

EMBRACING JESUS CHRIST & THE CROSS WITHOUT HISTORICAL ADAM

Denis O. Lamoureux DDS PhD (Theology) PhD (Biology)

Professor of Science & Religion and Research Associate in Paleontology
St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

Evolutionary Creation

BELIEF that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created the inanimate universe and every living creature, including humans, through an ordained, sustained, and intelligent design-reflecting evolutionary process

Intelligent Design

BELIEF that beauty, complexity & functionality in nature point to an Intelligent Designer (NB: Ps 19 & Rom 1)

Scientific Concordism

ASSUMPTION the Bible aligns with the facts of science

REASONABLE ASSUMPTION:

- God created the world ✓
- God inspired the Bible ✓
- ☐ The Bible should align with science

Evangelical Interpretive Insights

"The Bible is the Word of God written in the words of men [and women] in HISTORY."

GE Ladd, New Testament Criticism

The Bible includes the ideas of ancient humans

"The Bible is written FOR us ... it is not written TO us."

J Walton, Lost World of Adam & Eve

The Bible was written TO ancient humans

Message-Incident Principle



Immutability of Living Creatures

Latin *mutabilis*: changeable
Plants & animals **never** change (or evolve) into different creatures
☐ based on an ancient phenomenological perspective

OBSERVATION

ancient people only saw:
a goat births → a goat which births → a goat

CONCLUSION

goats are **Immutable**
Ancient Biology (Ancient Taxonomy)
reproduction is "according to their kinds" 10X in Gen 1
Corollary of Immutability: 1st goats created *de novo*

De Novo Creation

Quick & Complete (fully formed) creation of living creatures

Ancient Biology of origin of plants & animals EG Gen 1 & 2

RETROJECTION

Latin *retro*: backward *jacere*: to cast
Taking present experience & casting (reversing) it back in time to explain & reconstruct the past

EG: Crime Scene Investigation (CSI)

De Novo Creation of 1st Goats ← even earlier goat which came from ← earlier goat which came from ← today's goat came from

Human Origins & Adam

Humans are immutable & **never** change into different creatures
a human births → a human who births → a human

Corollary of Immutability: 1st humans created *de novo*

De Novo Creation of 1st Humans ← even earlier human who came from ← earlier human who came from ← today's human came from

WHO WAS ADAM?

- ancient explanation of human origins based on **Ancient Biology**
- his existence based on retrojection of 'a human births a human'
- ☐ **Adam Never Existed**

Apostle Paul & Adam

CONFIRMATION ARGUMENT

Paul believed Adam existed, therefore Adam really existed

Phil 2:10-11 & the 3-Tier Universe

Every knee shall bow & tongue confess Jesus Christ is Lord:

- [1] in heaven
- [2] on earth, and
- [3] in the UNDERWORLD Greek: *katachthonios*

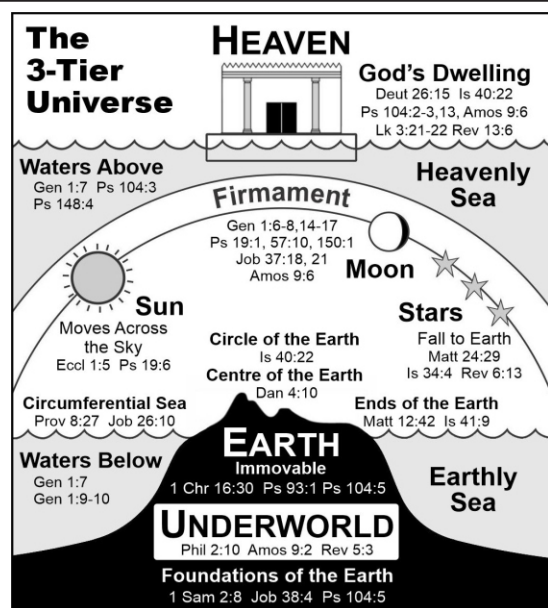
CONSISTENCY ARGUMENT I

Paul accepted Ancient Astronomy & Ancient Geography

It is only consistent that Paul also accepted:

- ☐ **Ancient Biology** → *de novo* creation of Adam

THE BIBLE & ANCIENT SCIENCE



Greek *phainomai* to appear

Ancient Phenomenological Perspective

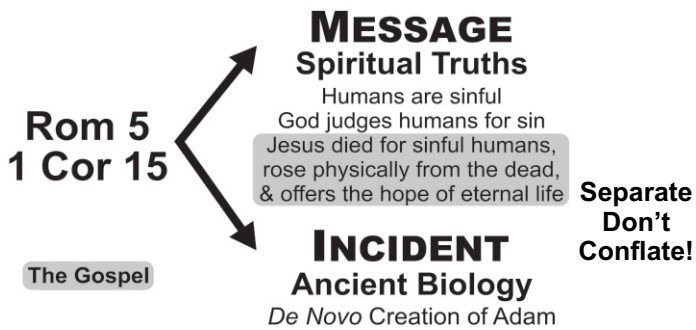
Nature viewed through the naked eyes of ancient humans

Biblical Accommodation

The Holy Spirit descended to the level of ancient humans & used their ideas (eg, ancient science) in order to reveal as effectively as possible **INERRANT** Messages of Faith

Examples of Divine Accommodation:

Incarnation, Parables & Prayer



CONSISTENCY ARGUMENT II

Ancient Origin of **Human Life** → Ancient Origin of **Human Death**

LITERARY GENRE OF GENESIS 2-4

SYMBOLISM, ARCHETYPES & WORDPLAY POINTING TO THE GENRE:

- garden paradise in a symbolic land named "Delight" (Hebrew: *eden*)
- archetypal sinful 1st man (*adam*) made of earth (*adamah*)
- archetypal sinful 1st woman named "Life" (*hawwah*) "mother of all the living"
- symbolic tree with fruit that imparts knowledge of good & evil
- symbolic tree with fruit that imparts eternal life
- archetypal tempter → talking snake instills doubt in the Words of God
- cherubim (mystical creatures--human head, lion body & eagle wings)
- symbolic flaming sword moving back & forth
- archetypal murderer named "Spear" (*qayin*) condemned to tremble (*na'*) & wander (*nud*) in a symbolic land named "Wandering" (*nod*)

These features point to a made-up story → **Parable-Like Story**

NB: 1/3 of Jesus's teachings were parables → events never happened

PROOF: God uses fictional stories in the Bible

☛ **Story about Adam in Gen 2-4 never happened**

THE PROBLEM WITH MODERN READERS:

OUR scientific & historical literature deals only with hard facts
made-up stories like parables are **NEVER** included

WE read Gen 2-4 & WE automatically:

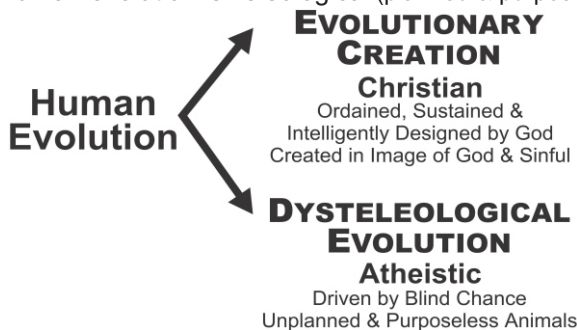
historicize the parable-like story → fueled by concordism

WE transform Fictional Adam of the parable into Historical Adam

Don't Conflate, but Separate the inerrant spiritual truths from the incidental parable-like story in Gen 2-4 & Fictional Adam

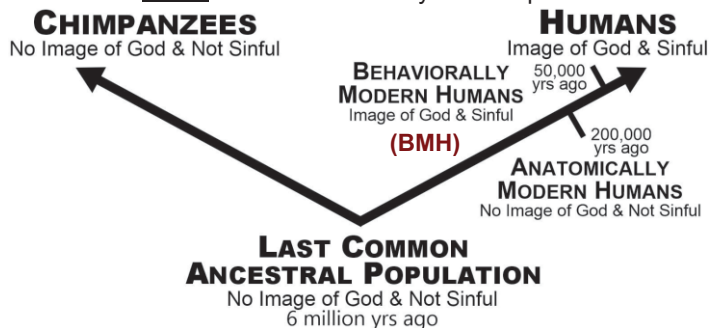
CHRISTIAN VIEWS ON HUMAN EVOLUTION

(1) Human evolution is Teleological (planned & purposeful)



(2) ONLY humans are created in the Image of God & are sinful

NB: we do not evolve from monkeys or chimps!!!

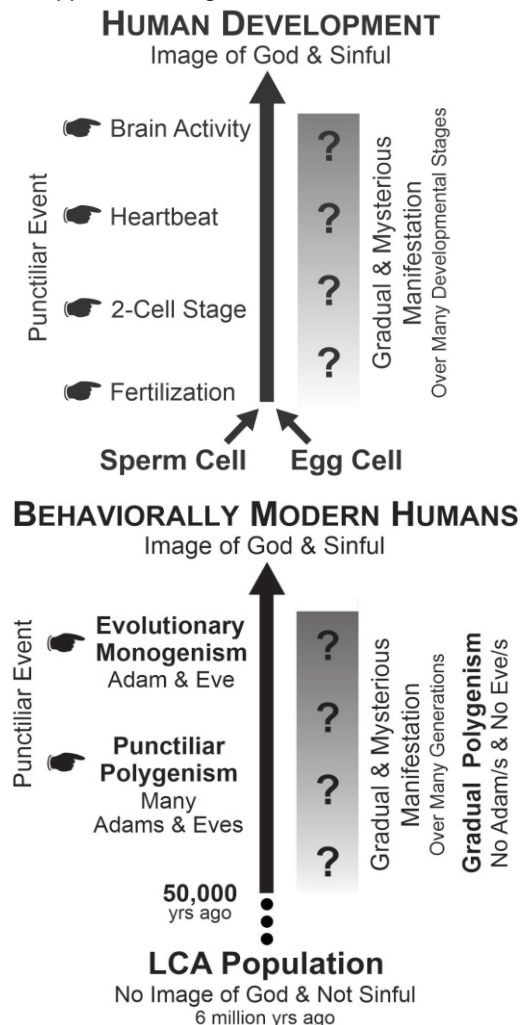


Developmental Biology & Evolutionary Biology Analogies

ANALOGY I: God created us through His developmental processes in our mother's womb.

PROOF: God uses natural processes to create life
Similarly, it is possible that God created all living creatures, including humans, through His evolutionary processes

ANALOGY II: The Image of God & human sin were manifested during our development. Similarly, it is possible the Image of God & human sin appeared during the evolution of the **1st BM Humans**



3 BASIC OPTIONS

NB: it is possible to combine & modify these options

Evolutionary Monogenism Greek *monos*: one, single
One male & one female from pre-humans (Adam & Eve)

Punctiliar Polygenism *polus*: many
Many males & females from pre-humans (Adams & Eves)

Gradual Polygenism
NO Adam/s & Eve/s → rejects concordism

CONCLUSIONS

1. Scientific Concordism inevitably **FAILS**
2. Christian Tradition conflates Adam and Spiritual Truths, giving an ancient science (*de novo* creation of Adam) the status of **Inerrancy**
3. Christian Tradition historicizes the parable-like story in Gen 2-4 & transforms Fictional Adam into Historical Adam
4. Sin entered the world, but not thru Adam → **1st BM Humans**
5. Sin is real → we are ALL sinners in need of a Savior
6. Our Savior is the Lord **Jesus Christ** who willingly died on **The Cross** for our sins. Amen!

<https://sites.www.ualberta.ca/~dlamoure>