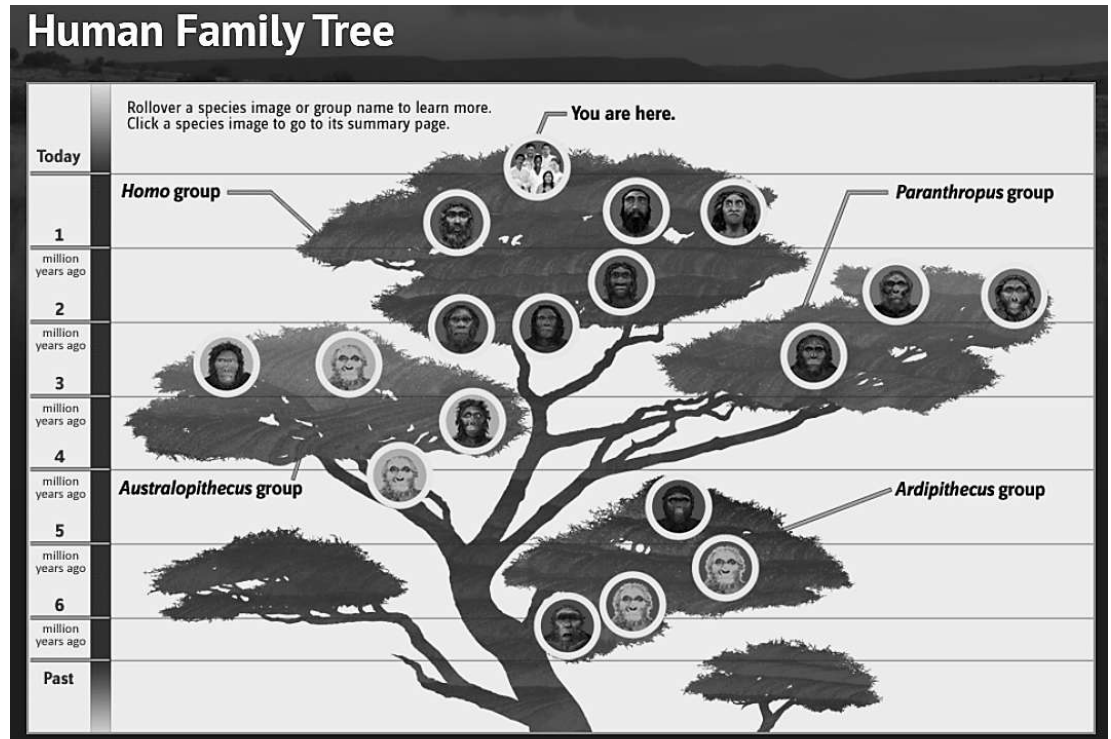


Creation vs Evolution

Lesson 8: Human Evolution

Introduction: If you were viewing this Smithsonian Institute webpage with your children, what observations would you make as a Bible-believer?

“While the existence of a human evolutionary family tree is not in question, its size and shape - the number of branches representing different genera and species, and the connections among them – are much debated by researchers and further confounded by a fossil record that only offers a fragmented look at the ancient past. The debates are sometimes perceived as uncertainty about evolution, but that is far from the case. The debates concern the precise evolutionary relationships - essentially, ‘who is related to whom, and how.’”



“From skeletons to teeth, early human fossils have been found of more than 6,000 individuals. With the rapid pace of new discoveries every year, this impressive sample means that even though some early human species are only represented by one or a few fossils, others are represented by thousands of fossils.”

1. Evolution gives the impression that “early” humans were not very sophisticated. How do the following passages speak against that impression?

Genesis 4:17-24

Genesis 6:13-16

Human “Evolution”

Three Ways to Make an “Apeman”

- 1) _____ ape _____ with _____ fossil bones and declare the two to be _____—a real “apeman.”
- 2) Emphasize certain _____ qualities of fossilized _____ bones, and with imagination, _____ apes to be more humanlike.
- 3) Emphasize certain _____ qualities of fossilized _____ bones, and with imagination, _____ humans to be more apelike.

Human “Evolution” Examples *(left blank for notetaking)*

Pitldown Man

“Lucy”

Homo neanderthalensis

2. Read the descriptions on your worksheet for the following fossil finds. Which of the three techniques (see previous fill-in-the-blank section) did scientists use to proclaim these fossils to be “apemen”?

Habalis (1959 discovery, Tanzania)

Thought to bridge the gap between australopiths (“Lucy’s” kind) and human. Most of the bones look very ape-like, however, some look distinctly human-like.

Many stone tools were present in the find—seeming to show that these ape-like creatures were on their way to becoming human, and were already making and using stone tools (“habalis” means “handy” so *Homo habalis* = “handy man”).

Bones were found in a mixed bonebed containing thousands of broken and loose bones belonging to a wide variety of creatures including catfish, pigs, tortoises, apes, monkeys, and humans.

Not even a partially complete Habilis skeleton has ever been found. Habilis's bones are often described as distorted, poorly preserved, scrappy, crushed, flattened, and broken into little pieces.

Almost all the skulls presumed to belong to Habilis have been reconstructed more than once, with each new reconstruction calling into question earlier reconstructions. “A morass of specimens” that unrealistically broaden the Homo (human) genus. (Schwartz J.H. and Tattersall I.)

Numerous paleo-experts have argued that the loose collection of bones attributed to Habilis contain a mixture of bones from both Homo (human) and Australopithecus (“Lucy’s” kind). The problem is, they can't seem to agree on which bones belong where. (Brace, C.L.)

“Nearly half a century of accumulating evidence and discussion has left Homo habilis more open to question, or insecure than it ever was. Homo habilis remains more of an evolutionary idea than an example anatomical fact linking one species to another.” (Reader J., Missing Links, p. 332, 2011)

VERDICT (circle one): 1. combined human/ape 2. upgraded ape 3. downgraded human



picture from Smithsonian

the “Hobbit” (2003 discovery, Indonesia)

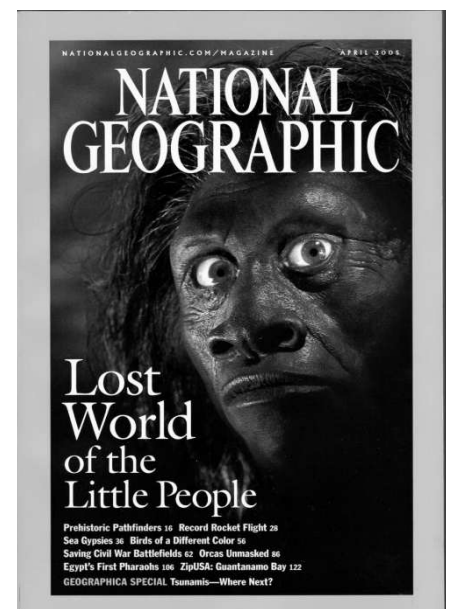
Nicknamed “Hobbit” because of its diminutive size.

National Geographic (April, 2005) portrays the Hobbit as very ape-like.

However, many other paleoanthropologists including some members of the discovery team, adamantly insist that Hobbit is not a new species, but is fully human. They cite evidence that these bones represent modern human suffering from a complex of serious pathologies—hence the diminutive size.

Discoverers never compared the Hobbit’s skeletal features to the Rampasasa pygmies who now populate that region of Flores island of Indonesia.

(continued on next page)



“Island dwarfing” is well known among mammals (remains of butchered *Stegodons*—a dwarf elephant species were found in the same cave as the “Hobbits”).

Hobbits had an impressive cultural inventory and array of sophisticated stone tools. They also must have had the ability (and the intellectual sophistication) to sail the open ocean to get to Flores island.

VERDICT (circle one): 1. combined human/ape 2. upgraded ape 3. downgraded human

“Ardi” (1992 discovery, Ethiopia; 2009 reconstruction results published)

According to the claims made throughout the popular press, Ardi is man's oldest known apelike human ancestor. Headlines promoted Ardi as the “discovery of the century tramping over the famous Lucy discovery in 1974.” (Andrew Hill)

45% of the skeleton was discovered, consisting of broken portions of the skull, a jawbone, full set of teeth, a few vertebrae fragments, broken limb bones, and a crushed hip. Discovery team leader Tim White described Ardi's remains as “roadkill.” (Gibbons, A.)

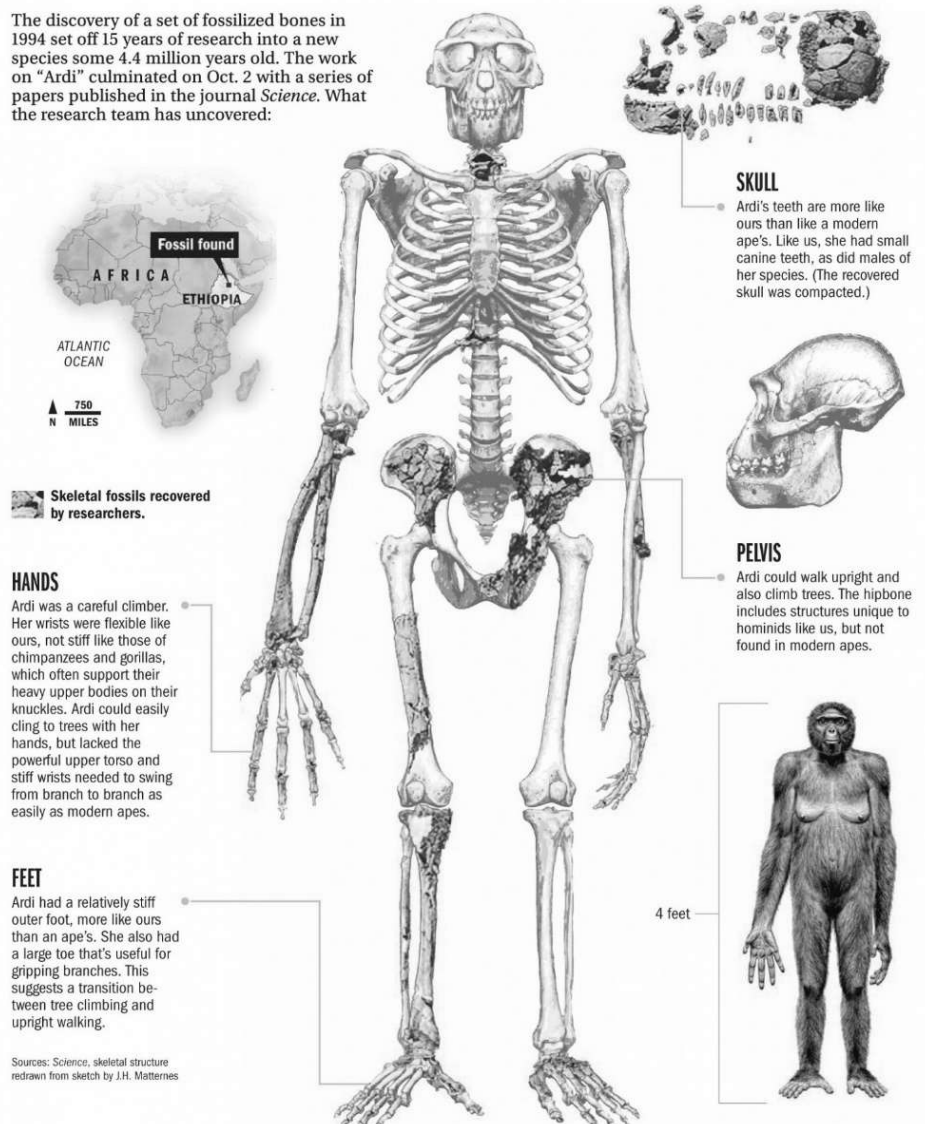
Many experts in the field have openly questioned Ardi's actual morphology and true manner of locomotion, and have criticized the speculative reconstructions inferences derived from them.

“That [digital reconstruction of Ardi's hip] is really kind of a 3-D Rorschach test if you ask me. I'm still not convinced that it's necessarily completely accurate.” (William Junger)

The competing view that Ardi is merely an extinct ape is not mentioned in textbooks. Instead, essentially all textbooks now list Ardi as the oldest known human ancestor, arguing that it is another conclusive proof of human evolution.

ARDIPITHECUS RAMIDUS | WHAT SCIENTISTS LEARNED

The discovery of a set of fossilized bones in 1994 set off 15 years of research into a new species some 4.4 million years old. The work on “Ardi” culminated on Oct. 2 with a series of papers published in the journal *Science*. What the research team has uncovered:

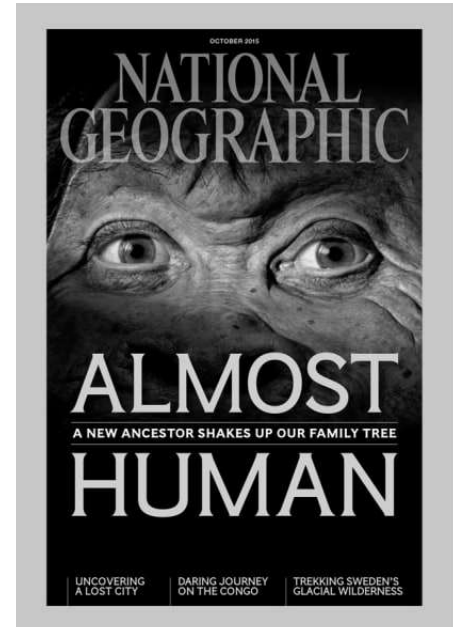


VERDICT (circle one): 1. combined human/ape 2. upgraded ape 3. downgraded human

Naledi (2013 discovery, South Africa)

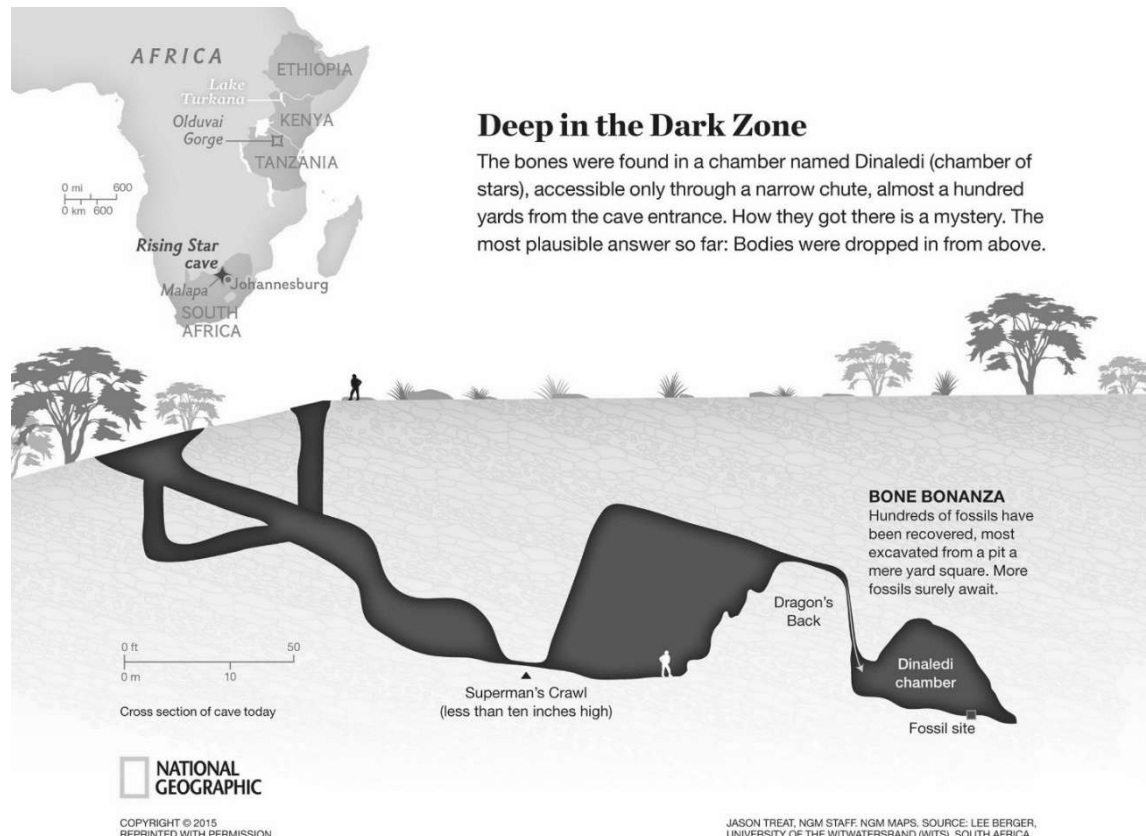
Bones were discovered ritualistically buried (as if for a funeral) in the Rising Star Cave, nearly 100 feet below ground and about 300 feet away from the cave's entrance. Getting through the cave system into the Dinaledi Chamber is a torturous ordeal, even with lights and modern equipment. Spelunkers had to perform a superman's crawl through a 15-foot-long tunnel that was only 10 inches in diameter. From there they had to climb up a rocky structure known as the Dragon's Back in order to locate the vertical chute that leads down 40 feet into the Dinaledi Chamber of fossils. The chute is lined with jagged rocks hindering descent. The narrowest point is only 7 1/2 inches wide.

"Disposal of the dead brings closure for the living, confers respect on the departed, abets their transition to the next life. Such sentiments are a hallmark of humanity. But *Homo naledi*, Berger (the lead researcher) emphatically stresses, was not human which makes the behavior all the more intriguing. 'It's an animal that appears to have had the cognitive ability to recognize its separation from nature,' he said." (Shreeve J., National Geographic, October, 2015)



In 2017, the Naledi fossils were dated as being 236,000 to 335,000 years old—about 1.5 million years younger than the oldest humans were thought to be. eLife Journal emphasizes: "These new findings demonstrate why it can be unwise to try to predict the age of a fossil based on its appearance..." (The discovery team had thought that the "primitive" features meant Naledi was an ancient ancestor of humans.) Instead, the "surprising young

age" means that these so-called "primitive" traits are better explained by extreme isolation, inbreeding, and subsequent genetic degeneration—not because Naledi evolved from an australopith ("Lucy's" kind).



VERDICT (circle one): 1. combined human/ape 2. upgraded ape 3. downgraded human

“Lumpers” vs “Splitters” (*left blank for notetaking*)

For Further Study

For more on how evolutionists are having problems trying to fit humans and apes into a family tree, see pages 25-27 in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

“Contested Bones” 334-page book printed in 2017

Includes extensive details about the amazingly poor fossil evidence evolutionists use to support ape-to-man evolution. Available at www.ContestedBones.org.