

EXODUS

One

1. Upright Man, *Homo erectus*, all five foot two inches of him, began walking out of Africa about two million years ago.ⁱ He crossed over the land bridge to the Middle East and began spreading north and east.
2. Gradually, he wandered eastward across Persia and the Indus Valley, across India and into Southeast Asia. Other groups fanned out and moved more northward and into what is now China.
3. Some of his cousins moved, more slowly, about a million years ago, northerly into what is now Europe.ⁱⁱ
4. His use of fire and tools and his ability to hunt and kill no doubt allowed him to be very successful in so many different environments.
5. In many ways, my child, Upright Man had many of the features that we have, but he was not like us. He could be tall, as much as six feet, but was usually only a little over five feet tall. This variation was different from the other hominids such as A-P, who usually were the same height. But, like us, his height could vary quite a bit.ⁱⁱⁱ
6. As we have said, he had a bigger brain, but not so big a brain as we have. The bones in his hands were more similar to ours than A-P's. He ate plants and animals, what we call an "everything eater" or *omnivore*, as we are.
7. He tinkered with art, carving shells with his tools as we do. He cared for the young and weak like we do.
8. But Upright Man was not us.
9. Back in Africa, the hominids—the apes walking on two legs—continued to develop and evolve.
10. About 800,000 years ago, more than half a million years ago, while Upright Man was creeping into Europe and Asia, another group of hominids developed in Africa. We call this group *Homo heidelbergensis* because of where we first found their bones. The descendants of this group developed some characteristics very similar to ours.^{iv}
11. They also walked out of Africa, but while Upright Man went more easterly, Heidelberg Man went more northerly into Europe and Western Asia.
12. After another 400,000 years, or 4,000 centuries, or if you think of a generation as being about 30 years, then about 13,000 generations, another species, another family of man, developed, people we call the *Neanderthal*. We call them that because their bones were first found in the Neander Valley in Germany.^v
13. Neanderthal was very much like us, even more than Upright Man. He was a bit bigger than we are, probably because he tended to live farther north where it was colder.
14. We have evidence that Neanderthal had ceremonies that many hominids did not have, like burying his dead.^{vi}

15. Then, about 200,000 years ago, a new species appeared in Eastern Africa, one with a larger, more developed brain. Because of his big brain, we called him *Homo Sapiens*, Wise Man. *These*, my child, were our ancestors, the first humans as we know them. ^{vii}
16. *In other words, human beings are only about 200,000 years old. Very, very young in the history of the world and of the universe.* ^{viii}
17. If you think about the history of the Earth, my child, as a dashed line as shown below in which every dash equals 200,000 years, humans have only existed during the last dash, that tiny little bit, the asterisk.^{ix}
18. -----<**insert 22,500 dashes here, that's FOUR PAGES of dashes!**>-----
 -----* The whole of our human existence here on Earth is truly miniscule, a microscopic dot compared with the total existence of the Earth.

ⁱ <http://australianmuseum.net.au/the-first-migrations-out-of-africa>, May 2016

ⁱⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_human_migrations, May 2016

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.livescience.com/41048-facts-about-homo-erectus.html>, May 2016

^{iv} <http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-fossils/species/homo-heidelbergensis>, May 2016

^v <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neanderthal>, May 2016

^{vi} <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/12/131216-la-chapelle-neanderthal-burials-graves/>, May 2016

^{vii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo_sapiens, May 2016

^{viii} Harari, Yuval Noah, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Harper, New York, 2015

^{ix} Nye, Bill and Corey S. Powell, *Undeniable, Evolution and the Science of Creation*, St. Martin's Press, New York, 2014