

CHAPTER 10

PRIMATES -- THE MONKEY PUZZLE

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

The moment one begins to deal with the family tree of humanity, several major problems have to be faced. These problems largely arise because humans and apes are classified together within the same biological order called *Primates*. Thus, an evolutionary relationship is assumed. Because this challenges man's uniqueness, we are dealing with an emotionally charged and highly sensitive subject.

The first problem is that the subject is highly subjective. We are the subjects. We are studying the origin of ourselves. Thus it is very difficult for scientists to be objective. The problem is acutely difficult for a Christian like myself because I understand the Bible to say that we are uniquely created by God in His image and likeness, created separately from other animals.

The second problem is scarcity and incompleteness of specimens. In his recent book, *The Making of Mankind*, Richard Leakey quotes one of the world's leading experts in the field, David Pilbeam: "If you brought in a smart scientist from another discipline and showed him the meager evidence we've got, he'd surely say, 'forget it, there isn't enough to go on.'" Leakey then comments, "Neither David nor others involved in the search for mankind can take this advice, of course, but we remain fully aware of the dangers of drawing conclusions from evidence that is so incomplete."¹ In addition, there is lack of agreement among specialists regarding the classification of the few fossil remains we do have.

The third problem is the present a priori assumption within the field of anthropology that we are descended from an ape ancestry. This is the conventional scientific wisdom. All textbooks are written and research conducted from this mindset.