

"Cavemen"

Genesis 1:24-27

Baxter Exum (#997)
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Introduction:

This morning, I would like to ask that we all turn together to **Genesis 1**, and in just a moment, I would like for us to all look together at **Genesis 1:26-31**. In our pew Bibles, the passage is found on **page 2**. For our lesson this morning, I would like for us to consider a rather unusual question from one of our members—a request for a sermon on what the Bible teaches on the subject of **cavemen**. **»PPT»** What an unusual question! And yet when we think about it, we realize that our children are getting beaten down on a regular basis with the theory of evolution. The idea is that life came from nothing and that humans (over millions of years) evolved from more primitive life forms—most recently evolving from half-savage **"cave men."** And so in our textbooks, we see drawings of the progression from the monkey (all stooped over), to perhaps an ape, eventually to a man, but in between there are those creatures that do not really seem to fit in either direction.

Back in high school, I remember doing a speech on the idea that God created the world and everything in it in only six days, and I remember the social studies teacher pulling me aside after class. His face was red, the veins were bulging in his neck, he pulled out a pen, he held up a pen and dropped it onto the desk, he pointed to the poster of evolutionary progression on the wall, and he said, **"Human evolution is just as much a fact of science as the law of gravity."** At which point I said, **"Then why is it called the 'Law of Gravity' and the 'Theory of Evolution'?"** I thought the man was about to have a stroke, but thankfully he let me go and I managed to pass that class. That, by the way, is one of the reasons why I decided to graduate early from high school.

Our children, then, are being taught the Theory of Evolution as if it were a **"Law."** It starts in kindergarten—we have seen it with our own children right here in Madison. And because people in our society have been so indoctrinated in our public schools and by our media, they tend to believe that any evidence of someone living in a cave must be further proof of evolution—that any evidence of a caveman must be proof of these half-human half-animal creatures somewhere back along the line of human evolution. And so even good Christian people may start to doubt the truth of what we read in the Scriptures.

It seems that the typical early man in the minds of many people is a half-savage wild-man, with long hair, carrying a club, living in a cave and dragging his wife around by the hair. But even before we get started, we need to remind ourselves of

the truth that man was made in the image of God. If you will, please look with me at **Genesis 1** and what happens on Day #6—**Genesis 1:26-31**...

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰ and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. ³¹ God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

It is hardly possible to give this subject the attention it deserves in only one brief lesson, but I would like to give at least an overview—specifically on what the Bible teaches on the subject of cavemen—and I would like for us to look at three basic ideas: 1.) First of all, **»PPT»** just a summary of what we know about ancient cavemen, 2.) Secondly, **»PPT»** an overview of cavemen in the Bible, 3.) And then finally, **»PPT»** a brief review of cavemen living around us today.

I. But first of all, let us consider just a brief summary of what we know about what are commonly referred to as "PREHISTORIC CAVEMEN."
»PPT»

And right away, we run into a problem, because even by using the term "**prehistoric**," we find a conflict with our Christian faith. According to the Bible, there is no such thing as "**prehistoric man**," because the term "**prehistoric**" refers to some time before written history. And yet as we have reminded ourselves this morning, there is no such thing. In **Genesis 1**, we have written history from the very first week that this world was in existence! And so when people use the term "**prehistoric**," they are presupposing that that the book of **Genesis** is nothing but a man-made myth. So we are faced with a dilemma—Do we believe the Scriptures or do we believe that humans slowly evolved from nothing over millions of years? There is no middle option. I would suggest, then, that a Christian cannot even use the term "**prehistoric**" without denying that the Bible is the word of God. Either people slowly evolved from nothing or they were created in their perfect human state on Day #6, recorded for us in **Genesis 1**.

But let us consider the second term. What about cavemen? When you look at the word itself, a caveman is simply a man who lived in a cave. So, we are talking about humans here! Many scientists, though, point to archeological discoveries from ancient caves, and they want us to believe that these people were half-savage beasts who communicated by grunting—transitional beings somewhere along the evolutionary scale somewhere between apes and man. I would suggest, though, that that is an arrogant position. As modern people on the cutting edge of science and technology, it is hard for us to admit that people from the ancient past had any kind of knowledge.

And yet as we look for an example of those from the ancient past who were very smart, we only need to look back at the ancient Egyptians. More than 4,500 years ago, these people built some pyramids. **»PPT»** The Great Pyramid stood nearly 500 feet tall—roughly the same height of the Washington Monument in our own nation's capital. Archaeologists tell us that the Great Pyramid was the largest structure in the world for more than 3,800 years. You can do some serious reading on the Great Pyramid, and even today, scientists do not know how they did it! The four corners are aligned almost perfectly with the points of the compass. The joints in the casing stones are only 1/50th of an inch wide. The structure was made of over 2 million blocks of stone. And we do not have a clue as to how they did it! It is possible, then, that ancient people (cavemen or not) were a lot smarter than we might like to admit!

And as we would expect, the Bible confirms this. **»PPT»** Adam was created with the ability to communicate—he was not a club-carrying grunter. In **Genesis 2**, Adam was given the responsibility of naming the animals that God had created. Can you imagine! We think of the trouble that parents today have in coming up with names for their children, but Adam named the animals. And not only did he name them, but we have to assume that he remembered the names! Adam's son Abel was a keeper of flocks. Adam's other son Cain was a tiller of the ground. That was all within the second generation from the creation—people were keeping domesticated animals and were planting and harvesting crops—things scientists tell us did not develop for millions of years. Jubal, one of Cain's descendants, became the father of all those who play the harp and flute (**Genesis 4:21**). Tubal-Cain, Jubal's half-brother, made tools out of bronze and iron (**Genesis 4:22**). Bronze is an alloy made up primarily of copper normally mixed with tin, and so there would have been mining and certainly some science and some experimentation going on there. Several years later, Noah built an ark larger than many modern-day cruise ships. We know from **Job 28** that ancient civilizations were able to dig tunnels in the earth and mine for precious metals. I am simply pointing out that ancient people were not as ignorant as some scientists make them out to be.

But back to cavemen: Evolutionists would like for us to believe that cavemen were pre-human, the missing links, the last stage of evolution just before modern man emerged from the jungle, but the more we discover about these people, the more we realize that (just like Adam and his descendants) they were very, very intelligent. We know from the evidence that they could sew their own clothing (scraps of clothing and sewing needles have been found in the caves), they could make pottery, they

could make various tools, they cooked their food on fires (fire pits have been discovered), and they painted pictures that look a lot better than what Picasso could have painted. And so the idea that these people are the missing links between humans and animals is completely false.

Archaeologists have uncovered many caves where ancient people used to live, **»PPT»** and the artwork in some of those caves is absolutely amazing! Archeologists tell us that the people who lived in these caves were able to mix paints, and some of the artwork is just beautiful. **»PPT»** In some of the caves in southwest France, we see pictures of rhinoceroses, horses, deer, hyenas, leopards, reindeer, and many other animals. Apparently, those who lived in the caves especially liked to paint bears. The leading theory right now is that the bears were using the caves for hibernating, and people went in there and killed the bears as they were sleeping and then used them for food and clothing—brilliant! Archaeologists have discovered necklaces made out of the teeth of bears and lions. They have discovered carved statues. They have discovered a flute made out of the leg-bone of a bear. The so-called “cavemen,” then, did not evolve from more primitive creatures, but they match up perfectly with the descendants of Adam and Eve—they were not as stupid as scientists would have us to believe.

Before we move on, I should also point out some fairly recent updates in the way that anthropologists are now looking at one particular group of ancient man. **»PPT»** I am referring to the Neanderthals—depicted here in an old display from the Field Museum in Chicago. At one time, scientists considered the Neanderthals to be in the “**caveman**” category, we might say—knuckle-walking, club-wielding savages. And yet over the last few years, as more and more discoveries have been made, scientists are now starting to change their minds a little bit. It is now obvious that the Neanderthals are a lot more advanced than we originally believed them to be. Archaeologists have discovered a number of cultural habits that distinguish Neanderthals from the animal category. It is amazing, by the way, how scientists can discover a tooth, a bone, a small piece of skull, and they somehow know that a creature walked all stooped over, carried a club, and was covered with hair! But we are learning more and more. We now know, for example, that Neanderthals had the ability to make tools that were used to make other tools. We now know that they used stone furniture in their caves. We now know that they played musical instruments. We now know that they had controlled use of fire. We now know that they took care of their sick and wounded—archaeologists have now discovered a Neanderthal with a surgical amputation. And probably most important of all, archaeologists have discovered evidence of some kind of understanding about the afterlife. They have discovered complex burial rituals. They have discovered Neanderthals buried on a bed of flowers, with special arrangements of other artifacts lined up in the grave, with the bodies posed in certain positions.

Of course, many years ago, scientists assumed that the low, sloping forehead was evidence of less intelligence and that big skulls are evidence of being brilliant. I like that theory. As you well know, I have a huge head. Several years ago, when I went to get a motorcycle helmet, I tried on one that was XXXL, and it was too small! So, I kind of like that theory! Scientists liked that theory also...until they discovered some

Neanderthals with skulls that were bigger than their own...and then they needed to do a little recalculation! And yet (even aside from that) when we look at the world around us, we discover that there are some fairly intelligent people who could easily pass as being Neanderthal. »PPT» My apologies to Danny Devito! But there are others. »PPT» Even Donald Trump bears some striking similarities to the Neanderthal on the left. »PPT» And then, of course, we need to throw Newt Gingrich up there. I am not making any judgments on the intelligence of these men, but I would question the idea that a prominent brow and a sloping forehead necessarily mean that someone lives in a cave! »PPT» Perhaps some of you remember the Cavemen show on ABC. It is amazing to me that with a little makeup and some long hair, we have Neanderthals wearing suits, and they look surprisingly like a lot of people we see around us.

First of all, then, we have looked at the idea of “prehistoric cavemen,” and we have discovered that ***living in a cave does not make someone half-animal any more than living in our house makes our guinea pigs half-human!*** As Christians, we cannot let ourselves be intimidated by the evolutionary propaganda that we find at all levels of society—from public kindergarten all the way up through middle and high school and obviously at the university level.

II. For just a few moments, though, we should also briefly review WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT CAVEMEN. »PPT»

Some people might be surprised to find that there are many cavemen referred to in the Bible! In fact, the first reference to someone living in a cave is pretty early in the Bible—back in **Genesis 19**. You may want to be turning with me there, because after God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and after Lot’s wife was destroyed as they were leaving, we find that Lot and his daughters lived in a cave. Please notice the first reference to a caveman (and his cave-daughters) in the Bible. In **Genesis 19:30**, the Bible says that, ***“Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters.”*** Did that make Lot prehistoric? Does the fact that Lot lived in a cave mean that he was half-human? No, it does not.

And from there, we find a number of references to caves in the Bible. You might remember from **Genesis 23** that Abraham purchased a cave for the burial of his wife Sarah. Eventually Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all buried in that same cave, along with their wives.

We go on to read about several Bible characters who spent some time living in caves. You might remember a reference in **Joshua 10** to a number of enemy kings who fled from Joshua and hid in a cave. Joshua had them killed, and had them thrown back into the cave and sealed up. We wonder what archaeologists would do with that evidence—five dead kings sealed up in a cave!

During the time of the judges, there are several passages that refer to God's people hiding in caves—hiding from the Midianites and the Philistines and from other enemies.

In the book of **1 Samuel**, between **chapters 22-24**, we have several references to King David also spending some time in various caves. In fact, if you look over at **Psalm 57** and **Psalm 142**, you will notice the headings on those **Psalms**. Both songs were written by King David during the time that he spent in the caves. **Psalm 57** was specifically written by David when he was hiding from King Saul. Think about hiding in a cave and consider the words of **Psalm 57:1**, "**Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, for my soul takes refuge in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes by.**" King David was a caveman!

In **1 Kings 18:4**, we read about Obadiah hiding a hundred prophets in a cave as they were fleeing from Queen Jezebel. In the next chapter, in **1 Kings 19:9**, we find that the prophet Elijah was also hiding in a cave—hiding from Jezebel as well. God came and spoke to him in the cave.

In the New Testament, we find in **John 11** that Lazarus was buried in a cave. There is speculation that Jesus was even born in a cave. Caves were often used as stables. Jesus was born in a stable, so that is certainly a possibility. And then, in **Hebrews 11:37-38**, the writer of **Hebrews** refers to those great heroes of faith from the Old Testament as he says that, "**They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.**" The Bible, therefore, clearly teaches that many people have lived in caves—from the book of **Genesis** all the way through to the New Testament.

III. But before we close our thoughts on this subject, we need to ask ourselves: DO WE STILL HAVE CAVEMEN WITH US TODAY? »PPT»

Well, the answer (obviously) is, "**Yes!**" »PPT» In fact, for more than seven years now, the most powerful military in the world has been looking for a man who has been supposedly hiding in a cave! Apparently, the ancient Israelites were on to something. And there again, living in a cave does not necessarily imply that a person lacks intelligence or technology. After all, the picture on the wall back here was taken off of a videotape—a tape that was released on cable television!

Here in Wisconsin, »PPT» we are more familiar with the House on the Rock. And although it is not in a cave, per se, if you have been there, then you know that it is very "**cave-like.**" The house was literally built on the rock—very, very unusual!

But around the world, and even here in the United States, people continue to live in caves. »PPT» The house pictured here is built into a cave in modern-day Turkey.

If you look very carefully, you might even notice telephone and electric lines as well as a TV antenna! So, it is a well-equipped cave!

At breakfast this morning, the waitress learned that I was preaching on cavemen, and she said, **"Oh, you mean those people who trample other people to get into Wal-Mart?"** I guess we still have the caveman attitude in modern society! And then she pointed out that with the economy the way it is, we may all go back to living in caves. And that is certainly a possibility.

The point of this is simply to show that people have lived in caves since ancient times, and that certainly does not make them **"prehistoric"** or **"missing links."** Living in a cave does not make a person half-savage.

Conclusion:

As we close this morning's lesson, I would like to recommend two resources that were especially helpful in the preparation of this morning's lesson. I would highly recommend taking out a piece of paper and writing these down. **»PPT»** The first is the website www.apologeticspress.org, operated by Apologetics Press in Montgomery, Alabama. You might remember that we sent this group some financial support several years ago. We use their material in our Bible Correspondence Course program here at Four Lakes. We mail their lessons out all over the United States. If you go to their website, you can do a search for "caveman" or "Neanderthal," and there will be enough material there to keep you occupied for some time.

»PPT» The second book I would recommend is the book, ***Facts and Fallacies of the Fossil Record: Re-evaluating the Supposed Evidences for Human Evolution***, a book by Brett Rutherford. A lot of us know Brett, as he used to be the preacher right here in Madison. We are currently supporting him as a missionary to Devonport, Tasmania, in Australia. Brett's background is in the field of archaeology and anthropology. He does a great job of covering some of the frauds that have been perpetrated in the name of science over the past 200 years or so.

Here at the end, we come back to the question of whether cavemen fit in with what the Bible teaches, and the answer is **"Yes!"** However, they do not fit in the way that evolutionists would like for them to fit in. The truth is, God created the very first man on Day #6. Adam was fully human—very intelligent, and over time some human beings decided (for whatever reason) to live in caves.

In just a few moments, we will sing #722, ***"We Have Heard the Joyful Sound,"*** and in that song, the songwriter says, **"Sing, ye islands of the sea; Echo back, ye ocean caves...Shout salvation full and free, highest hills and deepest caves; This our song of victory: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!"** This morning, our message as a congregation of God's people is that Jesus saves. God sent His only Son as a sacrifice for our sins. We respond to that sacrifice with faithful, loving obedience. We turn away from sin, and we honor God as our Creator by allowing ourselves to be immersed in water for the forgiveness of our sins. If you have any

questions (whether you live in a cave, or in a house, or in an apartment, or wherever you live), we would love to meet with you and study the Scriptures. But if you are ready to obey the gospel right now, you can let us know as we sing this next song. Let's stand and sing...

To comment on this lesson: church@fourlakescoc.org