

# **Creation and Evolution**

**San Diego California Stake Fireside  
Sunday, 12 March 2006  
Presenter: Vincent Bromman**

# 175 years ago in 1831

## Charles Darwin & Joseph Smith





# Life's Variety



# Adam & Eve



# Like Apes?

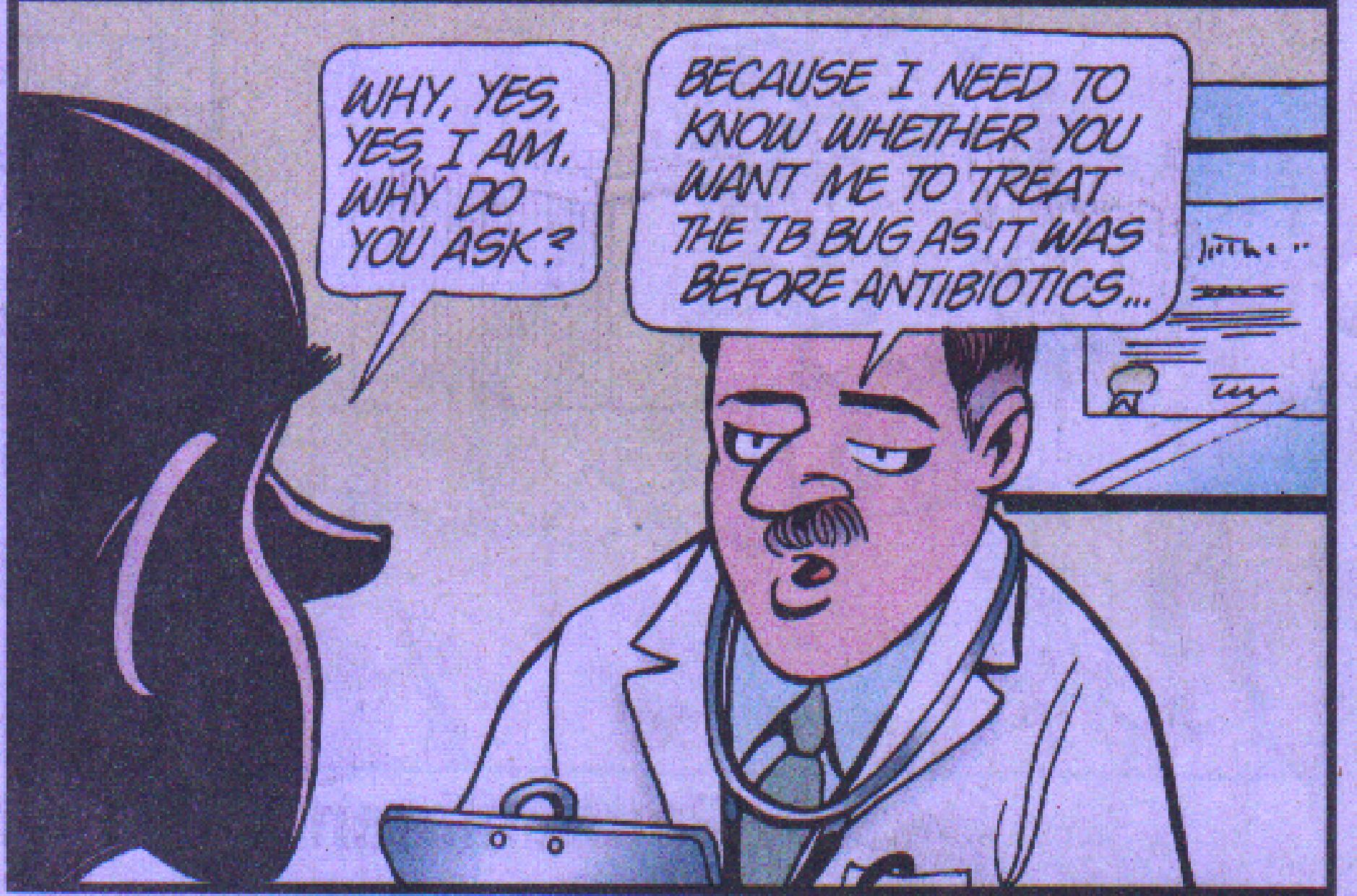


TB? MY GOD!  
ARE YOU SURE?

AFRAID SO. BUT WE  
CAUGHT IT EARLY.

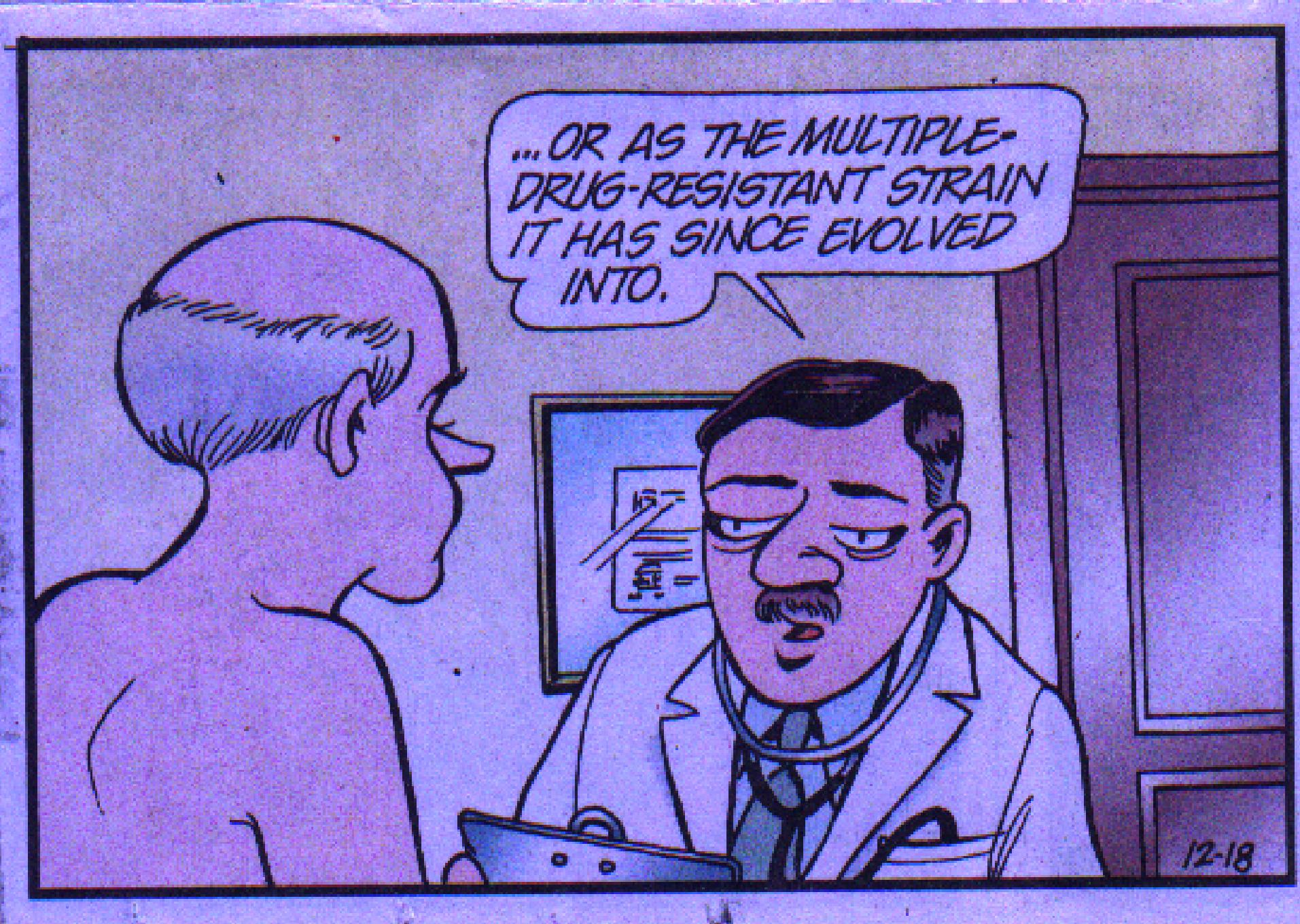
SO MY PROGNO-  
SIS IS GOOD?

DEPENDS.  
ARE YOU A  
CREATIONIST?



WHY, YES,  
YES, I AM.  
WHY DO  
YOU ASK?

BECAUSE I NEED TO  
KNOW WHETHER YOU  
WANT ME TO TREAT  
THE TB BUG AS IT WAS  
BEFORE ANTIBIOTICS...



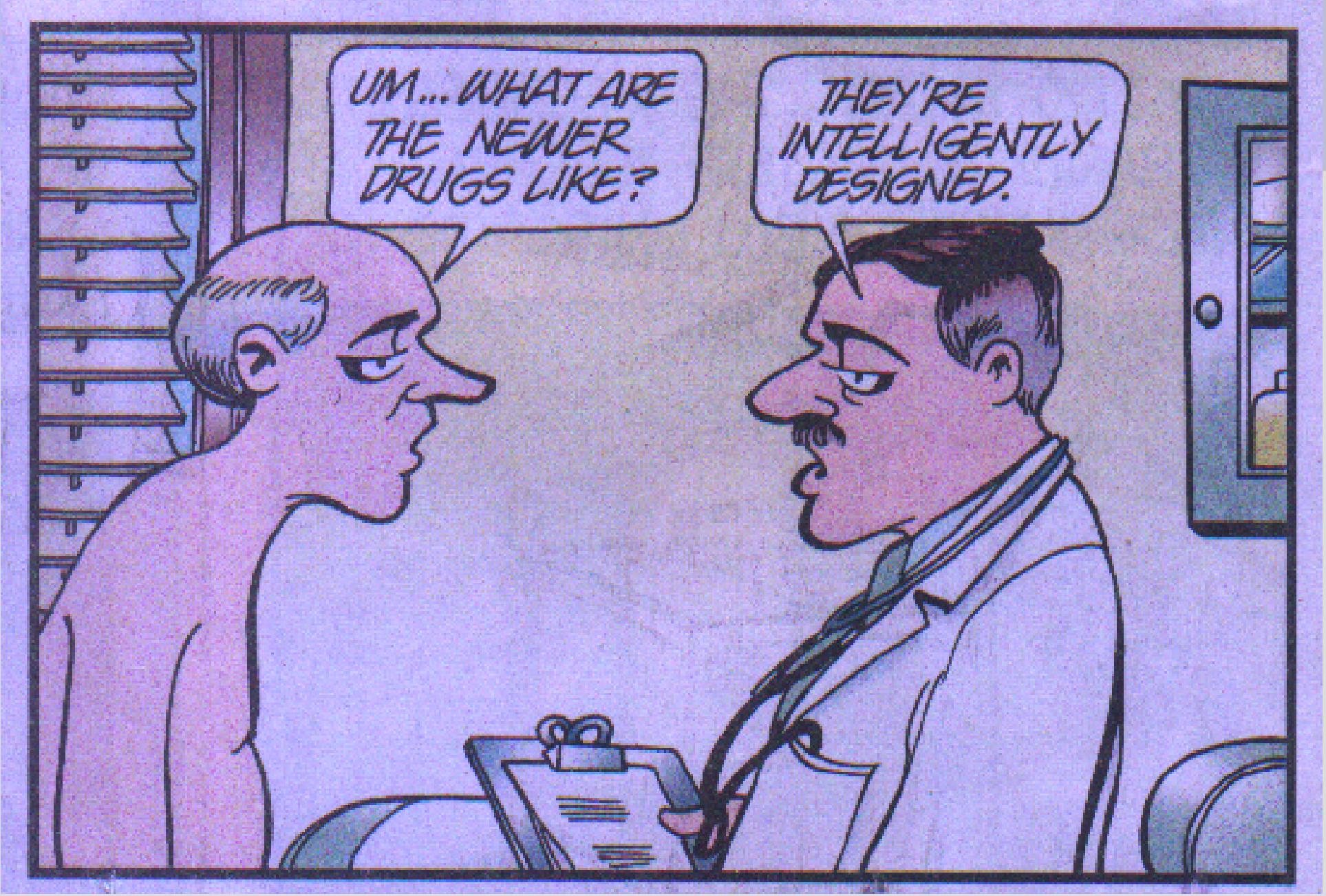
...OR AS THE MULTIPLE-  
DRUG-RESISTANT STRAIN  
IT HAS SINCE EVOLVED  
INTO.

12-18

EVOLVED?

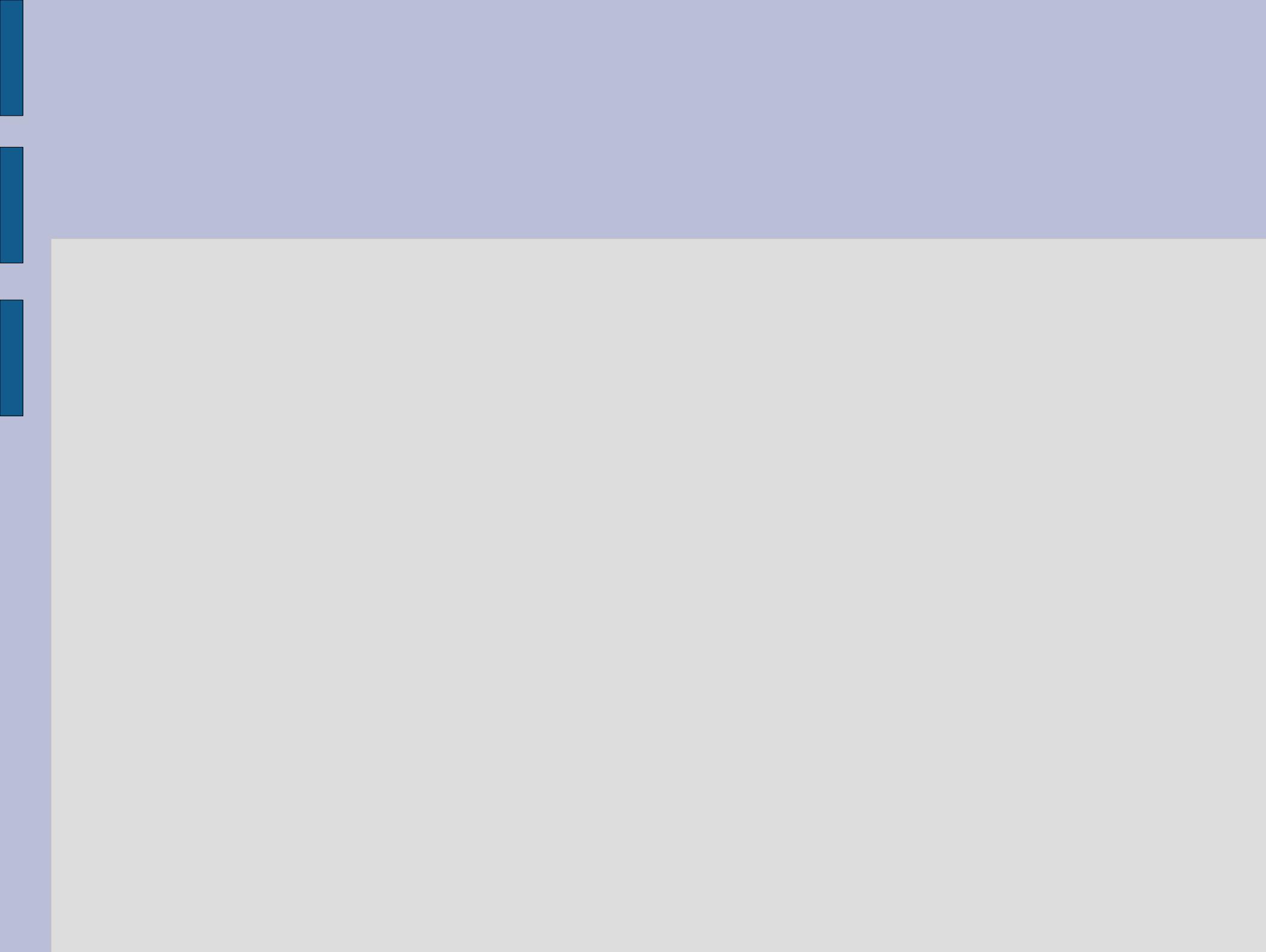
YOUR CHOICE. IF YOU GO WITH  
THE NOAH'S ARK VERSION, I'LL  
JUST GIVE YOU STREPTOMYCIN.

OB Hulka



UM...WHAT ARE  
THE NEWER  
DRUGS LIKE?

THEY'RE  
INTELLIGENTLY  
DESIGNED.



# Alma 30:44b

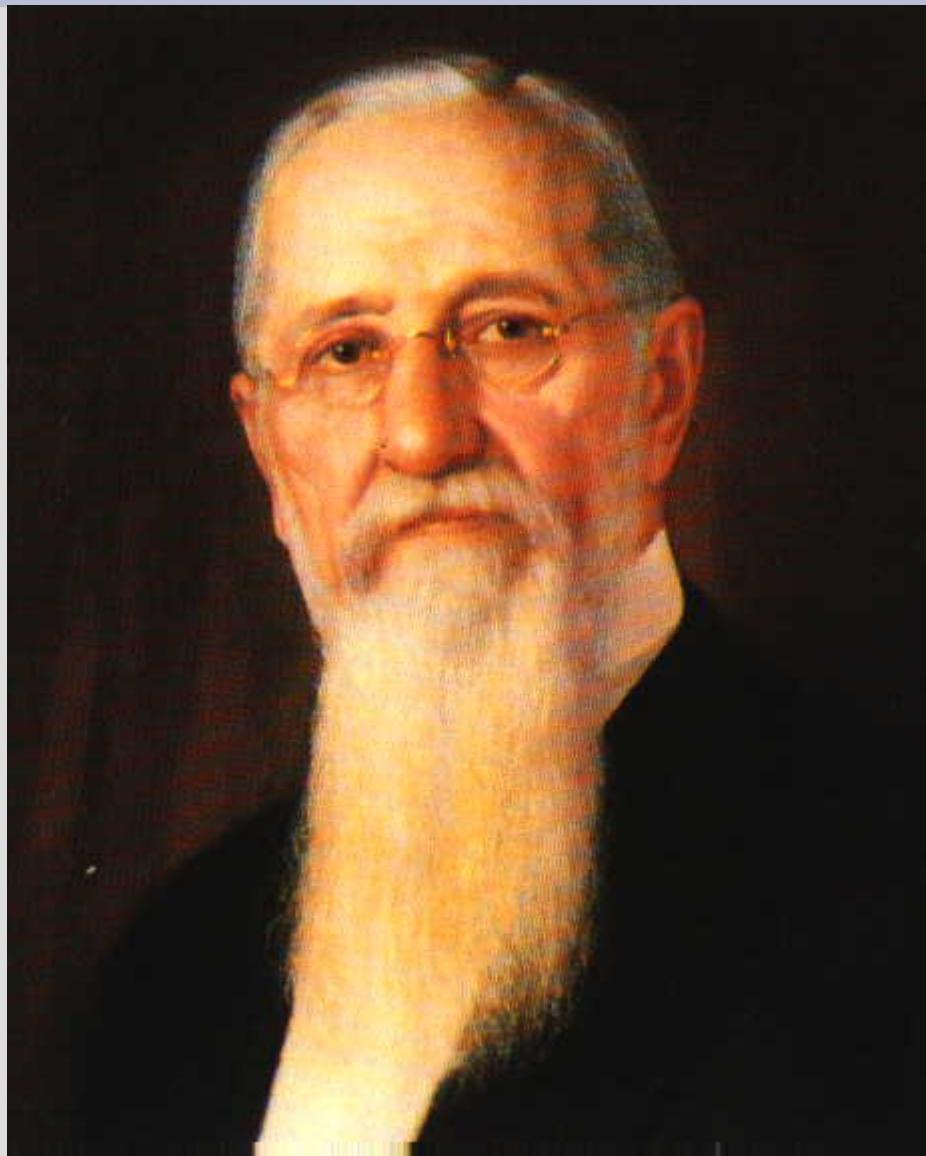
- ... all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator.

# Paley and the watch found in the empty desert





# **Joseph F. Smith and counselors wrote “The Origin of Man”**



# The FP on “The Origin of Man”

God created Man in his own image.

Man, both in spirit and in body, is the image and likeness of God.

# The FP on “The Origin of Man”

It is held by some that Adam was not the first man upon the earth, and that the original human being was a development from lower orders of the animal creation. These, however, are the theories of men. The word of the Lord declares that Adam was “the first man of all men,” and we are therefore in duty bound to regard him as the primal parent of our race..., the first of our race.

# The FP on “The Origin of Man”

The Church ... proclaims Man to be the direct and lineal offspring of Deity.... He made the tadpole and the ape, the lion and the elephant; but He did not make them in His own image, nor endow them with Godlike reason and intelligence. ... Nevertheless, the whole animal creation will be perfected and perpetuated in the Hereafter, ... and will enjoy “eternal felicity.”

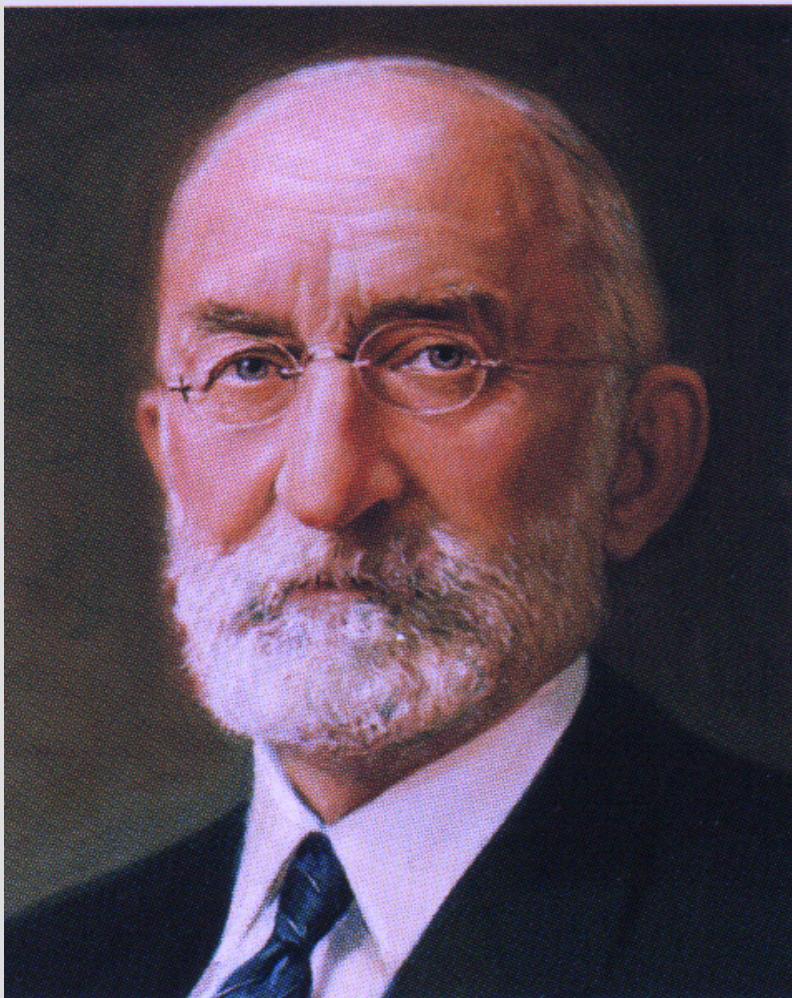
# Adam, offspring of Deity



# 1910 FP Christmas Message

- Diversity of opinion does not necessitate intolerance of spirit.... Our religion is not hostile to real science. That which is demonstrated, we accept with joy; but vain philosophy... and mere speculations of men we do not accept.

# Heber J. Grant's Presidency to the General Authorities



- Our mission is to bear the message of the restored gospel to the world. Leave geology, biology, archeology, and anthropology... to scientific research, while we magnify our calling in the realm of the Church.

# D&C 121: 26, 28, 31

- God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, ... that has not been revealed since the world was until now; A time to come in the which nothing shall be withheld, whether there be one God or many gods, they shall be manifest. ...all their glories, laws, and set times, shall be revealed in the days of the dispensation of the fulness of times.

## D&C 121: 33

- How long can rolling waters remain impure? What power shall stay the heavens? As well might man stretch forth his puny arm to stop the Missouri river in its decreed course, or to turn it up stream, as to hinder the Almighty from pouring down knowledge from heaven upon the heads of the Latter-day Saints.



# Moses 3: 7, 9, 19

- All things were before created; but spiritually were they created and made according to my word.... And out of the ground made I, the Lord God, to grow every tree, naturally, that is pleasant to the sight of man; ... And it became also a living soul. For it was spiritual in the day that I created it;.... I, the Lord God, formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; ...and they were also living souls; for I, God, breathed into them the breath of life.

# D&C 77:3

- ...to four individual beasts, which were shown to John, to represent the glory of the classes of beings in their destined order or sphere of creation, in the enjoyment of their eternal felicity.

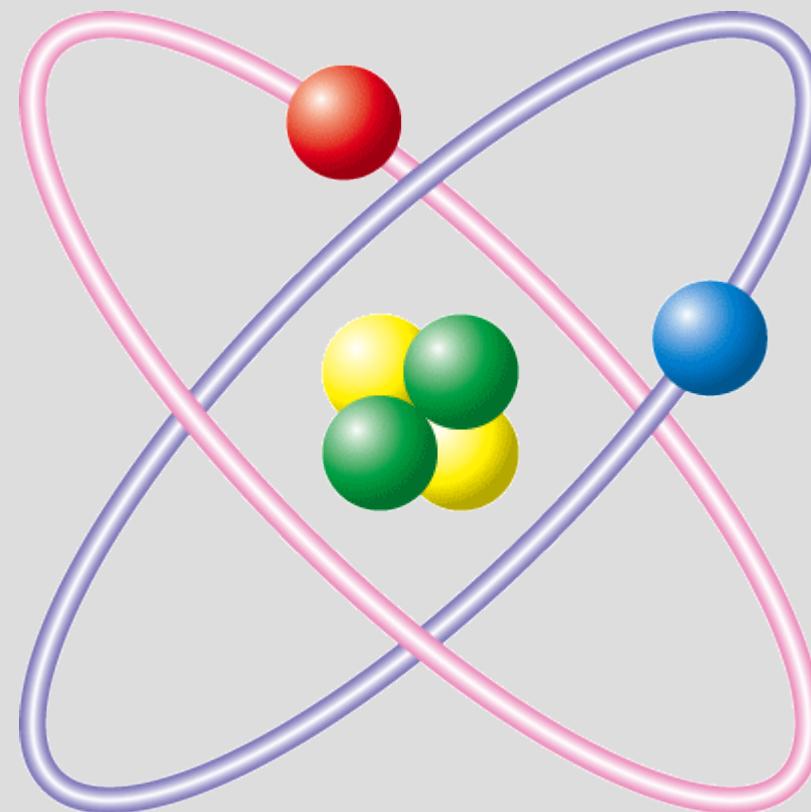
**4,500,000,000 years**



# Tree-rings count years precisely



# Radioisotopes have known decay rates





# Summary of Neodarwinism

- Genetic variations affecting form or behavior arise in several ways.
- Species can gradually change overall.
- Species can split into two populations when isolated or else go extinct when conditions change.
- All living things are related by Common Descent from a simple origin.
- The direction of change is determined only by natural selection of the fittest creatures.

# Six-toed cats breed true



# Genetically engineered “frankenfoods”

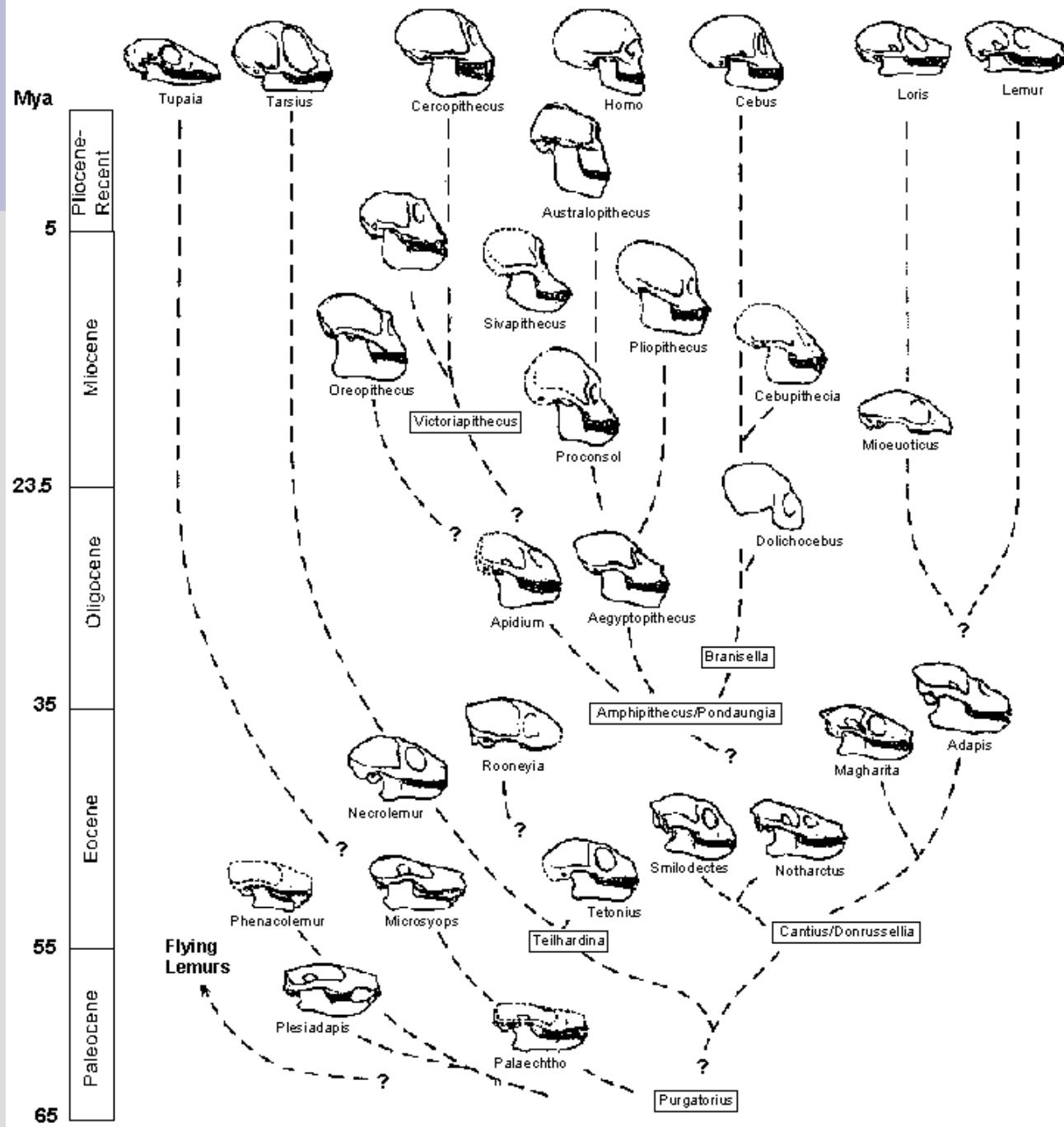


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# Common Descent

A Phylogenetic Tree showing a hypothesis about the relationships among Primates and their next of kin



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# Alternative Theories

- Original Darwinism lacked Mendel's genetics and assumed inheritance of acquired traits.
- Asa Grey's theistic Darwinism.
- “Inherent” or “emergent” teleology, with no idea how it works.
- Uplift: extraterrestrial visitors terraforming and gardening our planet
- Supernaturalists, for example, young-earth creationists.

# Asa Grey

## Theistic Darwinist



# Young-earth Creationist, William Jennings Bryan





# Evidence Needed?

- “Even if there were no actual evidence in favor of the Darwinian theory... we should be justified in preferring it over all rival theories.”  
-- Richard Dawkins
- “Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.” -- a KSU professor

# God-did-it explanations

- “Whatever happened, God did it.”
- “He works in mysterious ways that cannot be predicted or understood.”
- “Having all power, he might do anything.”

# D&C 88: 22, 34, 35 parts

- For he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory. That which is governed by law is also preserved by law and perfected and sanctified by the same. That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, cannot be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, nor judgment. Therefore, they must remain filthy still.

## D&C 88: 37-39

- There are many kingdoms; for there is no space in the which there is no kingdom; ...either a greater or a lesser kingdom. And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are certain bounds also and conditions. All beings who abide not in those conditions are not justified.

# D&C 88: 42, 43, 25

- He hath given a law unto all things, by which they move in their times and seasons; And their courses are fixed, even the courses of the heavens and the earth, which comprehend the earth and all the planets. The earth abideth the law of a celestial kingdom, for it filleth the measure of its creation, and transgresseth not the law.

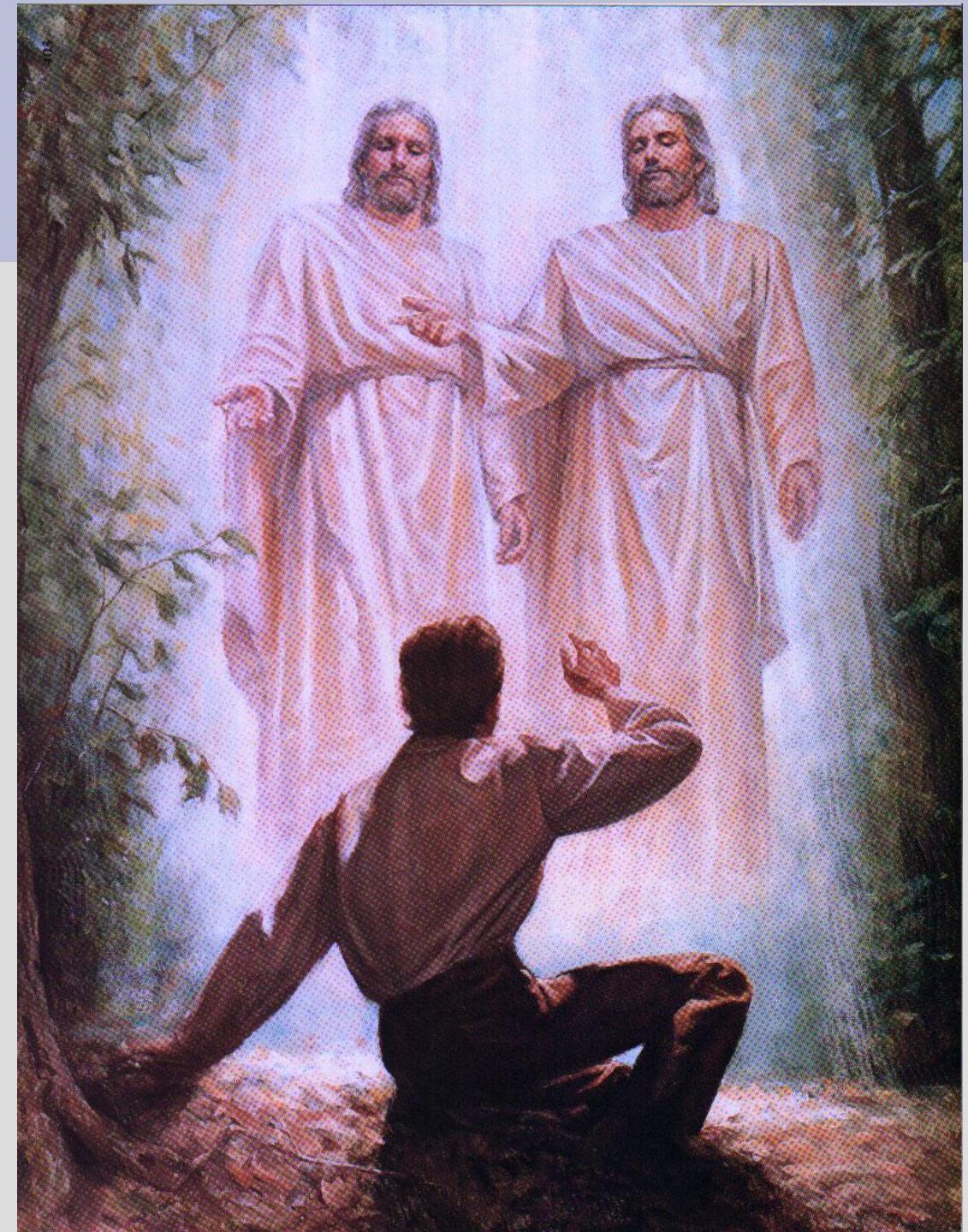
## D&C 131:7-8

There is no such thing as immaterial matter. All spirit is matter but it is more fine or pure, and can only be discerned by purer eyes; We cannot see it; but when our bodies are purified we shall see that it is all matter.

# The Risen Jesus



# First Vision





# Clarke's third law

- “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”  
(SciFi novelist Arthur C. Clarke in 1961)

# Some kinds of creators ruled out by natural history

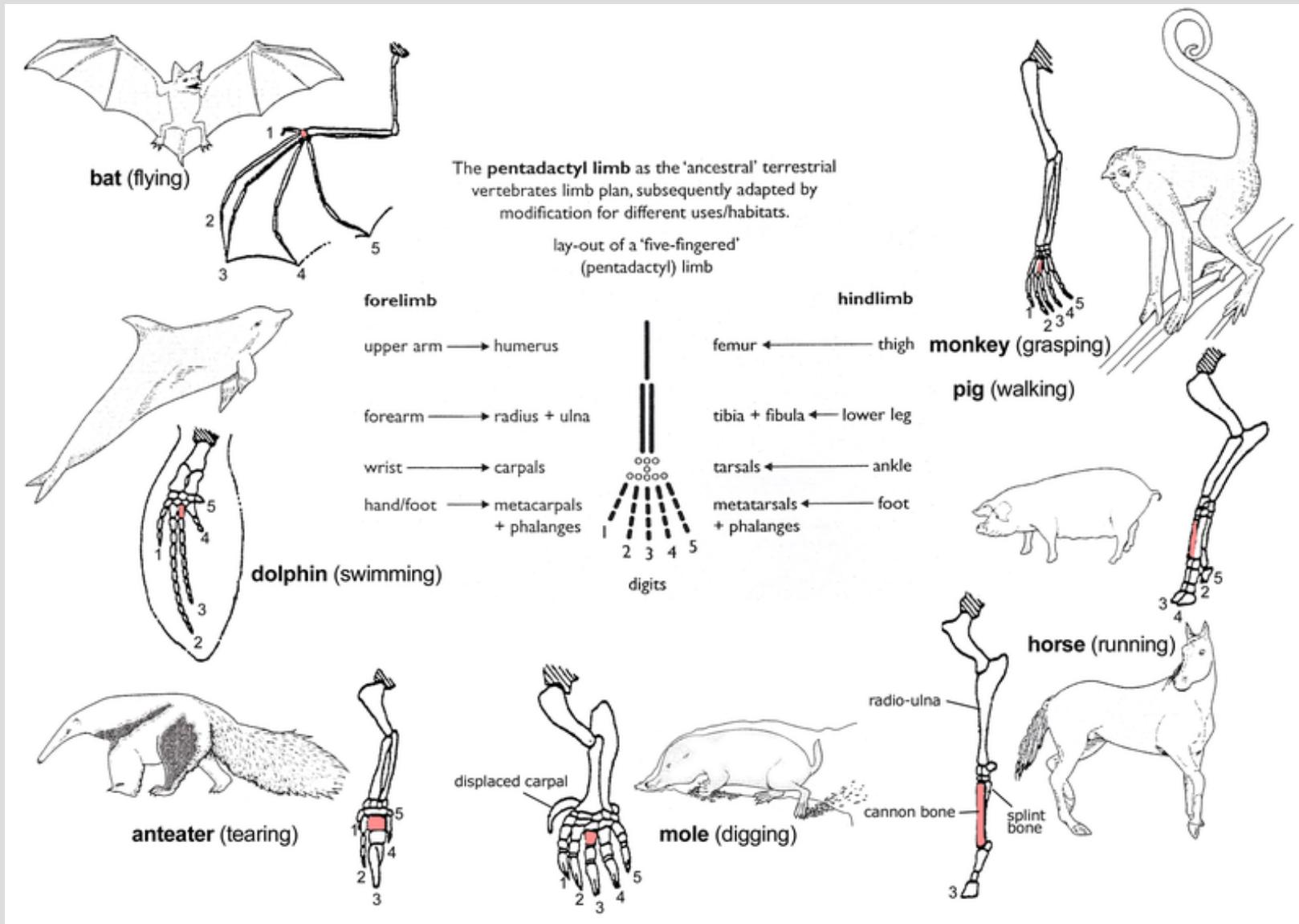
- Dr. Pangloss' creator of the best of all possible worlds
- A creator of perfectly fit creatures, an optimizer
- A squeamish or over-sensitive creator who avoids any pain or difficulty
- One who designs each creature independently for its place in nature.

# Parasitic Ichneumon Wasp

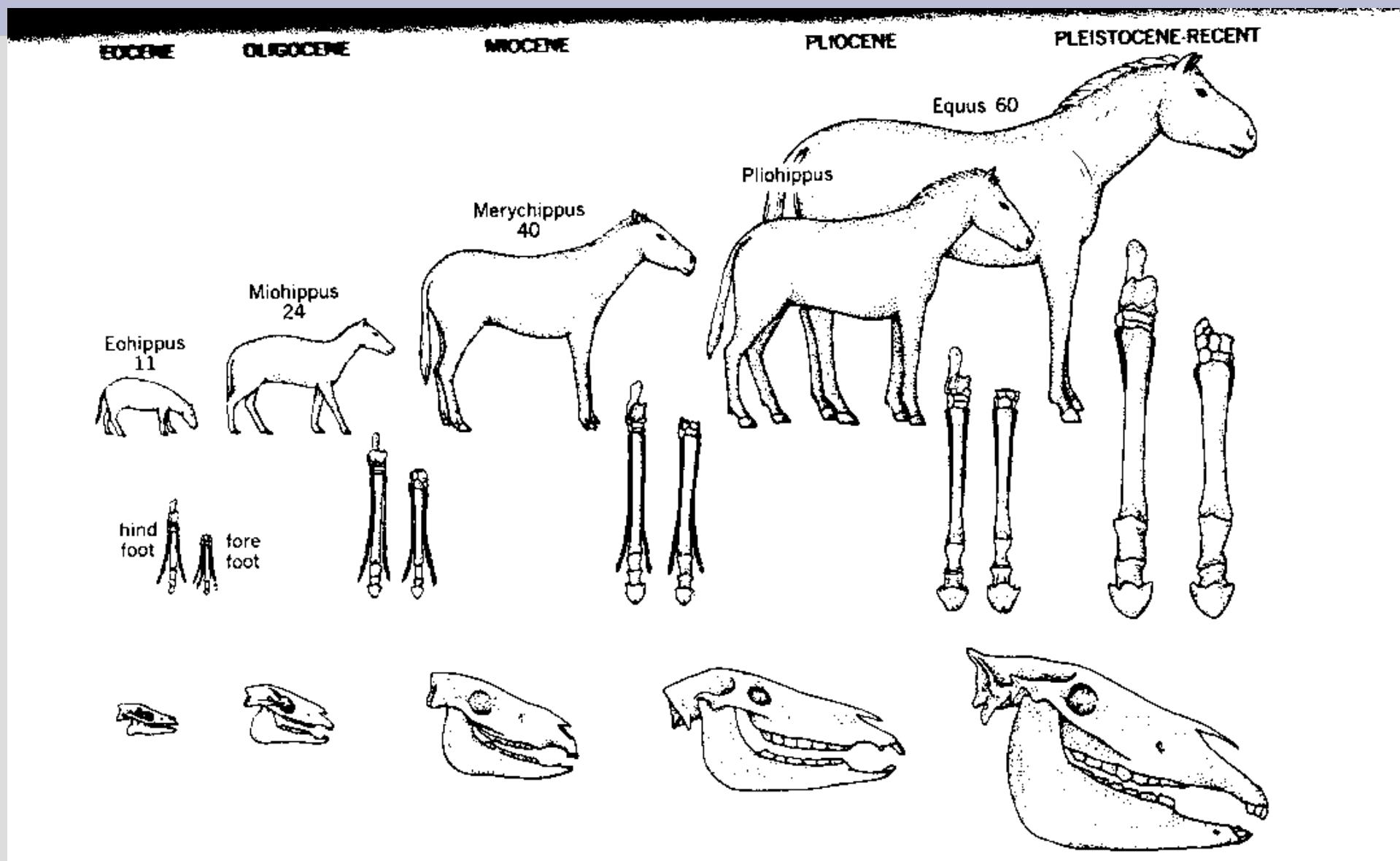


© Jeremy Thomas

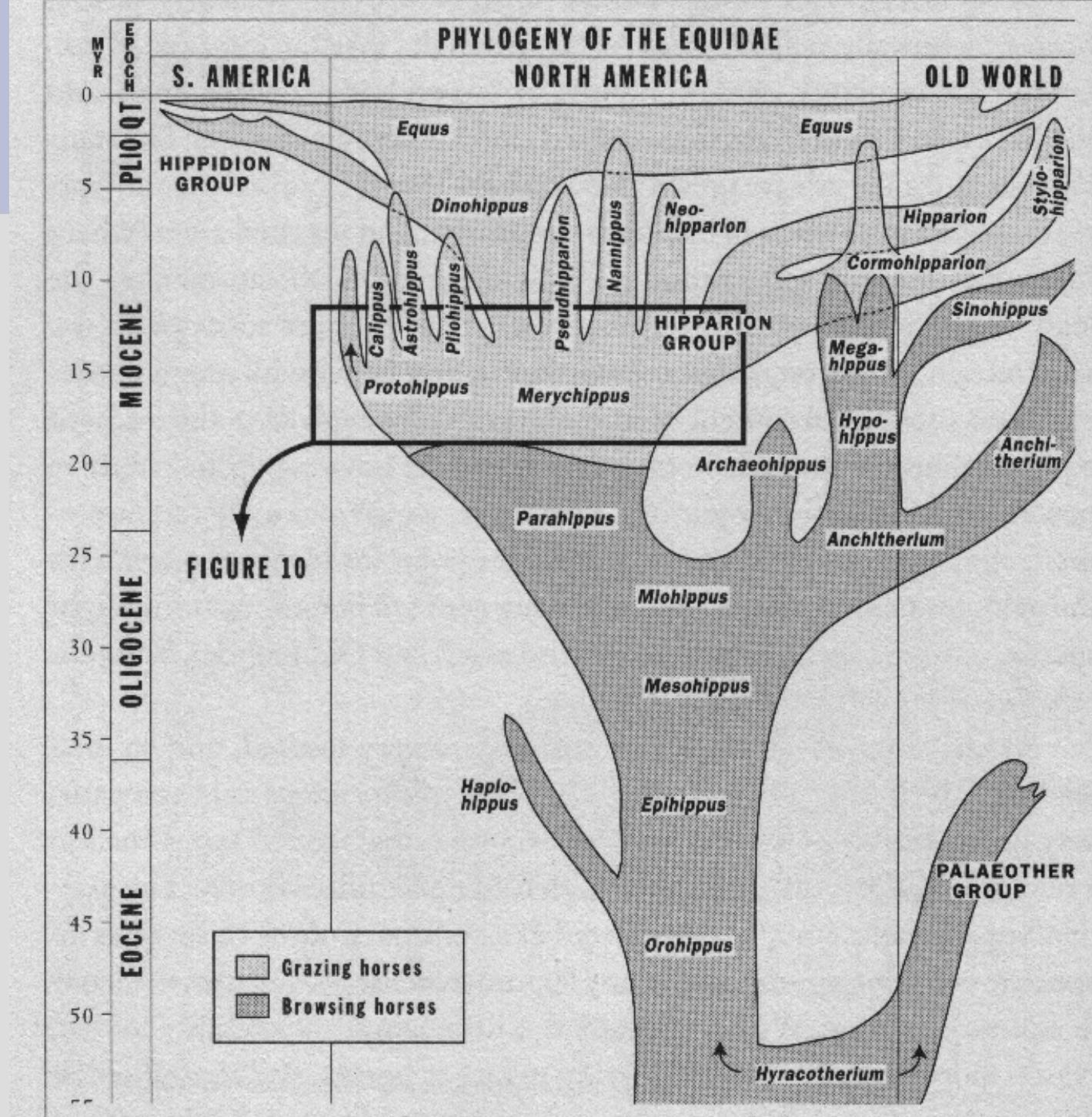
# Homology, e.g. 5 fingers everywhere



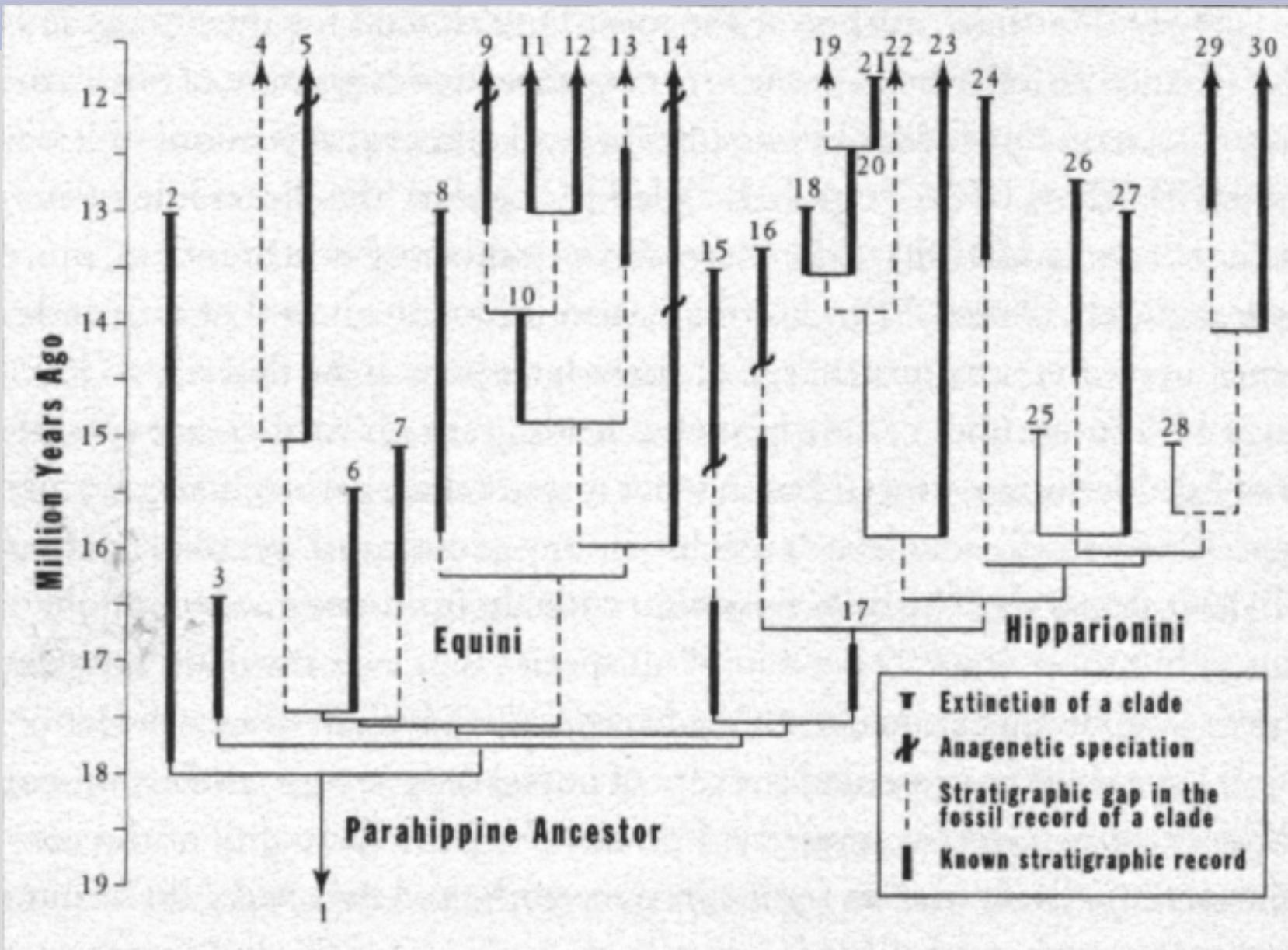
# Horse transitional forms?



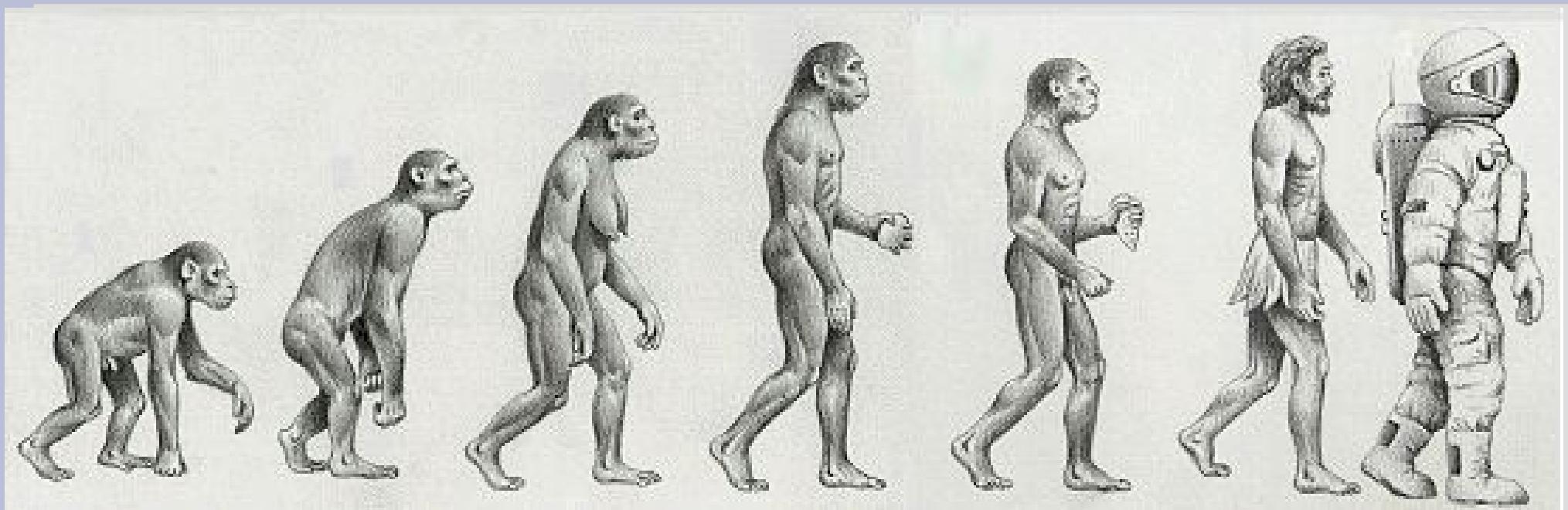
# Equidae



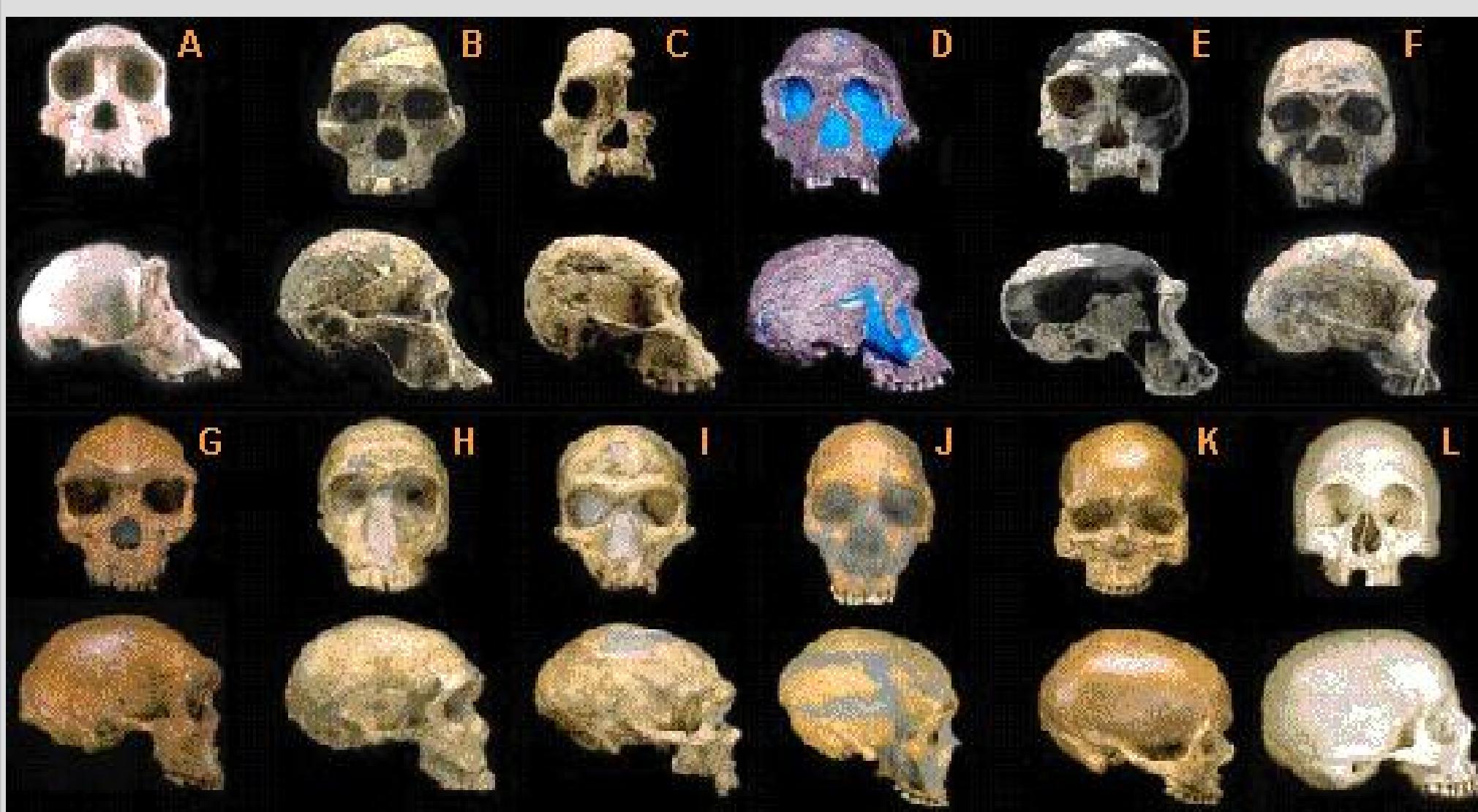
# Equidae branching detail



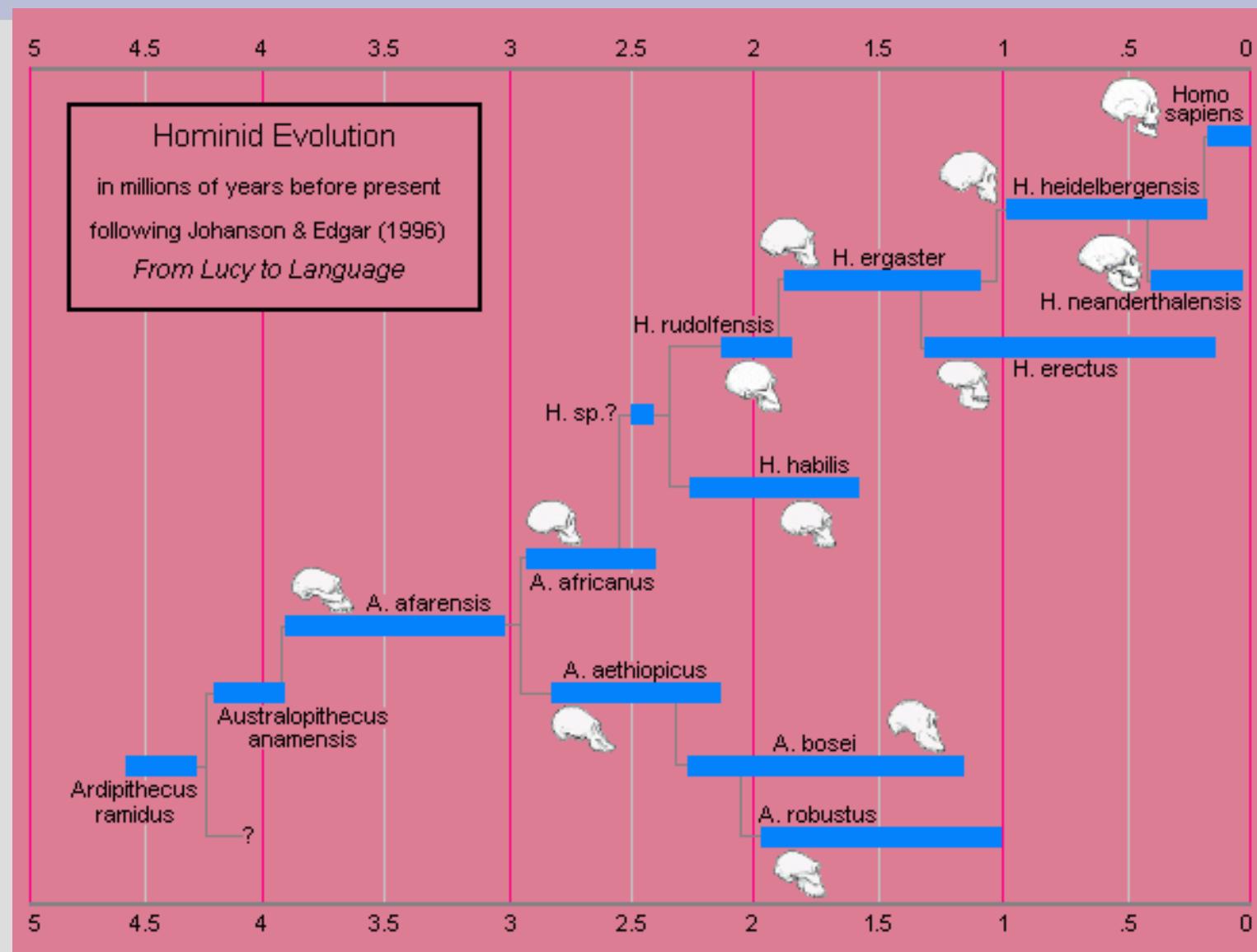
# Ascent of Man Myth



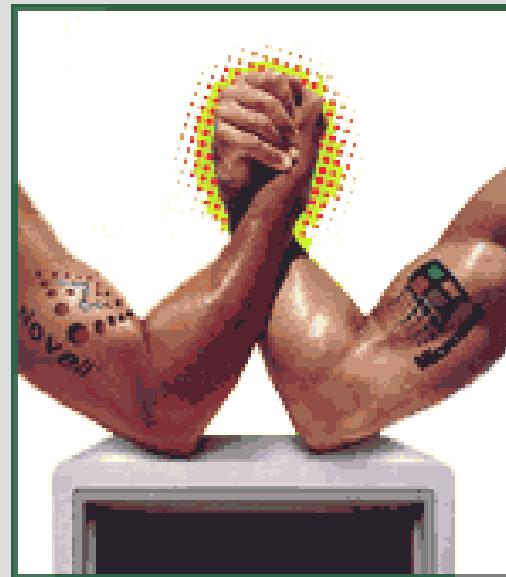
# Primate Skulls



# Human predecessors



# Culture Wars



Evolution versus Creationism

# “Only a Theory?”

- Facts are publicly observed events.
- Hypotheses are ideas proposed for testing.
- Theories are general ideas that try to explain many facts and observations.
- Examples: Newtonian gravitation, germs causing disease, multiple JFK assassins, and an ancient origin of the Book of Mormon.

# Summary

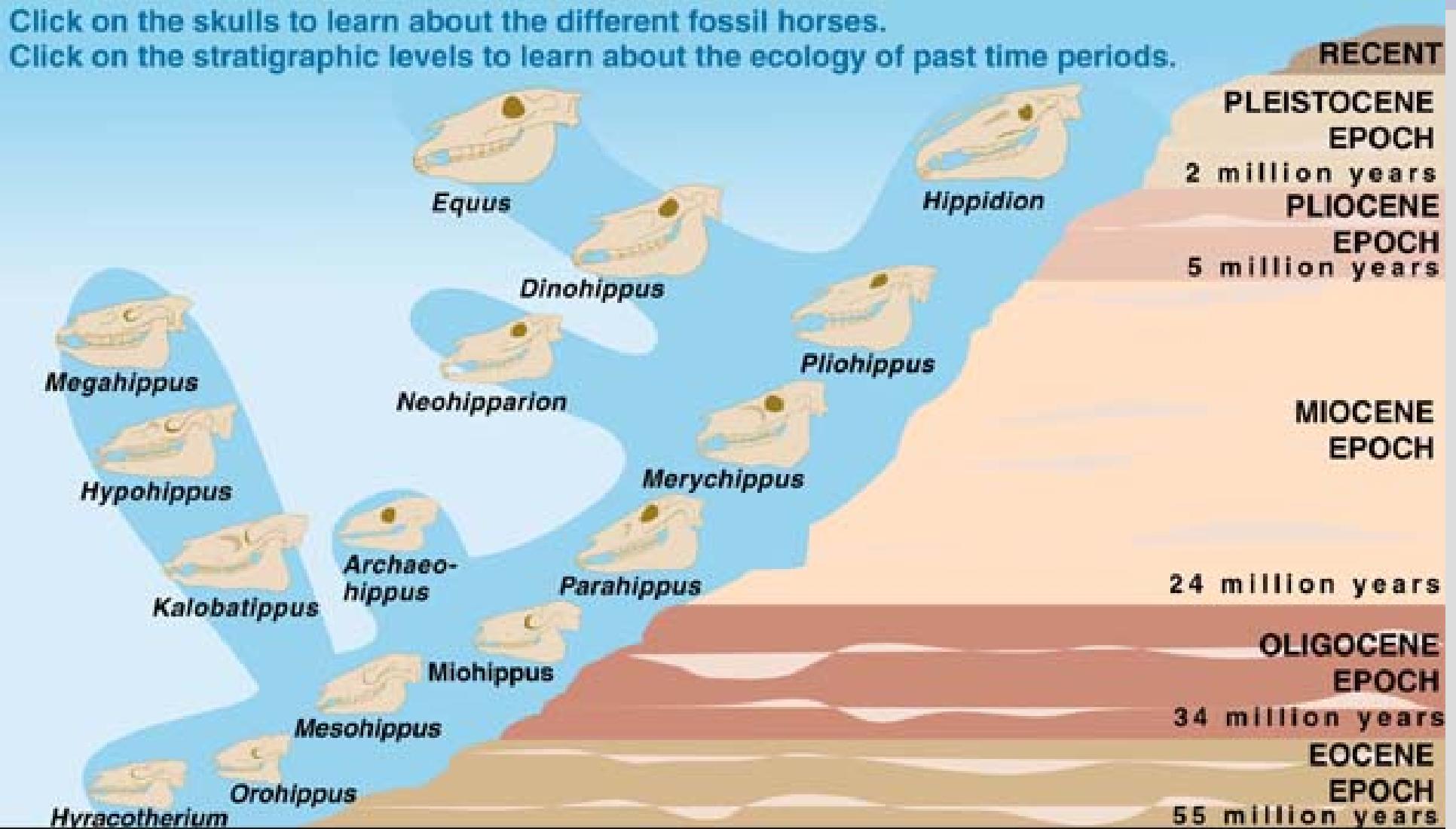
- Adam was literally an offspring of Deity.
- God, angels, spirits, miracles are natural.
- Lack of a Creator/Designer is a premise of Neo-Darwinism, not a scientific conclusion.
- Common Descent is not visible in the fossil evidence, just inferred from a lack of Creator.
- We do not know how much evolution by natural selection happened.
- Whoever our relatives may be, we still have Reason, Language, Spiritual Gifts, and Repentance.

# Extra Slides

# Horse transitional forms?

Click on the skulls to learn about the different fossil horses.

Click on the stratigraphic levels to learn about the ecology of past time periods.



# Homology, 5 fingers everywhere

