

Man's origin: accident or design?

The aim of this book is to present evidence of man's wonderfully unique design and to show that man has been specially created. My personal expertise and research is in the science of design in engineering and biological systems. When I look at the human being I can see clear evidence of purposeful design in the same way that engineering systems show evidence of purposeful design. The only difference is that the natural world has a designer who is far greater than any human designer.

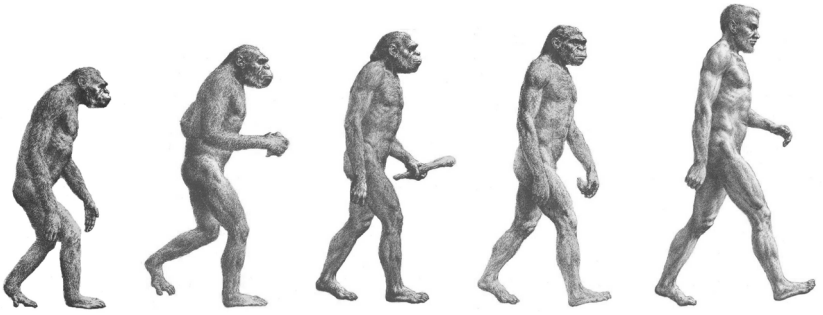
The truth about the origin of man is crucially important because it determines whether man is just an animal or a special spiritual being. If man has evolved from an ape-like creature as shown in Fig. 1(a) then it follows that man is just another animal and destined for oblivion at death. In contrast, if man was specially created as shown in Fig. 1(b) then it follows that man is a special spiritual being with an immortal soul.

The media and education system often present the theory of evolution as a scientific fact. However, there are many scientists today, including biologists, who believe there is no real scientific evidence for the evolution of man or any other class of animal. Evolution is simply a philosophy which argues that everything can be explained by natural phenomena and that life arose without any input from a Creator. The atheistic bias of modern science is summed up in the words of the evolutionist Scott Todd who wrote in the science journal *Nature*:

Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.¹

There is no justification for ruling out the possibility that an intelligent designer created man. Great scientists like Isaac Newton, Blaise Pascal, Lord Kelvin, Michael Faraday and James Maxwell saw no contradiction

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(a) Evolution from an ape-like creature



(b) Direct creation of man

Fig. 1 Alternative explanations of man's origin

between belief in science and belief in a Creator. The last three in this list knew of Darwin's theory of evolution and strongly opposed it.

Part I of the book (Chapter 1) deals with the question of similarities between humans and apes and shows that common features can be fully explained in terms of a common Designer.

Part II of the book (Chapters 2–11) describes the unique design of man. Ten major unique characteristics are presented in Chapters 2–11:

- 1 Upright stature
- 2 Skilful hands
- 3 Fine skin
- 4 Facial expressions
- 5 Language and speech
- 6 Unique childhood
- 7 Unique reproduction
- 8 Unique genome
- 9 Unique brain
- 10 Spiritual being

Chapters 2–11 describe how humans also have a design beyond what is needed for survival. The fact that humans can do much more than just survive can be termed 'purposeful over-design'. Purposeful over-design is a positive term used to describe how something is designed with a high degree of functionality. The purposeful over-design of man is a concept that can be seen in the Bible. When the Bible says that humans are made 'a little lower than the angels' and are 'crowned with honour and glory' (Psalm 8:5), this clearly implies that humans are designed for more than surviving in the wild. When the Bible says that humans are made to 'have dominion over the works of God' (Psalm 8:6), this clearly shows that humans are designed for a greater purpose than just surviving.

The purposeful over-design of humans is a huge problem for evolution because evolution by definition cannot produce something beyond what is needed for survival. Secular scientists admit that the anatomy of humans should be fully explainable by survival advantages in the wild such as fighting and hunting. They admit that the anatomy of the human brain and hands should be explainable in terms of the need to perform survival functions such as throwing spears and making fires. The evolutionist

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Professor Stephen Jones has said that ‘evolution does its job as well as it needs to and no more’.² This is a crucial admission that evolution would never produce a feature that was beyond what is needed for survival.

Part III of the book (Chapter 12) describes how the human body has a unique and fine beauty that sets man apart from all the other creatures in creation.

Part IV of the book presents historical evidence to show that the archaeological and fossil records clearly support the creation of man. Chapter 13 describes how the archaeological record shows that there is no such thing as primitive humans. Chapter 14 shows how the term ‘missing link’ is as relevant today as it always has been.

Of course, man is not perfect and beautiful in every respect. Humans have been affected by the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and this has produced undesirable effects such as death, disease and genetic disorders. However, despite these problems, there is still clear evidence for a Creator.

The purpose of the book is not just to challenge those who believe in evolution. The book is also meant to encourage people to see how man has a great Creator who has demonstrated wonderful care for man in the way he made man, in the way he provides for man’s needs and in the way he has made a way of salvation for man. It is my experience that only those who believe in the biblical creation account can truly appreciate the wonder and glory of man.

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Note

- 1 **S.C. Todd**, *Nature* (correspondence) 401(6752):423, 30 Sept. 1999.
- 2 **Stephen Jones**, *Darwin’s Ghost*, (Random House, New York, 2000), p. 98.