FOSSIL MAN: ANCESTOR OR DESCENDANT OF ADAM?*

R. DANIEL SHAW**

The fossil remains of what have been viewed by evolutionists as "Adam's ancestors" have long captivated the interest of anthropologists, paleontologists, and others interested in man and his relationship to the rest of the animal world. The present study analyzes the distribution of the hominid fossils throughout the Old World. That distribution points out that the most "primitive" types appear on the periphery, while the most morphologically advanced forms appear closer to the center of the Old World, the Mesopotamian Valley.

In coordinating the fossil record with Scripture, one is faced with the major question of the relationship of the fossils to Adam. The author uses a creation-dispersion model, showing the theoretical possibility of the fossils being the descendants of Adam. Peoples migrating out from a population center in small groups would have become geographically and genetically isolated allowing for considerable variation and genetic degradation. Later migrants would push earlier migrants further to the periphery. The further the population from the point of origin, the greater the morphological change.

For well over a century, evolutionary theories and uniformitarian principles have taken precedence over creation and catastrophism. Recently there has been a growing trend to further research and a gradual swing back to creation and catastrophism. The present paper takes an historical approach to the fossil record showing that people migrating from a common origin, encountering pre-flood conditions and finally subjected to the Biblical flood could bring about the fossil record we observe today. Therefore, fossil men could well be "Adam's descendants."

Introduction

For well over a century, men have been discovering, examining, and naming fossils that appear to be linked to "modern man." These analyses have resulted in a confusing mass of taxonomic terms and hypotheses, drawing a heavy cloak of false validity around evolutionary theories. In recent years, a welcome trend toward synthesis has developed; a trend that has not only made the literature more readable but has helped pinpoint problematic areas toward which future work must be directed.

A primary factor in any consideration of the fossil record (or anything else for that matter) is the attitude from which the subject is approached. Over twenty years ago Professor Portmann of Vienna noted that, if we take a palaeontological versus a historical view toward the fossil record, we will arrive at wholly divergent results: "One and the same piece of evidence will assume totally different aspects according to the angle–paleontological or historical–from which we look at it."[1]

Chittick graphically shows the effect of viewpoint through his "facts box," arriving at the same conclusion.[2] Let me clearly state at the outset that the approach taken here is historic, with an observation of facts and a discussion of how those facts fit into a coherent view of man's history.

The Prevailing View

In viewing the fossil record of man, authors of current literature tend to arrive at four major levels or stages of Hominid development; the Australopithecine, the Pithecanthropine, the Neanderthal, and the Modern.[3] From a uniformitarian or evolutionary viewpoint, these stages generally are cast in an orthogenetic line of progression upward through the Pleistocene. Correlations of morphology, stratigraphy, and "absolute date" are the main criteria of such a scheme (See Table 1).

Morphologically, there is considerable agreement that those fossils, apart from the Australopithecine stage, belong in the genus *Homo.* Controversy continues to rage over the placement of Australopithecines inside or outside the range of the genus *Homo.* The Pithecanthropine material is seen by some as *Homo erectus,* and the Neanderthal and above are assigned to *Homo sapiens*[4], although a few workers question the authenticity of Pithecanthropine remains, as we shall see shortly. Doubt also remains in some minds about the status of Neanderthal as a species or simply a racial differences

There appears to be increased pressure to place the entire fossil record within a single species and view the whole matter as racial diversification. Indeed, Stewart pointed out before the present trends began: "Like Dobzhansky, therefore, I can see no reason at present to suppose that more than a single hominid species has existed on any time level in the Pleistocene."[6]

Hemmer[7], using allometric measurements of the skull, recently included all fossils above the Australopithecine stage within the range of

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**R. Daniel Shaw is a translator with Wycfiffe Bible Translators. He holds the M.A. degree in Anthropology.

Geologic	Epoch	Fossil Stage	Years from Present
PLEISTOCENE RECENT	Upper	Modern	30,000
		Neanderthal	180,000
	Middle	Pithecanthropine	500,000
	Lower	Australopithecine	1,750,000

Table 1. An Evolutionary, uniformitarian time column for the fossil stages.

Homo sapiens. This, of course, in no way reduces the presumed amount of evolutionary change but merely enlarges the meaning of "species" to include a wider range of variation for hominid remains.

It must be made clear at the outset that in discussing the fossil record we are concerned with populations rather than individuals. It is true that the specific fossil represents an individual, but it in turn is but one member of a population and therefore only representative. There can, however, be considerable variation expressed in any population, thus requiring extreme caution when drawing conclusions about the appearance of "prehistoric" populations from the individuals discovered. With such considerations in mind I would like to turn to an analysis of the distribution of fossil finds throughout the Old World.

The Australopithecine Stage

Beginning with the Australopithecines (the most "primitive" in the evolutionary framework), we find that sites containing their remains appear primarily in South Africa. Here, the sites consist largely of limestone caves, with the fossils firmly cemented into the breccia. Many of the fossils show the effect of considerable pressure which may have occurred during or after deposition.

East Africa is involved also in the Australopithecine story because of the finds by L. S. B. Leakey, particularly those of *Zinjanthropus* and *Homo habilis*[8]. Olduvai Gorge, where Leakey has faithfully labored for over 30 years, has been a virtual "gold mine" of fossil material, yielding many forms, both osteological and cultural.

The stratigraphy is probably one of the clearest for the Pleistocene of anywhere in the world, enabling palaeontologists and anthropologists alike to reconstruct much of Pleistocene ecology and culture history. Since the uniformitarian time concept is built on as yet unproved assumptions, however, the "time significance" of these stratified series is presently rejected by this author.

Leaving Africa, we pick up the Australopithecine story again in Java where a lonely and hotly debated fossil *(Meganthropus)* has been found without tools, stratigraphically below the Pithecanthropine stage. Another cousin of the Java find was identified in the form of a group of isolated teeth from China. Tobias[9] would like to see these last two finds attributed to Leakey's Habiline stage, thus being somewhat intermediate between the Australopithecines and the Pithecanthropine. This may be so on morphological grounds alone, but for the present I will join with Brace and others who consider them all to be Australopithecine.

Viewing the location of these sites, we find them scattered in a peripheral area of the Old World, buried in the last outpost, so to speak. Statistically, most of Australopithecines come from South Africa, furthest away from the center of the Old World (Map 1).

We should indicate here that certain workers regard the Australopithecine stage as a group of great-apes in no direct sense related to man. They maintain that the small brain capacity, the lack of tools, and the apparent specialization suggest that these beings were simply extinct ape-like animals.[10] It is noteworthy that Dr. Leakey himself has all but abandoned *Zinjanthropus* as a likely human ancestor.[11]

The Pithecanthropine Stage

The Pithecanthropine (Figure 1) were made famous by a young Dutch doctor exploring in Java during the 1890's. Java continues to be an area of considerable interest for the remains of *Pithecanthropus,* the sites being well described by Coon.[12] These fossils have estimated brain capacities of approximately 950cc, nearly double that of the Australopithecines. As might be expected, we also find Pithecanthropine material in China, which von Koenigswald[13] maintains is closely related to, though somewhat more refined than, the Java material.

Turning to other areas of the world, we note that Africa again comes into the picture with sites this time being prominent in North Africa at Ternefine and Rabat. South of the Sahara the

A composite reconstruction made under the direction of Franz Weidenreich and based upon the Pithecanthropine fragments found at Choukoutien, near Pekin. Originally called Sinanthropus pekinensis.

Figure 1. From C. Loring Brace, THE STAGES OF HUMAN EVOLUTION: Human and Cultural Origins, (C) 1967. Reprinted by permission of Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Koro Toro fossil remains in some dispute. Chellean man was found in the Olduvai Gorge, and a single jaw and a few teeth comprise the total of the Pithecanthropine stage found in South Africa.

The Pithecanthropine are also found in Europe. The still mysterious and not unanimously accepted Heidelberg jaw, an occipital and a few teeth from Verteszollos (Hungary), and a tooth fragment from Brezletice (Czechoslovakia), believed by some to be the earliest of human remains in Europe,[14] are all included in the Pithecanthropine story. The above mentioned fossil finds have been well documented and described elsewhere; the geographic location is the interest for this paper.

The Pithecanthropine are widely separated and still peripheral to Eurasia, but there appears to be a somewhat closer statistical distribution around the center of the Old World, than for the Australopithecines. The Pithecanthropine material has a more even distribution than the Australopithecines, being found on all the large land masses of the Old World except Australia (Map 2). This more even distribution, plus the wide distribution of cultural debris throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa, attest to the presence of Pithecanthropine individuals throughout the Old World. Technologically they were advanced enough to penetrate nearly all ecological zones

1. Taung
2. Sterkfontein
3. Swartkrans
4. Kromdraai
5. Makapansgat
6. Olduvai Gorge
7. Garusi
8. Djetis Beds (Java)
9. China

Map 1. Distribution of Australopithecine Sites.

and, based on stratigraphic evidence, apparently displaced the Australopithecines in many areas.

While discussing the Java and China evidences of the Pithecanthropine stage, some mention should be made of the questions surrounding the finds. According to Rev. O'Connell's well-documented review,[15] it is not possible to be certain that the human femur found by Dr. Dubois bore any real connection to the skull cap situated in the same bed. It is possible that the femur was from a human, while the skull cap may have come from an ape. There was no sure way to estimate the cranial capacity of this first skull cap or of those later discovered by Dr. Von Konigswald as in each instance the brain case was missing.

It is somewhat more distressing to note that for 30 years Dr. Dubois concealed the truly human Wadjak skulls that he had also found in Java! Such conflicting evidence has led certain authorities such as Dr. W. R. Thompson[16] and Rev. O'Connell to go so far as to conclude that Java man was a fraud. Rev. O'Connell sites the famous Marcellin Boule as rejecting the Java Man and shows that Dr. Dubois admitted before his death that it was actually the skull of a gibbon.

Concerning the China finds, Rev. O'Connell[17] points to the fact that all the Pithecanthropine skulls collected in China at the Choukoutien site have disappeared in some unexplained manner. Some casts or models of the *Sinanthropus* specimens were supposedly made from the original finds and these models exist; but the models differ in several ways from eye-witness descriptions of the missing skulls! As in Java, skulls and other remains of truly human forms were discovered—this time in the same deposit as the reputed Pithecanthropine type. Such information has led O'Connell to conclude that the missing *Sinanthropus* skulls were really fossil remains of large baboons or of macaques and that the tool industry in that region (including an efficient lime-burning operation) was attributable to the humans recovered at the same location.

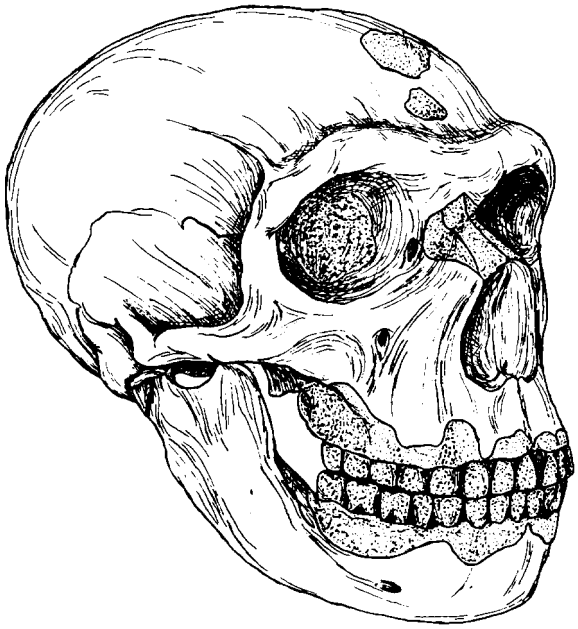
The Neanderthal Stage

The Neanderthals (Figure 2) are well represented by a large number of finds that are centered in the Levant and Europe. This is the burly, "cave man" type fellow who appears to be responsible for a rather elaborate and refined tool kit, and apparently pushed other races further to the periphery. Morphologically, the great difference between the Neanderthals and the "lower'" fossils, is the cranial capacity which averages over 1500 cc.[18]

Turning to the distribution of the Neanderthals, specimens, have been found in Africa at Saldanha and Broken Hill. As with the previous stages, some material has been found in Java and China, thus allowing for some very interesting comparisons. In Central Asia, we find a child's remains at Teshik Tash, made famous by

1. Baksoka (Java)
2. Choukoutien
3. Verteszollos
4. Heidelberg
5. Prezletice
6. Ternefine
7. Rabat
8. Koro Toro
9. Olduvai Gorge
10. Swartkrans

Map 2. Distribution of Pithecanthropine Sites.



The "Old Man" from La Chapelle-aux-Saints, Correze, southwestern France. An extreme example of the "classic" Neanderthals.

Figure 2. From C. Loring Brace, THE STAGES OF HUMAN EVOLUTION: Human and Cultural Origins, (C) 1967. Reprinted by permission of Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

a ring of goat horns presumably used in some form of burial ceremony. Possibly our first record of care for the sick and aged was found in Shanidar in the remains of a crippled old man and his family. The Mt. Carmel finds at the caves of Skhul and Tabun provide physical anthropologists with what appears to be fossilized races.[19]

Debate over the so-called "progressive" and "classical" Neanderthals has created great interest. The more progressive forms tend to be found in the east, while classical forms are found mostly in Western Europe. This variation, however, appears to be no different than that between *Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus* (from South Africa) that are both now classed as Australopithecine, and *Sinanthropus* and *Pithecanthropus* (China and Java respectively) of the Pithecanthropine group.

Viewing the Neanderthal distribution statistically, we find them clustered to the west and to the north of Mesopotamia and in Europe, with more isolated finds toward the periphery (Map 3). Though the cultural distribution of the Neanderthals is considerably more widespread, the evidence still supports the contention that their primary distribution was much closer to the center of the Old World than the Australopithecines and Pithecanthropine.

1. **Neanderthal**
2. **Spy**
3. **La Chapelle**
4. **Le Moustier**
5. **La Ferrassie**
6. **La Quina**
7. **Gibraltar**
8. **Saccopastore**
9. **Krapina**
10. **Mt. Carmel**
11. **Shanidar**
12. **Teshik Tash**
13. **Choukoutien**
14. **Ma-Pa**
15. **Solo**
16. **Broken Hill**
17. **Saldanha**

Map 3. Distribution of Neanderthal Sites.

Fossil Distributions: Region of Origin

This brief analysis of the distribution of the three stages of fossils for the Pleistocene points out that what appears to be the most primitive or degenerate forms of man are found in the most peripheral position, while the more advanced forms usually appear much closer to the center of the Old World. This suggests, as Custance[20] has pointed out, that man may have migrated from a point close to the center of the Old World, and what appears to be "primitive" forms at the periphery may, in fact, be descendants of the more "modern" forms that appear at the center.

Other factors may be involved which could lead to such a distribution: (1) physical conditions, i.e., soil types, caves, etc., conducive to fossilization and preservation of fossils, (2) accessibility of fossils for discovery, and (3) orientation of the discoverer, i.e., Dubois in one case, Leakey in another, each convinced that he should find fossils of early man. When, however, fossils are found, explanations for their presence in such a location must be considered.

It is possible, as pointed out previously, that this whole problem of the three "stages" is solved in a different manner. If the Australopithecines were in fact ape-like animals (as some authorities believe), then there is no question as to whether they were man's ancestors or his descendants. According to that view, they were simply not related to man in any way.

Also, if the existence of a Pithecanthropine stage is indeed questionable, then it too would be of no real concern in man's origin. If the Java form was indeed a gibbon (as Dubois finally believed and as certain others now agree), and if the evidence for a Pithecanthropine stage in China is also highly questionable, these forms simply "evaporate" from the arena of serious scientific dialogue about man's origin. More evidence and thorough study of both the Australopithine and Pithecanthropine finds is essential.

Meanwhile, many students of anthropology do indeed consider the Australopithecines and the Pithecanthropine as valid links in man's ancestry. Recognizing that both forms may be "disqualified" on the other grounds mentioned, it is still of interest to the author here to see if another model or view of these types is possible—assuming that they are valid, and assuming that they are indeed related to man–assumptions which are in themselves questionable.

Using these two assumptions, however, it is my intent to see if another point of view is possible regarding the fossil record. The migration theory presented here conforms with the evidence and provides a possible basis for coordination with Scripture. In considering the distance of migration and its relation to "degeneracy" Custance has noted three factors which affect variability:[21]

> (a) a new species is more variable when it first appears; (b) a small population is more variable than a large one; (c) when a species shifts (or a few members of it) into a new environment, wide varieties again appear which only become stable with time. . . .
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> Fossil remains constantly bear witness to the reality of these factors, but the witness has meaning only, and the facts are best accounted for only, if we assume that a small population began at the centre and, as it became firmly established there, sent out successive waves of migrants usually numbering very few persons in any one group, who thereafter established a further succession of centres. . . . Each new centre at the first showed great diversity of physical type, but as the population multiplied locally a greater physical uniformity was achieved in the course of time.

Before considering this in more detail, I would like to take a look at where the original center may have been.

There are, in the Old World, two areas which have a conspicuous lack of fossils, India and the Mesopotamian region. Both areas have been studied extensively by archaeologists and many ancient sites have been uncovered, but all that is found is what man left, never man himself.

In India, we find a tool kit which corresponds well with Pithecanthropine material in Africa and Java, leading one to believe that Pithecanthropine races inhabited the Sub-Continent regardless of the fact that we are unable to find their actual remains.

In Mesopotamia, however, though Neanderthal type culture assemblages appear in the Iraq foot hills, nothing earlier than the Jarmo phase of incipient agriculture can be found.[22] This seems to coincide well with the lack of any "prehistoric" fossils in the area.

It would appear then that the Mesopotamian region could well be considered the center from which man originally migrated to the ends of the earth. In this view, the Neanderthals, Pithecanthropine, and perhaps the Australopithecines represent degenerate descendants of that migration.

Genetic Action on Small Populations

The genetic aspects of such a distribution emanating from a point of common origin must now be brought into full focus. Custance has pointed out the effects of genetic drift acting on small populations (as these migrating peoples certainly must have been). Geographical isolation is also a vital consideration when discussing the movement of small populations.

As people migrated, they would gradually become separated by natural geographical barriers. Such separation would involve a reduction of gene flow which would ultimately result in an isolated homogeneous population. Genetic change under such conditions can be quite rapid, with natural selection, mutation (to a lesser extent), and genetic drift acting upon the small population "with much greater speed and effectiveness than earlier evolutionists dreamed."[23]

Such genetic change could effect significant racial differences, within a few generations. Continued inbreeding, migration, and genetic isolation could produce some of the drastic variation we find in the fossil record. The degrees of variation within the various stages appear very similar to what we observe today as racial differentiation. The variation between stages, though appearing to be greater than racial diversification today, is certainly not in the range of taxonomic difference if we deal with morphology (shape) alone. Consider the many varieties of dog, all members of the same species.

It appears to me then, upon a consideration of morphology, associated culture, and stratigraphy, that *Zinjanthropus* and *Homo habilis* are of the same species,[24] especially when these are compared with the Java and China material. Morphologically they probably stood erect and had essentially the same skeletal anatomy as present populations. Thus they had virtually the same structural relationship to most of the Pithecanthrophines as the latter group had to the Neanderthals.[25]

Therefore, on genetic and morphological grounds, the Australopithecines could well represent the product of relatively rapid migration, and extreme inbreeding. The same degenerative process could be true, to a lesser degree, of the Pithecanthropine and Neanderthal populations.

In my opinion, all probably emerged from the Mesopotamian region, pushing earlier migrations ever further out, forcing adaptation to new conditions, and creating new physical and cultural appearances. Indeed, LeGros Clark has noted in a discussion of Australopithecines that: ". . . it would not necessarily follow that the transition occurred in South Africa. It may have occurred in some other part of the world, and the South African fossils in that case may represent but slightly modified survivors of the ancestral stock, which persisted to a much later time in the Transvaal''.[26]

Yet in all fairness we should state, as earlier, that certain investigators, who view the fossil hominids from the creation standpoint, suggest that the Australopithecines in general were not actually human, but represent the remains of large extinct, ape-like animals. More data are necessary to settle the question with finality.

Besides the effects of genetic and geographical diversification, there are ether physical factors to be considered. The function of the endocrine glands may have had an effect. Some authors have made a point of the similarity between persons suffering from acromegaly and Neanderthal fossils.[27] Sir Arthur Keith has suggested that endocrinology may be a key to understanding the formation of race.

Though this appears to be an oversimplification of the problem, glandular function has possibly had some effect. In small, rapidly changing populations that are not in genetic equilibrium, it could have an even greater effect, resulting in forms similar to those found in the fossil record. Both prenatal and postnatal development is dictated by the genes, but organized by hormones. A hormonal imbalance could result in a malformation of the skeletal system (the area of greatest concern so far as fossilization is concerned) producing such specimens as are found.

Although many of the fossil finds do not derive from aged specimens, old age might have been a factor of considerable affect upon a particular skeleton. Effects included in the process of aging are an increase in calcification, brittleness of the bones, closing of skull sutures and other points of ossification, and possible deformation through thickening of the bones and disease. The "Old Man" of La Chapelle-aux-Saints (a Neanderthal) is a prime example of the effects of arthritis upon the skeletal structure.

A Historic Model Best

Observation of the life processes, as well as study of radioactive decay, has led investigators to an understanding of what has been called the "decay curve." This simply indicates that all that starts ultimately stops. The process and time involved can be computed and, with sufficient experimentation, predicted.

The Laws of thermodynamics; (1) the conservation of energy, and (2) the increase of entropy, bring cut the same point, and necessitate that randomization increases rather than decreases.[28] This, in effect, "reverses" the so-called process of organic evolution forcing a historic model of man's origin and life upon earth into a new dimension.

Applying the decay curve and the second law of thermodynamics to genetic considerations leads to the conclusion that the basic building block of life and the carrier of all genetic quality, deoxyribose nucleic acid (DNA), must, in fact, be decreasing in efficiency rather than increasing.

Mutational changes in DNA are shown to cause defects of more or less serious nature.

Changed nucleotide bases, additions, or losses (as Crick has indicated[29]) all yield defective results. If this is so, then the first or original man must have possessed the ultimate in genetic quality, with decreasing potential being expressed in subsequent generations.

Returning to the question of the origin of the Australopithecines, we note that, since so little is known about the behavior and nature of the Australopithecines, little can be said of great certainty about their origin or their position. Some creationists may regard *Zinjanthropus* in particular and the Australopithecines in general not as part of the genus *Homo,* but (as Leakey now asserts) as a very distinct genus quite unrelated to man.

Strong inbreeding, however, accompanied by conditions that must have been encountered by people migrating from the point of human origin, could have lead to an accumulation of changes in the DNA code and therefore the appearance of the individuals as well as the population pools so involved. As previously indicated, I believe there is considerable evidence for placing the Australopithecines within the range of human diversity so that they could accordingly represent a degenerate form of the first human being.

In that case, the fossil record would be best understood by reversing the heretofore *evolutionary* scheme, and replacing it with a historically and scientifically coherent *devolutionary* scheme.

Fossils As Adam's Descendants

The question of this paper thus reduces to who the ancestors of the fossils are. Custance, as previously noted,[30] believes that through biological processes and culture history, he can account for all the necessary changes since the time of Noah, dating from approximately 3000 B.C. Though this is indeed a possibility, and as noted, genetic change can be effected very rapidly, nevertheless, I believe it may be more profitable to view the fossil record as Adam's descendants, and assign the present racial diversification as a result of the dispersion following Noah.

A number of works in recent years have linked the Pleistocene Ice Ages with the Noachian flood.[31] These works point to the catastrophic view traceable to the 19th century French scholar Georges Cuvier. This hardly means, however, that the status of recent catastrophic work is retrogressive. Rather it simply points to the great effect that evolutionary theory has had in leading scientific thought down a blind alley for well over a century. A wealth of material has been published in recent years that supports catastrophism. The great need at present is for a reevaluation and reinterpretation of the facts.

Apart from the mechanical approach taken with respect to the Biblical flood, its direct cause, and presumably what happened during it, many agree that it was an event which left an indelible mark upon both earth landforms and survival patterns, and hence has had a great effect on subsequent history. Place Adam in a preflood environment[37] and project a migration from him, as has been described, with the resulting geographical dispersion and genetic degradation: then bring about a catastrophe such as the Noachian flood, and I believe the result would be a large portion of the fossil evidence which we observe today.

The conditions under which fossils are generally found, and the condition of the fossils when found, strongly support the implication that death and deposition were due to catastrophe. Indeed, at Shanidar and Choukoutien, there is considerable evidence for cave fall and burial of individuals as a direct result. What caused the cave fall? Both caves, at opposite ends of Asia, experienced some kind of catastrophe at about the same time. It is no secret that many fossils are found in caves, rock shelters and other types of natural protection (recall the Australopithecines crushed in limestone caves of South Africa), leading to the popular view of the "prehistoric cave man."

The caves, however, could be the result of the flood, and because of their preservative nature we find the fossils there today. The so called "cave man" may never have lived extensively in caves at all. On the other hand, caves could have well resulted from the creative process which brought the world into being initially. As men moved out into the world, caves would have afforded a natural protection from the elements and wild beasts. The question of the origin of the caves is beyond the scope of the present paper. The fact remains that the caves and other types of natural protection contain fossils.

Those fossils that are not deposited in natural protection often show signs of sudden burial. If this were not so, there would be little chance for fossilization, as the organic matter of the body would be subject to carnivores, weathering, decomposition and subsequent obliteration. Therefore, a model that accounts for sudden burial, better accounts for the majority of fossils, because it removes them from the effects of weathering, and aids in their preservation. As Cook[33] notes:

> Paradoxically, while the fossil record is considered to be one of the most compelling arguments in favor of the evolution of the species, there is every reason to believe that fossilization itself is critically dependent upon catastrophism.

Where did Adam originate? This question has long been the subject of much speculation. If one accepts the present evidence concerning the distribution of the fossils, with the more primitive types pushed to the periphery by their more refined cousins, a projection to the center of this dispersion brings one to the heartland of the Old World, the Mesopotamia region.

It appears that Mesopotamia was the general region where the second dispersion of peoples commenced.[34] Whether one accepts Cook's model of continental drift,[35] or other models which project orogeny and other geographical alterations based on the present distribution of continents,[36] the center from which migration occurred remains the general area of the Middle East.

Morphology Not of Prime Concern

Looking again at the distribution of fossils throughout the Old World, it is not difficult to notice that morphology has possibly been emphasized too greatly in analysis, while genetics, endocrinology, and the aging factor and disease have not been given enough consideration. Comparing individuals found within the same site often forces the investigator to recognize the great variation within a population.

An example is Weidenrich's now famous description, on morphological grounds alone, of what appears to be four racial classifications for seven individuals in the upper cave at Choukoutien, all presumably from the same family.[37] Such variation may be explained if one takes into account relatively rapid migration and severe inbreeding. Under these conditions it would no longer be possible to assume that the people were adapted to the area in which they are found.

Palaeontologists have usually assumed that by sampling the fauna and flora of the area associated with the fossil, the conditions under which the fossil lived could be reconstructed and knowledge gained concerning the necessary adaptations. Undoubtedly many fossils have been "adapted" by their discoverer when, in fact, the fossil was more adapted to another area, but forced to move and died as a relatively newcomer to the area in which it is found. This would help explain the variations noted between populations of the same geologic strata and would be the expected in such a model as that presented here.

This model would also help explain such confusing relationships as Leakey found at Olduvai where the morphologically superior *Homo habilis* occurs stratigraphically below *Zinjanthropus* in Bed I, and yet Habiline type material appears almost contiguous with Pithecanthropine in Bed II.[38]

In general, a progressive increase in complexity upwards would be the expected, the earliest individuals to migrate being pushed further to the periphery and stratigraphically below the later. In those cases where two waves of migration were in association at the time of the flood, a very confusing state of relationships would result.

Biblical Period	*Fossil Stage*	*Years before Present*
Christ		2000
	Racial diversification from Noah and his sons	
Noachian Flood		5000±
	Australopithecine	
Result of wide	Pithecanthropine	
dispersion from Adam	Neanderthal	
Creation	Man Created in Perfection (Gen. 1:27)	7000±

Table 2. A catastrophic model of fossil stages showing morphological variation as a result of dispersion before the flood, and racial variation following the flood.

Conclusion

I have presented here a picture of the distribution of hominid fossils as found throughout the Old World including a majority of the major finds, though by no means a complete inventory. That distribution has been interpreted as the result of movement of peoples from a center out to the periphery. The geographical and biological factors involved in such a proposed dispersion lead one to recognize the possibility of great variation morphologically not only between populations but also within populations.

The conditions under which the fossils are found may be used to argue strongly that the individuals met with severe upheaval. This, as well as the environmental conditions associated with the fossils, leads me to suggest that these fossils were the descendants of Adam, the upheaval being the Noachian flood. Regardless of the mechanics of the flood event, the point from which the migrations emanated appears to be the Mesopotamian region.

The creation-dispersion model presented here stresses morphological variation as a result of the dispersion of peoples. As small groups moved out from the original gene pool, they were subjected to conditions, both environmental and physical, that affected their appearance. The Biblical flood captured these people under conditions that further changed their structural appearance resulting in what we view as the fossil record. Table 2 is presented as a tentative reconstruction and time table of these events as they might be correlated with Scriptural events.

Coupled with this dispersion-degeneration model, the author recognizes the distinct possibility that the Australopithecines may not have been human beings at all, but simply extinct ape-like creatures. And it is also possible that the Pithecanthropine likewise represent fossils of other animal types, distinct from man. If both of these ideas should prove to be valid, the dispersion model proposed here would be a simpler one and the creationist interpretation of the fossils would also be less complex.

This presentation is by no means exhaustive. Even as it attempts to answer a number of questions, so it raises a number of others. If however, I have managed to present evidence for a historic approach to the fossil record, and if I have managed to create a better climate to more fully comprehend the implications of such a model, I will have been fully successful. Quoting Cook, we must realize the importance of the approach taken in viewing the evidence.

> These sequences and many like them exist and, to be sure, carry a strong implication concerning relationships . . . what remains in question is whether these relationships are ancestor-descendant ones or the result of a particular background of the *Engineer.* [Italics his][39]

I believe the "Engineer," God, created man, who ultimately dispersed throughout the earth. As a result of disobedience and sin, man as he existed was destroyed and the earth drastically changed. The flood which brought about this change left an intriguing record of "relationships" which continue to both baffle and fascinate modern men of science.

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[32]Patten, Donald W. *Op. cit.,* p. 201. He speculates on pre-flood conditions in considerable detail. Global temperatures were more evenly distributed in the period before the Flood, a water vapor canopy greatly reducing temperature differentials on the earth's surface (Genesis 1:6, 7 and 2:5, 6). Tropical and sup-tropical conditions have been recorded in both Arctic and Antarctic regions. This warmer, less variable temperature, combined with different atmospheric gas mixtures, notably a greater percentage of water vapor and carbon dioxide, resulted in a luxuriant growth. Giganticism and longevity appear to be closely associated with such environmental conditions, producing the great variety of fossil material available in the "flood alluvium" (strata) of present day geology. Thus Patten associates antediluvian conditions with a global greenhouse effect as very similar to what is usually pictured by uniformitarians prior to the Pleistocene.

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