

# Is there any scientific evidence for Adam and Eve?

By Prof. Maury Middleton

There is no mention in high school and college text books about the story of Adam and Eve, because, after all, there is no basis for this story in science, or is there?

In the 1950, Crick and Watson astounded the world with the discovery of DNA, the blueprint for life. Since that time, our knowledge of the DNA has increased dramatically and our ability to read the code has improved. Approximately 30 years ago, we discovered another string of DNA that is actually outside of the nucleus. This was very unusual, since all the rest of the DNA, consisting of 46 chromosomes is within the nucleus. This DNA, called Mitochondrial DNA is the code for building the Mitochondrion, the power plant of the cell. It did not take long to realize how useful this DNA would be to the history of humans.

The Mitochondrial DNA is the same double helical as all other DNA. The uniqueness is the location - outside of the nucleus. When an egg is fertilized inside the woman's womb, the sperm provides 23 chromosomes that enter through the cell wall and into the nucleus to join with the 23 chromosomes in the egg, creating 23 pairs. Outside of the 23 chromosomes from the sperm, the rest of the egg and all of its ingredients are produced by the woman. This means that 99.99% of the Mitochondrial DNA is inherited from the mother only. Since the Mitochondrial is only inherited from one person, there is never any genetic mixing. In other words, the Mitochondrial DNA from the mother is passed on to all her children, and the father has nothing to do with this. Therefore, if we were to read the Mitochondrial DNA code of our brothers and sisters, they would have the exact same code. But when we realize that our mother inherited the Mitochondrial DNA from her mother, our maternal grandmother, then all the descendants from her would have the same Mitochondrial DNA, meaning not just our brothers and sisters, but all of our cousins. We could continue back to our maternal great grandmother, and realize that the Mitochondrial DNA is passed on to our second cousins as well. This can continue back through the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> generations and farther until we find a common ancestor. In other words, we can read the code of the Mitochondrial DNA and determine if we are related or not. The expectation of this study in the 1980's expected to find many family trees, possibly explaining the different races. The study read Mitochondrial DNA from the placentas of a sample of women from all continents and races. Late in 1987, the results were published and the conclusions amazing. Although, there were minor mutations, the evidence clearly pointed to a single ancestor from which the entire human race descended. They named this woman, Mitochondrial Eve, the mother of all humans.

If we all descended from a common woman, is there a common man in our ancestry? This was a little more difficult, requiring us to look into the nucleus. A unique pair of chromosomes in the cell nucleus determines our sex. An XX pair of chromosomes is a woman, while an XY would be a man. During fertilization, the egg can contain only an X chromosome, because that is all the woman has. The man,

however can provide an X or a Y chromosome and thus determine the sex of the baby. Since the Y chromosome is only inherited from the father, the same reasoning as above can be used to determine if we descended from a common man. The results published in the early 1990's clearly showed that men from all different continents and all races have the exact same Y chromosome. Again, this can only be explained by one common ancestor, a Y chromosome Adam, the father of all humans.

This is not what was expected from the evolutionary viewpoint and since that time, they have attempted to explain this startling finding. One prominent explanation states that the study does not mean there was a single couple alive in the beginning, but that over time only one family of the population in our evolutionary history survived. This is usually explained by comparing last names that customarily is passed down through the male lineage. For example Mr. Smith may have several sons and daughters. His sons were carry his last name to the next generation and his son's sons to the following generation, etc. Looking back in history, there could possibly be a small population with maybe 5 or 10 different last names. For some reason, the other families died out and only one family survived to pass his last name on to all generations following. Although, there may be some truth to this reasoning, but it does not completely explain the results. However, small the population was, say 20 Smiths, they would still be the descendent of a Smith who was a descendent of a Smith, etc. Even though there explanation may be true, The DNA study must go back further to a single couple.

This does raise the question of where did this first Y Chromosome Adam and Mitochondrial Eve come from. At this point, I will encourage you to read the paper on the probabilities of Evolution. In this paper, I clearly point out that random chance evolution can never produce a single protein, much less a complex cell. The only alternative to random chance is an intelligent designer. The evidence is overwhelming that an intelligent creator created the first man and woman on earth and all people are the descendents of this couple. Once we recognize the truth, we realize that there are not many different races, but only one race – the human race and we are all members of this great family of over 6 billion people.

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