afarensis) is only 40% complete, yet it is rated as the best and most spectacular discovery of fossils related to human evolutionary theory that has been found between 1970 and the present (1988). Paleontologists dealing with other kinds of animals almost never consider such a small, relatively isolated fossil find as that to be a sufficient basis for forming any very definite conclusions regarding the relationships of the groups of animals being considered.

Most evolutionary anthropologists seem not to be bothered at all by the million-year gaps in their theoretical ancestral tree for mankind. Actually, there are very few bones of any kind that have been identified and proposed to be intermediary between the famous "Lucy" ape skeleton and genus Homo. And, even if there were many such bones, nobody could demonstrate or prove that the morphological similarity indicates an actual genetic relationship. (All of these few fossil specimens have been dead for long periods of time, and there is absolutely no record of which one bred with which.) We must face the fact that nearly all of the evolutionary anthropologists who investigate and write concerning the history of mankind are failing to really adhere to the standard steps of the scientific method of research. Thus they are not really investigating as actual scientists, and are substituting many suppositions and hypotheses for real scientific data. (If a scientist, such as a research geologist in the petroleum industry, were to operate in this way, the drilling crews depending on information from the geologic research would all end up with "dry holes" instead of productive wells.)

Thus, even if we consider all of the main types of fossil remains in the supposed ancestral line of man, we have to come back and recognize that we do not have definite indications of even "simple-minded" human beings on earth before the Homo erectus type, which we described briefly above. Those of us who accept the reliability of the Genesis account of the dispersion of mankind at the Tower of Babel will be able to readily realize the origin of the clans or colonies of Homo erectus peoples which developed in the Far East and at least in Africa, and of the early Homo sapiens peoples (Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon) in Europe. Here are peoples with definite human characteristics, culture, and an appreciation for art; and there is no way to bridge the immense gap between them and the Australopithecus types of Africa. (Items 13, 14, and 15 below give several additional reasons why we have to recognize the human race as distinct and far above the apes and ape-like animals.) We admit that it might conceivably be possible that evidence for true human characteristics will be found in association with fossils of the now-doubtful Homo habilis mentioned above. If this should ever happen it would still leave great gaps, in anatomical form, brain size, and cultural characteristics, between the Australopithecus fossils (such as "Lucy") and H. habilis. If H. habilis is ever found to have been truly human, we can definitely expect that the antiquity of this form of man was much less than is now supposed. (The age usually assigned to the H. habilis fossils is about 2 million years, but we should remember that the potassium-argon dating of the African fossil finds is very unreliable, as was explained above.)

From the above brief survey of the hominid fossils it is apparent that for several decades evolutionary biologists and anthropologists have been insisting that groups of early, primitive human beings who lived in different parts of Africa and Asia supposedly at least one million years ago became the progenitors of the modern human races. But in 1987 the popular news media began to give us reports of scientific research which had recently warranted the conclusion that all modern races of human beings were derived from a single ancestral group of human beings who lived no more than 200,000 years ago. This new concept would bring the origin of the present-day human races down to a date which is very "recent" as considered by evolutionary anthropologists (but it does not deny that Homo erectus and Homo habilis might have lived earlier than that). This single ancestral group is often called "the mitochondrial