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00:00:00,124 --> 00:00:07,127

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

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00:00:07,127 --> 00:00:17,132

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

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00:00:17,132 --> 00:00:32,139

Only in the last 100 years has the human race begun to ask the question, were we always human?

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00:00:32,139 --> 00:00:43,144

It was not until 1973 when an anthropologist happened to look down at the crumbling soil of Ethiopia that we achieved a new look at our past.

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00:00:43,144 --> 00:00:48,147

A single broken bone can sometimes be a time machine.

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00:00:48,147 --> 00:00:54,150

Did it transport us to a moment when the link between man and ape walked the earth?

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00:00:54,150 --> 00:01:15,160

The Great Rift Valley of East Africa extends a thousand miles to one of the most desolate spots on earth, the Afar Triangle.

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00:01:15,160 --> 00:01:26,165

In 1973, a French-American team began to search the area which they suspected could be rich in pre-human fossils.

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00:01:26,165 --> 00:01:35,169

What they found may have pushed the story of humanity back to three and a half million years ago.

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00:01:35,169 --> 00:01:40,172

October. Don Johansson was leader of the American team.

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00:01:40,172 --> 00:01:50,176

This reenactment, based on his book, *Lucy*, shows how he literally stumbled onto the first of three amazing discoveries.

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00:01:50,176 --> 00:01:55,179

The bone seemed to be the shin of a small primate.

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00:01:55,179 --> 00:02:05,184

Upright walking humans had never been found in soil this old, soil which team geologists had dated to three and a half million years BC.

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00:02:05,184 --> 00:02:12,187

He carefully marked and cataloged the spot.

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00:02:12,187 --> 00:02:24,193

Johansson spotted another bone, couldn't believe his luck. Fossil limbs are extremely rare and his two fragments fit into a perfect knee joint.

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00:02:24,193 --> 00:02:28,194

What he noticed next took his breath away.

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00:02:28,194 --> 00:02:39,200

He knew that the knees of apes meet in a straight line, human knees at a slight angle. This knee looked almost human.

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00:02:46,203 --> 00:02:57,208

That evening, Johansson and one of his graduate students snuck outside of camp to a nearby Afar burial mound.

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00:02:57,208 --> 00:03:06,213

Johansson kept insisting he had to find a human femur for comparison.

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00:03:06,213 --> 00:03:12,215

The student was worried. The Afar zealously guard their ancestral mounds.

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00:03:12,215 --> 00:03:19,219

If the anthropologists were caught robbing graves, they might be shot, or worse.

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00:03:28,223 --> 00:03:35,226

Luckily, inside the mound was a modern femur.

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00:03:35,226 --> 00:03:46,232

Except for size, the bones were almost exactly the same. They respectfully replaced the femur.

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00:03:46,232 --> 00:03:52,234

From the knee joint alone, Johansson suspected the unknown creature walked upright.

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00:03:52,234 --> 00:04:01,239

His subsequent discoveries were to revolutionize our beliefs of when the first human walked the

earth.

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00:04:01,239 --> 00:04:10,243

The following year, Johansson returned to the Afar with a larger group. The digs began to yield dramatic finds.

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00:04:10,243 --> 00:04:21,248

Prehistoric hippos, crocodiles, the huge skull of an extinct mastodon.

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00:04:21,248 --> 00:04:28,252

Meanwhile, the pains-taking search continued for human ancestors.

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00:04:28,252 --> 00:04:38,256

They would have considered themselves lucky that season to find a single pre-human bone.

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00:04:38,256 --> 00:04:48,261

That's why the events of late November were unbelievable. Johansson hit his second streak of luck.

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00:04:48,261 --> 00:04:53,264

Crossing down a small gully, he spotted a bone.

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00:04:53,264 --> 00:05:00,267

And another. They pulled out a vertebrae, part of an arm, and more.

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00:05:00,267 --> 00:05:06,270

Had they found King Solomon's mines, the scientists could not have been more overjoyed.

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00:05:06,270 --> 00:05:12,273

What they dug from the dry soil would eventually bring them fame, scientific acclaim,

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00:05:12,273 --> 00:05:16,274

and a backlash of controversy that continues to this day.

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00:05:16,274 --> 00:05:22,277

For they had found a full-grown woman, three and a half feet tall, weighing 50 pounds.

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00:05:22,277 --> 00:05:25,279

A woman who was not quite human.

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00:05:25,279 --> 00:05:33,283

Dr. Johansson and his colleague, Dr. Tim White, analyzed the fossils and later named the new species.

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00:05:33,283 --> 00:05:40,286

What we see here is one of the most remarkable discoveries that's ever been made in the study of human origins.

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00:05:40,286 --> 00:05:43,287

We have a skeleton, which is about 40% complete.

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00:05:43,287 --> 00:05:46,289

Normally, we're happy when we find a bit of a jaw or a bit of an arm.

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00:05:46,289 --> 00:05:51,291

And here we've got leg parts of legs, parts of arms, parts of the skull, nearly complete lower jaw.

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00:05:51,291 --> 00:05:54,293

And she's popularly come to be known as Lucy.

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00:05:54,293 --> 00:06:00,295

She's an anthropologist around the world. She's known as Australopithecus aphaensis, or the apha ape man.

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00:06:00,295 --> 00:06:05,298

And she represents for us the oldest, most complete human ancestor known from anywhere in the world.

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00:06:06,298 --> 00:06:10,300

What Lucy shows us is a creature that was a mosaic creature.

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00:06:10,300 --> 00:06:13,302

Her hip, her knee, her foot would have been very human in appearance.

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00:06:13,302 --> 00:06:22,306

And yet when we look to parts of her face represented here by her lower jaw, we find that it's a very protruding lower portion of the face.

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00:06:22,306 --> 00:06:27,308

We have portions of her brain case and they show that the brain was very, very small.

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00:06:27,308 --> 00:06:30,310

Smaller even than some modern chimpanzees.

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00:06:30,310 --> 00:06:35,312

We have been looking and are always looking for various links in the evolutionary chain.

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00:06:35,312 --> 00:06:43,316

And one of the interesting links in the evolutionary chain which has been filled by the discovery of Lucy is this intermediate form.

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00:06:43,316 --> 00:06:48,318

That is to say we've got a form that's fully upright, walking on two legs, just as modern humans do,

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00:06:48,318 --> 00:06:56,322

but still has a lot of evolutionary change necessary to make it truly human in the teeth, in the face, the jaws, and the size of the skull.

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00:06:56,322 --> 00:07:04,326

So here we have essentially found a very interesting and provocative link between something that was partly human and partly ape-like.

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00:07:05,326 --> 00:07:07,327

What did Lucy look like?

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00:07:07,327 --> 00:07:11,329

No record of skin color or hair density remains.

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00:07:11,329 --> 00:07:15,331

This reenactment is one possible interpretation.

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00:07:19,333 --> 00:07:25,336

In the hostile environment around primitive African lakes, frequented by large predators,

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00:07:25,336 --> 00:07:30,338

Lucy's upright walking may have offered a new talent for survival.

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00:07:30,338 --> 00:07:38,342

For the first time in primate evolution, the hands were free, hands which were shaped just like ours.

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00:07:55,350 --> 00:08:01,353

We can assume that these hominids were at least as intelligent as a modern chimpanzee.

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00:08:01,353 --> 00:08:09,357

But we can't assume that they were more intelligent or that they had speed or anything like that because we don't have any record of their tools.

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00:08:09,357 --> 00:08:15,360

We don't find a stone tool record until much later in time, much younger than Lucy.

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00:08:16,360 --> 00:08:22,363

The upright walk of a human, the strength and agility of an athlete and the brain of a chimpanzee.

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00:08:22,363 --> 00:08:29,366

Could Lucy talk? Could she reason? Could she remember the past and plan for the future?

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00:08:29,366 --> 00:08:33,368

According to Johansson and White, not very much.

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00:08:36,370 --> 00:08:43,373

The talent for stone tool making would be the ability to make a living out of it.

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00:08:43,373 --> 00:08:48,375

The talent for stone tool making would not come for another million years.

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00:08:48,375 --> 00:08:52,377

In that sense, Lucy was still an animal.

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00:09:06,384 --> 00:09:10,386

Not all scientists agreed with this interpretation.

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00:09:11,386 --> 00:09:19,390

A year after the Lucy find, Johansson was again in the field, seeking more evidence and again he struck gold.

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00:09:19,390 --> 00:09:29,395

A movie crew was present when his team unearthed an entire pre-human family, at least a dozen who somehow perished together.

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00:09:29,395 --> 00:09:36,398

In the years since this monumental discovery, scientists are still arguing its meaning.

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00:09:37,399 --> 00:09:42,401

Some experts claim the bones represent not one, but three species.

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00:09:42,401 --> 00:09:45,403

That Lucy was completely human.

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00:09:45,403 --> 00:09:49,405

That Lucy was a knuckle walking ape.

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00:09:49,405 --> 00:09:52,406

That Lucy's family evolved into humans.

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00:09:52,406 --> 00:09:55,407

The controversy continues.

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00:09:56,408 --> 00:10:04,412

If Lucy is our predecessor, and if the date of her life and death and three and a half million years is correct,

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00:10:04,412 --> 00:10:13,416

this little creature who lived without speech or reason to thought would be the ancestor of me, of you, of all of us.

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00:10:13,416 --> 00:10:17,418

Two hundred thousand generations removed.

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00:10:17,418 --> 00:10:25,422

One million generations before Lucy, fossil fragments have been found of little primates called Ramapithecus.

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00:10:25,422 --> 00:10:31,425

The theory of evolution claims these monkeys as our ultimate ancestors.

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00:10:32,425 --> 00:10:39,428

A few footprints in Texas rocks, however, might prove that Lucy doesn't belong to us at all.

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00:10:39,428 --> 00:10:43,430

That evolution is wrong, and the Bible right.

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00:10:48,433 --> 00:10:54,435

If the theory of natural evolution is correct, then the earth must be very old.

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00:10:54,435 --> 00:11:01,439

What scientists call the geologic column is layer after layer of rocks built up over time.

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00:11:01,439 --> 00:11:07,442

A slice through this birthday cake would expose four billion years of slow change.

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00:11:07,442 --> 00:11:14,445

Human bones would be found only in the very top, and dinosaur bones only in the middle.

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00:11:14,445 --> 00:11:19,447

Today, most scientists would agree. Most, but not all.

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00:11:19,447 --> 00:11:25,450

A growing number of scientists who call themselves creationists interpret these strata very differently.

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00:11:25,450 --> 00:11:29,452

They believe the world and man were created about ten thousand years ago,

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00:11:29,452 --> 00:11:33,454

and most of these rock layers were deposited during Noah's flood.

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00:11:33,454 --> 00:11:39,457

It's hard to imagine a more controversial split today in the ranks of science.

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00:11:39,457 --> 00:11:48,461

At the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, scientists are gathering to coordinate and publish their interpretation of origins.

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00:11:49,462 --> 00:11:55,465

The Creation Research Society now claims 700 PhDs and Masters of Science.

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00:11:55,465 --> 00:12:00,467

John Morris is one of their experts in geology.

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00:12:00,467 --> 00:12:06,470

I feel that humans live throughout the entire geologic column, and that the geologic column could very well have been.

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00:12:06,470 --> 00:12:13,473

In fact, I feel was laid down by a single major hydraulic catastrophe.

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00:12:14,474 --> 00:12:21,477

Dr. Morris was principal investigator on one of the most amazing bits of creationist evidence ever found.

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00:12:21,477 --> 00:12:25,479

The footprints in the Pilexie River in Texas.

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00:12:25,479 --> 00:12:31,482

It was about the turn of the century, 1908, something like that, when there was a major flood on the Pilexie River.

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00:12:31,482 --> 00:12:38,485

And the people then began to see markings in the rock that they had never seen before, and didn't understand.

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00:12:38,485 --> 00:12:44,488

They were these huge prints of these bird-like creatures with three toes, things of this nature,

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00:12:44,488 --> 00:12:48,490

and soon people figured out they were dinosaur footprints, and it was an amazing find.

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00:12:48,490 --> 00:12:54,493

Discovery of the dinosaur prints attracted many scientists to this rural area.

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00:12:54,493 --> 00:13:01,496

Some of the huge tracks were removed to various universities, and some were sold on the black market.

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00:13:02,496 --> 00:13:09,500

Today, the area is incorporated into dinosaur state park to protect the remaining tracks.

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00:13:09,500 --> 00:13:17,504

The giant reptile prints are fascinating, but other nearby tracks are more difficult to explain.

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00:13:17,504 --> 00:13:23,506

Creationists claim they are human footprints in the same cretaceous layer,

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00:13:23,506 --> 00:13:27,508

placed at the same time as the dinosaur prints.

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00:13:27,508 --> 00:13:33,511

Yet the theory of evolution insists humans and dinosaurs never coexisted.

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00:13:33,511 --> 00:13:40,515

This, I think, is one of the main evidences for the revision of the geologic column to find humans and dinosaurs together.

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00:13:40,515 --> 00:13:46,517

It's totally incompatible with our modern-day concepts of evolution and uniformitarianism.

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00:13:46,517 --> 00:13:52,520

Then, evidence came to light that some of the prints may have been fakes.

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00:13:53,521 --> 00:14:00,524

A team of creationists excavated, attempting to answer once and for all the charges of a hoax.

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00:14:03,525 --> 00:14:09,528

Throughout the 60s and around 68 to 71 or so, there was a whole lot of activity at the Plexi River

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00:14:09,528 --> 00:14:16,532

to uncover new prints, go back into the river to turn over new rock shells where the river has not been before,

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00:14:16,532 --> 00:14:19,533

where there's no chance of carving.

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00:14:19,533 --> 00:14:23,535

These prints are in place and there's no chance that they were carved.

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00:14:23,535 --> 00:14:28,537

These are prints as they were laid down in the original lot, which later turned to limestone.

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00:14:28,537 --> 00:14:36,541

Six new trails were exposed, startling evidence for the creationist claim.

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00:14:36,541 --> 00:14:47,546

The Bible tells explicitly the creation of the world, not in four billion years, but in six days.

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00:14:47,546 --> 00:14:54,550

For creationists, there is only one origin of the species, divine creation.

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00:14:54,550 --> 00:15:01,553

Animals were made in their own kind and Adam was fashioned from dirt in the image of God.

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00:15:04,555 --> 00:15:10,557

For evolutionists, blind chance changed simians into sapiens.

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00:15:11,558 --> 00:15:17,561

Dr. Dwayne Gish, a biochemist, has written that man did not evolve,

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00:15:17,561 --> 00:15:26,565

that fossils such as Neanderthal and Lucy are misinterpretations of deformed humans or extinct apes.

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00:15:26,565 --> 00:15:34,569

I believe that these creatures, such as the Australopithecines, were apes, not intermediate, and they were certainly not men.

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00:15:35,569 --> 00:15:41,572

The primates make up one of the 32 orders of mammals, and as George Gaylord Simpson,

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00:15:41,572 --> 00:15:44,574

one of the world's leading evolutionists, has stated,

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00:15:44,574 --> 00:15:52,577

every one of these 32 orders of mammals have appeared with their distinct ordinal characteristics already complete.

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00:15:52,577 --> 00:15:57,580

In other words, from the very start, when the first time you see a bat, it's a bat.

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00:15:57,580 --> 00:16:02,582

A whale is a whale, a primate is a primate, and a hoofed animal is a hoofed animal.

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00:16:02,582 --> 00:16:10,586

And there are no transitional forms, no intermediate, going back to their supposed ancestral order.

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00:16:12,587 --> 00:16:18,590

The Paluxy Prince are one of many claims which have fired a recent scientific controversy,

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00:16:18,590 --> 00:16:22,592

a controversy which is often very heated.

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00:16:24,593 --> 00:16:31,596

Well, I think that the only place that we have definitive evidence for humans and dinosaurs existing together is in cartoons.

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00:16:32,596 --> 00:16:38,599

And essentially what we're looking at probably is somebody's attempt to pull a joke on scientists.

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00:16:38,599 --> 00:16:43,602

Science, by their definition, is the attempt to explain everything without a supernatural.

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00:16:43,602 --> 00:16:48,604

Now to me, that is incompatible with science as it calls itself a search for truth,

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00:16:48,604 --> 00:16:52,606

because if there is truth outside the naturalistic scheme of things,

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00:16:52,606 --> 00:16:57,608

then any attempt to explain things without a supernatural element is doomed to failure.

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00:16:57,608 --> 00:17:03,611

And I feel that much of evolution science is doomed to failure because of that very assumption.

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00:17:03,611 --> 00:17:07,613

It may be that those human footprints that are there, I've not seen them,

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00:17:07,613 --> 00:17:11,615

were simply carved in the same rock levels in which you found dinosaur footprints.

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00:17:11,615 --> 00:17:13,616

These have never been published in the scientific literature,

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00:17:13,616 --> 00:17:17,618

and scientists have never been invited to critically examine the footprints until that happens.

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00:17:17,618 --> 00:17:24,621

We would welcome an opportunity to go and look at these footprints and to investigate them personally.

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00:17:25,622 --> 00:17:31,625

Most of the journals that publish scientific literature are committed to an evolutionary position, an evolutionary framework.

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00:17:31,625 --> 00:17:42,630

And articles that would be antagonistic toward that viewpoint would be, would seldom be approved for publication.

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00:17:42,630 --> 00:17:48,633

On many occasions, creationists have written to journals, to publish articles,

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00:17:48,633 --> 00:17:54,635

or even letters to the editor, that sort of thing, and very, very seldom are they published.

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00:17:54,635 --> 00:17:59,638

There's a sense that people say there's this discontinuity between the family of man and the family of apes,

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00:17:59,638 --> 00:18:05,641

but if we look at extant forms, living forms today, and we study the anatomy, we study the biochemistry,

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00:18:05,641 --> 00:18:08,642

we study the blood, we study the actual DNA sequences,

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00:18:08,642 --> 00:18:12,644

we find out that there is a lot of overlap between apes and humans,

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00:18:12,644 --> 00:18:16,646

and obviously somewhere in the past they shared a common ancestor.

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00:18:16,646 --> 00:18:20,648

Now the similarities in the proteins, of course, are not starting.

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00:18:20,648 --> 00:18:25,650

We would predict that on the basis of creation, because we are living in the same world,

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00:18:25,650 --> 00:18:29,652

we're drinking the same water, eating the same food, breathing the same air,

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00:18:29,652 --> 00:18:35,655

we have exactly the same metabolic problems, we believe God, the creator, then having solved these problems,

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00:18:35,655 --> 00:18:39,657

would have essentially used the same solution in each case.

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00:18:39,657 --> 00:18:44,659

But the distinguishing features between man and chimpanzees are really starting.

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00:18:44,659 --> 00:18:49,662

Of course, he has a brain about one-third of ours, and the many other characteristics of chimpanzees,

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00:18:49,662 --> 00:18:52,663

they're tremendously different than man.

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00:18:52,663 --> 00:18:57,665

He has no ability to speak, he does not think abstractly, he does not think into the future,

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00:18:57,665 --> 00:19:00,667

he does not think about the past, very, very different from man.

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00:19:00,667 --> 00:19:03,668

He is indeed an animal, we are human.

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00:19:03,668 --> 00:19:11,672

Okay, one of the things that modern creationists are trying to do is to masquerade under a banner

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00:19:11,672 --> 00:19:18,675

called scientific creationism and act as though they are actually scientists working within the scientific forum.

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00:19:18,675 --> 00:19:23,678

This is not true, in fact, what these people have are a set of beliefs,

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00:19:23,678 --> 00:19:26,679

usually based on the chapter of Genesis in the Bible,

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00:19:26,679 --> 00:19:31,682

and instead of testing their propositions and trying to answer questions,

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00:19:31,682 --> 00:19:35,684

they already have the answers and they're not asking any questions.

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00:19:35,684 --> 00:19:40,686

There's no way that we can construct testable scientific theories about origins.

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00:19:40,686 --> 00:19:46,689

Evolution is no more scientific than creation and certainly as religious.

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00:19:46,689 --> 00:19:52,692

It is a basic dogma of humanism, atheism, agnosticism, and things of that nature.

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00:19:52,692 --> 00:19:58,695

The debate has moved from the laboratory to the classroom to the courtroom.

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00:19:58,695 --> 00:20:06,698

It was once thought settled, it probably never will be.

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00:20:07,699 --> 00:20:16,703

Those scientists who espouse evolution and those who believe in creation will probably never close the gap.

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00:20:16,703 --> 00:20:23,706

Hopefully, they can agree on one point, science needs healthy skepticism.

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00:20:23,706 --> 00:20:30,710

And we shouldn't forget the famous Nebraska man based upon a single tooth found in western Nebraska in 1922.

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00:20:30,710 --> 00:20:34,712

Some of the world's greatest authorities were very excited by this discovery.

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00:20:35,712 --> 00:20:42,715

And they were convinced it was part of a primitive subhuman ancestor of man.

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00:20:42,715 --> 00:20:45,717

The illustrated London news had their artist draw a picture of this creature.

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00:20:45,717 --> 00:20:47,718

It turned out to be very man-like.

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00:20:47,718 --> 00:20:52,720

It showed a picture of the man and his wife and the tools that they were using based upon this single tooth.

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00:20:52,720 --> 00:20:57,723

However, a few years later, they discovered the skeleton of this creature, the remainder of the skeleton.

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00:20:57,723 --> 00:21:01,725

And it turned out to be neither a man-like ape nor an ape-like man.

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00:21:01,725 --> 00:21:03,725

It turned out to be a pig.

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00:21:03,725 --> 00:21:12,730

Now, again, this darling thing is that great authorities had mistaken a pig's tooth for an evolutionary form of man.

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00:21:12,730 --> 00:21:17,732

Now, they were honest scientists. They were very good scientists and very careful scientists.

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00:21:17,732 --> 00:21:18,733

What had happened?

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00:21:18,733 --> 00:21:25,736

You see, this is what they had wanted to find, this is what they had expected to find, and therefore, this is what they tended to see.

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00:21:27,737 --> 00:21:31,739

The search for the missing links of our origin will continue.

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00:21:31,739 --> 00:21:34,740

Perhaps we really hope to find our destiny.