

- What caused the sudden Cambrian explosion of life in the oceans? How did single cells change into multicelled, complex animals with tissues and organs? Where is the fossil record of this dramatic transformation?

The Bible straightforwardly states: "Then God said, 'Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures'" (Gen. 1:20).

- What caused the "explosive adaptive radiation" of the mammals? The extinction of the dinosaurs might have contributed to it, but there is no definite explanation for their extinction. The climatic change? Cosmic bombardment from outer space? One possible answer leads only to another question.

After creating life to occupy the sea and the air, God issues his next creation command: "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind" (Gen. 1:24).

There are many mysteries connected with the origin of man. We don't know why the powerfully built, large-brained Neanderthal man vanished from history. We don't know where Cro-Magnon man came from and why he spread so rapidly throughout the Earth. Furthermore, we are puzzled as to why all the most significant events in mankind's early development take place in the area identified with the biblical Garden of Eden -- the Fertile Crescent. Moreover, ever since Darwin proposed his theory of evolution, anthropologists have been on a quest to find the missing link between apes and humans. It is beginning to appear likely that the missing link between ape and human will not be found. In fact, we might even begin to ask: Does it exist?

## **THE BIG QUESTION**

While the puzzles listed above will probably continue to attract the attention of scholars, the real question of why humans are here at all is the most profound question of all. Let's step back from examining the trees for a minute and look at the forest -- the big picture.

If one considers the vast harmonious panorama of cosmic, geologic, and biologic history, we can imagine a million alternate directions in which cosmic, geologic, or biologic forces could have fashioned life -- if indeed the cosmic parameters existed in the correct form to fashion life in any form whatsoever. If one accepts mechanistic evolutionary processes at face value, there is simply no reason or likely probability for our Universe, our planet, or ourselves to exist at