

Adam & Eve

MOST PEOPLE these days believe that the evolution of human beings is a completely certain fact, not just a tentative hypothesis.

The bombardment is ruthless: “Science has proven Darwinian evolution of man from lower animals.”

The mass media, the social media, school teachers generally, and High School science teachers in particular, cannot abide any questioning, let alone doubt or rejection. They assure us of a 100% consensus of scientists in universities and industry, and right across the vast range of subject matters studied, even of sciences which have nothing to do with it.

In a spirit of political correctness, most modern theologians reduce Adam and Eve to a myth, lest they lose their own “AAA rating” as *modern thinkers*...

SED CONTRA [= but on the contrary...]

Yet the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC] teaches creation and makes no reference whatever to the theory or hypothesis of organic evolution.

Indeed, its only use of the word ‘evolution’ is in another context, n. 1512, on the Anointing of the Sick; and the only occurrence of ‘hypothesis’ is n. 644 on Christ’s resurrection.

Adam is ‘for real’ in the CCC

TEXTS are by the numbered paragraphs of the CCC, with large and small print as in original. However, bold emphasis has been added for clarity:

359 “In reality it is only in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of man truly becomes clear.” (VCII *Church in the Modern World* n. 22 §1)

St. Paul tells us that **the human race takes its origin from two men: Adam and Christ ... The first man, Adam**, he says, became a living soul, the last Adam a life-giving spirit. The first Adam was made by the last Adam, from whom he also received his soul, to give him life... The second Adam stamped his image on the first Adam when he created him. That is why he took on himself the role and the name of the first Adam, in order that he might not lose what he had made in his own image. The first Adam, the last Adam: the first had a beginning, the last knows no end. The last Adam is indeed the first; as he himself says: “I am the first and the last.” (St Peter Chrysologus)

360 Because of its common origin the human race forms a unity, for **“from one ancestor [God] made all nations to inhabit the whole earth”**: (Acts 17:26; cf. Tobias 8:6) [Editor’s Note: The ancestor means Adam and ‘God’ is the subject of the verb ‘made’.]

O wondrous vision, which makes us contemplate the human race in the unity of its origin in God. . . in the unity of its nature, composed equally in all men of a material body and a spiritual soul; in the unity of its immediate end and its mission in the world; in the unity of its dwelling, the earth, whose benefits all men, by right of nature, may use to sustain and develop life; in the unity of its supernatural end: God himself, to whom all ought to tend; in the unity of the means for attaining this end; in the unity of the redemption wrought by Christ for all. (Pius XII)

361 “This law of **human solidarity and charity**”, [ibid.] without excluding the rich variety of persons, cultures and peoples, assures us that **all men are truly brethren**.

375 The Church, interpreting the symbolism of **biblical language in an authentic way**, in the light of the New Testament and Tradition, teaches that **our first parents, Adam and Eve, were constituted in an original “state of holiness and justice”**. (Council of Trent) This grace of original holiness was “to share in ... divine life”. (VCII, *The Church* n. 2)

390 The account of the fall in Genesis 3 uses figurative language, but affirms a **primeval event**, a deed that took place at the beginning of the history of man. (VCII, *Church in Modern World* n. 13 §1). Revelation gives us the certainty of faith that the whole of human history is marked by the **original fault freely committed by our first parents**. (references to the Council of Trent, Pius XII, Paul VI)

ADAM in other CCC texts

Those who believe all that the Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches draw support from:

Adam and original sin: 399, 402-406, 411, 414, 417;

Necessity of a real Adam for the saving work of Christ: 518, 532, 536, 538, 539, 635, 655;

“First parents” 54, 55, 70, 375, 379, 391, 392, 407.

Continuity in Church Teaching

POPE PIUS XII gave the teaching of the Catholic Church on the hypothesis of evolution in his encyclical letter, *Humani Generis*, 1950.

His teaching was re-affirmed by Pope John Paul II, in 1986:

The reply of the Magisterium was offered in *Humani Generis* of Pius XII in 1950

L’Osservatore Romano, 21st April, 1986.

PIUS XII TAUGHT

1. Souls do not evolve. Each is a direct creation of God.
2. **All human beings now on earth have Adam for their ancestor**. By descent from Adam, we are born with original sin. See Acts 17:26.
3. The possibility of the evolution of the human body from other living materials is not a closed question. A Catholic could hold it, but he must also hold 1 and 2 above.
4. Such evolution has not been proved, should not be taught as fact, and points for and against should be given.

SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

VCII documents refer to the **historic fact of Adam and of original sin**: *Constitution on the Church* §§2 & 56, in 1964; *On the Church in the Modern World* §§13, 18 & 22, in 1965.

PAUL VI

Pope Paul VI in *Credo of the People of God*, 1968 warned:

Preamble: We see even Catholics allowing themselves to be seized by a kind of **passion for change and novelty**...

The Fall: We believe that in Adam **all have sinned**, which means that the original offence [sin] is transmitted “not by imitation but by propagation” and that it is “proper to everyone”.

This means Adam is real, not a mere fictitious form.

Professor Jérôme Lejeune says a first Man & Woman

SCIENTIFIC discoveries after *Humani Generis* have further weakened the tentative evolutionary hypothesis.

1. In 1953-54, "Piltdown Man" of 1912 was exposed as a deliberate fraud, not just a hoax.

Yet Piltdown Man helped establish 1927's "Peking Man" and "Java Man" in 1936. Thus the evolutionary hypothesis was promoted with missionary zeal, and any dissent from it, no matter how scientific, was ridiculed.

2. Around 1950, evolutionists were declaring that man was "only 100,000 years old." They devised a series of missing links and common ancestors, and claimed it as factual proof of evolution. But new fossils in Africa were declared to be 2,000,000 years old and, later ones again, 4,000,000 years old. These wiped much of the previous detail. To uphold the theory at all costs, new suppositions were made.

3. Professor Jérôme Lejeune (1926-1994) discovered and researched the extra chromosome in Downes Syndrome children. He found that the normal 46 chromosomes are so complex in their tightly packed spirals, and so detailed in containing all the genetic information to constitute a unique human being, that **the best scientific explanation of mankind was descent from a single male and female of the human species.**

Indeed, he asserted that each species is best explained in its molecular biology as coming from an original male and female deriving from the same zygote.

This would make Adam and Eve twins, which sounds like Genesis 2. But twins or not, Biblical or not, **Adam and Eve are perfectly respectable scientifically.**

What is specially significant is that Jérôme Lejeune was a **convicted evolutionist.** He is what the lawyers would call a 'hostile witness', or what sportsmen call 'an own goal'.

In correspondence with me, Professor Lejeune said that the only reason his fellow molecular biologists rejected a first man and woman was *because* it was in the Bible!

This is akin to the earlier opposition to the Big Bang theory of Father LeMaitre (1894-1966). His theory seemed to accord with Genesis 1:3, "And God said, let there be light, and there was light" — and there were many scientists who rejected it *because* it seemed to be in the Bible...

Such lack of scientific integrity was shown up in *Science is a Sacred Cow*, by chemical engineer Anthony Standen, first published in 1950 and reprinted several times, even recently. He debunks 'the white coat syndrome' and the mantle of infallibility that some scientists claim on everything. His book is certainly available through internet Amazon, and is necessary reading for non-scientist politicians and prelates.

4. See also Professor Maciej Giertych, the Polish molecular dendrologist (forestry) who once believed evolution — until he studied the evidence carefully. He approved the editorial explanations I added to his monograph in *Newsletter of the Cardinal Newman Catechist Centre*, n. 101, August, 1991.

5. Further, if Pius XII were wrong in his n. 2 (previous page), not only is it a problem for original sin but also for **human solidarity** as a family of mankind. It is only by descent from Adam that we have "kinship by blood" (a molecular biologist would now say kinship by chromosomes and genes) with all other human beings now on earth.

Atheistic ideologies, like Communism and racist Naziism, reject solidarity with Adam and embrace polygenism. So did Mao tse Tung, when he made China communist in 1948, where he had evolution taught at all levels of education to support the communist theory of man and "inhumanism". Note that Christ's Mystical Body assumes common descent from Adam.

A THEOLOGIAN who understood SCIENCE

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE S.J. 1542-1621 is well known for his judgement on Galileo. Adam & Eve were not at issue, but rather the earth circling the sun.

He enunciated important principles for scripture and science: take scripture literally unless science proves the contrary. He found that Galileo had not proved his case scientifically — but if he did, texts like "the earth will not be moved," Psalm 93[92], would be re-interpreted. Bellarmine was eminently reasonable.

Moreover, he had no objection to Galileo using his theory (or hypothesis, a tentative theory) for scientific calculations, as a **scientific model.** Modern physics does that, too. Can one think of an electron without some mathematical/physical model? Books show a small red marble. Others imagine a small bag of electro-magnetic energy. Similarly, today's Nautical Almanac treats the earth as stationary, with sun, moon, planets and stars circling it, for calculation purposes!

Further, Bellarmine could not let the simple faithful be disturbed with doubtful interpretations of the Bible based on mere speculation. After all, the Reformation was still in full swing... And Copernicus, Brahe and Huygens had wisely left scriptural interpretation alone.

A LAWYER

PHILLIP E. JOHNSON has a courtroom outlook on whether evolution is proven or not:-

- *Darwin on Trial* (1991) finds (1) evolution is unproven and (2) the scientific evidence is against it.
- *Reason in the Balance: The Case against Naturalism in Science, Law & Education.* This covers a broader canvas.
- *Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds: an Easy-to-understand Guide* (1997) — a small, practical manual for senior high school and undergraduates.
- *Objections Sustained: Subversive Essays on Evolution, Law & Culture* (1998).

A MATHEMATICIAN/Scientist/Philosopher

PROFESSOR JOHN C. LENNOX has debated and defeated Professor Richard Dawkins, the aggressively militant evolutionary atheist of the 21st century.

Lennox explains it is not "religion versus science" but religion versus a **false philosophy of materialism** (naturalism) masquerading as science.

He is a successor of that other north-of-Ireland Protestant, C.S. Lewis. Both are magnificent apologists for Christian fundamentals. Lennox wrote *God's Undertaker — Has Science Buried God?* (2009/2011) against Dawkins. Chapter 2 is The Scope and Limits of Science. Chapter 7 is The Origins of Life, not specifically on Adam & Eve, but on the impossibility of evolutionary chance producing life at all.

His *Gunning for God, a Critique of the Apologetics*, is powerfully Scriptural; his *God and Stephen Hawking, Whose Design is it anyway*, rebuts the other aggressive atheist.

APOLOGETICS IN 2014

BEST not to argue for Adam & Eve from Genesis... Better to master enough science to defend them against their abolition by evolution.

Often atheist scientists just follow fads and fashions (as some philosophers do) and descend into bluff and ridicule — but we uphold reason and faith, with patience and kindness.

Father James Tierney B.Sc. (Maths, physics, geology).