

GARY STRADLING - LOS ALAMOS FAITH AND SCIENCE FORUM - SUMMER 2021 LECTURE SERIES

ADAM'S ORIGINS AND PURPOSE

- Why Adam and Eve are essential to Christian Theology and to the development of Humanity
- How they can plausibly fit into the scientific view of paleontology
- Answer Chick Keller's question: "Can Neanderthals Go to Heaven?"

START RECORDING!

DISCLAIMER:

THIS IS **NOT** A CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR LDS TALK.
IT IS A **FAITH AND SCIENCE** TALK.

DISCLAIMER:

NOT CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR LDS - A FAITH AND SCIENCE TALK

IT IS MY SYNTHESIS, INFORMED BY SCRIPTURES I HAVE READ,
THE SCIENCE I HAVE STUDIED,
MY ANALYSIS AND THE UNDERSTANDING I HAVE COME TO.
PARTS OF IT ARE ORIGINAL THOUGHT!

DISCLAIMER:

NOT CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR LDS - A FAITH AND SCIENCE TALK
MY SYNTHESIS, MY ANALYSIS, MY ORIGINAL THOUGHTS!

I BELIEVE THE BIBLE
WITH THE ADDITIONAL BENEFIT OF THE SCRIPTURES OF THE
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (LDS)

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NOT CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, OR LDS - A FAITH AND SCIENCE TALK
MY SYNTHESIS, MY ANALYSIS, MY ORIGINAL THOUGHTS!
BIBLE + LDS SCRIPTURES

I BELIEVE IN GOD AND JESUS CHRIST, AND IN THE CREATION
AS DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE AND AS EVIDENCED BY SCIENCE

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BIBLE + LDS SCRIPTURES

GOD, JESUS CHRIST, AND CREATION: TOLD BY GOD, AND SCIENCE

I BELIEVE:

**ALL THAT GOD HAS REVEALED,
ALL THAT HE DOES NOW REVEAL,
AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL YET REVEAL
MANY GREAT AND IMPORTANT THINGS
PERTAINING TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

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BIBLE + LDS SCRIPTURES

GOD, JESUS CHRIST, AND CREATION: TOLD BY GOD, AND SCIENCE
I BELIEVE IN CONTINUING REVELATION ABOUT GODS WORK

I BELIEVE SCIENCE DATA, IF MEASURED CORRECTLY

I VALUE SCIENCE ANALYSIS, IF DONE RIGHT

I RESPECT SCIENCE THEORY- UNTIL IT DEVIATES FROM DATA

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GOD, JESUS CHRIST, AND CREATION: TOLD BY GOD, AND SCIENCE
I BELIEVE IN CONTINUING REVELATION ABOUT GODS WORK
I BELIEVE IN SCIENCE

I HAVE UNDERScoreD LDS CONCEPTS AND *ITALICIZED*
BIBLICAL CONCEPTS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
CONCEPTS HERE THAT ARE MY OWN.

CHICK AND MORRIE PRESENTED ALTERNATE VIEWS

- Chick Keller: Scientific Constraints on the Existence of Adam and Eve (July 7)
- Morrie Pongratz: Christology without the 'fall': Do we need Adam and Eve? (July 14)

MORRIE AND CHICK PRESENTED ALTERNATE VIEWS

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**IS THERE A RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE THAT FRAMES
THE CREATION AND ADAM AND EVE IN A WAY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SCIENCE?**

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- Chick Keller: Scientific Constraints on the Existence of Adam and Eve (July 7)
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IS THERE A RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE THAT FRAMES THE CREATION AND ADAM AND EVE IN A WAY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SCIENCE?

- I will present a coherent **religious** “**Theory of Mankind**” that synthesizes evolutionary science, biology, a **mostly-literal** reading of scripture, and the “Hereafter”.
- This is not a **scientific theory** that aligns **science** with **the Biblical account**, but a **religious theory** that puts a literal reading of scripture and science together with meaning. My theory mostly supports accepted science.
 - Makes **physical and theological** sense
 - **It is not allegorical.**
 - May not fully align with your interpretations of the Bible or traditional theological analysis-
but that gap between classical Christian interpretation of the Bible and science was the problem in the first place!
 - You will likely feel a visceral rejection of unfamiliar ideas.
Please hold an open (scientific) mind and ask:
“Does this perspective enable me to understand Adam and Eve and the Creation from both a scientific and religious basis?”

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**IS THERE A RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE THAT FRAMES
THE CREATION AND ADAM AND EVE IN A WAY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH SCIENCE?**

**“There is no conflict between science and religion.
Conflict only arises from an incomplete knowledge of
either science or religion, or both”**

Russell M. Nelson- Prophet

President: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- Research Scientist - Heart Replacement Pioneer

RICHER DATA USUALLY LEADS TO CLEARER UNDERSTANDING

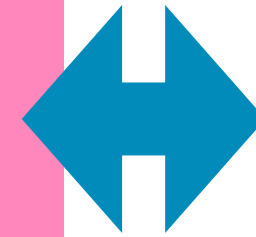
The Bible

BIBLICAL DATA ON ADAM AND EVE ARE VERY SPARSE:

OLD TESTAMENT (1184 PAGES) 11 REFS

NEW TESTAMENT (405 PAGES), 5 REFS

TOTAL: 1589 PAGES, 16 REFS OF ADAM



LDS Scripture

ADAM AND EVE, THE GARDEN, THEIR PURPOSES AND IMPACTS: ARE DISCUSSED BY GOD IN NUMEROUS OTHER REVELATIONS, IN A VARIETY OF CONTEXTS, including three separate creation accounts, IN OTHER SCRIPTURAL WORKS:

THE BOOK OF MORMON (530 PAGES), 19 REFS

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE (61 PAGES), 10 REFS

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS (300 PAGES) 11 REFS

TOTAL: 891 PAGES, 40 REFS OF ADAM

Together: 2480 pages of inspired scripture, 56 references to Adam

LDS Scripture nearly quadruples the number of references to Adam in scripture

Greatly extends the factual, contextual and theological impact

RICHER DATA USUALLY LEADS TO CLEARER UNDERSTANDING



**2480 Pages of inspired scripture
56 references to Adam**

**WHICH OF THESE IMAGES BEST REPRESENTS YOUR
UNDERSTANDING OF:**

- **GOD ?**
- **HIS PURPOSES ?**
- **ADAM AND EVE ?**
- **WHO WE ARE ?**
- **OUR DESTINY AS HUMANS ?**

**THE CLARITY OF OUR UNDERSTANDING IS
A MEASURE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
OUR APPROACH AND THE CONTENT OF
OUR SOURCES**

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**HOWEVER, WIKIPEDIA SAYS THAT MOST MAINSTREAM
CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S CONSIDER GENESIS ACCOUNTS
OF THE CREATION AND ADAM AND EVE TO BE
ALLEGORICAL: FALSE STORIES WITH USEFUL MORALS:
E.G.**

- **GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE**
- **THE SEVEN DAY WORK WEEK IS BLESSED BY GOD**

**[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/
ALLEGORICAL_INTERPRETATIONS_OF_GENESIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegorical_interpretations_of_Genesis)**

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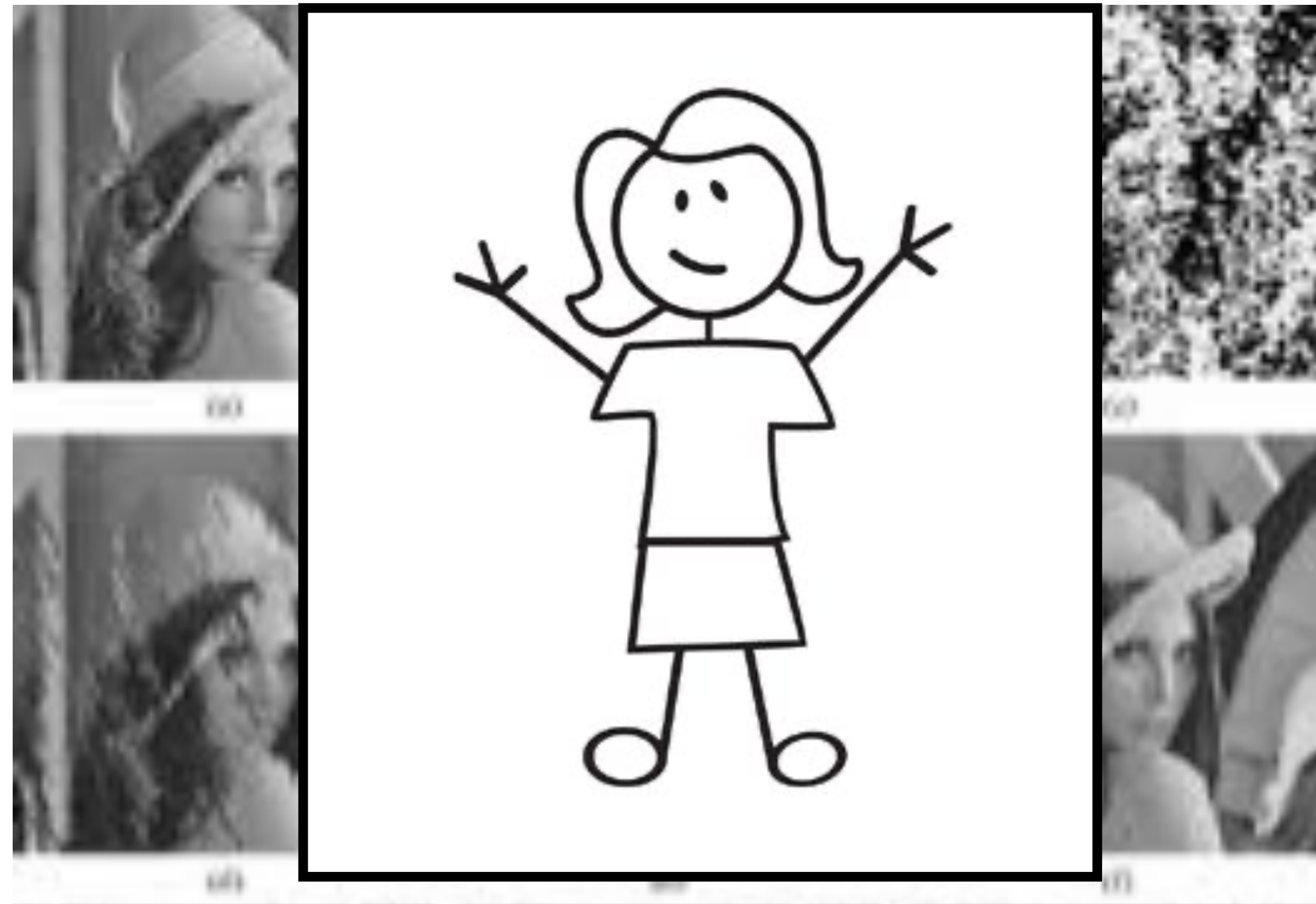
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**SO INSTEAD OF BUILDING UP AN
ACCURATE IMAGE, A CARTOON IS
SUBSTITUTED INSTEAD.**

RICHER DATA USUALLY LEADS TO CLEARER UNDERSTANDING



SCIENCE SAYS THAT REAL THINGS HAVE TEXTURE, DEPTH, LAYERS, COMPOSITION, ETC. THAT CAN BE EXAMINED AND UNDERSTOOD.

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CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

SCIENCE



CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

SCIENCE

Mostly Practical

- Comprehensible
- Connected
- Causal
- Data rich
- Measurable & Repeatable
- Continuous refinement
- Life Changing for Better

CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

Mystical or Practical?

- Symbolic — explicable?
- Miraculous — comprehensible?
- Episodic — connected?
- Cosmic — localizable?
- Allegorical — real?
- Static — evolving?
- Idealistic — real world?

SCIENCE

Mostly Practical

- Comprehensible
- Connected
- Causal
- Data rich
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CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

Mystical or Practical

- Symbolic — experiential
- Miraculous — common
- Episodic — common
- Cosmic — localized
- Allegorical — real
- Static — evolving
- Idealistic — real world

IF A RELIGION IS:

- MYSTICAL AND CEREMONIAL
- ALLEGORICAL, AND PHILOSOPHICAL — WITHOUT CONNECTING TO REAL WORLD
- TRADITIONAL AND STATIC — DISCONNECTED FROM TODAY
- EPISODIC, UNPREDICTABLE, OR DISCONTINUOUS
- IF MIRACLES ARE “MAGICAL” WITH NO EXPECTATION OF COMPREHENSIBILITY

THAT MAY BE **BEAUTIFUL OR INSPIRING**

BUT IS A MAJOR LIMITATION

IN LINKING TO **SCIENCE**

AND THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

SCIENCE

Practical

Comprehensible

Tested

With

Observable & Repeatable

Continuous refinement

— Life Changing for Better



CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

THE GENESIS CREATION OF THE WORLD AND OF ADAM AND EVE ARE HISTORICAL POINTS OF DISCONNECT BETWEEN FAITH AND SCIENCE ...

SCIENCE

... AS THE QUESTIONS OF ORIGINS AND HUMAN ASCENDENCY ARE POINTS OF FOCUS OF SCIENCE AND REMAIN A CORE FOCUS OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

**SO THIS IS AN EXCELLENT AREA TO EXPLORE
CLOSING THE ZIPPER**

THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE APPEAR IN CONFLICT— HOW TO RESOLVE THIS?

| CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY (VARIOUS): | SCIENCE: |
|--|--|
| GOD CREATED THE UNIVERSE, THE EARTH, AND LIFE IN 7 (DAYS?) | 16 B YR UNIVERSE, 4.5 B YR EARTH AND 3.6 B YR LIFE |
| HUMANS ARE A CLASS APART FROM OTHER LIFE | HUMANS SAME AS OTHER LIVING THINGS |
| OUR “SPIRIT SOUL” EXPLAINS EXCEPTIONAL HUMANITY | A) HUMAN GROWTH IN EVOLUTIONARY FITNESS WAS MODEST OVER 5-7 M YRS. B) ABRUPT 6000 YR LEAP IN MAN’S EVOLUTIONARY FITNESS IS MIRACULOUS |
| ALL HUMANS DESCENDED FROM ADAM AND EVE - ONLY 6000 YEARS AGO | HUMANS ARE A MIX OF SEVERAL ARCHAIC MEGAYEAR-SCALE PROTOHUMAN LINES—DNA |
| ADAM INTRODUCED DEATH AND EVIL TO THE WORLD | DEATH AND HAPPENSTANCE FROM BEGINNING |
| FREE WILL ORIGINATED IN THE GARDEN | ALL LIVING THINGS MAKE STIMULUS-BASED CHOICES |
| HEAVEN IN GOD’S PRESENCE IS GOAL- (FOR A CHOSEN FEW!) | SOCIETY DEVELOPED BASED ON VALUES/ETHICS, GOVERNANCE, HUMAN DISCIPLINE |

FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORY

I am going to present a rational way to understand Adam and Eve by understanding God's work and how they were instrumental in accomplishing His plan.

- GOD **LITERALLY** CREATED THIS EARTH, AND ITS HEAVENS (ATMOSPHERE), AND LIFE: IN 7 PHASES WITH DURATIONS AS OBSERVED BY SCIENCE
- ALL LIFE ARE GOD'S EXQUISITE CREATIONS, WITH SPIRITS*/SOULS—SPARROWS AND LILIES.
- THE PROCESS OF GOD'S CREATION IS EVOLUTIONARY, WITH PURPOSE, AND BY MECHANISMS NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY SCIENCE OR RELIGION.
- DEATH, INDIVIDUAL CHOICE: BOTH ESSENTIAL PARTS OF HIS EVOLUTIONARY CREATION PROCESS
- MORTAL HUMAN BODIES ARE THE ULTIMATE OF GOD'S DEVELOPMENT, DESIGNED TO BRING US POWER AND JOY
- MANKIND ARE GOD'S CAPSTONE DEVELOPMENT — DEVELOPED FOR HIS PURPOSE, AS PARTNERS, NOT MINIONS!
- ADAM AND EVE AND THE GARDEN:
 - GOOD/EVIL DEFINED BY WILLING OBEDIENCE/DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS
 - THEY SINNED, REPENTED AND WERE FORGIVEN. ENJOYED BENEFITS OF GOD'S GRACE
 - RECEIVED GOD'S LAWS OF HEAVEN: ETERNAL MARRIAGE, FAMILIES, SOCIAL LAWS OF LOVE AND COOPERATION
 - INITIALLY ISOLATED IN GARDEN, BUT AFTERWARDS TAUGHT OTHER HUMANS
 - ENABLE SOPHISTICATED SOCIETY BASED ON INDIVIDUAL AGENCY AND GOD-GIVEN PRINCIPLES
- LAWS OF HEAVEN GUIDE PERSONAL CHOICE, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM GOD, JESUS, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

I SEE THIS AS A REFINEMENT OF CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN VIEWS,
NOT IN CONFLICT WITH BIBLICAL TEXTS

*SEE FUTURE TALK ON
A THEORY OF SPIRITS

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OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAWS

IS THE PRIMARY ENGINE

WHEREBY GOD BLESSES MANKIND

D BY

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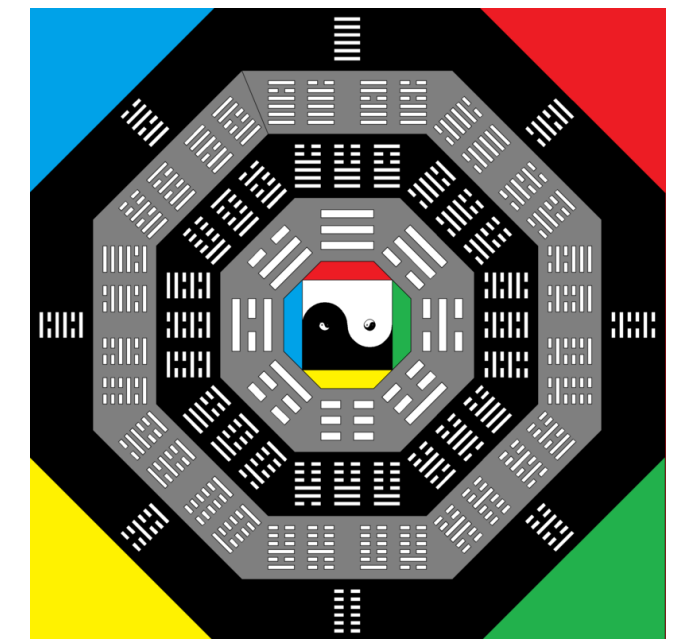
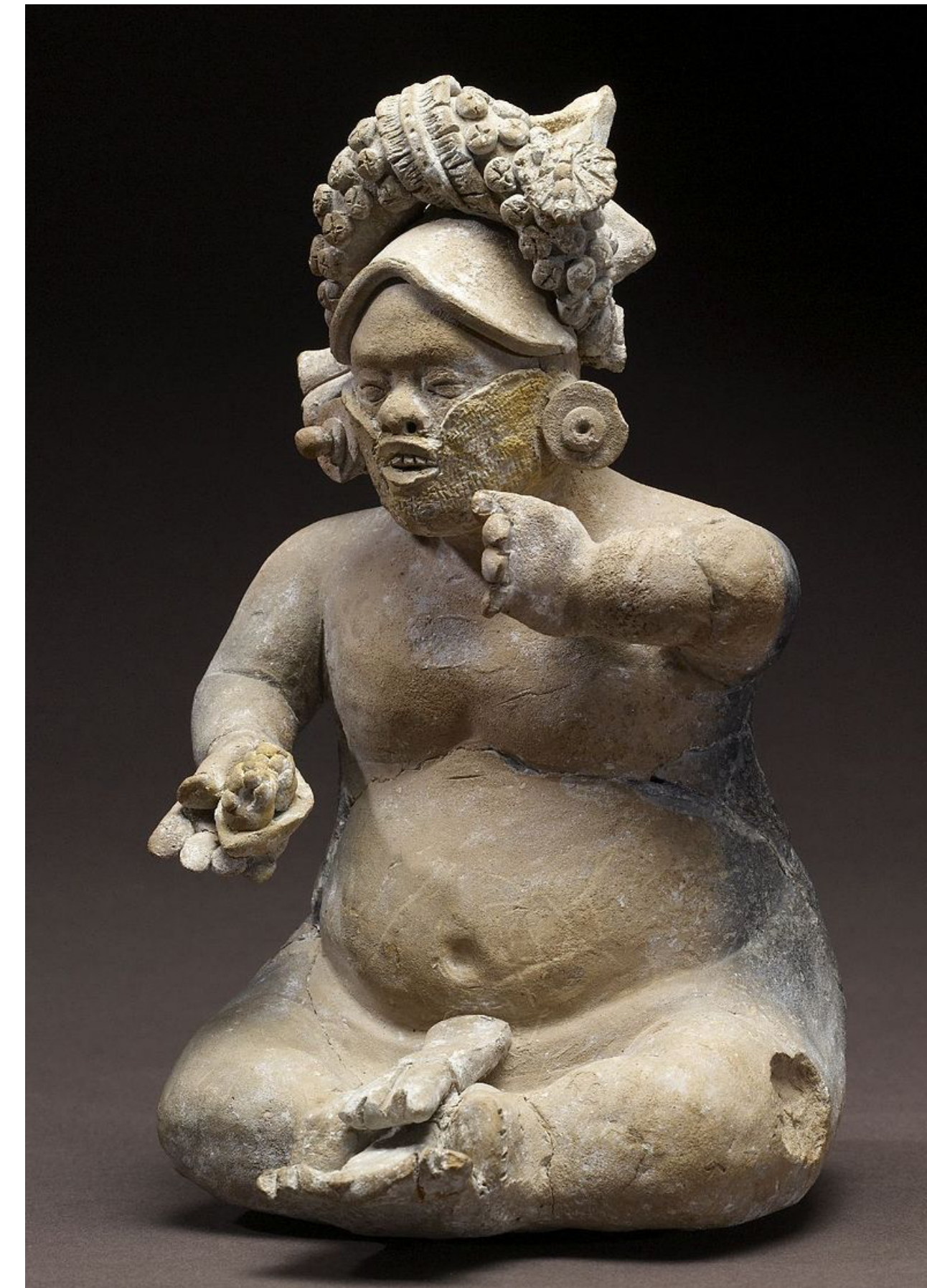
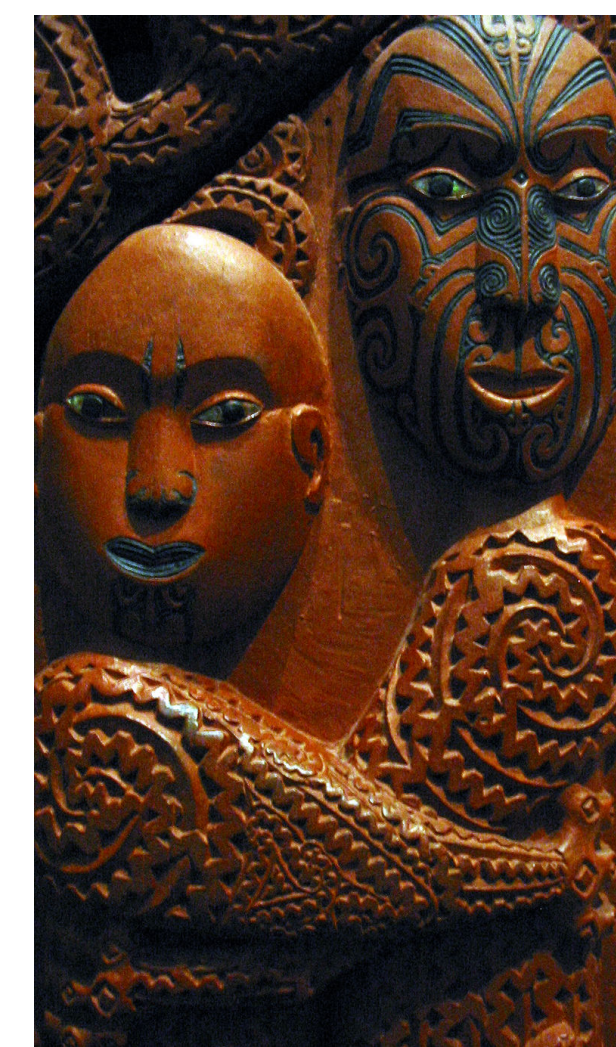
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THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

Creation Myths

- **Creation ex nihilo:** the thought, word, dream or bodily secretions of a divine being.
- **Earth Diver Creation:** a bird or amphibian sent to plunge to the seabed through a primordial ocean to bring up sand or mud which develops into a terrestrial world.
- **Emergence Myths:** progenitors pass through a series of worlds and metamorphoses to reach the present world.
- **Dismemberment Myth:** Creation by the dismemberment of a primordial being.
- **Cosmic Egg:** Creation by the cracking of a cosmic egg.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creation_myth





THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE



The **Genesis account** is **shorthand** for **literal and detailed physical and spiritual processes- as Science would dictate** (This is an account from a group of shepherds in an agricultural society!)

There are additional scriptural clues to be incorporated.

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, its heavens (local atmosphere), and all life on it, by processes, and in a sequence, which Moses described in minimal detail in Genesis, but which **roughly follow scientific plausibility** from the perspective of an observer on the Earth (Genesis: “Days” = Phases or Eons, may be overlapping)
 - **Material: Phase 1:** chaos-> order; darkness->light; **Phase 2:** differentiation of mixed materials -> water, atmosphere (Earth was a “Wet Planet”); **Phase 3:** separation of mixed materials-> seas, land; **Phase 4:** clearing of atmosphere to reveal sun, moon, stars
 - **Life: Phase 3:** earth generates -> plants; **Phase 5:** water generates -> sea life, flying things; **Phase 6:** land generates -> land creatures; reproduce according to species to limits of sustainability; humans- created out of earth-> dominion over all terrestrial life
 - **Then:** Adam, the Garden of Eden—after the creation narrative.



THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, and all life on it, as described in Genesis and by science



<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/abioprob/abioprob.html>
<https://www.cs.unc.edu/~plaisted/ce/abiogenesis.html>
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- Science research shows that “spontaneous” origin of life is not credible: requires long, sustained series of extremely improbable events-

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- **Abiogenesis discussions** are currently focused on the spontaneous generation **of a single protein,** with very low probabilities.

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- **Protein, to virus, to prokaryote, to eukaryote, etc.,** requires a cooperative environment for survival and propagation **at every step.** Each of those highly improbable events must be **preserved, sustained, and propagated,** for life to come into being spontaneously.

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, and all life on it, as described in Genesis and by science

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- Protein, to virus, to prokaryote, to eukaryote, etc., requires a cooperative environment for survival and propagation at every step. Each of those highly improbable events must be preserved, sustained, and propagated, for life to come into being spontaneously.

- A **passionate anti-theist scientific community**, staffed with the best and the brightest, (**the prize of inventing life!**) has been drilling that well for many, many decades and **have nothing to show for it.**



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**Spontaneous generation of life
is a shockingly unscientific theory, counter to all human experience,
and remains unsubstantiated**

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, and all life on it, as described in Genesis and by science
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- **Science** says that **life changed this planet** from a desolate hostile place (like Mars/Venus), to its current diverse, beautiful, life-sustaining state.
- 2/3 of all minerals on Earth **come from presence of life*** - **the Great Oxidation Event, etc.**

Religion affirms that this was God's plan

*Patrick Rowe “An Introduction to Mineral Evolution” - Los Alamos Geological Society 7/20/2021

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, and all life on it, as described in Genesis and by science
- Science research shows that “spontaneous” origin of life is not credible
- God-created life changed Earth to its current diverse, beautiful, life sustaining state



- Moreover- Religion and Science together show God's method:

If He could do it all in an instant, with the wave of a Magic Wand, then why did He take 4.5 billion painstaking years?

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

- God created this planet, and all life on it, as described in Genesis and by science
- Science research shows that “spontaneous” origin of life is not credible
- God-created life changed Earth to its current diverse, beautiful, life sustaining state
- This is how God works.



- **Science** observes: All life—plant and animal (etc.) are one family; intimately related in genome, structure, operating processes, following a multi-threaded process of development and sustainment that has filled the Earth with life.
- Religion tells us that this creation **was with intent**—part of a divine Plan. **Neither Religion nor Science understand the methods used.**
- **Anti-theists recoil** at “intent”, but have **no answer** to the **origin of life** or the process of sophisticated engineering of life forms.

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- Religion tells us that this creation **was with intent**—part of a divine Plan. **Neither Religion nor Science understand the methods used.**
- **Anti-theists** claim that life is the result of **RANDOM MUTATIONS + NATURAL SELECTION** or the process of spontaneous generation.

RANDOM MUTATIONS + NATURAL SELECTION ≠ EXQUISITE ENGINEERING OR ART SEEN IN LIFE!

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

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- God-created life changed Earth to its current diverse, beautiful, life sustaining state
- This is how God works.
- All terrestrial life are one integrated family



- **Science** says the Universe is a **vast, stochastic, unfeeling, system,** described **imperfectly** by General Theory of Relativity, the Standard Model, & Big Bang Theory.
- Religion: **God brings creative development, intelligence, order, unity, peace, and safety to a dangerous universe.**

THE CREATION: FAITH AND SCIENCE

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AND WORLDS WITHOUT NUMBER HAVE I CREATED; AND I ALSO CREATED THEM FOR MINE OWN PURPOSE; AND BY THE SON I CREATED THEM, WHICH IS MINE ONLY BEGOTTEN.

BUT ONLY AN ACCOUNT OF THIS EARTH, AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF, GIVE I UNTO YOU.

FOR BEHOLD, THERE ARE MANY WORLDS THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY BY THE WORD OF MY POWER. AND THERE ARE MANY THAT NOW STAND, AND INNUMERABLE ARE THEY UNTO MAN; BUT ALL THINGS ARE NUMBERED UNTO ME, FOR THEY ARE MINE AND I KNOW THEM.

MOSES 1:33-35

THE PRE-GARDEN “STATE OF NATURE” OF ALL LIFE: PLANTS, ANIMALS, PROTOHUMANS

- **Death Looms:** From the beginning, all life has struggled for survival and to thrive.
- **Choice:** All life makes continual choices to evade death, to optimize its prospects- from microbe, to whale, to aspen grove, to protohuman.
- **Paradise?** The world was full of opportunity and happenstance—**no sin, no good, no evil**, just circumstance to be dealt with.
- **Natural Man unconstrained by God’s Law:** Whatever is expedient for survival: “every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and every man conquered according to his strength; and whatsoever a man did was no crime.” Korihor (Alma 30:17)



**“LIFE IN THE STATE OF NATURE IS SOLITARY, POOR,
NASTY, BRUTISH, AND SHORT.” THOMAS HOBBS**

ADAM AND EVE

- “The first man Adam was made a living soul” (1 Cor 15:45)
- “Adam, who was the first man” (D&C 84:16)



ADAM AND EVE

- Adam was first “man”

- **BUT! PALEONTOLOGY FINDS HUMAN REMAINS AND DNA DATING FROM LONG BEFORE ADAM**

“There are **(only) thousands** of **(human)** fossils, **mostly fragmentary, often consisting of single bones or isolated teeth, with complete skulls and skeletons rare,**” from 7-8 million years ago to 5300 years ago. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_human_evolution_fossils,

Chick Keller describes the paleontological evidences, **but not the scarcity of the data.**

News article this week claimed that “only **1.5 to 7 per cent of the modern human** genome is unique to us” compared to Denisovan, Neanderthals. (<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2284331-just-1-5-to-7-per-cent-of-the-modern-human-genome-is-uniquely-ours/>)



ADAM AND EVE

- Adam was first “man”
- Other Humans preceded Adam

**I DEFINE “MANKIND” AS “HUMANS WITH THE LAW”
A METAPHORICAL SOFTWARE UPGRADE;
MANKIND = HUMAN 2.0**



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SEMANTICS CAN MATTER IN SCRIPTURE



ADAM AND EVE

- Modern “mankind” have ‘same’ genome as protohumans

- **Adam’s creation/birth:**

- Using **mechanisms already developed by God** through evolution: insemination in human mother, gestation, birth, nurturing. *(Like Jesus being born to Mary)*
- **“Breath of life,” same as for all living things**— incorporation of **previously-created spirit body** (Moses 3:5 Jeremiah 1:5) through natural growth and development of cells and systems.

(Chick Keller’s uniquely human “Spiritual Soul”, not Biblical, is an unnecessary constraint)

- **Pre-mortal Spirit Adam** was a leader in God’s work.
Adam was exceptional!



ADAM AND EVE

- Modern mankind have ‘same’ genome as protohumans
- Adam’s creation/birth: Natural processes

— Adam and Eve were married by God in the Garden

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2)

— Full marriage relationship— no sexual sin

4 And he (Jesus) answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Matt 19:4-7)



ADAM AND EVE

- Modern mankind have ‘same’ genome as protohumans
 - Adam’s creation/birth: Natural processes
 - Adam and Eve were married by God in the Garden— no sexual sin
- **Augustine of Hippo (b. 350 AD)**, who had a very licentious youth and severe problems with sexuality*, (incorrectly) **invented “Original Sin”**, and made married people guilty for normal reproductive relationships, based on a concept of concupiscence.**
- He also (incorrectly) **invented** inherited guilt (reatus) from Adam whereby an infant was eternally damned at birth, and he consigned those who die in infancy to hell.
- Hence infant baptism.**

*<https://wipfandstock.com/9781498224963/augustines-problem/>
by Jeff Nicoll

**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo)



ADAM AND EVE

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 - Adam’s creation/birth: Natural processes
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 - Augustine of Hippo marred Father Adam and Mother Eve’s reputation unfairly to future generations.
-
- Adam and Eve were not able to have children while in the Garden
(2 Nephi 2:23)



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- **MARRIAGE CAN BE THE EPITOME OF HEAVENLY RELATIONSHIPS**
THE HIGHEST HOPE OF EARTHLY HAPPINESS
- **FOCUSED FAMILY SUPPORT CRITICAL TO FULL NURTURING OF VERY IMMATURE HUMAN BABIES**
- **FAMILIES ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOP COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES**



THE GARDEN OF EDEN (WITHIN THE NATURAL WORLD)

- **Special enclave** from savage world, an incubator: provided with food, animals, pleasant plants. Adam was to care for it. (Genesis 2:8)
- **Adam and Eve knew God**- walked and talked in Garden (Genesis 3:8)
- **Tree of Life**- indefinite time to work through training
 - As long as Adam and Eve had access to the fruit of the Tree of Life, they would not die. (Genesis 3:22)
- **Tree of “Knowledge of Good and Evil”**
 - Forbidden fruit was **enticing, delicious and desirable**, for **“in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”** (Genesis 3:5)
 - After they partook of the fruit of the Tree of “Knowledge of Good and Evil”, **they were prevented from eating** of the life-prolonging fruit of the Tree of Life and **became subject to death.** (Genesis 3:24)



DISOBEYING GOD WAS A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- But with consequences:
 - Exclusion from God's presence
 - Expulsion from the Garden
 - Loss of access to the Tree of Life

**THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT WAS A
TRAP DOOR FOR ADAM AND EVE**



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The forbidden fruit did not need to have magical properties.

Adam and Eve began the process of **learning about good and evil, by experience**, in the natural world.



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BUT WHY???

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GOD'S PURPOSE: PARTNERS WITH AGENCY, NOT MINIONS

- Jesus declared to His disciples- *You are my friends* (John 15:4), *Children of God* (John 1:12): Peer Relationships
- *Jesus asked that His disciples become One with Him, as He is One with the Father.* (John 17)
- As independent entities, Adam and Eve **could now choose** to declare their allegiance to God (or to Lucifer)
- Acts of Covenant: as **independent agents**, they can now voluntarily bind themselves to Him: baptism, sacrament/sacrifice, consecration.

ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF HEAVEN: CHICK'S QUESTION

FREE WILL, SIN, GOOD AND EVIL ONLY EXIST IN THE CONTEXT OF GOD'S LAW

- Agency/free will: knowing the Law, and choosing to **obey or disobey God**, with added significance of knowledge, responsibility, greater good- not just expediency
 - **God's Law of love prohibits**: malicious physical injury, immorality, property crimes, dishonesty
 - **Often in opposition to personal expediency**
- Good: Obedience to God's Laws of Heaven-> Social harmony.
 - Applies to **benevolent actions toward God or humans**- extends to all humanity.
 - Summarized as: **"Love God, love your neighbors"**, **"Be One"** defines relationships: includes marriage
- Sin and Evil: Disobedient to God, disrespectful, selfish, dishonest, malevolent acts
 - Not a transformation of the physical world, but **a transformation of mankind/society**



THE WORLD IS NOT FALLEN

ONLY THE REQUIREMENTS ON MANKIND HAVE CHANGED

ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION OF HUMANITY

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-THESE ARE CLEARLY TAUGHT IN BOOK OF MORMON, BY LEHI TO HIS SONS JACOB AND JOSEPH (2 NEPHI 2)
- NOT CONTRADICTIONS WITH THE BIBLE



AFTER THE GARDEN- LIVING THE LAW

- God sent messengers to instruct Adam and Eve in the Law and the Plan of Redemption by Jesus (see LDS Temple Endowment*)
- The purpose of the Law was to enhance the mortal experience of life and to prepare for Heaven. To enable human success and happiness!
- Adam and Eve learned to live the Law in the real world, building a God-given society
- They taught other humans the Law, enabling broad growth of human society

**ADAM FELT THAT MEN MIGHT BE;
AND MEN ARE, THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE JOY (2 NEPHI 2:25)**



*[HTTPS://WWW.CHURCHOFJESUSCHRIST.ORG/TEMPLES/WHAT-IS-TEMPLE-ENDOWMENT?LANG=ENG](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temple/what-is-temple-endowment?lang=eng)

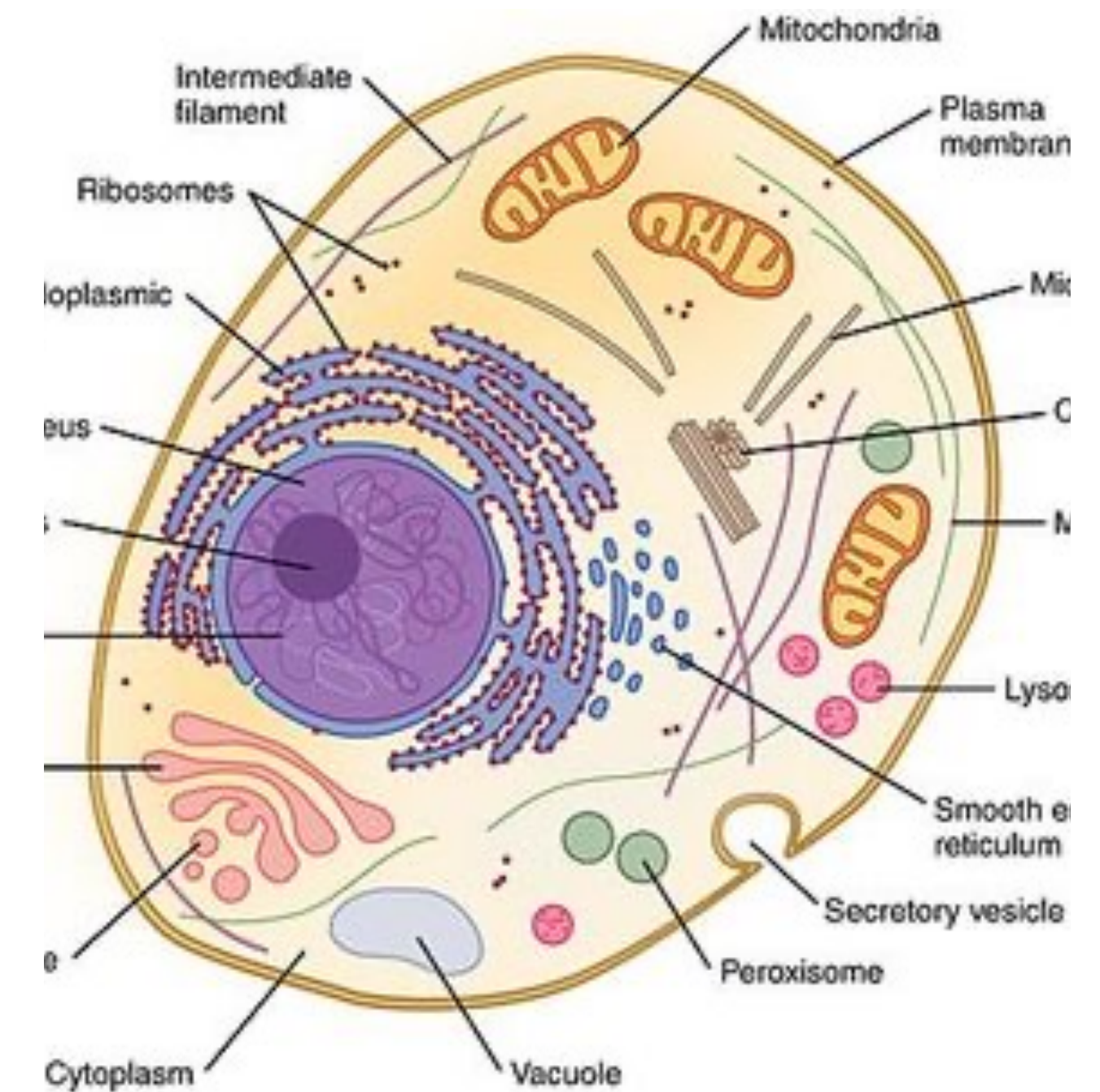
JESUS CHRIST- THE CREATOR AND SAVIOR- WAS PREPARED FOR THIS PLAN



- The difficulty of the “Natural Man” learning to live the Law of Heaven was well understood. This was not God’s first rodeo! Mankind was not going to leap from apes to angels without help.
- Adam’s transgression was foreseen, Jesus was prepared and assigned by God, “before the foundations of the world”, for this mission, to redeem all ‘mankind’ who would accept Christ.
- All mankind to be resurrected; unclear if any other living things (e.g. Neanderthals) receive eternal bodies.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NATURE

- Cooperation between living things has been the essence of progress up the path of evolutionary fitness
 - **Bacteria**- co-locate for mutual support, communicate, act *en masse*
 - **Cells**- Small cooperative communities of intra-cellular actors (some independent): **mitochondria, chloroplast, flagella?**
 - **Complex Bodies**- Colonies of **specialized cells** organized in mutually-beneficial arrangements: **organs, muscles, bones, nerves, digestion**, etc.
 - **Communities of individuals**- Ant colonies, bee hives, coral reefs, hunting packs/pods, defensive herds /schools /flocks

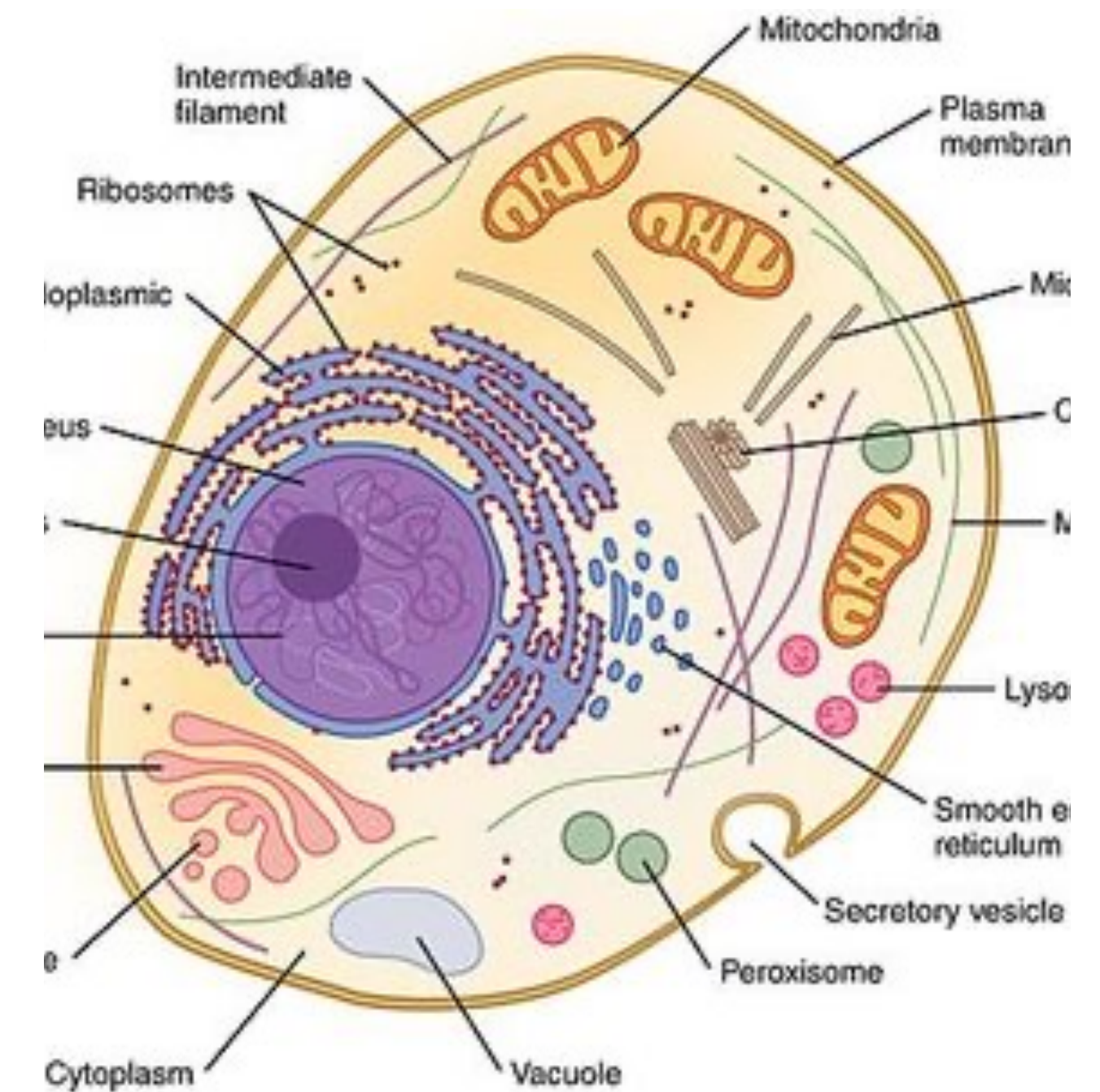


<https://www.microscopemaster.com/organelles.html>

SHIFT GEARS TO TECHNICAL

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GOD'S PLAN

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- **Human societies**- individual/community choice, commitment, specialization, protection, consolidation of power, knowledge sharing, mutual development



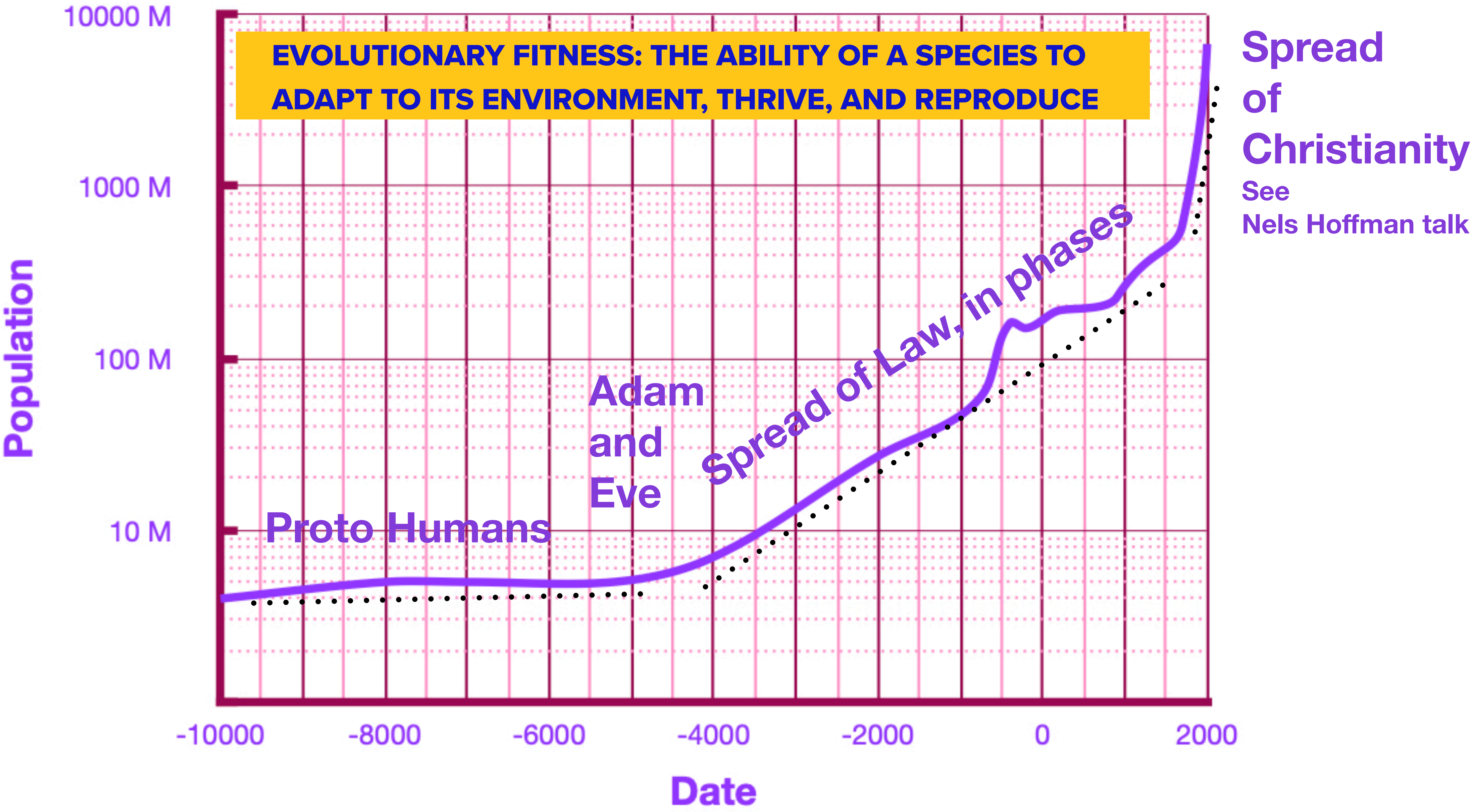
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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN GOD'S PLAN

- **Heaven- the ultimate in organized communities- Individually motivated**, united by love, service oriented, harmonious, intelligent, creative, continually improving

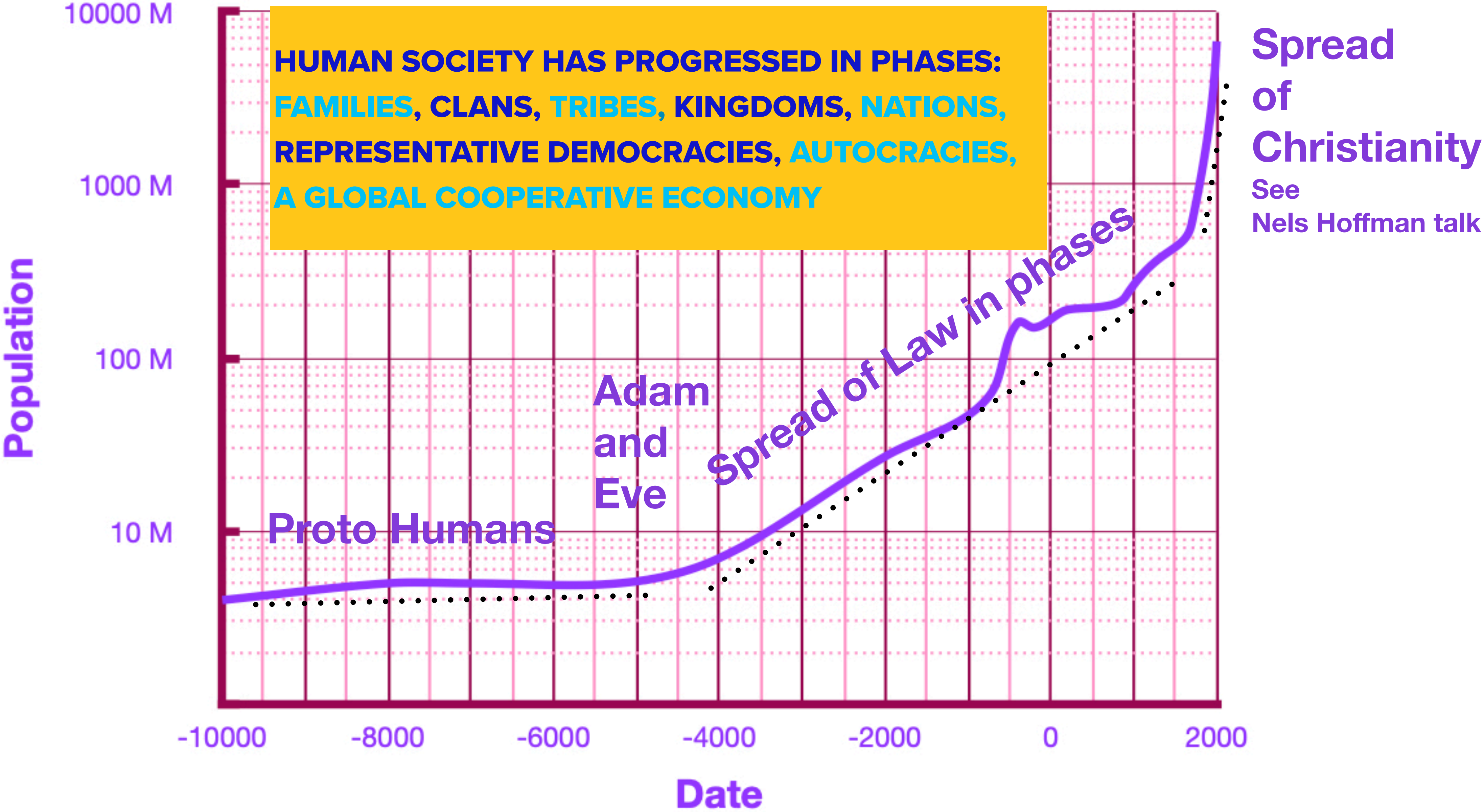


Human Population (Millions)



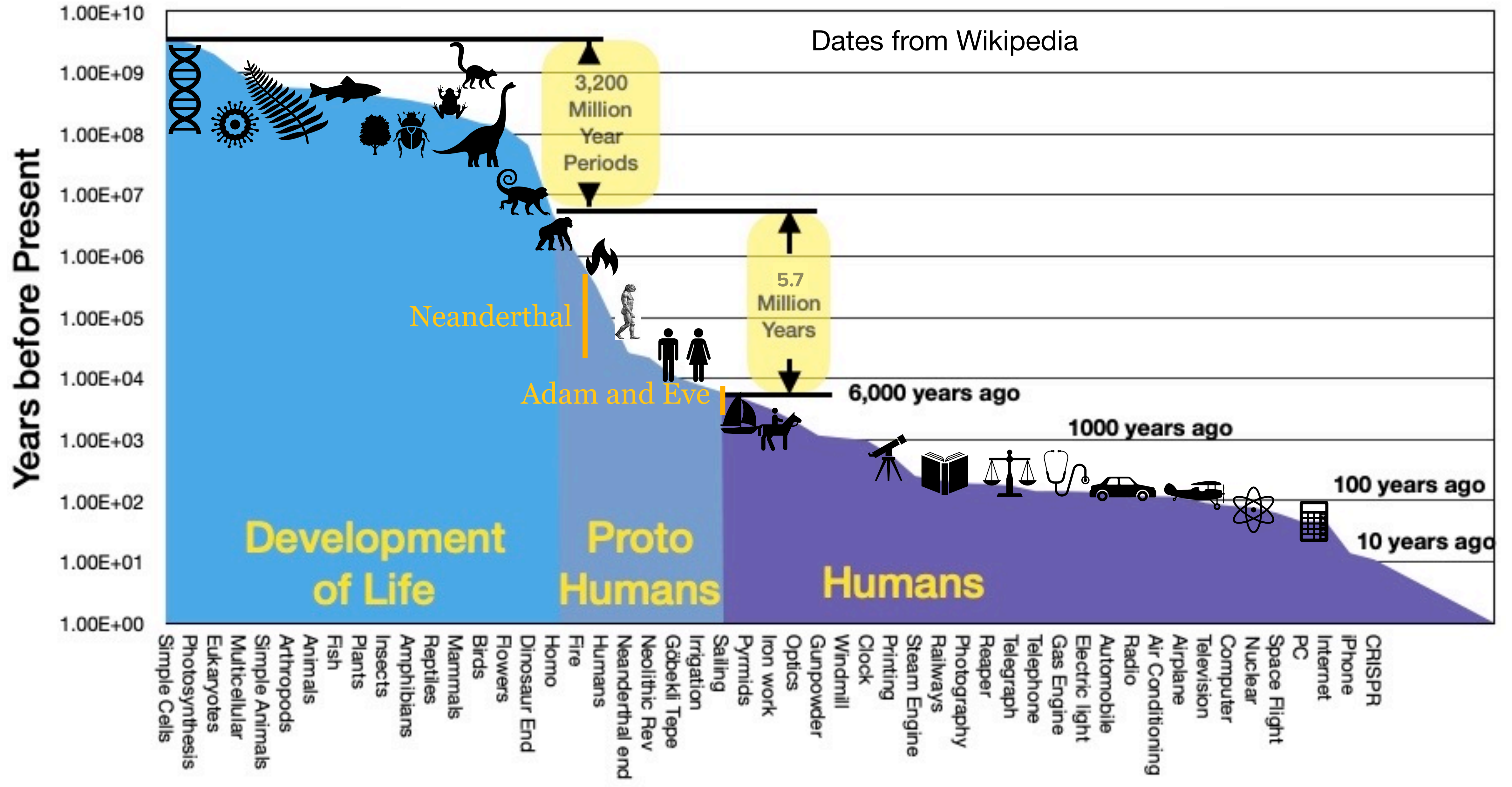
[HTTPS://OURWORLDINDATA.ORG/WORLD-POPULATION-GROWTH](https://ourworldindata.org/world-population-growth)

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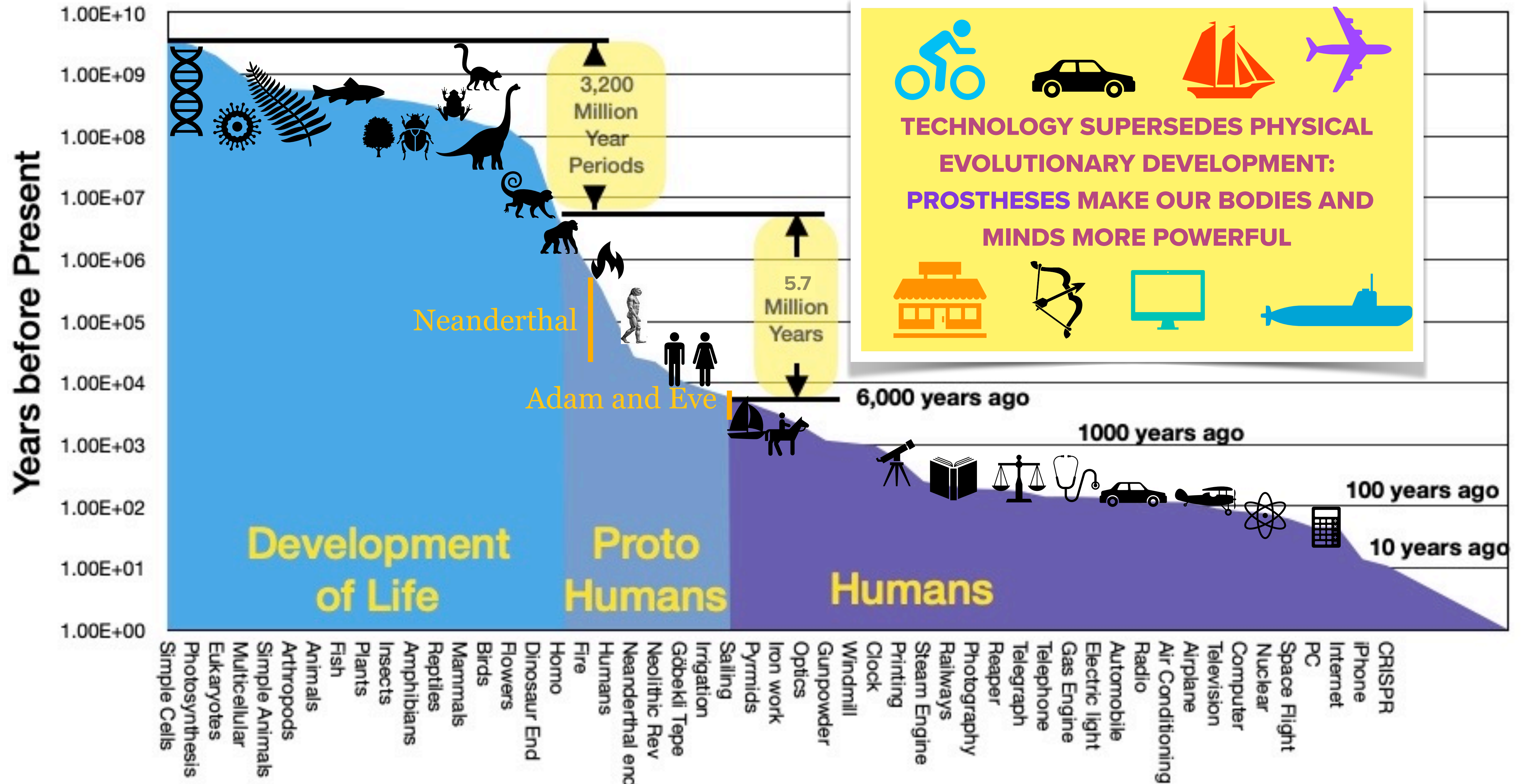


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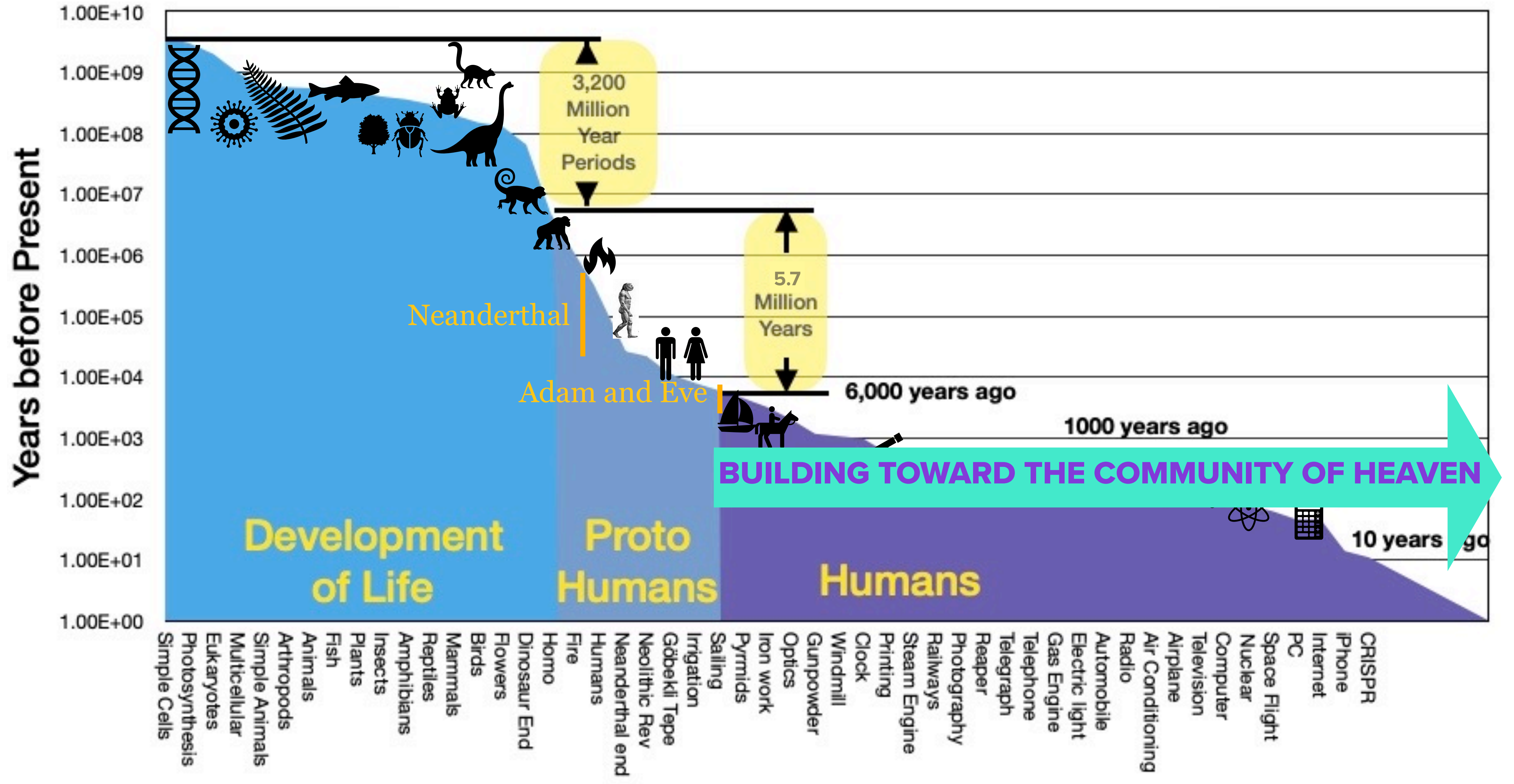
EXPLOSION OF EVOLUTIONARY FITNESS



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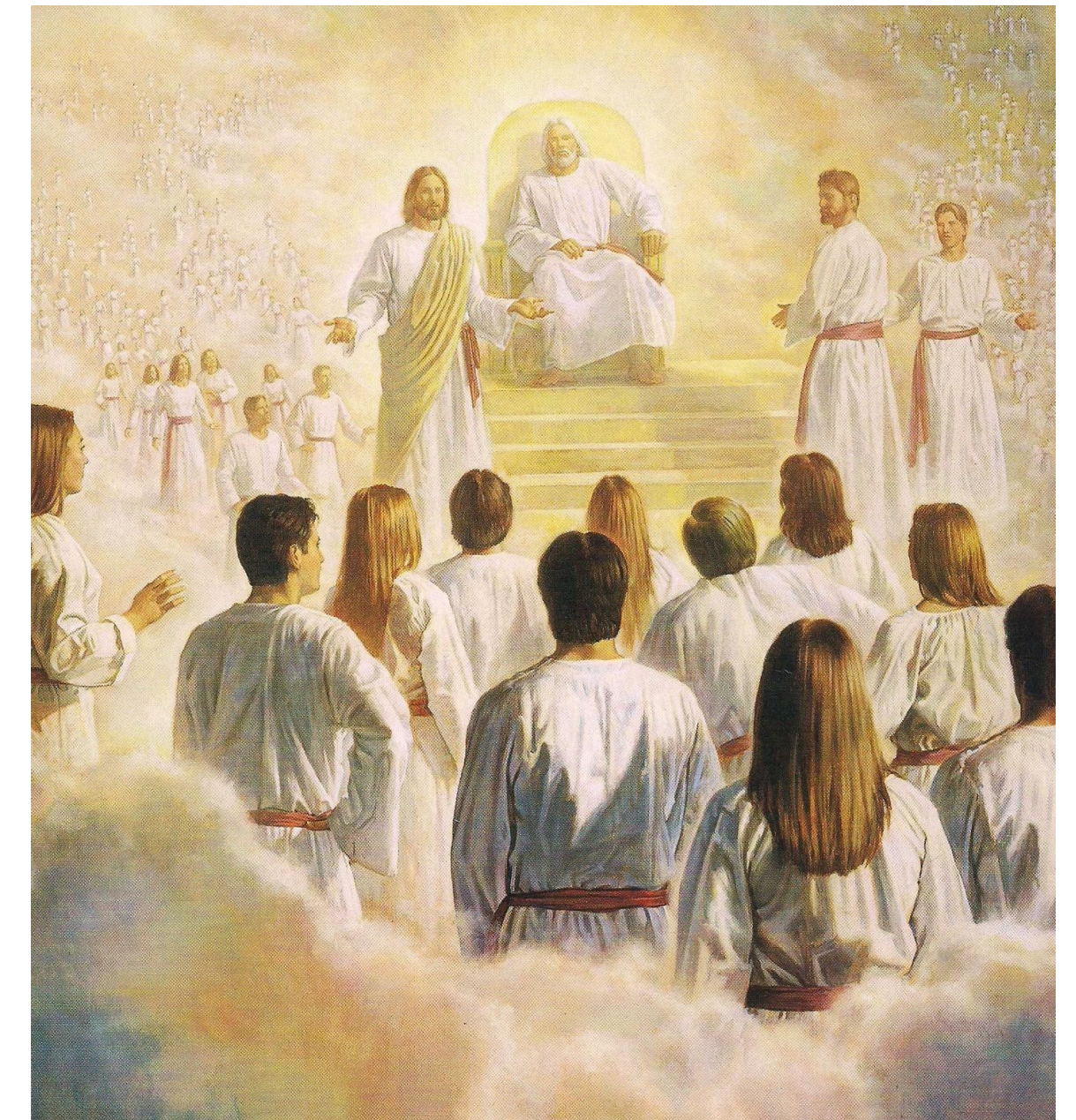


HEAVEN- A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, NOT JUST A NICE PLACE

- What does it mean to "go to heaven" in a scriptural sense, and how that may be accomplished?
 - **To become one with Jesus and God the Father** (John 17)

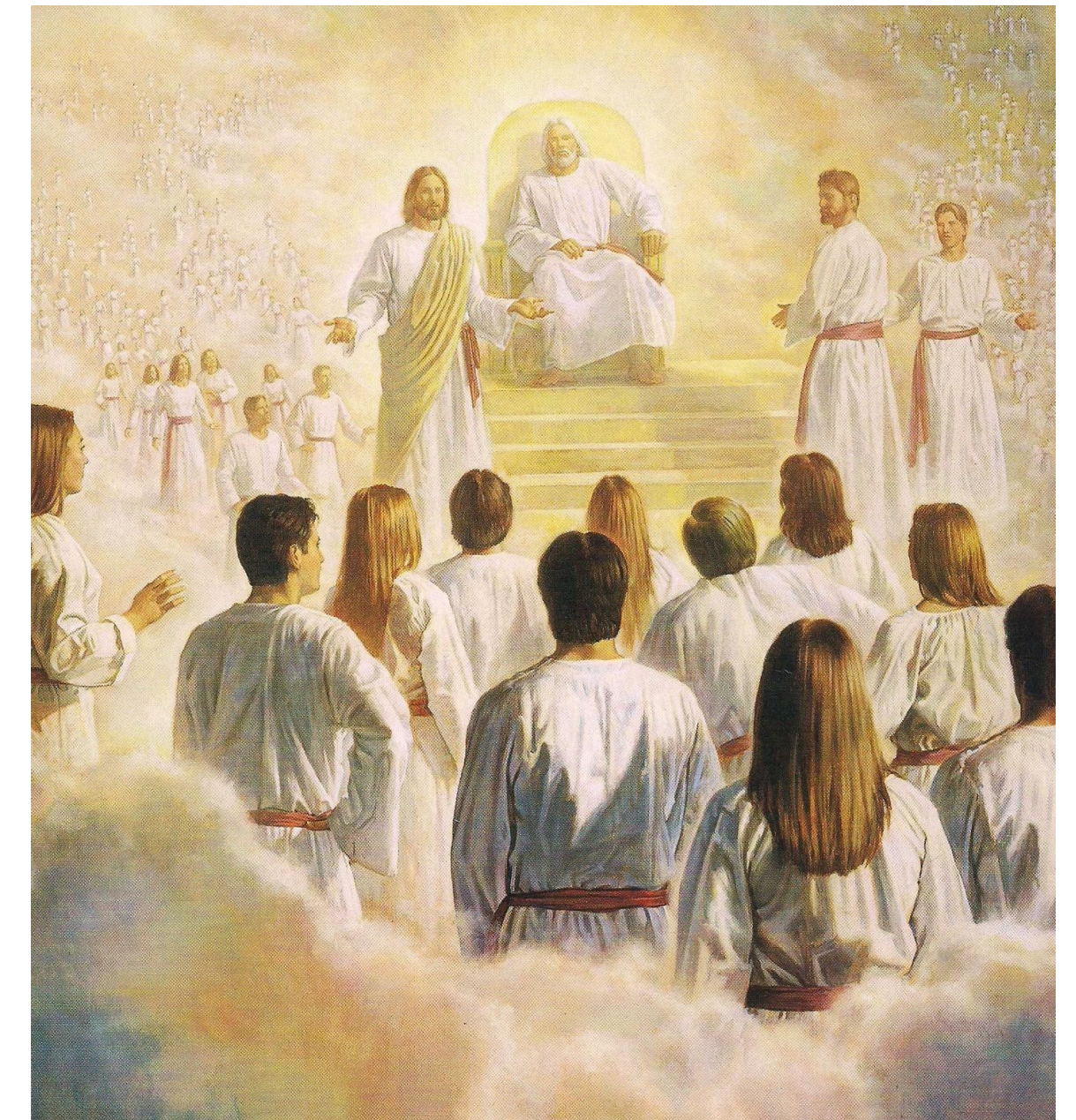
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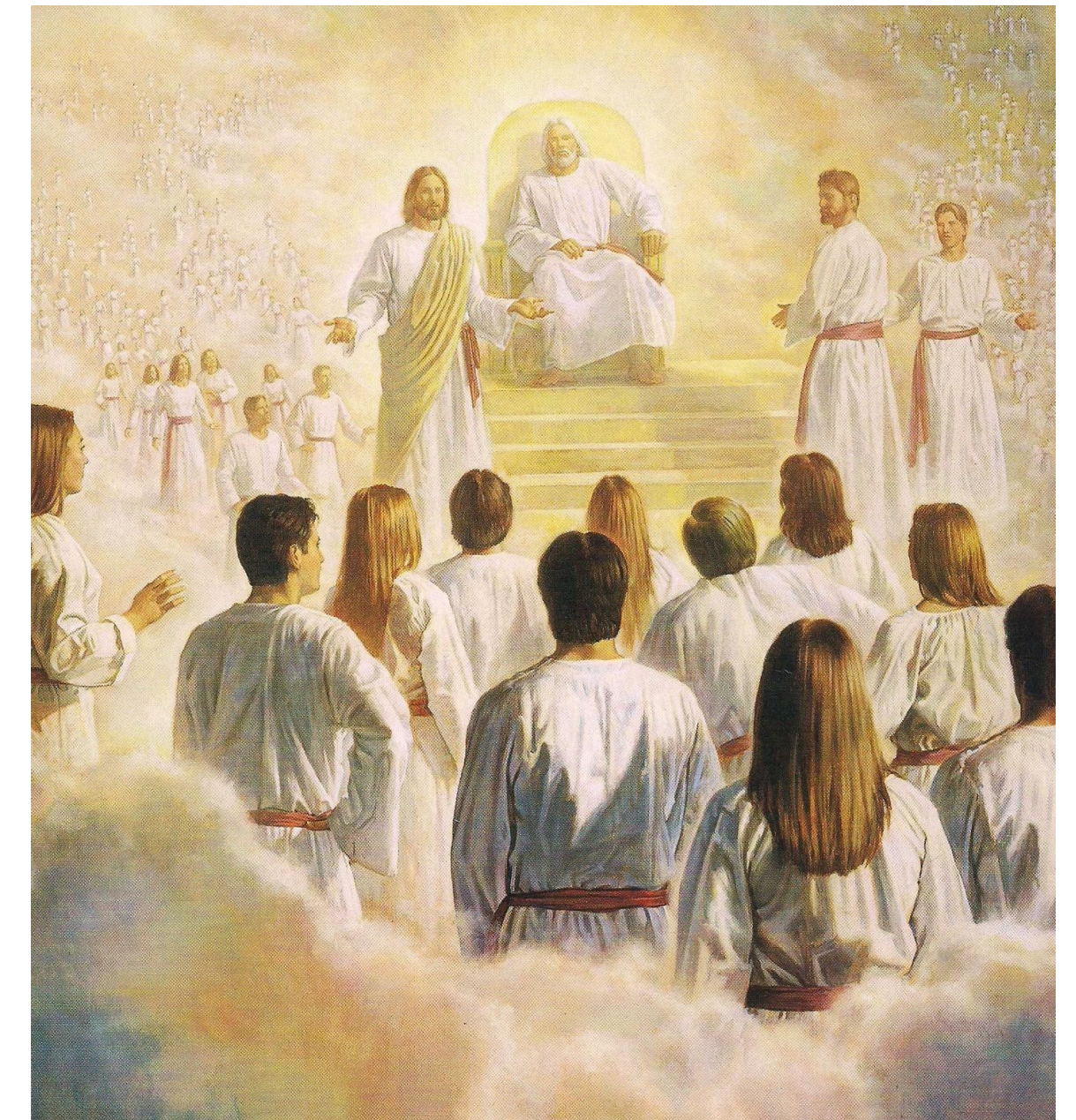
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 - Proximity to and association with God and Jesus
 - The community of faithful, obedient, law-abiding, resurrected people
 - Father/child relationship: an inheritance of power



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 - Father/child relationship: an inheritance of power
 - **Working together, in harmony**
 - As an intact family structure



CAN NEANDERTHALS “GO TO HEAVEN”?

Only if they can:

- Learn and obey the **Laws of Heaven**,
- **Accept Jesus Christ** as their Lord and Savior,
- **Obtain resurrection—???**

**BUT REALLY,
GOD LOVES ALL LIVING THINGS
WHO KNOWS WHAT HE HAS IN STORE?**

CLOSING THE ZIPPER

RELIGION

SCIENCE

I BELIEVE I HAVE GIVEN A PLAUSIBLE RELIGIOUS THEORY, BASED ON PUBLISHED RELIGION, AND CONSISTENT WITH CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE

THAT'S SHOWS THE ADAM AND EVE ACCOUNT:

- TO BE PLAUSIBLY CONSISTENT WITH SCIENCE
- TO BE THE FOUNDATION OF EXCEPTIONAL HUMAN SOCIETY
- PROVIDE CLEAR MEANING OF GOOD, EVIL, AND SIN

The way Adam and Eve come into the story rewards the scientific approach

WHAT I LEARNED IN THIS STUDY- NOT UNDERSTOOD BEFORE

- Mainstream Catholic and Protestant Christianity considers the Creation and Adam and Eve to be allegorical- a fiction with lessons for mankind- hence considerable discomfort with a literal/scientific approach.
- Adam and Eve are incorrectly condemned by mainstream Christianity as “evil geniuses”, who confined humanity to death and misery
- The Gift/Endowment given to Adam and Eve changed humanity across the world, leading toward Heaven.
- There were many living humans at the time of Adam and Eve and whom they interacted with after they left the Garden.
- The difference between Adam and prior humans was not a “spirit soul” unique to humans, or a new type of body, but knowledge and motivation, and a new relationship with God.
- Adam’s body was created through normal physical processes, similar to Jesus mortal body creation.
- God’s purpose is to develop partners with free agency, not minions.
- The transgression in the Garden enabled Adam and Eve to become independent, able to voluntarily choose God—or not. It was part of God’s plan.
- Free Will, Sin, Good and Evil are not corruptions of the “fallen” world. They only exist in the context of the Law of Heaven and man’s relationship with God.
- Adam and Eve were married before the Garden.
- Adam and Eve were taught by heavenly messengers several times after leaving the garden.
- God’s Law of Heaven is to provide success in mortality, as well as to prepare for Heaven.
- All terrestrial living things gain their physical bodies to “have joy”.

POINTS OF DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

I want acknowledge where my theory does not follow traditional Christianity

- Genesis account of the creation was local to the Earth and its Heavens, did not include the rest of the universe, and was not “ex nihilo”
- The Creation of Earth was as described in Genesis, and according to the laws of physics, but over eons of time, not solar “days”
- Adam was not the first human—but was first “man” defined as: “human accountable under the Law of Heaven” e.g.: “Man is not found on the Earth”
 - Other “humans” or protohumans existed long prior to Adam, but their progress was limited by not having the social power of united human society enabled by Law of Heaven.
 - Adam encountered incorrect teachings by other humans, after he left the Garden. Heavenly messengers, who brought him further instruction, and corrections.
- Adam’s “Creation” was natural birth—as miraculous as your own.
- Evil and Sin are not intrinsic characteristics of the “fallen” world, but are from accountability for disobeying the divine Law of Heaven, and exclusion from God’s presence.
- The consequences of Evil and Sin are mostly natural negative effects, accompanied by withdrawal of God’s help.
- Death came to Adam and Eve from their transgression, but not to the rest of the natural world, already subject to death.
- Adam and Eve were not evil geniuses, but were faithfully doing their best with a very hard assignment. They deserve praise and love, not condemnation. There is more to their story! The Bible account is incomplete.
- The “Fall” was not a degradation of humans, but a new requirement to step up to the divine Law of Heaven—the requirement for Man to love God and his fellowman.

BACKUP SLIDES

THE SPIRIT- “BREATH OF LIFE”

UNKNOWN TO SCIENCE, BELIEVED BY ALL MANKIND

- Declared by revelation: Bible, other Scriptures, **Body + Spirit = Soul**
- Affirmed by **every human religion and culture**
- Essential to every living physical body- **plant and animal** (Moses 3:5, 19)
- Has **structure and composition**—not “Casper” (Ether 3:15-16)
- Composed of matter “**too fine**” for existing physical detection (D&C 131:7-8)
- **Co-eternal with God** (Joseph Smith- King Follet Sermon)
- **Continuum of development**—many levels of intelligence (Abraham 3:19)
- Spirit bodies **created spiritually before physically** (Moses 3:5)
- “**Spirit and element, inseparably connected, receive a fulness of joy**” (D&C 93:33)
- Body and spirit **separated at death** (James 2:26)
- **Spirits of dead humans continue in “spirit world”, until Resurrection.** (Alma 40)
- At Resurrection, “**The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form**”, to die no more (Alma 11:43)



Casper the Friendly Ghost- Pintrist by Sandra



There is much more to understand about spirits. Stay tuned.