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Dear Dr. Hoeh,

This subject of Neanderthal "man" should have been given thorough attention long ago. My own studies and teaching were pretty well limited to the geology prior to the primates. The Time-Life series The Emergence of Man put out a book entitled The Neanderthals and I have been rereading portions in line with your suggestions on the phone several weeks ago.

The conclusion is hardly one that I would have expected at all. These creatures are not "apes" in the sense of the word, nor do I see any indication that they are blood relatives of man (man being a term reserved for Adam's descendants in that Adam is the first man). What do we call the Neanderthals? people?

How are they different? In form only? In culture? in intelligence? There is far more to this than a mere structural difference due to some genetic change in one of Adam's children. While they bury their dead, even with flowers, and are far above the level of an ape, yet there is something missing. These are not "creating" creatures as man is. The thing that makes man qualified to receive God's Spirit and Sonship is that he is a physical copy of God, a creating being and with free moral agency.

These creatures had weapons, family life, tools but where are the houses. The cave bear cult is a fascinating study. They dug a hole, lined it with stones, filled it with bear skulls and then slid a flat stone cover on top. There is a fair level of intelligence, certainly above the type of building that a bird does in constructing a nest after an inbuilt pattern, one inherited.

Why have researchers insisted that Neanderthals are men? Well, the evolutionists are looking for man's ancestors and had hoped to find a link here with the apes. And the fundamentalists have a doctrine that until "Creation Week" God could have no material universe. That is the extreme view. Other fundamentalists will back down some and grant God one single reptilian creation prior to "Creation Week." All else must be forced into a 6000 year span of time.

And we goofed badly by following them. The Neanderthals for the most part seem to be prior to the Cro-Magnon, who definitely seem to be the children of Adam. If it were skeletal difference alone and cultural pattern that differentiated the Neanderthal from the Cro-Magnon, we might conclude blood relationship, but it is separation in time, in level of intellect, in drastically differing levels of creative ability, perhaps in speech.

The tentative conclusion is that we have an intelligent primate world prior to man, creatures who by burying their dead give the impression that they hoped for immortality or a resurrection--I do not want to conclude too much here, elephants will come back to the bones of one of their tribe and apparently recognize it for what it was, they are considerate of the dying and try to help them back to their feet. Dogs will grieve for their dead masters and take up a vigil on their graves. What one must recognize is that these capacities have been built into the lower animals. Porpoises will grieve for a mate.

Let's list our errors. The term "Creation Week" is ambiguous and has given the impression that flesh goes back no further than 6000 B.C. We allowed one and only one prior Creation, when it is becoming apparent that there were a series of additions to earth's biota; each time an assemblage of plants and animals were added and for a good purpose one would conclude, whether that purpose is apparent to us at the present time is beside the point.

What I see at the moment is a perfecting in the flesh of forms and capabilities that when assembled as a whole in Adam make him a carbon copy of God; I like the term carbon copy, it would make a good title for an article, Adam, a Carbon Copy.

Whether God was taking His good natured time about coming around to creating a man, or whether He was learning step by step, or whether he used these other creatures to bring the world to a state ready for man, or whether he produced a variety of spirit beings by first making them in a physical form, or all of these is unknown.

It is interesting to note that He repented of having made man and except for Noah would have wiped out the whole tribe. He would have wiped out Israel after the Exodus except that Moses stood in the way and said in effect, "God, you do not know what it is like to be a human being and have a nature that tends continually to do wrong." Various ~~nations~~ nations were wiped out and are yet to be wiped out and eventually all of mankind. In a sense each creation has been an experiment with God not quite sure how it would turn out, except that He could step in and force the issue and make it come out His way. Like a chemist who washes up the equipment and the lab after each day's work.

He checked up on Adam and Eve, on Cain and Abel, on pre-Flood man, on Sodom and Gomorrah. It had never come into God's mind that men would sacrifice their own children, an item simply beyond His comprehension. And to make Abraham the equal of these pagans in zeal and all out willingness to sacrifice, He allowed Abraham to come within a hairsbreadth of doing likewise. And then 1600 years later God followed the pattern.

None of these creations or creatures really comes up to God's standards of perfection, "even the stars are not clean in his sight" and thus He continues to work with flesh and with a material universe, yet for a higher purpose.

I think that assigning Neanderthal to a pre-Adamic world would be a step in the right direction. Whether any lived between Adam and Noah, or after the Flood. Or whether to identify them with Nephilim. They were hardly giants though the term brute might be applicable. Why they existed, who knows.

One wonders with regard to the doctrine that we have held that angels are created instantaneously. Or did they have a flesh and blood state on earth or elsewhere. The 24 elders in Revelation, were they created instantaneously or first as flesh. I do not know how one would conclude either way in the absence of far more evidence than is on hand. It is just a suggestion to show how one might account for a pre-Adamic ~~people of less than~~ Son-of-God potential.

At the same time it releases one of the burden of trying to force artifacts that appear to be before 4000 B.C. into some sort of catastrophic geology and archeology. We do see men today that have degenerated in culture almost to the level of the Neanderthals, yet there is a contrast that is inescapable.

Once we have determined that Noah's Flood left the surface of the earth relatively unchanged, we take a good look at Neanderthal. Tertiary (early) belongs many thousands of years earlier. Have we run onto a pre-Adamic primate of startling capability. I see no way to consider him a brother, he might have made a good household servant??

A big question is whether all plant and animal life on earth ceased prior to Creation Week. They seem to live through, just as forms live through Noah's Flood. Maybe some Neanderthals lived through to live in the pre-Adamic world between Adam and Noah. They do not seem to grade into the Cro-Magnon. Whether they could have produced offspring is another unknown. Any relation to Bigfoot, etc. is another unknown.

Have run onto a few more clues on calendars and chronology but better not mix them in here.

Hasta luego,

Dr. Hoeh