

## WOW - Discovering Genesis Together

### Session 9 - The Rise of Civilization

#### Key Points

- The Out of Africa theory says *Homo sapiens* originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago. Researchers claim the proof is in the human genome: common paternal ancestors called Mitochondrial Eve and common paternal ancestors called Y-chromosome Adam.
- Evidence supports the idea of common human ancestors, and creationists find remarkable genetic evidence supporting a real Adam and Eve.
- Secular scientists say that race resulted from global human migration out of Africa and that 40,000-50,000 years ago man took a “Great Leap Forward” and developed language.
- The Bible describes the development of different languages not as a gradual result of migration but as God’s punishment of man’s arrogance at the Tower of Babel.
- Isolation by geography and language led groups to develop different cultures.
- Race is an evolutionary, concept that dangerously suggest some groups are more advanced than others.

#### Talk about it

1. How would the idea that humans are basically evolved animals influence the way we think about each other?
2. Is it true that all humans can be traced to common ancestors? Discuss how different worldviews might answer this question. Which views gives humans more worth?
3. What are the differing views on how human languages came to be?

**KEY VERSES:** Genesis 9:18-19; Genesis 10:5; Genesis 10:32

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## Evolution vs Creation Perspectives

### 1. The Origin of ancient civilizations

#### Evolution says

- a. The first anatomically modern human, *Homo sapiens*, originated in Africa about 200,000 years ago
- c. Humans can be traced to a common matrilineal ancestor population nicknamed Mitochondrial Eve and a common father population, Y-chromosome Adam.

#### Creation says

- a. We all descended from Adam and Eve and Noah's sons and their wives.
- b. Bible dates for the Flood at—2400 B.C. and the dispersion at the Tower of Babel at - 2200 B.C. line up with historically known ancient civilization age ranges.

### 2. How humans migrated to other continents and became “advanced”.

#### Evolution says

- a. Man's global dispersal led to more genetic diversity and the development of races.
- b. Symbolic and written language developed 40,000-50,000 years ago

#### Creation says

- a. Shem's descendants inhabited the Middle East, Ham's descendants populated Africa and Asia, and Japheth's descendants settled in Europe. Today we observe that people from these world regions have different physical features.
- b. Disbursement of languages resulted from man's arrogance at the Tower of Babel.

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