

WitnessKit 2
God And Creation

Class 10
Logic and Descent,
Learning the Categories,
Science And Self-
Correction

Science and Religion Both Produce Knowledge...

IF studied correctly.

Many people disagree.

- **Modernists** believe science produces knowledge, and religion produces emotion.
- **Postmodernists** believe **neither** field produces real knowledge, and **both** produce opinions. Science opinions may be valuable for making objects which consumers purchase. Religions are all equally valuable (or useless) on an emotional level.

Science and Religion Both Produce Knowledge...

- Many people choose a path between Modernism and Postmodernism, thinking Modernism is correct about physical facts and Postmodernism is correct about religions.
- Enlightenment Theism claims that knowledge is possible from BOTH fields, science and religion. The study of Biblical Apologetics searches for knowledge that is a bridge across both fields.

We spent the first workbook course

- Determining that true religious knowledge is possible and that the Bible is the right place to look for that knowledge. It is historically accurate. It gives very good reasons to believe that it represents communication from God. It has produced appropriate moral universals without coercively violent policies. It has a viable explanation for objective good and evil.
- Both modernists and postmodernists can benefit from studying it.

Skeptics often view science as

Superior to religion in producing knowledge because science is supposed to self-correct, whereas religions vary all over the map and have no self-correcting mechanism.

However, the field of Biblical apologetics provides a self-correcting mechanism to religious faith, without challenging God's authority. It builds bridges between reason and faith to enable us to evaluate and find truth.

God wants us to find truth.

The Self Correcting Use of Reason

In religion has some pitfalls. Proverbs 3:1-12 discusses **trusting God** and **doing what is right** and **holding fast to good teaching** rather than trusting your own understanding.

We must exercise care and continue to trust God when applying reason.

- Refusing to use reason to correct blatantly contradictory interpretations of Scripture has much worse pitfalls, and is a typically Postmodern approach.

Postmodernism lends itself

To acceptance of contradictory thinking.

The right use of reason in religion is tremendously important because knowledge is inherently better and more useful than opinion.

Contradictory thinking is confusion,
and God is not the Author of confusion.—

1 Corinthians 14:33.

The Gift of Knowledge

Here again, we remember that God gave us our minds and He expects us to use them for His glory and for our good!

- A Postmodernist approach to contradictory thinking is confusing and wrong.
- A Modernist approach of blanket skepticism is also wrong.
- A **reasonable faith** approach is honest and right—we should trust and verify.

Both Science and Religion

NEED to self-correct. They are not as far apart as they seem.

A Major Problem with Evolutionary Science Is That ...

by ruling out a Personal Beginning from scientific study, science ruled out opportunities to self-correct.

It began to claim “evolution as a fact” by default, since we exist,

and if an impersonal beginning is the only possibility,

macro-evolution must have happened.

A Major Problem with Evolutionary Science Is That ...

- By ruling out a Personal Beginning as a possibility, science began with a conclusion rather than with data.
- The human evolution story reveals that kind of failure to self-correct. If we start with data, we see a different pattern emerge...

The evolution story is falsified if...

- Supposed ancestors lived long after they were supposed to be extinct
 - OR
- Humans lived at the same time as their supposed ancestors.
- The combined fossil charts in the back of **BONES OF CONTENTION** demonstrate that both conditions have been met.

The evolution story is falsified by

- The paucity of fossils supporting the evolutionary story
- and the huge numbers which do not support the story
- And the overlap in time of existence between supposed ancestor and descendant groups.

We saw last class that...

- An overview of the combined hominid fossil data...
 - ▣ FALSIFIES the human evolution story.
 - ▣ We saw the broad spectrum of science's failure to self correct.
- Now we want to look at a couple of details that demonstrate the same fact.

Everyone should realize that

Evidence
of failure
to self
correct

Science is not efficiently self-correcting because...

1. The Piltdown man hoax took 40 years to discover.
2. The Neandertal mis-construction took 40 years to discover and 60 years to even partially correct in a public museum.

Pittdown Man was a hoax.

- It was a rotten joke to play.
- It was even more rotten to fail to admit the hoax within a reasonable time.
- The perpetrators **planted the evidence**. Along with a human cranium, they placed an orangutan jaw, dyed to look old, with filed-down teeth. They created a “missing link” in England between 1908 and 1912, at the Pittdown gravel pit.
- They also **planted** flint and bone tools, including one that looked like a cricket bat.

Then they repeated the hoax

- With more faked fossils down the road—in 1915—in a gravel pit a few miles away.
- The bone tools were from extinct species, but not species ever found in England.

Pittdown Man was a hoax.

- (Some of the prime suspects were Charles Dawson, amateur fossil collector, Arthur Smith Woodward, Curator of the British Museum, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, paleontologist priest and pantheist, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of Sherlock Holmes mysteries—plus about 8 more suspects.)
- Doyle wrote a sci-fi story that had some of the elements of the hoax in it.

The Scientific World

Was thrilled with the “discovery.”

- In the first edition of his book, Dr. Lubenow reports an estimate of more than 500 doctoral dissertations based on Piltdown Man before the hoax was discovered.
- Every such dissertation was a failure of science to self-correct.
- Realizing that PhD students work years to write those dissertations does not instill confidence, either.

The Hoax was discovered

About 40 years later, in 1953.

- It was discovered NOT because the data were thoroughly examined over the course of those 40 years, but because the theory of human evolution shifted toward the *Australopithecines* as ancestors.
- Piltdown man no longer fit the theory.

Pittdown Man was a hoax.

- The shift in the theory caused some researchers to reexamine the data, and they discovered the hoax, which was actually quite obvious.
- Thus the science failed to self-correct in a very obvious manner.

Everyone should realize that

Evidence
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Science is not efficiently self-correcting because...

1. The Piltdown man hoax took 40 years to discover.
2. **The Neandertal mis-construction took 40 years to discover and 60 years to even partially correct in a public museum.**

The Neandertal Mis-Construction

- In 1908, a Neandertal skeleton was found in France at La Chapelle-aux-Saints.
- An expert from the National Museum of Natural History, Paleontologist Marcellin Boule came to put the skeleton together.
- Boule believed the Neandertals were outside the human evolution sequence, favoring the Cro-Magnons (pronounced CrowManyon) as ancestors instead. To fit his theory, he wanted the Neandertals to appear ape-like.

The Neandertal Mis-Construction

- Boule constructed the skeleton with the head far forward, the knees bent, the feet pigeon-toed and with big toes set like opposable thumbs. He published his results in 1911 through 1913. He also described them as unintelligent brutes.
- School textbooks and museums followed suit.

The Neandertal Mis-Construction

- In 1955, 44 years later, two anatomists looked at the bones. They demonstrated that the Neandertals walked erect, and that their differences from modern humans are rather superficial. They published in 1957.

The Neandertal Mis-Construction

- Between 1957 and the 1970s, Dr. Lubenow visited the Field Museum in Chicago about fifteen times. The Field Museum is one of the premier museums of natural history in the country.
- The museum did not correct their Neandertal display until the 1970s – 20 more years after the problem was discovered. Then, instead of getting rid of the display, they moved it to the dinosaur area and labeled it “an alternate view of Neandertal.”

The Neandertal Mis-Construction

- One of the premier natural history museums treated the error in construction as equally valid with the corrected construction.
- This leads one to question the exactness of the science.
- Conclusions about Neandertals' identity imply ideas about who we are—yet self-correction was not a high priority.

For Evolutionary Theory

To BE science, it needs to be self-correcting.

“Evolutionists readily admit that evolutionary processes work so slowly that they are not observable over the lifetime of one individual or even over the successive lifetimes of hundreds of generations. In other words, there are no DIRECT observations or experiments that can confirm the process of human evolution.”—Lubenow, page 33.

This makes self-correction MORE important.

How does Biblical Apologetics

Add a self-correcting feature to religion?

Biblical faith is woven through human history.

The Bible is a book designed to be tested in logic, in ethics, in archeology, in history. It is not written by only one individual, but by many individuals over the course of 1500 years. It covers real world events that secular history also describes.

How does Biblical Apologetics

Add a self-correcting feature to religion?

The Bible makes claims that are reasonable to test, such as the claim that God cannot lie, and that God inspired the text, or told the human authors to write specific things. So the general accuracy of the text compared to historical events is a measure, or at least a hint, of the truth of its statements about God. The consistency of the text with itself is a similar measure.

The first WitnessKit Course

- Covers portions of Biblical Apologetics, including philosophical issues, historical issues, textual concerns, and ways to think about the issue of miracles.
- Biblical Apologetics as a field of study helps the individual to compare the statements of Scripture with various religious misconceptions, and helps us choose a reasonable approach to religious issues. As a field, it enables a process of self-correction for religious beliefs, in place of a blind faith approach.
- It enables us to make knowledge statements rather than feeling statements about our faith—although both kinds of statements are important.

Human Origins Ideas

reach us through stories.

The evolutionist uses stories to make his points, and religions use stories to make their points.

- We decide what to actually believe. But we need more than conflicting stories to go by, and we need more than the authority conferred by universities and seminaries. We need DATA and LOGIC to sift through data.
- We also need God's help in our search for truth, and we can ASK Him to help us. This is a prayer He loves to answer.

Most of the Stories

- Told by the evolutionists about macro-evolution are based upon similarities among organisms. Some similarities are structural such as skeletal frameworks. Some are organizational, such as the various ways eyes work in different creatures. Some are genetic.
- If you subtract the stories and look at the data, how certain are the conclusions?

Everyone should recognize the following

Difficulties
Proving
Descent
with
Modification

Difficulties in Proving Descent:

1. **Any group of objects with some similar characteristics can be placed in an imaginary “tree of descent,” which proves nothing about what happened.**
2. **Even objects which differ in historic setting can be placed in a “tree of descent” without proving descent.**
3. **Genetic similarity by itself does not prove descent.**

Descent took place over time.

Because the theory of evolution postulates millions of years of evolutionary history, its assertions about historic events **cannot** be verified by eyewitness accounts.

- Thus, the entire evolutionary story is based upon circumstantial evidence.
- Much of that circumstantial evidence is simply evidence of similarity.

Similarity does not prove descent.

- When we looked at the difference between homology and analogy, we discovered that marsupial wolves and placental wolves are alike in every way except reproductive processes.
- The marsupials have a pouch.
- Because these matters are so basic, the similarities are taken as analogies, not homologies.
- So similarity in all other things does not prove descent among wolves.

Exercises to create a “tree of descent” have been reported for...

- Corvettes.
- Nails and tacks and fasteners.
- A tree of descent CAN be created for both kinds of things. It does not prove descent.

If you look at cars over time...

- Or **fasteners** over time...
- You CAN create a tree of descent for each category.
- The tree does not prove actual descent.
- Cars and fasteners are designed objects.
- The connections among them are due to the minds of their designers.

Cars and Body Plans

- Cars are made of similar materials with similar “body plans,” whether they are modern or old.
- The working design has a basic body plan—wheels, drive shaft, passenger compartment, engine.
- The purpose dictates general body plan and materials.
- The designer modifies the plans for current needs.
- Jaguars did not descend from Toyotas. They do share some similarities.

Genetic Similarity does not prove descent.

- We see something similar in Genetics. We see genetically determined body plans that define the way various creatures are classified.
- Those basic body plans showed up in an instant of time in geologic history, called the Cambrian era. So many different forms showed up then, that the proliferation is called the Cambrian Explosion.
- We see NO transitions between body plans.

The Cambrian Explosion in the Fossil Record Demonstrates

- “Design with Modification” RATHER THAN
- “Descent with Modification.”
 - The basic body plans of most of the phyla suddenly appeared. Some variation has occurred since that time around the central core concept of each body plan.
 - That is what we see with designed objects over time. New designs use the basic body plan and improve it.

The Absence of Transitions

- Between body plans is another way Darwinism is falsified. If Darwinism were true, all the branches of the genetic tree should have transitions, but NONE do at the level of phyla.
- In the portion of the classification scheme deemed hominid evolution, genetic similarity and body form similarity do not prove descent.
- Neither the overall tree of life, nor the hominid portion have any clear evidence of common descent. Discarding most data and selecting small portions of data in the hominid field is out of bounds scientifically.

For Science to Be Science

- It must be exacting. One should not assign values by guess, but only by measurement. Arbitrary assignment of values is prohibited.
- The true pursuit of science involves taking precise measurements and going where the data lead. All the data are supposed to be considered, and data should only be discarded where strong reason can be given to make that decision—such as equipment failing to be properly calibrated, where that problem can be defined.

Is the Human Evolution Story Science?

- The scatter in the data is a valuable indicator that should be included in discussions.
- The human evolution story avoids presenting that sort of information to the public, because the scatter in the data is far more profound than any trends in the data. Scatter shows up in discrepancies in each category.
- We will see how the story tellers get around some of the scatter in the next section of our class.

Genetics

- We will look at the genetics of the human evolution story later in the textbook. It is fascinating to consider the data.
- Sometimes we hear claims about huge percentages of genetic similarities between humans and chimpanzees. The textbook discusses those claims.
- If they were true, they would be strong evidence for the human soul as something different from chimpanzee consciousness—and different from genetic determination—because the differences between humans and chimpanzees are so profound.

If in fact, the soul is controlling

Rather than genetics,
in human decision-making,

Then

- Religion has important knowledge we need.
- Certainly, genetics can interfere with proper actions, but the question of free will and cause and effect is altered by realizing which agent is controlling.

We can gain insight about the science of Paleo-anthropology from

Categories and Discrepancies = scatter in the data

The major categories of the human evolution story and discrepancies within each category.

1. **Modern humans—Kanapoi Elbow and Laeteoli Footprints**
2. Neandertals
3. *Homo erectus*—Java Man
4. Australopithecines—Lucy and Tuang

We can understand *BONES OF CONTENTION* better if we learn these categories.

Category

Modern humans:

According to the evolutionary theory, humans should have been on earth for about a million years.

Discrepancies

Kanapoi Elbow—this distal end of a humerus matches modern humans'. It dates to 4.5 million years ago—the oldest hominid fossil found by 1965. It is ASSUMED not human due to age. (This is older than the *Australopithicines*.)

The major categories of the human evolution story

Category

Modern humans:

According to the evolutionary theory, humans should have been on earth for about **a million years**.

Discrepancies

Laeteoli Footprint trails – dating **3.6 to 3.8 million years ago**. (Note that fossils could be buried “deeper than where they lived,” but footprints occur in their own stratum.)

The Laeteoli Footprint trails...

- In the 1979 April issue of *National Geographic*, Mary Leakey reported three parallel footprint trails with a total of 69 prints that look just like modern human footprints of people who generally go barefoot. Because they are apparently so old, they are assumed NOT to be made by modern humans.
- In both cases, **the evidence points to human existence throughout the time frame of supposed hominid evolution**, supporting the idea of special creation of humans.

Next Category: Neandertals—picture of burial practices—humanity of emotional response—.

On display at Neandertal Museum, Germany. Note the flowers.



The major categories of the human evolution story

Category

Neandertals according to the most common theory are a dead-end side chain of hominid evolution, **assumed extinct by 30,000 years ago**. Their fossils are found in Europe and the Middle East.

Discrepancies

- One Neandertal skull, Amud I, dates by radiocarbon to **5,710** years ago. The Neandertals at Gerona, Spain date to **17,600** years ago. That would make them modern human contemporaries in Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Lubenow believes...

- That Neandertals and modern humans are all part of the same human race, with diverse features.
- Since **Java Man** has similar features to Neandertals but of a smaller size, that would also yield **Java Man's *Homo erectus*** category as modern humans.
- Those three groups would all be relatives of Adam (and us) according to the theory of special creation of humans.
- The average Neandertal brain size is larger than modern humans' average.

The major categories of the human evolution story

Category

Homo erectus are supposed to be ancestors of modern humans, and they look like smaller versions of Neandertals.

Discrepancies

The *homo erectus* called Java Man was contemporary with **Wajak man**, a modern human, and they lived in the same neighborhood at the same time. In addition, Java Man's femur looks like a modern human's.

Homo Erectus—

Neandertal
Museum

Germany



Homo erectus' age range

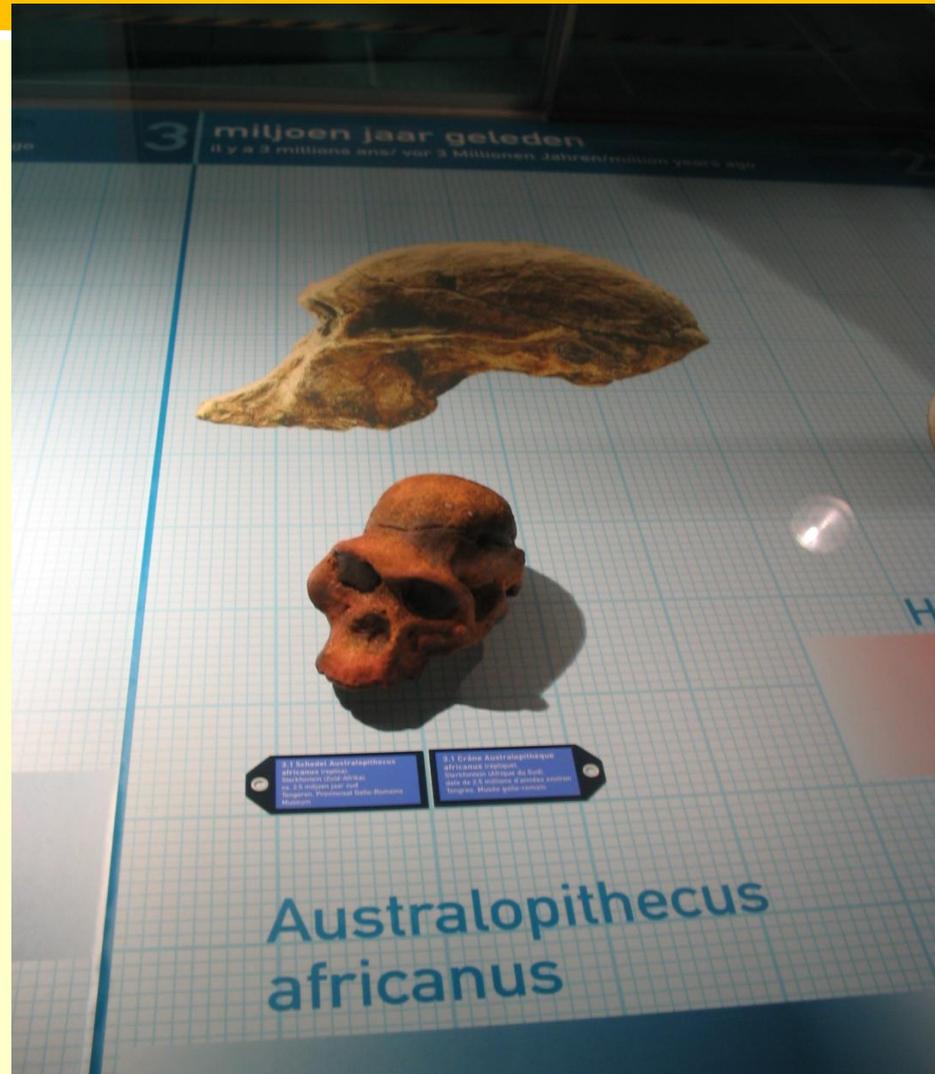
- At least **95 *Homo erectus*** fossil individuals have been found between **6,000 and 40,000** years ago, far too recent for the theory, and contemporary with modern humans in their locations.
- At least **80** fossil individuals have been found between **700,000** years ago and **40,000** years ago, also too recent for the theory.
- At least **106** have been found in the proper range for the theory—**2 million to 700,000 years ago**.
(So only a little more than one third of these fossils are in the proper age range for the theory.)

The *Homo erectus* category

- If only one third of the fossils in a group support the theory, the group as a whole does NOT support the theory.
- Thus the *Homo erectus* category does not support the idea of *Homo erectus* as a transition between humans and animals.
- They existed over too wide an age range to be a transition.

Next Category: *Australopithecines*

Neandertal
Museum
Germany



The major categories of the human evolution story

Category

- *Australopithecines*, according to the evolutionary theory, are our animal ancestors of about **two to three million years ago**.

Discrepancies

The fossil in that category called *Tuang* is too young for the theory, dating at around **one million** years ago.

The major categories of the human evolution story

Category

- ***Australopithecines***, according to the theory, are our animal ancestors of about two to three million years ago.

Discrepancies

- The fossil called Lucy in that category needed **5 million favorable mutations** to reach our level of perfection. That many favorable mutations had to happen and spread through each population within 3 million years.

Lubenow's Summary, page 302, 2nd edition.

"The unique distinction between humans and animals is ignored by most evolutionists. It is that humans are created in the image of God. Besides that spiritual distinction, it is obvious from the charts in this book that the *australopithecines* do not appear in the fossil record at the relevant time. They are far too late. Furthermore, although brain organization is more important than brain size alone, the significant gap between the cranial capacities of the largest *australopithecine* and the smallest human, fossil or living, has not been bridged. There is not a smooth transition from nonhuman to human fossils in this regard."

We can be confident that we are a special creation of God because

- The alternate possibility—human evolution from primates—has been falsified 3 ways.

It has been falsified...

- BOTH in the overall **shape of the data field**
- AND in the details of **discrepancies in method**—failure to self-correct
- And in the details of **discrepancies within each hominid category.**
- **We will discover more reasons to be skeptical of the human evolution story as our class progresses.**



Homework

In 3 sets

Homework Class 10 Set 1

- Read Proverbs 2:1-11.
- How do disciplines such as searching the scriptures, praying, and fearing God relate to discerning truth, and why?
- Do you think God wants people to believe the truth about whether they are a special creation in His image or the culmination of a process of extinctions of other creatures? Do you think He can provide a way to find out the truth?

Homework Class 10 Set 1

- Read Chapters 9 & 10 in BONES OF CONTENTION.
- Java Man was a famous hominid with some serious questions about its place in the scheme of things. Next we will look at an obscure hominid called **Wajak Man**. Why did Sir Arthur Keith say Dubois hid the Wajak fossil?
- What are the discrepancies in attempts to date the Wajak Man fossils?
- What possibilities exist to discount the tapir evidence?

Homework Class 10 Set 1

- Radiometric dating was used to establish a date for Java Man. How was this done?
- In your opinion, which is more direct evidence of the date of a hominid, an extinct tapir fossil found with it,
 - or the date of some rocks
 - near some other similar fossil animals to those near a hominid,
 - but found somewhere else on the island?

Homework Class 10 Set 1

- Which of the two dates is more acceptable to the evolutionist community? Why?
- What light did the Selenka expedition shed on Java Man?
- Lubenow states that Homo erectus, with Java Man as an example, was not our evolutionary ancestor but was a contemporary of modern humans. He stated that Dubois had three warnings of that conclusion. What were they?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

Prior to the Neandertal fossil finds, that area in Germany was famous as the home of a hymn writer.

Consider the changes in worldview in Germany caused by the shift in beliefs away from the Bible. Read Psalm 21, 27, 91, and 118. Compare the concepts in these Psalms to the verses of Reverend Neander's hymn,

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation.”

Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation.
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy help and salvation.
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near.
Join me in glad adoration.

Homework Class 10 Set 2

Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously
reigneth.

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e're have been
Granted in what He ordaineth.

Praise ye the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made
thee.

Decked thee with health and with loving hand guided and
stayed thee.

How oft in grief hath not He brought thee relief,
Spreading His wings for to shade thee.

Homework Class 10 Set 2

Praise ye the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises
before Him.

Let the Amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him!

Homework Class 10 Set 2

Read Chapters 11 & 12 in BONES OF CONTENTION.

- How many *Homo erectus* fossils have been found?
- Which groups are *Homo erectus* supposed to bridge between, according to evolutionists?
- What is significant about the fossils grouped as *Homo erectus*, and which include Java man?
- What are Lubenow's three questions about *Homo erectus*?
- Looking at Lubenow's charts (page 348 to 351) of *Homo erectus* fossils, what is the range in dates from the most recent to the most distant past?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

- How many *Homo erectus* fossil individuals have been found in the 40,000 years ago to 6,000 years ago range? (That would be the little numbers in parentheses on the chart.) This group is FAR outside its predicted time range.
- How many *Homo erectus* fossil individuals have been found between 700,000 years ago and 40,000 years ago, ALSO outside the proper evolutionary time frame?
- How many out of time range *Homo erectus* fossils does that make?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

- How many *Homo erectus* fossil individuals have been discovered in the 2,000,000 to 700,000 years ago range, which is believed to be the correct evolutionary time frame for their existence?
- What is the percentage in range and out of range?
- **What is the ratio of out of range fossil individuals to the total number of individuals assigned to the category *Homo erectus*?**
- Does this large percentage of out of range fossils support the idea of *Homo erectus* as a transition category, or go against that idea?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

- Now look at the charts of *Homo habilis* fossils, pages 352-353, which represent nonhuman fossil remains. How many fossil individuals of *Homo habilis* are listed between 2 million and 1.5 million years ago?
- How many *Homo erectus* fossil individuals are shown in the right sidebar on the same chart, for the same time frame?
- Since these *Homo habilis* fossils and *Homo erectus* fossils were dated between 2 million and 1.5 million years ago, does this information indicate that *Homo erectus* evolved from *Homo habilis*?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

- Suppose for argument's sake that *Homo habilis* did evolve into *Homo erectus*, and *Homo erectus* into ancient *Homo sapiens*. What would one expect the fossil record to show in terms of the dates of the three groups of fossils? Does the actual fossil record match according to the graph on page 337?
- What is the problem with classifying *Homo erectus* as a separate species from *Homo sapiens*?
- What is Lubenow's conclusion about *Homo erectus*, *Homo sapiens*, and Neandertals?

Homework Class 10 Set 2

- The evidence here matches the idea of creation much better than evolution. If they are all one species, *Homo sapiens*, and that species is distinct from *Australopithicines*, the creation model is a match for the data.
- Two categories of mental abilities have been used by anthropologists to differentiate between humans and nonhumans. One is the use of tools and fire, and the other is the use of language. What percentage of *Homo erectus* fossil locations have yielded ancient tools and fire?
- Do the tools found at various locations follow an evolutionary sequence from primitive to advanced that would support evolutionary biological theory?

Homework Class 10 Set 3

- Read Proverbs 16:33, Jeremiah 1:4-10, Job 10:8-12, Job 33:4-6, and mentally compare the concepts to Neander's hymn, as written in the previous lesson introduction.
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- Read Introduction #3 and Chapter 13 in BONES OF CONTENTION. The basis for moral universals in a creationist worldview is the character of God, and our equality with all other human beings before Him. The moral universals apply to all individuals impartially and are a reflection of the goodness of God. Our value as created in His image prohibits murder.
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Homework Class 10 Set 3

- Darwinism only knows the law of survival of the fittest. It is a morally bankrupt law, and has proved itself so without fail.
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- How did it prove itself morally bankrupt in the matter of the Tierra Del Fuegians?
- What basis for human evolution did Darwin use, and how is it inconsistent with the theory?