



SCIENCE: FACT AND THEORY

In attempting to understand what is written or spoken, it is good to have a working knowledge of the meaning of words. This is especially true when it comes to the discussion of how human beings came into existence.

A local newspaper ran a monthly series, "How Man Began." The author, Scott Lafee, assembled a neatly segmented history of the origin of man. It is put forth as science. Here it must be noted that science, accurately defined, may involve the theoretical explanation of phenomena. It's only after theories have been tested and validated do they become fact.

The series of articles on "How Man Began," is science (theoretical explanations), but not fact. How can you tell? By the terminology found throughout the article. Following are some excerpts from part 4, "Life and Limb."

[**BOLD PRINT IDENTIFIES TERMS WHICH INDICATE THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS.**]

'Stories by Scott Lafee'

"Mudskippers offer living clues to how some ancient species **may have transitioned** from fish to amphibian to terrestrial vertebrate."

"At least nine varieties of amphibious tetrapod have been found in the fossil record, each of which **appears** to have evolved independently ..."

"In 1916, American geologist, Joseph Barrell, **persuasively argued** ..."

"Barrell **theorized** ..."

"Alfred Sherwood Romer pushed Barrell's **argument** further, **theorizing** ..."

"Romer did not **think** sarcopterygians estivated. . . Instead, he **argued**. . . they **may have** dragged themselves over land to other pools."

"Romer's scenario was **compelling and logical** . . . Today it is still **accepted** in principle . . .but new discoveries have **amended** it substantially."

"In other words, the environmental conditions leading to land vertebrates were **probably** less severe than Romer could have **imagined** ..."

"The **prevailing** view [of why animals moved onto land] is simple: The land was there ..."

"What was the first tetrapod? **Based on** the admittedly **sparse fossil record**, an **argument** can be made for a creature called Ichthyostega . . .The tail, paleontologists **believe** was [its] primary source of propulsion in water . . . it **undoubtedly** moved slowly and clumsily over land ..."

"At first tetrapod adventures ashore were **undoubtedly** brief: to rest, to capture prey or avoid becoming one, to mate or lay eggs. 'I rather **see them** like alligators...'"

The article concludes: "From these ancestral amphibians **eventually** came reptiles. And Birds. And another kind of creature closer to our hearts and selves—the first mammals."

IT'S A MATTER OF FAITH – BUT IN WHAT?

This article is an excellent example of a "theoretical explanation," but it is far from being fact. Belief (faith) in a theory does not equate to it being fact.

It takes a leap of faith to believe such theories. Yes, anyone who holds to the theory of evolution does so by faith—faith in the theoretical explanations of others.

One wonders why people labor long and hard to prove God didn't create the world. Obviously, attempts to disprove what is clearly seen in the things around us requires great effort and faith.

"... *that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made ...*" Romans 1:19-20

F.

Y.

C.

**For Your
Consideration**

"Let us consider
how to stimulate
one another to love
and good deeds."
Hebrews 10:24

OCTOBER 2020



Ron Adams
"Be thoughtful and kind."

BIBLE RESOURCES

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ONE ANOTHER

A Reciprocal Relationship



YOU ARE ALL ONE

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28

ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS

Jew or Greek. Slave or freeman. Male or female. Those were common distinctions that were well-established. Yet, they needed to be removed for the sake of unity. Today, any distinction that separates those who are in Christ must be removed. No matter how ingrained such distinctions may be, their removal is paramount.

MANY BECOMING ONE

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **Such were some of you;** but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

DIFFERENCES

We come from different backgrounds. We were born in different cultures. We were raised under different circumstances. We have had different experiences. Herein lies the true test of discipleship.

THE CHALLENGE

Becoming one in Christ can be a challenge. To meet this challenge it takes a "one another" attitude. Every member is to be of one mind, one heart, and one purpose. ("One another" is mentioned more than 40 times in the New Testament.)

SUMMED UP

*Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by **being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:1-4

THURSDAY'S THOUGHT

REVISITED

NEW THOUGHTS ABOUT A PREVIOUS THOUGHT

'Friendly Fire'

It happened in the basement of the military training barracks. I and a few other soldiers were sorting brass after the company had been on the firing range. Unnoticed by the group, one soldier took some live rounds found among the spent ones and loaded them into a weapon and pulled the trigger. Needless to say we were scared and shocked, but luckily no one was hit by the bullets. This episode brought to mind how tragic it is when someone is injured or killed by a comrade's carelessness (friendly fire).

We are engaged in spiritual warfare against evil and the evil one. We need to wield the sword of the spirit which is the Word. But we must be careful how we wield the sword. It must not be used in such a way as to injure our comrades in the faith. Jesus said,

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea."

Mark 9:42

Avoiding Friendly-Fire Casualties

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another."

Galatians 5:13-15

Love One Another!

A sure way to avoid friendly-fire casualties in the church.

'Friendly Fire' Injuries

are caused by

Gossip

Competition

Party Spirit

Foolish Controversies

Jealousy

Envy

Slander

Strife

Arrogance