

yielded the first evidence of compassion and altruism -- the care of a crippled man. Furthermore, the first evidence of a ritual burial with flowers is found in the Shanidar cave. There are signs of humanity here.

Then, there are the curious human remains in the Mount Carmel caves and the cave near Nazareth. If these remains are transitional between Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon, then this is a location for the emerging stock of Cro-Magnon. If these remains are lacking in close Neanderthal affinity, this is a location for the earliest known Cro-Magnon man. Because anthropologists regard Cro-Magnon man as the ancestor of all the modern peoples in the world today, Israel might be the homeland of the entire present human race.

Current evidence indicates that Israel may lay claim to the beginnings of cultivated agriculture. Archeologists long thought that agriculture began along the fertile Tigris-Euphrates river complex. Logic dictated that they extend their search to the upper hill country at the foot of the Zargos mountains, and their search was rewarded with signs of primitive ancient cultivation and harvest. But the earliest agricultural cultivation discovered so far took place in the ancient oasis of Jericho. It was here about 8,000 B.C. that the series of "genetic accidents" resulted in bread wheat. It was in Jericho that man is first known to have tilled the ground, to have earned his bread by the sweat of his brow.

The first animal husbandry, the first agriculture, the first towns, and the beginnings of civilization occurred in ancient Israel and Mesopotamia, not in Egypt or other parts of Africa, not in Mexico, or South America, or India, or China, or the Bronx. Bronowski states, "The largest single step in the ascent of man is the change from nomad to village agriculture."⁵ This momentous step took place in the same geographic area that the Bible describes as the center of human origin and development-another striking testimony to the harmony between science and Scripture.

ADAM AND EVE?

Both science and the Bible are in harmony as to the geographic location for the "Garden of Eden." But how do Adam and Eve fit in, and when did our ancestors first appear in scientific history? We will attempt to correlate scientific and biblical time in the next chapter, but the calendar date for God's creation of Adam and Eve will remain unresolved. The Bible simply doesn't tell us when this event took