treated (and sometimes even painted) to give them the appearance of being ancient. In addition, it was also shown that none of the finds associated with Piltdown Man had been originally buried in the gravel that had been deposited at Piltdown. The Piltdown Man fraud was a great embarrassment to the UK scientific community.

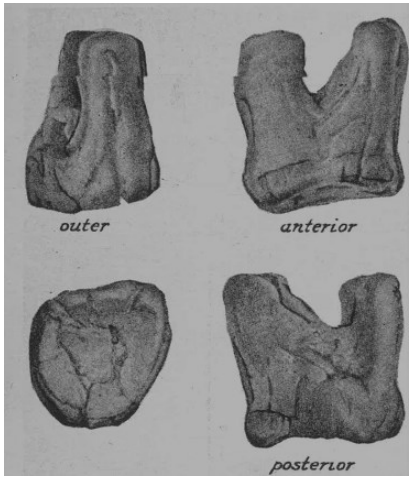
vii. **Lesson Learned: Whatever the original goal may have been, human nature is not beyond creating and passing a fraud to promote a personal goal. Trust, but verify.**

b. The Nebraska Man Fossil Deceit (1922, USA)

i. In February 1922, in Nebraska (USA) Harold Cook wrote to Dr. Henry Osborn to inform him of a **tooth** that he had in his possession for five years. The tooth had been found years prior in the Upper Snake Creek beds of Nebraska along with other fossils typical of North America. Osborn received the specimen in March 1922, and quickly set out to identify it. Osborn, along with Dr. William D. Matthew soon came to the conclusion that the tooth had belonged to an anthropoid ape.

ii. They then passed the tooth along to William K. Gregory and Dr. Milo Hellman, who agreed that the tooth belonged to an anthropoid ape more closely related to humans than to other apes. And, only a few months later, an article was published in the **Science Magazine and in the New York Times** announcing the discovery of a man-like ape in North America. An illustration of “Homo Haroldcookii” (Nebraska Man) was done by artist Amédée Forestier, who modeled the drawing on the proportions of "Pithecanthropus" (now Homo erectus), the "Java ape-man,"

for the Illustrated London News. Osborn was not impressed with the illustration, calling it: "a figment of the imagination of no scientific value, and undoubtedly inaccurate"



The Tooth

Artist's Imagination

iii. The Role of 'Nebraska man' in the creation-evolution debate, was not a careless mistake by an honest scientist, since the evidence suggests that Osborn deliberately overstated the find (and held back his concerns over the fossil), because the theory of evolution was center stage in a struggle for the control of education policy during the 1920's in America and he wanted to support the evolutionary view. It is true that in the end, the Nebraska man find was not central to the 1925 Scopes Trial, but its publicity was used as an effective tool to undermine Bryan, the well-known opponent of evolution and prosecution lawyer at the 1925 trial, and it proved useful in the campaign to promote evolution.

iv. Gregory (a colleague of Osborn) continued fieldwork in Nebraska in the spring of 1925 and began to uncover evidence that what was actually found in the soil of this State was the tooth of a peccary, a type of pig. But this work was not written up until 1927, after the Scopes Trial had ended.

v. When evidence began to show that this tooth was from a type of pig, Osborn should have admitted his mistake before the Scopes Trial began and not continue to promote this tooth as an important truthful find, thus allowing the real truth to remain hidden for another two and a half years.

vi. Lesson Learned: Human nature is not beyond withholding information to mislead people if that would promote their personal goal. Trust, but always verify.

vii. References and Links:

a. https://creation.com/the-piltdown-man-fraud
b. https://www.amazon.com/Piltdown-Scientific-Forgery-Frank-Spencer/dp/0198585225
c. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piltdown_Man
d. https://creation.com/fresh-look-at-nebraska-man
e. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska_Man

8) Summary/Conclusion:

- DNA controls the body plan of an organism, but not its mind, intelligence, soul, or spirit.
- Chimpanzee and Human DNA-Genome similarity is not at **98.7%,** but is somewhere between **74% to 84%.** This is not similar, but is actually very different.
- To date, the purported ape-to-human fossil population is extremely scant, jumbled, uncertain, and at times deliberately overstated. The brevity of clear fossil evidence leaves inquirers to be mostly guided by their presuppositions and current worldview, as they attempt to interpret the few randomly distributed fossil-bits they do find.
- The key iconic fossils reviewed herein can ultimately find a legitimate home in either the ape-family camp or the human-family camp – there is no need for an ape-man camp.
- A4S agrees with the conclusion of Harvard scientist Dr. Pilbeam:
  a. ***"If you brought in a smart scientist from another discipline and showed him the meagre [fossil] evidence we've got for human evolution he'd surely say, 'forget it: there isn't enough to go on.'"***

(Richard E. Leakey, The Making of Mankind, Michael Joseph Limited, London, 1981, p. 43)

9) Additional Resources:

a. Books & Online Videos:

i. **Genesis Impact** Video, 107min, https://youtu.be/H2sWzApuuvc
ii. **Genesis Impact**, PDF, Genesis Apologetics: https://genesisapologetics.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Genesis-Impact-Book-Web.pdf
iii. **2017, Contested Bones**, Rupe & Sanford. https://www.amazon.com/Contested-Bones-Christopher-Rupe/dp/0981631673

b. Websites:

i. www.answersingenesis.com
ii. www.Creation.com
iii. www.icr.org
iv. https://genesisapologetics.com/
v. https://isgenesishistory.com/