

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

By Al Felder

“¹³For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶Thine eyes did see my substances, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:13-16)

One of the most perplexing questions for man to answer is that of the origin of life. Is the human body the result of divine design or is it the product of a series of accidents in the evolutionary process. More specifically, who are we as individuals? Are we the creation of God designed for a purpose or just the result of a cosmic accident with no real purpose? The Bible has the answers to these questions.

David was certainly not confused about the origin of man. In this psalm he reflects upon God’s wondrous design of the human body. The psalmist states that he is, “fearfully and wonderfully made.” Even with our modern technology man is just now getting to the point where he can have a partial view of the formation of life within the womb as described here in the Bible.

David describes his development in the womb from its very beginning. He says that God “possessed my reins.” This means that God formed all of his inward parts. He also states that God “covered” him while in the womb. This word literally means to weave together.¹

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul uses the human body as an illustration of the spiritual body of Christ, the Church. *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”* (1 Corinthians 12:18) This verse points out the fact that God has arranged each member of the body. Each organ was designed by God and created for a purpose. Likewise, we as members of the body of Christ have a task to perform and the failure of just one person is the equivalent of the body operating without one of its members.

We live in a world that is full of death as the result of sin. While it is often difficult and sad, it is a reality that we face. As we get older we find that certain members of our body begin to fail. As this process continues to happen we eventually die. Now relate that to the Church and the words spoken by the apostle.

¹ James Strong, LL.D., S.T.D. 2001. *The Strongest Strong’s*. Grand Rapid, MI : Zondervan, 2001. p. 1541.

Each and every member of the body of Christ is important. *“Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary.”* (1 Corinthians 12:22) Each and every person within the body of Christ has a role to serve, a task to perform, and a talent to use for the Lord. When we refuse to be an active part of the body of Christ we are like the members of the human body that cease to work. Just as the human body eventually dies as its members fail to function, the body of Christ will die if its members cease to work.

As we turn our attention once again to the words of the psalmist, he states that he was *“made in secret and curiously wrought.”* Even before there was any noticeable features indicating that his mother was with child, David was being formed. The word translated as wrought also appears in reference to the curtain and door of the tabernacle. *“And thou shalt make a hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.”* (Exodus 26:36) It means embroiderer and has reference to something that is skillfully made.² We are skillfully made.

There are many people in the world today who reject what the Bible teaches on this matter. They have been raised in a society that perpetuates a lie. From the time that they are very young this lie is taught to them through many of the children’s shows that they watch, it is instilled in them throughout their education, and reinforced through various types of media. That lie is evolution.

Evolution, of course, is the belief that all life on earth evolved over the process of billions of years. Everything started out as a small single celled organism and through the process of time developed into life as we know it today. This, however, is an unproven theory. Yet, it is presented as a fact and it causes many to distrust the Bible.

According to evolutionists, nonliving chemicals gave rise to a living cell. This single celled life form began to give rise to other forms of life. Then, through the process of time, a series of mutations occurred causing an increase in information. In other words, more complex forms of life began to originate from more simple organisms. Finally, through the process of natural selection the strongest life forms survive.

When we compare this line of thinking with the Bible we find that the two bitterly oppose one another. *“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”* (Genesis 1:27) The Bible teaches that God formed man upon the sixth day of creation from the dust of the ground. Then, he caused a sleep to come over the man, took a rib from his side, and formed the woman. Both man and woman, however, were created in the image of God.

Man created in the image of God sets him apart from the rest of creation. This image is not a physical image because God is a spirit. *“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself:*

² —. 2001. *The Strongest Strong's*. Grand Rapids, MI : Zondervan, 2001. p. 1569.

handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.” (Luke 24:39) When Christ appeared to his disciples after his resurrection and ascension he told them that a spirit did not have physical characteristics. Without physical characteristics a spirit cannot have a physical likeness.

God did, however, make man a spiritual being. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* (Genesis 2:7) Yes our physical bodies are made from the ground, but there is another part to man. Man as created by God has an immortal soul. It is the soul that gives the body life. *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* (James 2:26)

The fact that man possesses an immortal soul is a key factor to understanding what the Bible means when it says that man is in the image of God. Man’s ability to reason, communicate through spoken and written word, create, and have a sense of morality are also characteristics that help us understand what it means to be made in the image of God. Each of these characteristics sets man apart from the rest of creation.

After God created the man and woman in his image he gave them a command. *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* (Genesis 1:28) From these two individuals came forth all of mankind. God designed them so that they could produce offspring and spread out over the earth.

Evolutionists frequently assert that similarities in creatures as proof of a common ancestor. In particular, they look at humans and chimpanzees and conclude that they must have descended from a common ancestor because of similarities that they share. However, these similarities could just as easily be explained as the result of a common creator. Human designers frequently reuse the same basic material and make modifications to it in order to produce different products. Likewise, since all life shares the same earth it is expected that there are some similarities to a certain degree.

As we have already pointed out, God designed Adam directly from the dust of the ground. He did not originate from some other life form. In fact, the same can be said for the animals as well. *“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.”* (Genesis 2:19) Man and ape have never had a common ancestor.

Evolutionists depend on fossils in order to try and prove their theory of man and ape having a common ancestor. As we consider this idea there is one thing that we must understand about fossils. Of all of the fossils that have been found to date, roughly 95% of them are aquatic life. This fits nicely with the Biblical account of the flood during the days of

Noah. Next, 4.7% of the fossil record contains algae and plants. Then, .2% of the fossils consist of insects and other invertebrates. Finally, the remaining .1% of the fossil record is composed of vertebrates including the dinosaurs, other land animals, primates, and man. Of this small percentage, only a small fraction consists of primate fossils and an even smaller amount consists of human fossils. In fact, one scientist stated that all of the fossils found of man to date would not even come close to filling a casket.³

With such a small amount of evidence to examine, what supposed evidence exists to link man and ape? The answer is teeth and jaw bones. The majority of the evidence for the common ancestry of ape and man is based off of similarities of teeth and jaw bones. The problem with this is that some living apes have these same features, yet they are not considered ancestors of man. With a single tooth and a lot of imagination evolutionists have created an entire ape-man.

There have even been some instances in which the fossil used to promote this idea was neither man nor ape. "In the early 1920's, the ape-man (which consisted of a single tooth) was pictured in the London Illustrated News complete with the tooth's wife, children, domestic animals, and cave! Experts used this tooth, known as Nebraska man, as proof of human evolution during the Scopes trial in 1925. In 1927, parts of the skeleton were discovered together with the teeth, and Nebraska man was found to really be an extinct wild pig."⁴

In other instances human fossils have been downgraded by evolutionists in order to promote the idea of a common ancestry between man and ape. The best known example of this is Neanderthal man. In 1856 workmen digging in a limestone cave in the Neander valley near Dusseldorf, Germany found fossil remains. These fossils were examined and determined to be human.⁵

Then in 1859 Darwin published his book *Origin of Species*. At that time the search began for the imagined apelike ancestors of man. Neanderthal man was quickly downgraded to an ape-man. None of Neanderthal man's features, however, fall outside the range of normal human anatomy.

This makes perfect sense with the teaching of the Bible. "*And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.*" (Genesis 1:25) God created each of the animals after their kind. Each animal had the ability to reproduce its own kind. In other words, apes only produce more apes, not man.

³ Ham, Ken. 2011. *The New Answers Book 2*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 84.

⁴ —. 2011. *The New Answers Book 2*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 86.

⁵ —. 2011. *The New Answers Book 2*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 91.

Well, what about mutations and natural selection? Let's consider mutations first. In the beginning God made man. At this time there was no death because sin had not entered the world. *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."* (Romans 5:12) When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the forbidden tree, a change took place. Before, man did not die. Now man would know death.

Originally the DNA possessed by Adam and Eve was pure without error. After sin entered into the world, however, this was no longer the case. Now man would grow old and eventually die. Also, various diseases have come about as a result of these mutations.

In order for evolution to work, mutations would need to create new information. That way a single celled organism would be able to give life to a more complex organism. This way a common ancestor could exist between man and ape. Mutations do not create new information. Instead, mutations actually cause information to be lost.

Consider man after sin entered into the world. Adam and Eve still had the purest DNA. Their children began to produce offspring as well as the children of their children. Man still lived to be an average of 912 years during this time. After the flood the age of man began to deteriorate rapidly. After the flood, there was a genetic bottleneck where the only information that survived came from those on the ark.

Man once again had to repopulate the earth and for quite some time close relatives married. In fact, Abraham and Sarah had the same father. *"And yet indeed she is my sister; she is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife."* (Genesis 20:12) As people increased over the earth, mutations within their DNA increased as well.

This increase in mutations lead God to give restrictions on whom one could marry. *"None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the Lord."* (Leviticus 18:6) By this time mankind had reached the point where intermarriage between close relative could result in the same genetic mutations being passed on to their offspring causing great harm.

Natural selection is also used as evidence of evolution. Like mutations, natural selection does not create new information. God created man and the other creatures with a great amount of genetic diversity. When faced with harsh environmental circumstances, God created so that certain characteristics would become dominant resulting in the preservation of life. This has not only lead to the diversity we see in humans today, but the diversity that exists in many animal kinds as well. It does not, however, cause a change from one kind to another. It happens within a kind.

The Bible does not teach evolution. Furthermore, there is no demonstrable evidence that proves the theory. The more that we advance technologically, we find that new

discoveries actually coincide with the teachings of the Bible. That teaching consists of God being the cause of all things, man being made in His image, death entering into the world through sin, and God through Jesus making a way for man to be restored unto Him. Truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made.