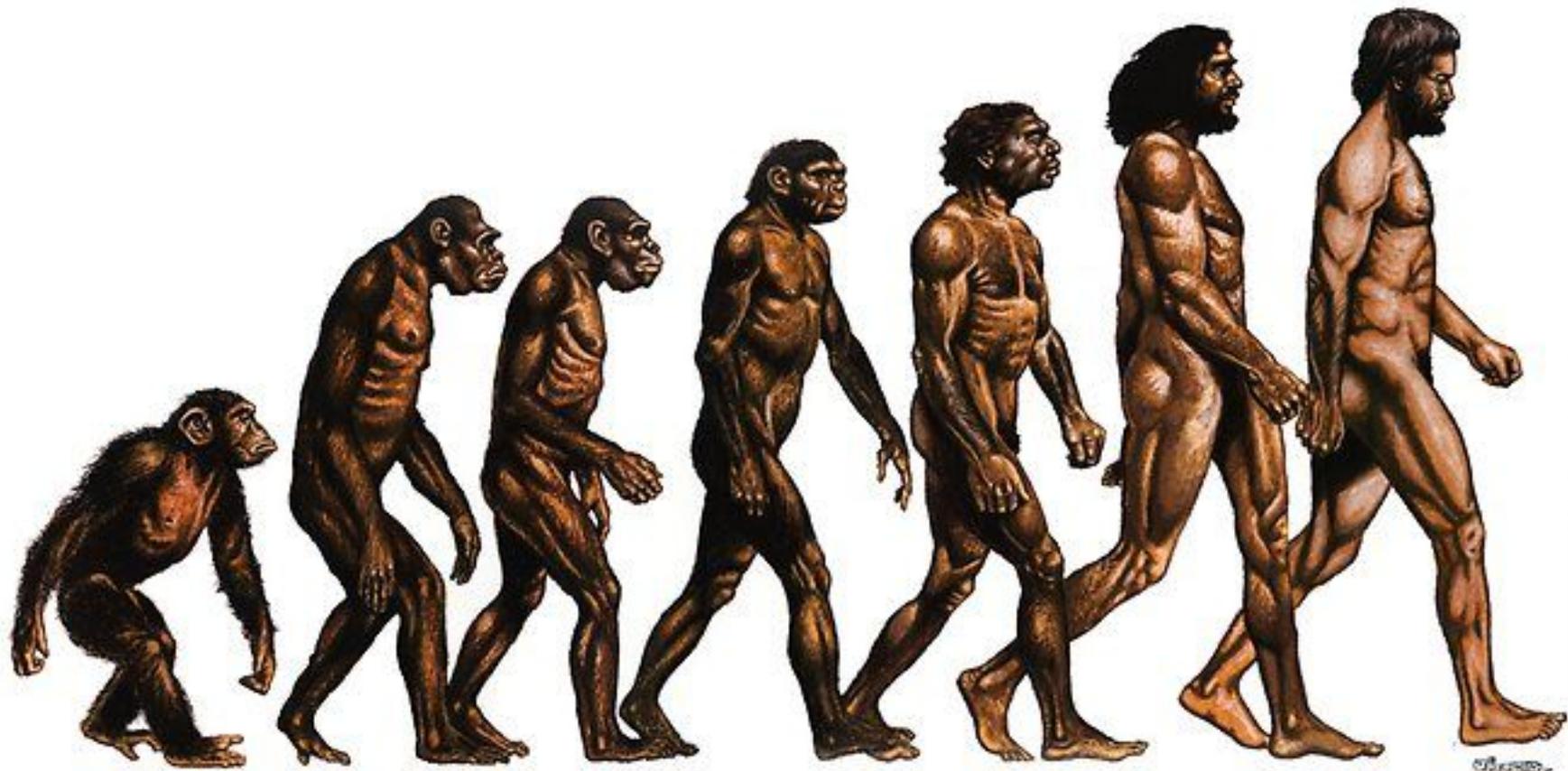


נש לזמ



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From Genesis to Jesus

*What Can The Torah Can Tell Us
About Christ?*

Course Assumptions

- Each class will have an guiding scripture, an “Outrageous Proposition,” and perhaps an underlying question to ponder.
- Though recommended, it is not necessary to attend every class — each class has its own integrity as a unit.
- A wide range of opinions, from both sources and participants, is welcomed and encouraged! (However, we do not need to “re-fight” the battles of fundamentalism)
- We believe that Scripture is a dynamic vehicle of the Holy Spirit, and so its language invites imaginative speculation, differences of opinion, and ultimately, insight and transformation.

Course Thesis

- * There is a sacred line of Revelation from the Torah, through the Prophets, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Messiah. If we miss this connection, we miss the deepest meaning of our life “in Christ.”

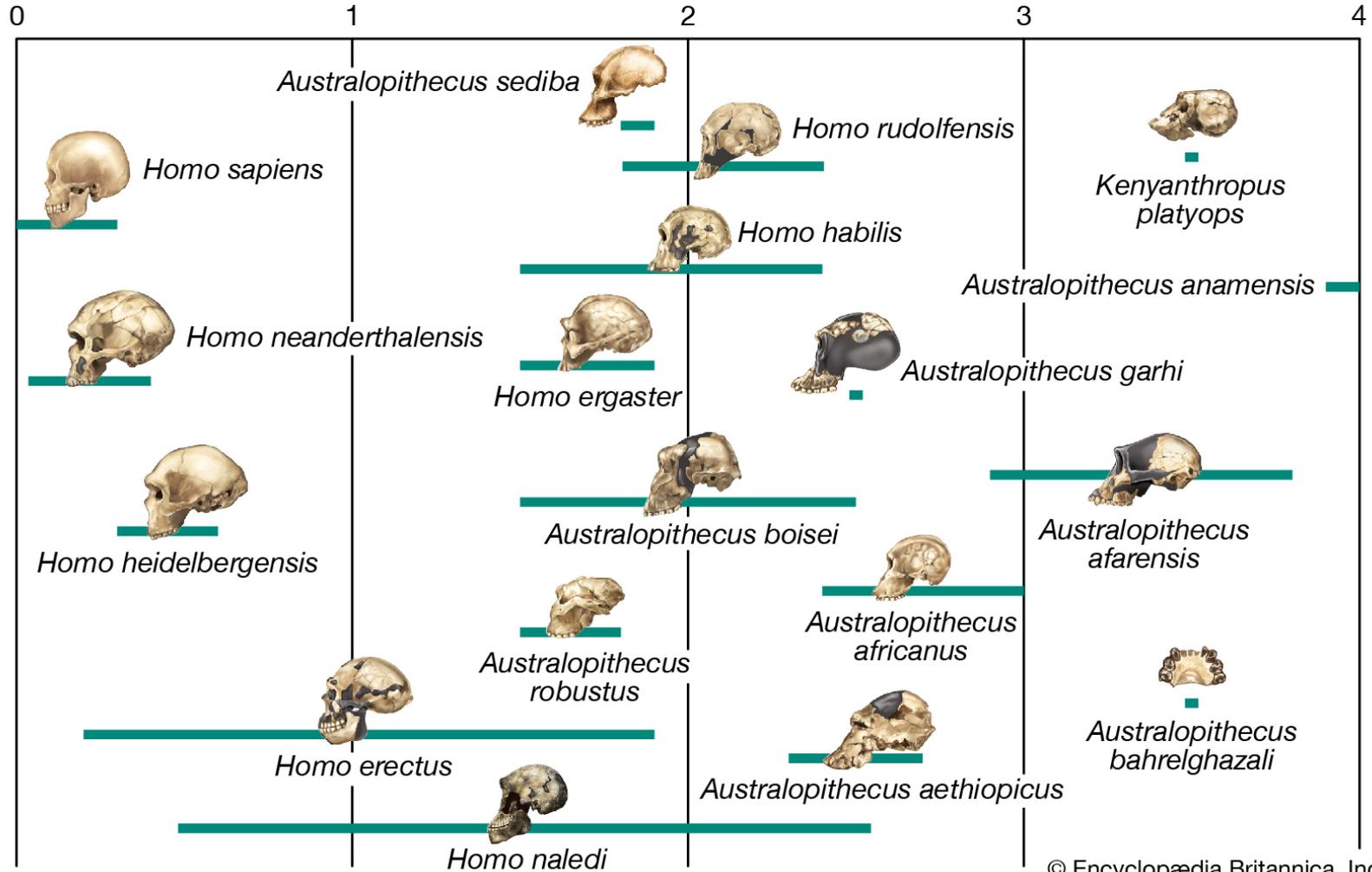
שְׁלוֹמִים



Timeline of History *Years before the present*

- * 13.5 Billion Matter & Energy appear. Beginning of Physics.
Atoms and molecules appear Beginning of chemistry.
- 4.5 Billion Formation of Planet Earth
- 3.8 Billion. Emergence of Organisms. Beginning of biology.
- 201 Million Jurassic Period of Dinosaurs
- * 6 Million Last common grandmother of humans and chimpanzees
- * 2.5 Million Evolution of genus Homo in Africa. First stone tools
- * 2 million Hominids spread from Africa to Eurasia
- * 500,000 Neanderthals evolve in Europe and the Middle East
- * 300,000 Daily use of fire
- * 200,000 Homo Sapiens evolves in East Africa*
- * 70,000 Sapiens The Cognitive Revolution: Emergence of Fictive Language. Beginning of "History".
spread beyond Africa. ("Tree of Knowledge" mutation?)
- * 45,000 Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Aust. megafauna
- * 40,000 "Lion Man" statue carved in Stadel Cave, Germany
- * 30,000 Extinction of Neanderthals
- * 16,000 Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.
- * 13,000 Extinction of Homo floresiensis. Homo Sapiens the only surviving human species.
- * 12,000 Agricultural Revolution. Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent
settlements. Transition to grain-centered nourishment.
- * 5,000 First Kingdoms, scripts, and money. Polytheistic religions. 60% Sapiens
mal-nourished to support middle and upper classes.

millions of years ago





Human beings were now able to think of something that does not exist. The person who crafted him had become fully human, since Homo Sapiens is the only animal with the ability to envision something that is not immediately apparent or has not yet come to be. Lion man is, therefore, a product of the imagination, which John Paul Sartre defined as the “ability to think of what is not.”

Karen Armstrong, “The Lost Art of Scripture,” p. 2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light,"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day. Genesis 1:1-5

<u>70,000</u>	<u>The Cognitive Revolution</u>: Emergence of Fictive Language. Beginning of “History”. Sapiens spread beyond Africa. (“Tree of Knowledge” mutation?)
45,000	Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Australian megafauna.
40,000	“Lion Man” statue carved in Stadel Cave, Germany
30,000	Extinction of Neanderthals
16,000	Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.
13,000	Extinction of Homo floresiensis. Homo Sapiens the only surviving human species.
<u>12,000</u>	<u>Agricultural Revolution</u>. Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent settlements. Transition to grain-centered nourishment.
5,000	First Kingdoms, scripts, and money. Polytheistic religions. 60% Sapiens mal-nourished to support middle and upper classes.

Questions to ponder:

1. What difference does it make to you that God called the Creation “Good”?
2. Do these insights from History, Anthropology, or Science help or hinder your reading of the Bible? Your Prayer life? Why?

(Extra Credit): Did Neanderthals have a souls?

From the Book of Common Prayer:

Q- What are we by nature?

A- We are part of God's creation, made in the image of God.

Q- What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

A- It means that we are free to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with God

p. 845

Preposterous Proposition?

For next week:

Read **Genesis 2:5-3:24**

- Read it as if you had never read it before (i.e., as if for the very first time)
- Read it as if it were the very beginning of the Bible.