

## “Lucy” vs Adam & Eve



Perhaps you, like many others, believe that the scientific evidence of “Lucy” versus the religious proclamation of the creation of Adam and Eve is an either/or kind of decision: either you believe the generally held religious doctrine that about six thousand years ago God created the world and Adam and Eve as the first human beings—as the Bible seems to indicate—or you conclude that the religious assertion is wrong and dismiss the validity of religion to some degree. You may instead accept the current scientific notion that human life evolved about three million years ago through a hominoid much like “Lucy” whose few fossil fragments were uncovered in Ethiopia in 1973.

There’s a better choice than either of those alternatives. Help is on the way in the form of an authoritative book that takes a dispassionate view of both sides of the science versus religion controversy. That book is *The Urantia Book* which has been in print since 1955. This decisive although unusual book combines the best in human thinking with extraordinary non-human insight to yield an all-encompassing cosmology that correlates the sciences, religion, and philosophy into a logical

and unequalled view of creation and our place within it.

As time goes by more and more of the assertions of *The Urantia Book* that seemed scientifically unacceptable at the time of its writing have become accepted as scientifically sound. One of the book’s precepts is that real science and real religion are not mutually exclusive, that they can and do complement one another. Dogmatic science and dogmatic religion always have been and always will be at odds; it’s when real science and real religion come together that great progress occurs in knowledge and understanding. Both the scientific concepts of the origin of human life and the religious concepts of creation are true to some degree. Both are also somewhat erroneous. *The Urantia Book* explicitly sets the record straight.

The delineation between human and animal is not skeletal but mind endowment. *The Urantia Book* makes it clear that over the long course of evolution, up to the time that true human beings evolved, higher primates had emerged having skeletons indistinguishable from those of humans. But the primates just weren’t human since mind function had not yet evolved to encompass free will. “Lucy” was a primate, not a human. The first two true humans evolved from this evolutionary background just about one million years ago and from them the earth has acquired its human population while

eventually those higher primate lines were destroyed or languished into oblivion. Although at this time Africa is the focal point of the quest by anthropologists and paleontologists for uncovering the origins of human life, the true point of origin is south-western Asia.

*The Urantia Book* also makes it clear that the story of Adam and Eve isn’t a fable. It has been said before that evolution is God’s way of creating, and *The Urantia Book* portrays the events of creation and evolution in the kind of logical way that makes sense to anyone seriously contemplating such issues.

After more than 960,000 years of human evolution, Adam and Eve appeared (about 38,000 years ago) from outside the normal evolutionary pattern. They were participants in the overarching divine plan to raise the existing evolutionary mortal strains to a higher level physically, mentally and spiritually according to God’s plan put into play six hundred million years previously when the first primitive life forms emerged on earth. Sound far fetched? If mortals hadn’t already existed when Adam and Eve arrived there would have been no “land of Nod, on the east of Eden” for Cain to go to for his wife (as recorded in the Bible at Genesis 4:16).

On the scientific front, *Science Magazine*, 9/9/2005, contained an article titled “MICROCEPHALIN, A Gene Regulating Brain Size Continues to

Evolve Adaptively in Humans” which says in part, **“The gene Microcephalin (MCPH1) regulates brain size and has evolved under strong positive selection in the human evolutionary lineage. We show that one genetic variant of Microcephalin in modern humans, which arose about 37,000 years ago, increased in frequency too rapidly to be compatible with neutral drift.”** In other words, this is an example where recent scientific discovery in the field of genetics recognizes significant genetic alteration, appearing to have come from nowhere, at the same point in ancient history given by The Urantia Book for the advent of Adam and Eve.

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Ponder these science vs religion excerpts from The Urantia Book:

Truth is the basis of science and philosophy, presenting the intellectual foundation of religion.

Science teaches man to speak the new language of mathematics and trains his thoughts along lines of exacting precision. And science purifies religion by the destruction of superstition.

Science deals with facts; religion is concerned only with values. Science is the domain of knowledge and religion the sphere of the faith experience.

The reason of science is based on the observable facts of time; the faith of religion argues from the spirit program of eternity.

The certainties of science proceed entirely from the intellect; the certitudes of religion spring from the very foundations of the entire personality.

Science seeks to identify, analyze, and classify the segmented parts of the limitless cosmos. Religion grasps the idea-of-the- whole, the entire cosmos.

Science is man’s attempted study of his physical environment, the world of energy-matter; religion is man's experience with the cosmos of spirit values.

Science must always be grounded in reason, although imagination and conjecture are helpful in the extension of its borders. Religion is forever dependent on faith, albeit reason is a stabilizing influence and a helpful handmaid.

Science is sustained by reason, religion by faith. Faith, though not predicated on reason, is reasonable; though independent of logic, it is nonetheless encouraged by sound logic.

Scientists may some day measure the energy, or force manifestations, of gravitation, light, and electricity, but

these same scientists can never (scientifically) tell you what these universe phenomena are. Science deals with physical-energy activities; religion deals with eternal values.

Science is a quantitative experience, religion a qualitative experience, as regards man's life on earth. Science deals with phenomena; religion, with origins, values, and goals.

Science should do for man materially what religion does for him spiritually: extend the horizon of life and enlarge his personality. True science can have no lasting quarrel with true religion. The “scientific method” is merely an intellectual yardstick wherewith to measure material adventures and physical achievements. But being material and wholly intellectual, it is utterly useless in the evaluation of spiritual realities and religious experiences.

Questions or comments? Contact us at the Urantia Book Club booth or through our website.