

**God's Grand Design**  
**Class #4**  
**Did humans evolve from primates?**  
**Genesis 2**  
**Josh Whitney**  
**November 15, 2023**  
**The Rock Church**

(pray, pause, breath)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Good evening everyone! My name is Josh Whitney. I am a pastor here at the Rock Church. Welcome to our 4<sup>th</sup> **God's Grand Design class!** This class is a ton of work, but it is a labor of love. I am having a blast and I am glad so many of you are joining us week to week. I thoroughly enjoy thinking about what we should teach on week to week.

So this fourth class will be based on Genesis chapter 2 and answering this question, **did human evolve from primates?** Plus 2 videos, and science. Less math this week, though, so that is sad.

So let's start with prayer.

## **OVERVIEW**

In this class, we are comparing two different views of origins. When I say origins, I mean, where did everything come from?

**View #1 – God created the heavens and the earth. (in six days, thousands of years ago)**

And **View #2. The heavens and earth evolved without God. (millions and billions of years ago)**

When I say evolved, I mean the gradual development of something step by step, from simple to more complex form. View #2 is the perspective you have probably been taught your entire life.

Just so you know where I am coming from, I want to compare these two views in this class. And explain why we believe that the young earth creation perspective (View #1) is superior, both biblically and scientifically.

## **EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS OF LIFE**

So let's get into it.

What is the evolutionary answer to this question, did humans evolve from primates?

We have talked about this in class 1 and 2. But a power review.

Where did life first come from? According to Smithsonian. **According to the conventional hypothesis, the earliest living cells emerged as a result of chemical evolution on our planet about 3.7 billion years ago in a process called abiogenesis.**

Abiogenesis, the prefix a means without, so life spontaneously came from non-life.

**Tree of life.** And then over the next 3.7 billion years, that simple life evolved into more and more complex life forms. This life eventually left the ocean and came up on the land. And some life started flying. And some life became you and me. Notice the human evolutionary progression top middle. The primate to man evolutionary progression.

So every life form ever found on the planet is represented here. All kinds of sea creatures. Land animals. Birds, Dinosaurs, plants, people. All of it.

So that is very briefly View #2. The evolutionary view of the life, including humans. Small gradual changes over incredible amounts of time producing everything.

Now we are going to unpack this in more detail.

This is what you have been taught over your entire educational process. When you visit science museums. When you watch nature documentaries. When you look up something up online. When you open a science textbook.

The evolutionary view is the dominant view in our world today, that all life including all human life can be explained by slow gradual processes over 3.7 billions of years.

## **VIDEO #1**

Let's watch our first **movie**. It's 3 minutes long. An animation showing us the supposed evolution from simple cellular life to humans. In 3 minutes. This is 3.7 billion years of evolutionary theory in 3 minutes. So basically a billion years a minute. The ages or timeframes are in the upper left hand corner.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W5hOJaFjxU&ab\\_channel=InsiderTech](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2W5hOJaFjxU&ab_channel=InsiderTech)

There you go. That is where you came from over the **last 3.8 billion** years. This is your great great a million times grandpa.

## **THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES**

In the evolutionary view, what is thought to drive these changes in the creatures over the 3.7 billion years? 3.8 billion years. What is a hundred million years between friends?

Here are the 4 mechanisms of evolutionary change. This is brief explanation from an evolutionary theory website. **Mutation, migration, genetic drift, and natural selection.** What are those?

First, mutation. There is some change in the parent's genetic code that causes their offspring to have different characteristics. In this example, the two green daddy and mommy beetles have a brown baby beetle. A genetic mutation causes the green parents to have a brown baby.

Second mechanism, migration, or gene flow. The brown beetle moves into a green beetle colony. Now brown beetles are in the green beetle population. The brown beetles starting having babies with the green beetles and more brown beetles are introduced.

Third mechanism, genetic drift. A bunch of green beetles get killed off. Some sort of catastrophe. Or large death event. In this case, the person who sees the green beetles and squashes them. And now there are mostly brown beetles running around.

And then fourth mechanism, we think most common, natural selection, or survival of the fittest. Let's say brown beetles blend in with their environment. And the green beetles get eaten more. The bird is eating the green beetles.

Let me define natural selection. This is a critical concept. **Natural selection (survival of the fittest) is a mechanism of evolution where organisms that are more adapted to their environment are more likely to survive and pass on the genes that aided their success.**

What stands out to you about these **4 pictures**? What stands out to me.

They are all still beetles.

Evolutionist and creationist would agree with these four mechanisms of evolution or adaptation.

But what this means beyond these 4 scenarios is where evolutionist and creationist would diverge.

View #1, the biblical creationist view would say that is God's designed process of allowing life to adapt to its environment. In other words, this is a marvel of genetics. God designed life with this incredible pre-built ability to adapt to its environment. Incredible genetic adaptability. But we are still talking about creatures reproducing according to their kind. The beetles are still beetles. If they are brown or green beetles, they are still beetles.

View #2, the naturalistic evolutionary view would say that is the process by which a beetle could transformed into a fundamentally different creature, given enough time. These gradual processes given enough time could transform a beetle into a bird.

This is important. What we are talking about now is your definition of what science is.

**SCIENCE**

What is science? Here is a good definition.

**Science: the study of the natural world through observation, experimentation, and the testing of theories against the evidence obtained.** In other words, science is testable, repeatable, and observable.

So when we talk about evolutionary theory, when we are answering this question where did human beings come from, we are talking about the difference between operational and historical science.

**Operational science** is the type of science that one might do in a laboratory, about how the world works. It's all based on what you actually see. You can perform tests and experiments and observe what happens. For example, at sea level, water will always boil at the same temperature at 212° F.

In operational science, anyone can repeat an experiment and see if they get the same results. Testable and repeatable. This is what has given us smartphones, spaceships, and lots of other inventions.

I am very thankful for operational science. I love science. I have a master's degree in science. I did a 3-year research program. I wrote a big old thesis in science.

**Historical science** deals with what happened in the past, but you **cannot** do experiments on events in the past. Please hear me. You cannot do experiments on events that happened in the past.

An example of this would be scientists might unearth a fossil and then tell a story of how long ago the creature lived and died. But the scientists' ideas about how old it is cannot be directly tested because it happened in the past without direct witnesses.

It is outside the realm of operational science. It is historical or forensic science.

## **HUMAN EVOLUTION**

So those were some important foundational points. I would be happy to discuss later if you want.

So let's explore this idea of human evolution in detail. This is the iconic monkey to man evolutionary image. This is an **iconic**. We see it everywhere, museums, nature shows, science textbooks.

This may be the ultimate icon of evolution.

Are we just evolved animals? This image teaches that.

Charles Darwin, the father of modern evolutionary theory, speaking about this, said, “the difference ... between man and the higher animals, great as it is, certainly is one of degree and not of kind.”

In other words, people and animals are the same kind. People are just more evolved.

You may be more advanced. But you are still just an animal.

There are three questions that flow from this thought that humans are animals.

First, do humans have some features in common with other animals?

Yes, absolutely. We talked about this before.

Remember the theory of evolution teaches living things are all descended from the same starting point. So they are all from the same kind. They are all related. They share similar features. And similar genetic code.

I talked about this a couple classes ago. Do similarities speak of common descent or a common designer. Look at all of these various apple products. Are these evolving? Did the ipod evolve into the ipad which evolved into the iphone? Of course not. Designers using similar features and code. They are being good designers.

So yes, humans and animals have some similar features. But the conclusions are different.

Second, did humans acquire these features through evolution and natural selection from animal ancestors?

View 1, creation view. NO, we are a different kind. We are humans made in the image of God. We will look at this in a minute.

View 2, evolutionary view. YES, we are all the same kind. All human features were acquired through small gradual changes as we evolved from lower to higher animal form.

This question is solidly in the realm of historical science, i.e. theories. You aren't running experiments. You are observing beetles changing in response to their environment.

But then you extrapolate and decide given enough time a beetle could become a person.

And third question, are humans just animals?

Now there are profound implications to this question.

If we are just a higher evolved animal, there is a whole set of implications that flow from that.

But if we are humans created in the image of God, there is a whole different set of implications that flow from that.

It is what we talked about in class 1. Where did you come from, why are you here, who decides right and wrong, and what happens when you die?

There are profound implications to this question.

Creation view, no we are not animals. We are something completely different which we will read in a minute.

But the evolutionary view, yes, we are animals. We all came from the same origin.

Famous evolutionary scientists also see this implication.

Oxford Zoologist Richard Dawkins said **that Darwin shocked the vanity of our species by showing us that we are close cousins to monkeys and apes.**

Thomas Huxley an English biologist, also known as Darwin bulldog, said **“There would be no rational ground for doubting that man might have originated by the gradual modification of a man-like ape. Man is, in substance and in structure, one with the brutes.”**

Or the animals.

Here is a **table summarizing the 3 set of answers to these questions.**

This first question. This is operational science stuff. You can take samples from a person and an animal and compare. You can make observations.

Second question. This becomes the realm of historical science or theory. You cannot run experiments to show this. Try run a 3.7-billion-year experiment. Can't do it. We are in the area of forensics and faith.

And the third question moves into implications of question #2. What are the consequences of these ideas? What happens when you teach people they are just animals?

## **THE EVIDENCE**

We are going to explore that, but first, what is the evidence for the evolution of humans?

We watched the animation and saw the evolutionary tree of life picture.

But what can be observed in the world?

Let me teach you a big word. Whenever you see the word paleo, it simply means old.

Paleoanthropology is the study of human evolution through the fossil and archaeological records.

So paleoanthropologists have gone out into mainly Africa and looked for evidence of human evolution.

According to evolutionary theory, the early human lineage broke away from chimpanzees about 7 million years ago. There were thought to be about 20 different types of early human/primate ancestors. Most have gone extinct.

And then the theory is about 250,000 years ago, the first homo sapiens appeared. They got larger brains, and smaller teeth, made simple stone tools, stood upright, and started to hunt.

Here is a little math. I did some exponential growth formula. Initial value. Rate of change. And time. Currently population growth rate is about 0.9%. calculations from 2 first people, 2% growth rate, 250,000 years. It is a number too big, it's infinity.

There should be infinity people on the planet now. It breaks every calculator I used. It is an infinitely big number.

It doesn't even show up on that number chart I showed you last class. Even if you reduce the growth rate dramatically, it doesn't give you 8 billion people.

Basically, if the first 2 people existed 250,000 years ago, there should be infinity people on the earth now. But there isn't there is 8 billion.

On a side note, 6 people, 4500 years ago, at a 0.468% growth rate yields 8 billion. We will come back to that.

So bottom line, infinity people, anthropologists should have a lot of great evidence to build that primate to man evolutionary family tree from!

Basically, the thought was, we just need to go out there and discover all of the fossil evidence.

So it's not quite, nada, zilch, zero. Even the phrase, the search for the missing link, shows us they haven't found it. But as you will see, we aren't just missing the link, we are missing the whole chain.

Don't take my word for it. Here are some quotes. Talking about the lack of human evolution fossils. There is a pathetically small amount of evidence for primate to human evolution.

Bill Bryson a science author said "The total world archive of hominid (early man/ape) and early human bones" could fit "into the back of a pickup truck."

Ever since I read that quote, I have never forgotten it. We should have infinity people on the planet right now, and there should be a plethora of bones to build the evolutionary case from. And the total evidentiary case can fit into the back of a pickup truck.

Paleoanthropologists Niles Eldredge and Ian Tattersall said **One could confidently expect that as more hominid fossils were found the story of human evolution would become clearer. Whereas if anything, the opposite has occurred.**

Constance Holden, a science journalist, worked for Science magazine before she died. She said **“The primary scientific evidence is a pitifully small array of bones from which to construct man’s evolutionary history.”**

Henry Gee, the chief science writer for Nature magazine said **all the evidence for human evolution “between 10 and 5 million years ago – several thousand generations of living creatures – can be fitted into a small box.”** He is saying it is less than a pickup truck, it is a box. But I guess you could put the box in the back of the truck.

Henry Gee also said **“To take a line of fossils and claim that they represent a lineage is not a scientific hypothesis that can be tested, but an assertion that carries the same validity as a bedtime story, amusing, perhaps even instructive, but not scientific.”**

I really appreciate their honesty. But they are all still sticking with their evolutionary theory to explain human origins.

## **FRAUDS**

This lack of evidence has sadly led to some **infamous scientific fraud**. I don’t have time to talk about these. But look these up and read a few articles on [creation.com](http://creation.com) or [answersingenesis.com](http://answersingenesis.com) **Nebraska Man. Piltdown Man. Peking Man. Montana Man. Java Man.** Famous missing link frauds. Mixing and matching bones. Filing down teeth. Chemically staining.

There is a real desire to turn this human evolutionary theory into reality. If only we could find a few of the “missing links.” Then we could prove this is true.

You also need to understand this. When you find a fossil, there is a lot of interpretation. What kind of skin do we put on the fossil? Color of skin? Hair? Angle of the bones.

Paleoanthropologist Alan Walker said, working with Richard Leakey (very famous dude), Talking about the bones they found **“You could hold the upper jaw forward, and give it a long face, or you could tuck it in, making the face short. How you held it really depended on your preconceptions. It was very interesting watching what people did with it.”**

When I went to **the creation museum** a few years ago, they had this display of different ways you could present a fossil skull. They had these 3 different artistic interpretations that go into the presentation of these rare fossils. What kind of skin, hair, eyes. It is the same BASE skull under all 3 of these faces.

## **IMPLICATIONS**



Before we pivot to the Bible, I want to watch a **second video**. 10 minutes long. Talking about the implications of these ideas. That people are just evolved from animals. There is a parental warning at the beginning, but I have shown material like this to my kids. But I want to warn parents. Talks about racism, slavery and the holocaust.

We are talking about implications of the idea that humans are just an evolved animal, it's survival of the fittest, there is a battle between the different races to see who will win. There are radical, wicked implications of these ideas. 10 minutes long.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owa1Qq6x8D8&ab\\_channel=AnswersinGenesisCanada](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owa1Qq6x8D8&ab_channel=AnswersinGenesisCanada)

Those are some **dark implications** to the ideas that some people drew from evolutionary theory  
The **Consequence of Ideas**:

-People are evolved animals.

-There are people groups that are more evolved/superior than other groups.

-There is a 'survival of the fittest' battle between different people groups/races.

## **BIBLE**

That is the evolutionary explanation of the first humans. Does this view agree with the Bible?  
What does the Bible teach about the origins of humans?

Here is what we believe and teach at the Rock. You might have seen these are [trc.life/flood](http://trc.life/flood).

**Creation:** Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).

So what is the scriptural basis for this? Let's pivot to the Bible, Genesis chapter 1 and 2.

**Remember Genesis 1**, we talked about the different days of creation and what was made.

And then let's pick it up at the end of Gen 1.

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Many theological things we could pull out of this text. We will skip that. Just looking at the anthropology perspective of this.

First notice that mankind is made in the image of God, after God's likeness. Made in the image of God means humans have reason, intellect, will, and emotion.

The fish, birds, livestock and creeping things are NOT made in the image of God.

Second, notice that mankind is given dominion or authority over the fish, birds, livestock and creeping things. Mankind is meant to be God's representative ruler over creation.

Verse 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

We see the creation of two individuals having distinct genders, male and female. How do two complementary sexes evolve?

Again, we see man made in God's image. We see the subduing and dominion of creation by mankind.

And then God rests on Day 7.

Now, chapter 2 goes back to the story of the creation of mankind/human beings and adds more details. It is like the extended edition. They are not two different creation accounts. Chapter 1 is the quick general overview, chapter 2, is the extended edition talking about the special creation of people.

Verse Genesis 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

The verses here speak of the divine craftsman shaping and forming man who God brings to life.

Notice, God creates Adam from the dust of the ground. And breathes life into him. So this is a special, personal, creative act of God.

This is different than the creation of the fish, birds and land animals of chapter 1.

God created from non-living matter. Kind of wild. No evolution of mankind from an earlier primate form here.

Verse 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Notice God is speaking to Adam, so language skills, and giving him a job, working the garden.

Adam isn't a primitive, caveman. God has communicated to him his task. No dumb brute here.

Verse 18 Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” 19 Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

The first mention of something not being good in creation. That the man is alone. So God makes a helper, a companion for him.

And notice again man’s intelligence. He is naming the animals, he does this rapidly. Probably in a few hours. Notice it is just the beast of the field and the birds.

Adam has authority over the animals and he demonstrates that by naming them. He isn’t some dumb grunting hominid. He is a perfect creation. His mental and language abilities exceeded ours.

So again is not one of the animals. He is different than the animals.

Verse 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

23 Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

A beautiful section of scripture. So much we could unpack here. But briefly, no companion is found for Adam in the animal kingdom. Because he is fundamentally different.

So God creates Adam’s equal in Eve. Out of his side, made from a rib.

Again, we are ignoring most of the theological implications and just looking at the high level creation lessons.

1. Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, unlike the animals.
2. Adam and Eve were given authority and dominion over creation.
3. Adam and Eve found companionship with each other and not the animals.

You know, this picture of Adam and Eve, the first two people is radically different than the picture of the first homo sapiens. The biblical account of the first people is very different than the evolutionary perspective.

First Homo Sapiens  
About 250,000 years ago

larger brains  
smaller teeth  
made simple stone tools  
stood upright  
started hunting  
communicated with simple grunts and gestures

Contrast that with this.

About 6,000 years ago (That is where we are going in 2 weeks)  
Gen. 2:15 - Adam worked the garden  
Gen. 2:20 - Adam named animals and had language skills  
Gen. 4:2 - Adam's sons: Abel was a shepherd & Cain was a farmer  
Gen. 4:17 - Cain built a city  
Gen. 4:20 - Adam's early descendants played musical instruments  
Gen. 4:22 - Adam's early descendants also forged metals

Two very different pictures of the first people.

## **FACIAL**

Beyond these skills, humans have a variety of **distinctives** that separate them from the animal kingdom, things like language, literacy, music, math, creativity.

I came across this in my study and thought it was pretty funny. Someone is humorously pointing out the differences between people and apes. I will read it to you. This is satirical. They are making a joke that they think apes and people are basically the same.

<https://creation.com/differences-between-humans-and-animals>

*Differences between humans and animals by Andrew Lansdown*

*'No single, essential difference separates human beings from other animals.' So began a feature article on evolution in TIME magazine ('How Man Began', March 14, 1994). The more I thought about this sweeping statement the more I began to warm to it.*

*For example, like humans, apes have well formed rational faculties. Their ability to develop an argument, follow a line of logic, draw conclusions and frame hypotheses is quite remarkable.*

*Also like humans, apes have a marked faculty for language. (This, of course, is intertwined with their powers of reason.) Their vocabulary is enormous, their grammar complex, and their conversations deep and meaningful.*

*The ape's ability to codify language in writing is further proof of their close relationship to humans. In this respect, it was most gratifying to see the number of apes who wrote to TIME magazine in response to the article on 'How Man Began'. I was particularly interested to follow*

*the line of reasoning of the orangutan who argued that apes had evolved from humans, not vice versa.*

*Like humans, apes also have a strong spirit of inquiry. Their research in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, medicine and physics is noteworthy.*

*Apes also (again, like humans) yearn for meaning in life. This is why they devote so much of their time to philosophy, theology and ethics. The religious sentiments and practices of all apes can be traced back to their intense and endless quest for meaning.*

*Apes are concerned about questions not only of origin but also of destiny. The best proof I can offer for this claim is the maxim by one famous ape philosopher who said, 'Whether my life leads ultimately to the dirt or to the Judgment, either way, I've got a problem.'*

*Apes also have, like humans, a refined aesthetic sense. They admire beauty and long to surround themselves with it. When an ape cultivates a garden, puts flowers in a vase, or hangs up a painting, what is it doing if not expressing a love of beauty?*

*Again like humans, apes have a strong creative impulse. This is seen in their poetry, painting, dance, drama and music. To a lesser extent their creativity is also evident in the way they gather in weekly craft groups to weave baskets, spin wool, knit shawls, and cover photo albums.*

*The sense of humor shared by all apes is another proof of their close kinship to humans. Their delight in the ridiculous and their love of a good laugh is plain from the popular ape jokes they tell.*

*Reason, language, inquiry, wonder, longing, religion, morality, aesthetics, creativity, imagination, aspiration and humor ... such intangible but fundamental qualities are by no means unique to humans, as I hope I have conclusively shown. Therefore, in the profound words of TIME magazine: 'No single, essential difference separates human beings from other animals'.*

*This being the case, Christians are plainly wrong to insist that humans and animals are vastly different. And they are also obviously wrong to insist that this difference arises from the fact that God created us humans in His own likeness. And if they are wrong to insist that God made us in His own likeness, then they are wrong to insist that God has any claim on us.*

*Furthermore, if God has no claim on us, then we are free — free to be animals like our evolutionary ancestors — free to be as low-down as snakes, and to make pigs of ourselves, and to act like donkeys.*

*Did I say 'free'?*

*Hiss! Oink! Hee-haw!*

I recently read an article on creation.com talking about some of the distinctives of the human face. We have **21 distinct facial expressions** that are created with 50 muscles. About 20 of these muscles are unique ONLY to humans. Not found in gorillas or apes. And yet evolutionist claim we have a common ape like ancestor.

Much more we could say, but to sum this up. **God made humans in his image as rational creatures who are charged with investigating and maximizing the usefulness of God's creation.**

## CONCLUSION

So one final passage, from the New Testament. Then we will discuss till 800.

This is Paul speaking in Athens. Mars Hill. Areopagus. When asked to talk about Christianity to a bunch of non-Christians he said this.

**Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,**

So much good stuff here. God made everything. And we are all descendant from the one man God made. So there is one race. We are the human race. We not advanced animals. We are made in the image of God like it said in Genesis 1 and 2. Amen.

Let's discuss.

### Discussion Questions:

We will have a closing prayer at 8:00 and we will be done.