



Every so often, we'll read in the newspaper, or hear on TV something like, "Skull find proves man and apes share a common ancestor." But is this really true?

Some background

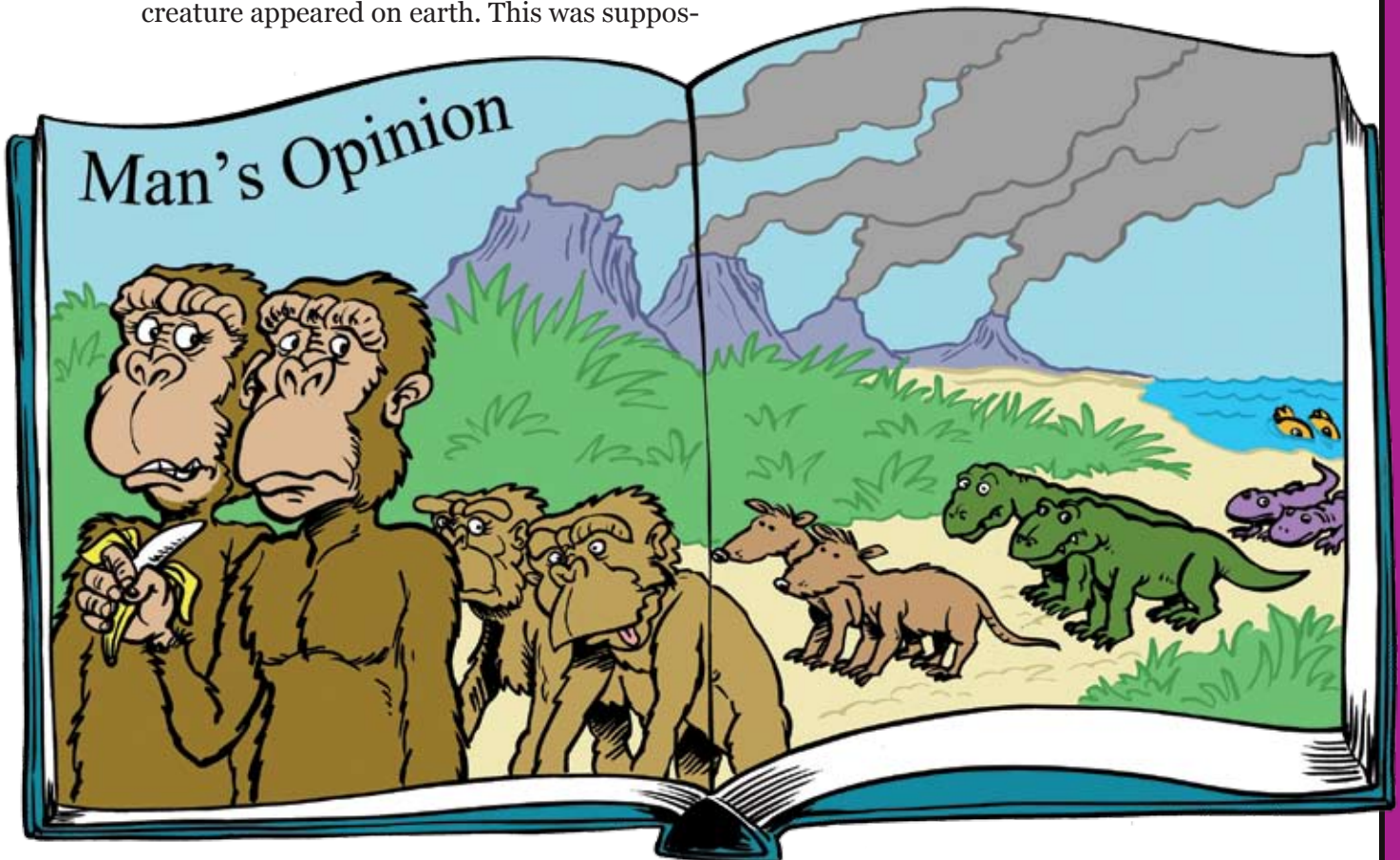
There are two main (and very different) ideas about the history of our universe.

The first idea comes from the collection of 66 books we call the Bible. From it, we can learn that God created all things in six normal-length days only a few thousand years ago. He explains in Genesis that He created the first man and woman on the sixth day of that first week, along with the various kinds of land animals. (He made the air and water creatures on Day 5. The various kinds of plants were made on Day 3.) Those who accept this view use the Bible to help them make sense of the world around them.

The second belief is based on the idea that the universe came into being on its own. Countless millions of years ago, a single-celled creature appeared on earth. This was suppos-



edly our first ancestor, which we share with all living things. Over the years, this creature's descendants gradually changed into the wide



variety of animals and plants that we see today. This view is known as “evolution.”

Those who accept this view use evolutionary ideas to help them make sense of the world around them.

Which is right?

Is it possible to know for certain which view of the past is correct? After all, none of us were around “in the beginning!” It’s impossible for us to know firsthand what happened, and when.

However, because the Bible is the written record of One who has always existed and who always tells the truth, we can trust it to be an accurate account of history.

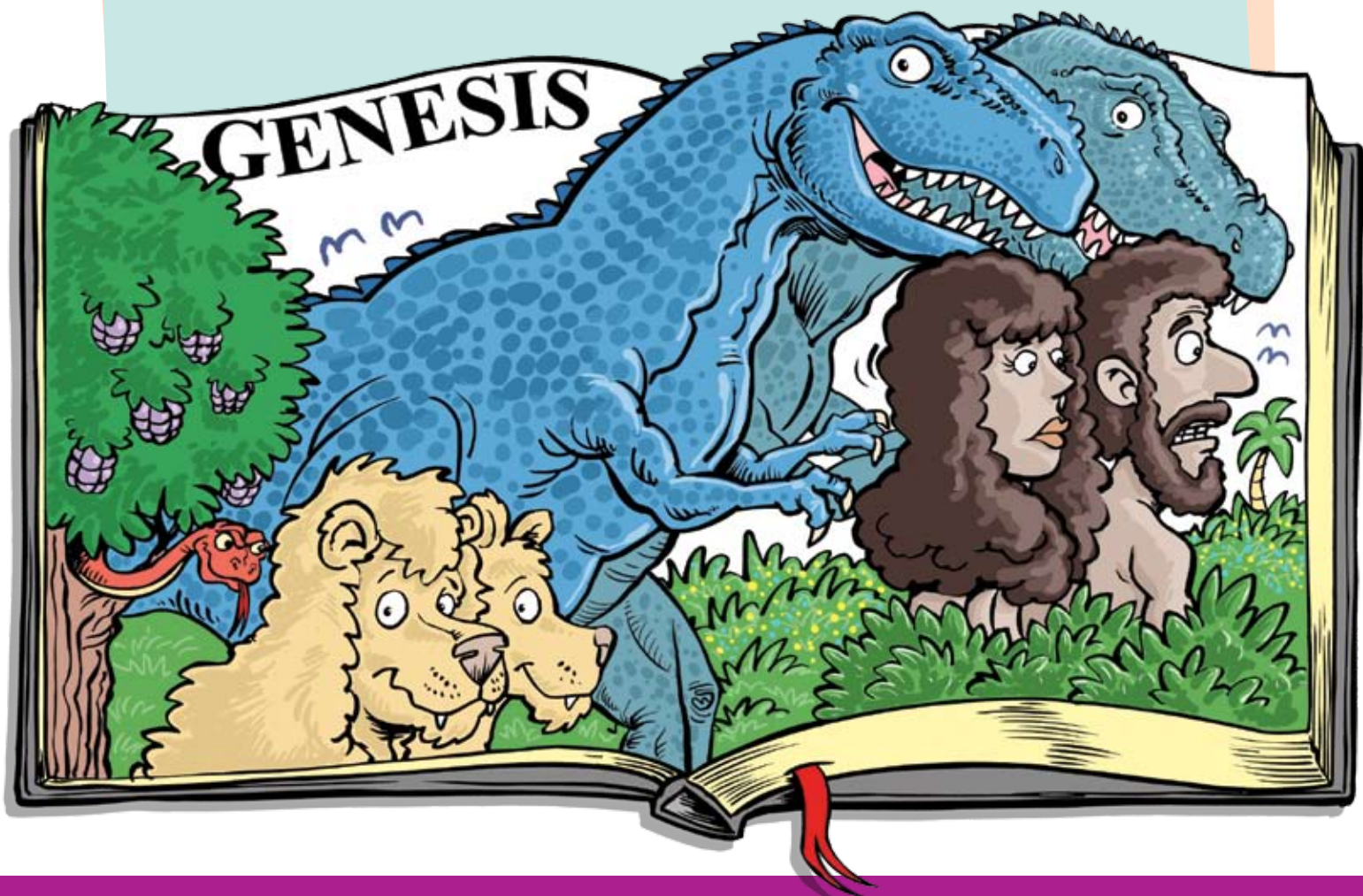
What’s the truth?

So, do headlines, like the one quoted on the previous page, tell the truth? No. The

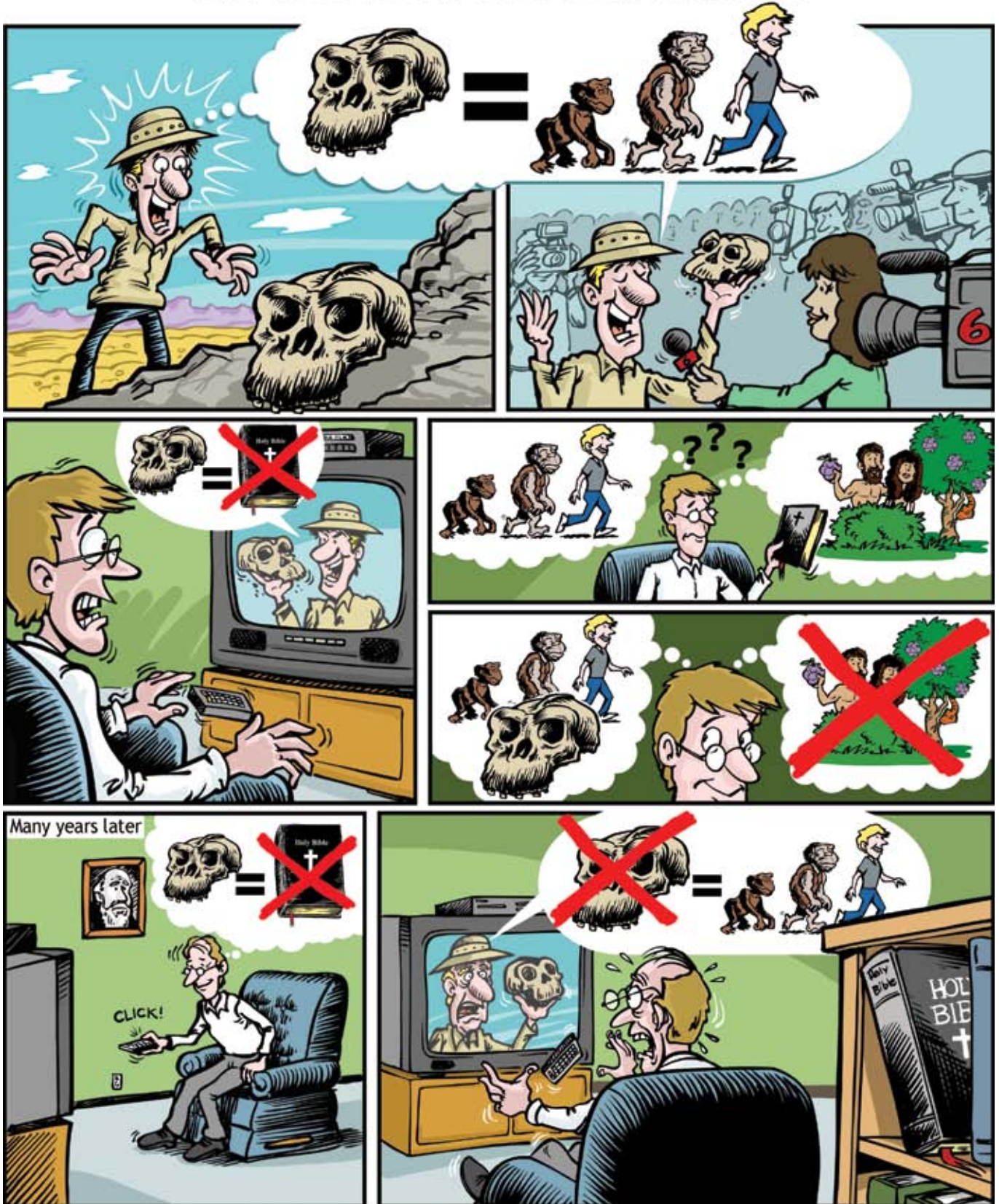
first man was created from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). God created the first woman from his rib (Genesis 2:21–24). Both were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). We don’t share a common ancestor with apes!

It’s important to carefully check what was actually found when we hear claims like the one above. Many times, the supposed “proof” of evolution is based on only a few bone fragments. Or it turns out to be a type of monkey or ape, or even a true human. But it is never a “transition” between an ape and humans.

The “evidence” (bones, for example) doesn’t prove evolution is true. Neither does it “prove” the Bible is true. Rather, we interpret the evidence based on our belief in either evolution or the Bible. When we come across claims that a fossil discovery “proves” evolution, we should look more closely at what was really found.



THE EVIDENCE



Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.
Psalm 119:160

Looking a Little Closer

Evolutionists claim that humans and apes share a common ancestor that lived millions of year ago.

They say they have uncovered the fossils of supposed “apemen.” But the first apeman was described and drawn long before any bones were found. The drawing was based purely on the belief that things made themselves without God (evolution).

If evolution were true, there should be thousands of fossils showing the transition from ape-like creatures to humans. However, the “missing links” turn out to be nothing more than bones of humans, or bones of some type of extinct ape. Even evolutionists themselves don’t always agree on how the bones should be interpreted!

We can’t go wrong if we trust in the Word of God, which never changes and never needs to be updated. It tells us that humans are not evolved animals, but were created in the image of God.

Let’s take a look at some of the more famous apemen fossils, and find out what they really are.

Neanderthal man—Neanderthal is German for Neander Valley. This is where bones of this supposed “missing link” were first found about 150 years ago. Scientists now realize that Neanderthals were humans. They were our relatives—descendants of Adam and Eve (through Noah).

Java man—He was first found in

East Java over 100 years ago. Now that we have more of the bones, it is clear that his body was similar to ours. He walked just like we do. The same is true for Peking man, who was discovered in China during the 1920s and ‘30s. Both are now called *Homo erectus*, or “upright man.” Recent evidence shows that modern-looking early humans had children by both Neanderthals and *Homo erectus*, showing that they are all fully human people groups.

“Lucy”—“Lucy” is among the more famous “missing links.” Careful research on the skull, inner ear, and other bones shows that Lucy is very similar to a pygmy chimpanzee. She did not walk upright like humans. Instead, she used her knuckles, like gorillas and chimps.

