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Were There Pre-Adamites?

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Abstract: This article discusses the possible existence of pre-Adamites, ultimately concluding that "it is folly to worry about pre-Adamites."

Evidences and Reconciliations

ccxiii. Were There Pre-Adamites?

BELIEF in pre-Adamites is very old. While it appears in many forms, it usually assumes that a people lived in "the land of Nod," contemporaneously with Adam and Eve. Commonly it also provides Adam with another wife, one "Lilith." This belief cannot be accepted, since it is not supported by historical facts. Indeed, it is cluttered up with the unsupported imagination and superstitions, handed down from the past and gathered through the centuries.

In recent times, however, in the days of modern science, discoveries have been made which have revived the discussion of pre-Adamites. Fragments of skeletons of human-like beings, believed to antedate the present human race have been found. Sometimes the finds have been slight, a tooth, leg bones, a partial skull. Yet, examined in the light of modern knowledge, they would seem to belong to races not now on earth. Other finds have been more extensive. Caves have been discovered with pictures on the walls of subjects, chiefly animals, indicating a past age. Ancient lake dwellings and the contents of kitchen middens add to the opinion that manlike beings lived on earth long ages ago, before the coming of the human race. These finds cover all the continents of the earth.

So many such discoveries have accumulated that students of the subject have tried to reconstruct parts of the story of these pre-human creatures. Several races and their habitat have been set up. A large, well formed race, known as the Neanderthal men are said to have lived in Europe and beyond. In time they became extinct, and disappeared utterly from their former haunts. Following them came the Cro-Magnons. They roamed over Europe and beyond. Finally they died out also, and vanished from the earth. The histories of these and other supposed races of manlike creatures are much the same as of many other forms of life that have lived on earth, but have long since disappeared—as for example, the dinosaurs.

Admittedly, much of the so-called knowledge about human-like beings before the coming of the human race is in the region of inference or hypothesis. The discoveries are here. They can not be denied; but the inferences from them are subject to constant revision.

However, the evolutionist—the type who insists that all living things on earth, including man, have developed by gradual processes from a single cell, perhaps from the same cell—has seen in these manlike beings a confirmation of his view. They have become to him intermediate forms between man as he now is and the lower animals. Since evolution itself is but a scientific theory, not yet risen to the dignity of a fact, such an assumption is but adding theory to theory, inference to inference. Models are on exhibition in many museums showing the steps by which, say a fish, so declare extreme evolutionists, became a man. Thoughtful people will recognize in such presentations, man's feeble efforts, with limited knowledge, to discover truth, often with false conclusions.

Nevertheless, it must also be admitted that no one can safely deny that such manlike beings did at one time roam over the earth. The Lord, not man,

made the earth. At his pleasure he did many things not understood by us. The huge mastodons, imprisoned in the ice of the north, the skeletons found in the asphalt pit in Los Angeles, the great dinosaurs dug from the rocks; the small trilobites in early rocks; the coral reefs on mountainsides, and a thousand other forms of now extinct life, speak of a wonderfully varied story of creation, far beyond the understanding of man.

We are obliged to leave many things with those which are yet unknown.

Of some things we may be certain, as they have come to us through the higher knowledge—revelation.

Adam dwelt as a spiritual being with his Father in heaven. He was commissioned to initiate the work connected with the plan of salvation on earth. He was brought to earth, after having had a part in creating it, and was given a body made from "the dust of the ground." His helpmeet Eve likewise descended from spiritual spheres, to assist in the great work assigned them. How all this was accomplished is not known. The mystery of the "creation" of Adam and Eve has not yet been revealed.

But we do know, and this is the present answer to the pre-Adamite discussion, that we and the whole human race are descendants of Adam and Eve. Our earthly genealogies are traced back to these our first parents, and stop there.

In the present state of knowledge, scientific or revealed directly, it is folly to worry about pre-Adamites. Speculation about them, whether such people ever lived, what they did, what became of them, or their relation to the children of Adam, leads nowhere. It only confuses the mind. Latter-day Saints accept all discovered facts, but hold theories in abeyance. Latter-day Saints are content to know that much is yet to be learned; they wait, therefore, patiently, for the larger day of knowledge, without disturbing the equanimity of their lives.—J. A. W.

(For a popular account of the subject reciting the finds and the inferences therefrom, see *Men Before Adam*, by Anne Terry White.)

This Is the Year; now Is the Time

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they, but whose names history fails to record. There it was nurtured until it blossomed forth into the glorious document that it is. And if it ever dies, it will first die in the hearts of men—not of those men in government, whose daily activities are followed by the world press, but those millions of unnamed men and women who daily enjoy its blessings.

This is the year, and now is the time, while there are many candidates for all political offices, federal, state, and county, to investigate for oneself each candidate. What is his record? What are his actions now? Is he the man who should be nominated? Now is the time to see these men and the causes they represent, as they are, because as nominations near, and certainly in the heat of pre-election week, facts are often distorted and colored to suit selfish purposes.

To keep American liberty untarnished in the nation, in the states, and in the neighborhoods that men call home, this is the year, and now is the time, to make sure of the candidates for political offices.—A. L. Z., Jr.