



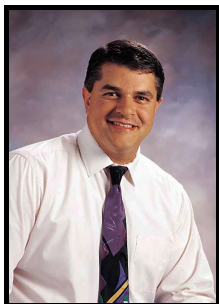
Who Were Adam & Eve? The Question of Human Origins

Excerpts from *Who Was Adam: A Creation Model Approach To the Origin of Man* (NavPress, 2005), by Fazale Rana. Dr. Rana is the speaker at our Areopagus Forums in March.

When Darwin wrote *The Descent of Man*, he lacked direct evidence for human evolution. He surmised that man must have evolved from an apelike animal based on anatomical comparisons among humans and other mammals, embryological similarities, and the existence of what he called “rudimentary,” or vestigial, organs – biological structures found in humans that seemingly served little or no function but that appeared to be derived from fully functional ancestral forms....

At the time Darwin wrote *The Descent of Man*, paleontologists had just discovered Cro-Magnon Man fossils (1868), dated at 35,000 years of age, in the caves of France....

Paleontologists had also discovered the first Neanderthal specimen (1856) in the Neander Valley of western Germany. These fossil remains, which dated anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 years in age, bore many similarities to modern humans, yet they also possessed distinct features....



Dr. Fazale Rana

Because of their similarity to human beings, Neanderthals provided little fossil ancestry with the great apes. Paleontologists had yet to discover fossils for intermediate forms that could demonstrate the gradual transition of apelike creatures into humans – fossils that could powerfully corroborate Darwin’s idea....

The first ape-human “intermediate” interpreted from the fossil record was discovered in 1890 on the Indonesian island of Java by Dutch paleontologist Marie Eugene Francois Thomas Dubois. This species, dubbed *Pithecanthropus erectus* (and later *Homo erectus*), walked upright but had a brain size about 60

percent that of modern humans. While some anthropologists regard “Java Man” as one of humanity’s ancestors, controversy surrounded this conclusion.

Still, this evidence seemed to substantiate human evolution.

In 1924 anthropologist Raymond Dart uncovered a small skull in South Africa with a blend of ape and human features that represented (to the scientific community) humanity’s most primitive predecessor. This fossil, nicknamed the Taung Child, was formally classified

as *Australopithecus africanus*. Dart reasoned that the Taung Child must have walked erect based on the location of its foramen magnum (the opening in the skull’s base that receives the spinal cord). As with *Pithecanthropus*, however, controversy swirled around the status of the Taung Child in relation to modern humans....

These...discoveries opened the floodgates. In the decades since, paleontologists have uncovered a treasure trove of hominid fossils that encompass a wide range of species and their accompanying archaeological

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The Areopagus Calendar

Seminars

Christianity Thru the Centuries: From Jesus to the Present

Sundays, beginning Jan. 6th
11:15 AM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church / Room 276

A History of Christianity In America: From the Civil War To the Scopes Monkey Trial

Wednesdays, Jan. 9 - April 8
6:45 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church / Room 105

How Should We Now Live? The Challenges and Opportunities of Living in a ‘Post-Christian’ America

Tuesdays, Jan. 15 - April 9
7:15 PM

Perimeter Church / Midtown Auditorium

Forums

“Who Were Adam & Eve? The Question of Human Origins”

Dr. Fazale Rana

Biochemist, Vice-President of Research and Apologetics for Reasons To Believe, and author of *Origins of Life* (2004) and *Who Was Adam?* (2005).

Wednesday, March 20th
7:00 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Chapel

– and –

Thursday, March 21st
7:30 PM

Perimeter Church / Fellowship Hall

Who Were Adam & Eve? The Question of Human Origins

(continued)

remains.... Each new hominid unearthed appears (to the general public) to fill in the evolutionary tree and clarify the course of human evolution over the last 6 million years.

For many people, genetic comparisons between humans and the great apes further fill in the fossil evidence for human evolution. Such studies indicate a high degree of genetic similarity (98 percent) between humans and chimpanzees, for example. To evolutionary biologists, this resemblance means humans and chimps must have shared a common ancestor roughly 5 to 6 million years ago. Darwin's circumstantial case as apparently been substantiated by such compelling evidence that H. James Birx (a visiting professor at Harvard University) wrote in the introduction to a new edition of *The Descent of Man*, "The myth of Creation as espoused by religious creationists and biblical

fundamentalists has been replaced by the fact of evolution...."

In the last few years, *Time* magazine has published at least two cover stories about hominid fossil finds, and the recovery of a hominid fossil (dubbed the "Toumai Man") even made the front page of *USA Today*. Given the widespread media attention to these discoveries, it's no wonder that most people believe there is overwhelming evidence for human evolution....

Is humanity a quirk of nature – a mere accident with no significance whatsoever? Or is man the crown of creation, made in the Creator's image?

Given the magnitude of the question, one must give careful consideration to the data. Does the fossil record really support Darwin's view? Or does the record reveal the need for an alternative theory, one based on... the biblical view of humanity's origin?

TOP 20

Charles Darwin probably ranks as one of the 10 most influential and significant individuals in human history – for better or for worse. Here is our Top 20 list in chronological order – excluding Jesus Christ, who was no mere man. Is there someone else you would include on this elite list who has had a greater impact on human values, beliefs, and/or history?

Abraham
Moses
Plato
Aristotle
Alexander the Great
Julius Caesar
Apostle Paul
Constantine
Augustine
Johann Gutenberg

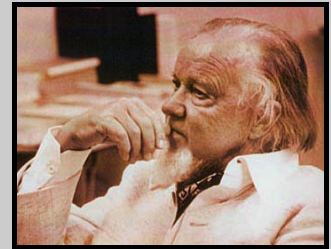
Christopher Columbus
Martin Luther
Isaac Newton
John Locke
Adam Smith
Thomas Jefferson
Charles Darwin
Karl Marx
Thomas Edison
Sigmund Freud

The Areopagus Calendar

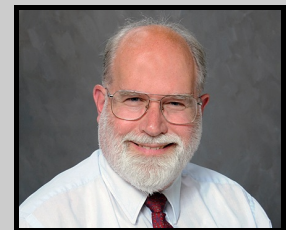
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Forums

"The Life and Legacy of Francis Schaeffer"



A presentation by
Dr. Donald Williams



R. A. Forrest Scholar and Professor of English, Toccoa Falls College Reformed Theological Seminary

Thursday, April 21st
7:30 PM

Perimeter Church / Fellowship Hall

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