The Toucan

The Toucan is a very unusual bird which lives in the tropical rainforests of South America. There are a number of different species, ranging in size from the Aracar Toucan at around 36 cm. (14 ins.) long, to the Toco Toucan which is 63cm. (25 ins.) long. The largest toucans live in the lower rainforests. The most noticeable thing about them is their large, brightly-coloured beak, which is sometimes as long as their body and four times as large as their heads.

Although the toucan’s beak may look large and clumsy, it is not at all heavy, but wonderfully designed for lightness and strength. Inside the outer shell the beak is like a honey-comb, with lots of air spaces. Although many people believe that we evolved “ape-men” or anything between apes and humans, we may be like apes in some ways. After all we live on the same planet. But there are lots and lots of differences that can’t be seen in fossils. Humans think about the world and how it came to be, and we wonder about such things. All groups of people in the world have a religion of some kind, but apes never pray or worship God. These differences are there because God created humans alone to be His special friends.

Evolutionists can’t explain why toucans have such a large beak, and there is no evidence that toucans evolved from ancestors with smaller beaks. If the honeycomb pattern changed gradually from a solid beak, then the birds would have found it difficult to fly because their beaks would have been too heavy. We believe God created toucans with their special, colourful beaks.

YOU ARE NOT AN APE!

Although many people believe that we evolved from ape-like ancestors, there are no fossils of “ape-men” or anything between apes and humans. We may be like apes in some ways. After all we live on the same planet. But there are lots and lots of differences that can’t be seen in fossils. Humans are very creative; they write books, and compose music. Apes are very clever, but they can’t speak. They can’t even read or write.

Humans have designed machines and computers, and even travelled into space. But although some apes use tools, such as sticks and stones, they have never designed anything—not even a wheel. The Bible tells us that God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, who were the ancestors of all the people who have ever lived. In the beginning, they were close to God, but when they disobeyed Him that friendship was broken. We believe that God has disapproved of many of the ways that he has only Son. God gave his Son to anyone who believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. (John 3:16). You are not an ape, neither did you descend from an ape. God created you to be His friend, and through faith in Jesus you can be!
ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL!

The Bible tells us that all the people on earth have descended from the first man, Adam, who was made in God’s own image. “God began by creating one man. From him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world.” (Acts 17:26). That’s what most people believed until the late 19th century, when Charles Darwin (left) wrote a book in which he said that all living things on earth had evolved from lower creatures. This suggested that some human beings were more “primitive” than others. In fact, Charles Darwin himself believed that non-Europeans and people with darker skins were of less value than white people. He believed Europeans would eventually conquer the world. These ideas led to some very wicked things happening.

When people from Europe went to Australia, they often treated the native Aborigines very badly, because they thought they were less human than themselves. Adolf Hitler (lower left), once leader of Germany, believed that German people were the “master race”. He killed 6 million Jewish people because he believed they were less human. Today, most evolutionists don’t think like that, but in the past belief in evolution did encourage the idea that some people were less “evolved” than others, and therefore less important. This is just the opposite of what God has told us in the Bible: there is only one race — the human race — and all humans are equal and of special value to Him.

Nature Notes by the Editor

In the beginning when God created plants He said: “Let the earth produce plants. Some plants will make grain for seeds. Others will make fruit with seeds in it. Every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant.” (Genesis 1:11). Although many plants reproduce without true seeds, most plants do have seeds, and we can often see them inside the fruit and vegetables we eat — take a look next time you eat a melon, orange, cucumber or tomato. Sometimes the seeds are all that we eat; for example bread is made from flour, which is ground-up seeds (grain). God designed plants so that their seeds get a good chance to grow. Some, like dandelions (right), have seeds with tiny “parachutes” that drift away in the wind. Others are sticky, and get carried away by animals. Notice God said that “every seed will produce more of its own kind of plant.” And what a good thing, too! How confusing it would be if we couldn’t be sure of this. Imagine sowing carrot seeds and getting cabbage, or sowing melon seeds and getting pears! When God created all living things, both plants and animals, He made sure that they would produce more of their own kind, with only limited variation. That’s why we don’t see evolution happening, and why it will never happen.

— Geoff Chapman

Puzzle Corner

CRACK THE CODE!
Use the code below to read the Bible verse

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Find the animals “hidden” in the sentences below:

1. Well, I only asked a question.
2. Please allow me to speak.
3. This is the pan the raspberries were in.
4. Just stop and ask someone the way.
5. You must be a very good girl.
6. The babe arrived on time.
7. He did not terrify everyone.
8. They came looking for me.
9. In the strong breeze branches were bending.
10. It’s called a beach or seashore.

QUICK QUIZ: (from this magazine)
1. Name the “barle” that became human? 2. Which “ape-man” skull was broken into 100 pieces? 3. How many different pictures were drawn from it? (answers on back page)

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Hidden animals

Create your own 'barle' with God’s help! Get the code above. Then find the animals in the sentences below:

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