WHERE DID LANGUAGES COME FROM?

ANCIENT LANGUAGES ARE NOT SIMPLE!
The evolution theory says that human speech began with animal grunts which gradually changed into words. But the sounds made by apes are nothing like the words we use when we talk. All animals have ways of communicating with one another, but this is not at all like our own language. If languages really evolved, then the oldest languages on earth should be the simplest ones. But they are not. Ancient languages such as Sanskrit—still spoken in parts of India—are much more complicated than modern languages. Language experts who believe in evolution are puzzled by this.

Ancient tablets show we can trust the Bible

In 1964, thousands of clay tablets were discovered in an ancient palace at Ebla in Syria. There were about 17,000 pieces, which when put together made about 2,500 tablets. This discovery was very exciting because the writing on the tablets proved that the history recorded in the Bible is true. The Ebla tablets, which were written between 2,400–2,300 B.C., contain a record of the creation of the world, the flood and early human history. Many people who had said we could not trust the Bible now had to admit that it was true history after all.

HOW WE USE LANGUAGE TO COMMUNICATE

One of the Ebla tablets

Ancient tablets show we can trust the Bible

Being able to talk is great, but it is even more useful to have a written language. This makes it easier to record history, and pass on information to future generations. In the beginning, people wrote on pieces of clay, which were then baked. Thousands of these tablets have been discovered by archaeologists. The ancient Egyptians learned how to make a kind of parchment from the stems of a plant called papyrus. This was joined together in rolls called scrolls. Modern-type paper was first made in China 1,900 years ago. Before printing was invented, books were handwritten—a very slow job. Now, millions of books can be quickly printed.

Nature Notes by the Editor

I am writing this in the middle of winter, and we have had some cold, frosty days. But even during the cold weather the green shoots of spring flowers have appeared, leaving the cold, ready to give a display of colour in only a few weeks. Already snowdrops are in bloom, and even a few brave daffodils have started to open. Bulbs look dry and dead when they are planted. But in the spring they grow and provide a beautiful display.

Puzzle Corner

Can you read the Bible verse below?

1. Raven, penguin, eagle, octopus, kiwi.
2. Lion, tiger, kangaroo, puma, lynx.
3. Mouse, weasel, whale, shark, seal.
4. Ant, bee, wasp, dragonfly, spider.
5. Sheep, pig, cow, hamster, goat.
6. Salmon, eel, trout, sturgeon, dolphin.

Study the two pictures below. The lower picture has 10 differences. Can you spot them?

Answers on the back page.

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