

## Evolution vs. Creation

### Lesson Seven

#### *Anthropology: Neanderthals on the Run*

April 16, 2006

- the descent of man – belief that humans are descended from one of many pre-human species
- the belief in descent from primitive ancestors totally skews our view of ourselves
  
- there have been a number of notable archaeological finds that claim to have unearthed the links in man's evolutionary tree
- *Nebraska Man*: based on the 1922 discovery of a molar; proven to be a pig's tooth in 1927
- *Neanderthal Man*: by 1929, the beliefs about this guy were in ruins
- *Pitldown Man*: discovery announced in 1912; it took 40 years to finally prove that a human skull had been joined with the jawbone of an ape; the teeth had been filed to appear more human; the teeth and jawbone had been stained to make them look older; initially dated at 500,000 years old, the skull is now believed to be 500 years old; the jaw is believed to be an orangutan specimen from the British Museum of Natural Science
- *The Australopithecenes*: skull discovered in 1924 in South Africa; other fragments discovered later; in 1954, Solly Zuckerman declared there was no evidence for evolution based on posture; in 1974, Charles Oxnard concluded that Australopithecene bones were more like orangutan than humans or apes
- *Zinjanthropus*: bone fragments discovered by Leakey's wife in 1950 (Africa); at first believed to be the oldest modern human (1.75 MMYO); later declared to be another Australopithecene
- *Homo habilus*: believed to be good with tools since stone tools were found nearby; many evolutionists believed it to be related to Australopithecenes
- *Java Man*: modern man in the age of Starbucks? no, discovered about 1895 by Eugene Dubois; "GK Chesterton commented that no uninformed person looking at his carefully lined face would imagine that this was the portrait of a thigh bone, a few teeth, and a cranium fragment" (not all found at the same time in the same location); by 1921 Dubois finally admitted having found human skulls in the same strata as the supposed apeman
- *Peking Man*: in 1927 a molar was discovered; in 1929 part of a skull was found which several experts declared to be baboon; Davidson Black made a distorted model of the skull that fit his desired outcome – a link between Java Man and Neanderthal Man; there was never any evidence to support the belief that it walked upright; there was never any support that it lived in a cave; the excavation site was surrounded by evidence of large-scale limestone-burning industry (this was reported as "traces of fire"); two prominent evolutionists dismissed Peking Man as a monkey; three complete human skulls were found at the site in 1933 but were dismissed as being more recent; Black died in 1934 and Franz Weidenreich took up the mantle; FW used parts of four different skulls to make a new model

- and had it sculpted to appear nearly human; all the original fossil evidence is now missing
- 1972 and following years: numerous new discoveries overturned the previous beliefs about man's tree of descent
  - Pat Shipman, paleontologist at JHU (1986): "We no longer know who gave rise to whom—perhaps not even how, or when, we came into being"
  - Two of the key assumptions behind attempts to classify humanoid fossils:
    - radiometric dating methods tell us how old the bones are
    - there is a direct correlation between cranial volume and intelligence
  - The difficulty of classifying fossil remains is compounded by the compelling need to make the evidence fit a preconceived evolutionary model
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- if humans had been around as long as scientists believe, we'd have already turned the corner on population explosion
    - one million years = 25,000 generations
    - 2.5 children per couple would lead to a current population of  $10^{2100}$
    - number of atoms in the universe =  $10^{80}$ ; number of electrons =  $10^{130}$
  - genetic research has shown that all humans are descended from a common set of parents
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- the evolution of culture – it doesn't appear that intelligent cavemen made any cultural improvements for eons
  - on the other hand, archaeological evidence supports the sudden appearance of culture in the middle east
    - culture can be seen to radiate outward from this region
    - no primitive humanoids have been found in this region
    - some people lived in caves; most lived in cities
    - today's savages can be viewed as examples of culture on the way down
    - there are no examples of savages improving themselves
    - cultural decline can be seen in the context of isolation from the source
  - example of feral children
    - grew up without language and were never able to acquire normal language skills
    - shows that culture is external to the genes – it must be taught
    - shows that man, in the company of beasts, remains speechless
  - language is a problem for evolutionists because it doesn't occur by gradual upward progression
    - primitive tribes should have primitive languages
  - Gen 11:1-9: origin of languages and scattered people groups