

ASA Survey on Origins: Final Results June 1, 2010

Which of the following statements do you believe are supported by credible scientific evidence? (please select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The universe is approximately 14 billion years old.	85.7%	757
There exist other universes (multiverses).	6.1%	54
The earth is approximately 4.6 billion years old.	83.0%	733
Living organisms on earth developed through evolutionary processes with natural causes from non-living material more than 3 billion years ago.	39.6%	350
Plants and animals developed through evolutionary processes with natural causes from ancestral forms.	60.2%	532
Plants and animals developed through evolutionary processes but with non-natural causes from ancestral forms.	20.2%	178
Biologically, Homo Sapiens evolved through natural processes from ancestral forms in common with primates.	60.9%	538
Consciousness and self-awareness emerged in hominids through natural processes.	26.7%	236
Human behaviors, like kindness, care for children, competition, or desire for revenge, developed through evolutionary processes with natural causes.	27.3%	241
Skipped question (treated as 'none of the above')	7.5%	66
<i>answered or skipped question</i>		883

Which of the following statements most closely represents your own understanding of the biblical teaching about Adam and Eve? (please select one)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all humans, living in Mesopotamia around 10,000 years ago.	5.8%	48
Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all humans, living in Mesopotamia at an indeterminate time.	11.7%	104
Adam and Eve had contemporaries, but were the sole biological ancestors of all humans and initial recipients of Imago Dei.	11.0%	97
Adam and Eve were not the biological ancestors of all humans but were the sole individuals through whom Imago Dei was imparted to all subsequent humans.	8.3%	78
Adam and Eve were biologically ancestral to Israel and the archetypes for the emergence of Imago Dei and original sin whether prior or subsequent to their own lives.	8.3%	73
There were no historical individuals corresponding to Adam and Eve.	11.0%	91
The Bible is consistent with several of the above options and the issue is not of great importance.	31.9%	276
Other (please specify)	12.0%	97
<i>answered question</i>		864
<i>skipped question</i>		19

What type of undergraduate college education did you have?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Christian college or university	30.0%	262
Secular college or university	59.5%	519
Both	10.5%	92
	<i>answered question</i>	873
	<i>skipped question</i>	10

What is your field of expertise?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Agriculture	1.3%	12
Anthropology/Archeology	1.1%	8
Biology	18.7%	161
Chemistry	16.6%	146
Computer Science	2.3%	21
Engineering	9.3%	84
Geology	3.9%	34
History of Science	0.8%	7
Industrial	0.0%	0
Law	0.0%	0
Materials Science	0.3%	2
Mathematics	3.1%	26
Medicine	6.3%	62
Meteorology	0.7%	7
Missions/Clergy	0.9%	7
Philosophy	2.0%	16
Physics/Astronomy	15.9%	140
Psychology	3.6%	28
Science and Religion	2.7%	24
Science Education	2.4%	20
Sociology	0.3%	2
Theology	4.0%	34
Other	3.8%	35
	<i>answered question</i>	876
	<i>skipped question</i>	7

What is or was your type of occupation?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Education	62.1%	530
Industry	15.1%	131
Government	7.1%	65
Medical	6.6%	65
Ministry	4.0%	35
Other	5.0%	48
	<i>answered question</i>	874
	<i>skipped question</i>	9

What is your current employment status?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Full-time	64.8%	568
Retired	25.4%	215
Part-time	8.1%	76
Unemployed	1.8%	13
	<i>answered question</i>	872
	<i>skipped question</i>	11

What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
<20	0.3%	2
20-29	5.5%	44
30-39	8.8%	75
40-49	14.7%	134
50-59	26.8%	230
60-69	22.6%	203
70-79	15.0%	131
>79	6.3%	56
	<i>answered question</i>	875
	<i>skipped question</i>	8

What is your gender?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
M	88.8%	772
F	11.2%	98
	<i>answered question</i>	870
	<i>skipped question</i>	13

UNEDITED COMMENTS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION #2

1. "No historical" fits also, but we are dealing with ANE views, not scientific of historical.
2. A & E were created in God's image..as were the 1st H. sapiens many millennia earlier, as described in Gen 1:26 (also see P. Rust: PSCF 2007,pp 188-9); A&E were real, with God-given genes for ultra longevity AND brought up in an ideal environment by a perfect parent.. and they still sinned!.. a message down thru the ages to those who make excuses for a sinner, i.e. lousy environment/parents made him/her sin, etc. The 'original' aspect of their sin was their perfect environment & parent...nobody else had such up-bringing benefits before or since their time ~4000 BCE! A&E were ancestral to certain Caucasoid groups thru Noah, but God eliminated most ultra longevity genes by a mega-flood in the Mesopotamia, where A&E's descendent's still lived. Pre-Adamites persisted in other areas where they migrated to from "out of Africa" (Americas, Austr., East Asia, etc.); this issue IS of great importance! Wm. Gilbert, retired
3. A&E are metaphors for the human condition and archetypes for understanding the need for Salvation from that condition.
4. Adam & Eve had contemporaries and were the first possessors of religious consciousness and recipients of the covenant. They were not the ancestors of all later humans. The bible is consistent with more opinions than this one.
5. Adam & Eve had no human contemporaries from which they were the ancestors of the humans that survived the flood
6. Adam & Eve were part of the biological ancestors of all homo sapiens and archetypes for the emergence of Imago Dei and original sin.
7. Adam & Eve were the headwaters of the human family. It is conceivable (though not necessary) that they had a small population of human contemporaries, of whom they were the king and queen (see Derek Kidner). As representatives they led humanity into sin. All human beings descend from them.
8. Adam and Eve are a mythical couple that represent the entirety of humanity through Imago Dei
9. Adam and Eve are architypal symbols in the stories that ancient people told to find meaning in life and their relation to God.
10. Adam and Eve are best understood as federal heads of the human race, i.e. the story is allegorical, but it contains great truth. I realize this answer is similar to "no historical individuals" above, but I prefer to explain myself more fully.
11. Adam and Eve are characters in a cosmogony designed to express profound truths about the place of humans in the created order.
12. Adam and Eve are fictional characters, but represent all humans in a creation story describing the relationship between humankind and God. They provide part of the

background for understanding the story of Israel and salvation through Jesus Christ.

13. Adam and Eve are metaphors for God's creation of the earth and humanity.
14. Adam and Eve are mythical archetypes
15. Adam and Eve are part of a revelatory narrative reflecting God's unfolding purposes
16. Adam and Eve do serve as archetypes for the emergence of Imago Dei and original sin and may have been biological ancestors to some portion of the human population in the Middle East. The historicity of the Genesis account cannot be determined definitively.
17. Adam and Eve existed and were the archetypes or the emergence of Imago Dei and original sin
18. Adam and Eve had contemporaries or they didn't and were the sole biological ancestors of all humans and initial recipients of Imago Dei
19. Adam and Eve had contemporaries who were also in the image of God.
20. Adam and Eve had contemporaries, were biological ancestors of all Homo sapiens and initial recipients of Imago Dei.
21. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries (ancestors), and were the biological ancestors of all humans, living on planet Earth around 6000 to 10,000 years ago.
22. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries and were the sole biological ancestors of all humans and initial recipients of Imago Dei. The time when they lived on the earth is not certain, but possibly 10,000 - 20,000 years ago.
23. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries and who knows where the garden is?
24. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the ancestors of all humans (not specifying a place or time).
25. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all human beings, living in the Persian Gulf region 50,000 - 100,000 years ago
26. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all human. We do not know exactly where they lived or when they were created.
27. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all humans, probably living in Africa approximately 2 million years ago.
28. Adam and Eve had no contemporaries, and were the biological ancestors of all humans.
29. Adam and Eve may have been historical individuals. The meaning and origin of Imago Dei remains a mystery. Since the order of creation in the second creation story differs from the first, it cannot be historical.

30. Adam and Eve may or may not have been "real" persons (with names altered by retelling and language changes, but Genesis is a story of who created everything (6 categories that are interrelated and are complete) not how the creation happened.
31. Adam and Eve refer to a group of humans who were the biological ancestors of all humans, living about 150,000 years ago. To this group God revealed himself, commissioned them as his image bearers, and possibly made some physical changes to set them apart from prior hominids.
32. Adam and Eve represent the human condition
33. Adam and Eve were representatives of the human beings around them. Perhaps a historical note in a story not to be read literally.
34. Adam and Eve were the biological ancestors of all humans and they lived approximately 6000 years ago but not in Mesopotamia
35. Adam and Eve were the biological ancestors of all humans, the issue is of importance but the details are not clearly seen in scripture.
36. Adam and Eve were the biological ancestors of Israel and the first to enter into a covenant-type relationship with God. Though they are historical individuals, they have also been reshaped by the author to become theological symbols that represent the larger human story. I believe Imago Dei is primarily tied to our function as stewards of the earth, and I have come to reject "original sin" in favor of the Orthodox understanding of "ancestral sin"
37. Adam and Eve were the first two people, and the rest I'm not sure about.
38. Adam and Eve were the first human beings with Imago Dei and I am unsure of their relationship to other primates of their time
39. Adam in 1:27; 2:7 was not a man like me but adam, אָדָם
40. Adam was the first with a "living soul" (KJV) but preAdamites were present via God's evolutionary processes
41. Bible is consistent with a few of the above and the issue COULD be important.
42. Bible is consistent with several of the above options and the issue of Adam and Eve is of GREAT importance
43. Both of the previous two items
44. Don't have a definite opinion, but whether Adam was completely historical or not, there was surely an origin. Moreover, sin is inherent in our human character and would have had an origin in those first humans. It just doesn't seem worth getting all worked up about the historicity of Adam (to me at least).
45. Don't have a firm opinion on this question.

46. Don't know
47. Evidence is unclear on this point.
48. Homo sapiens (Cro magnon) existed alongside Adam and Eve - Homo sapiens sapiens; God eliminated Homo sapiens during the Biblical Flood, leaving only Noah and his family -- direct descendants of Adam and Eve.
49. I am very close to the last one (the Bible is consistent with several of the above), but believe it is important, just difficult
50. I believe it is a story that attempts to establish a beginning for the human race as we know it. I believe it is inspired by divine knowledge but isn't a representation of the all the facts about the first humans.
51. I cannot understand how scientific evidence can differentiate between intelligent design and evolution (in the broad senses). I think that it is quite likely that God intervened with miracles many times.
52. I do not know, and though the issue may be important, I do not consider it to be of central importance. If I had to choose one, I would go with the "archetype" statement. I do not believe that a correct, obligatory Biblical hermeneutic is sufficient, on its own, to pick uniquely from the list.
53. I don't know
54. I don't know.
55. I feel cautious about a rush to certainty on this issue.
56. I have no idea.
57. I tend to think A&E as "Man" & "Life", as in Hebr, but they might have been two individuals, too. I believe there was some point when the human race acquired a spirit - the Godward part of us, perhaps deeply linked with language in some way - but there is good evidence we also came from ancestral primate ancestors.
58. I would argue that God chose A&E out of developed stock of homids that were infused with the Imago Dei. Their biological ancestors developed through some type of evolutionary process consistent with a 14 billion old universe and 4.6 billion year old earth.
59. I'm still in listening mode; may not ever arrive at a solid decision
60. It is important. However, no one knows for certain. There is a great deal of uncertainty in both the science relating to Adam and Eve and the interpretation of Genesis so caution is needed in the firmness in which any model is accepted and/or presented.
61. It is not clear from the Hebrew text that the people in Genesis 1 and 2 and the same people in Genesis 3.

62. My view is similar to the fifth view listed above. I defend this view in my book *New Evidence for Two Human Origins: Discoveries That Reconcile the Bible and Science*. I believe that God created the human race through evolution as recorded in Genesis 1 and that He created Adam and Eve to be representatives of the human race. God put them to the test to prove to all man's need for a Savior. A study of the life-spans of the patriarchs shows mathematically that this is what happened.
63. Please allow "don't know" for ALL of the above
64. Probably any of the first four
65. Scripture is theology, not science. It is to be taken seriously as theology, not literally as science.
66. Since the question asks not what I believe about Adam and Eve but what I believe the Bible says about Adam and Eve, let me clarify that the following view is not my own but the view of the biblical authors: Answer #1
67. Still trying to figure this out. Views 3 & 4 are currently closest to my view now. 20 years ago I probably would have chosen 2. 7 is another possibility. My concern at reconciling these views are the theology in the NT that discuss the new Adam, etc. So it is more complicated than just an origins issue.
68. The Adam & Eve story is symbolic, for our instruction. Common family descent for humans through a very small family group seems supported by credible evidence. How to interpret the story is important.
69. The Bible is clear that God acts through natural process. The ekpyrotic universe model allows for Adam and Eve to have been created in the "heaven brane", separated from our "earth brane" by a 4th spatial dimension (the "firmament" of scripture). The Garden of Eden may still exist in this "heaven brane", Adam and Eve having been expelled to this planet because of their challenge to God's "character" through disobedience, thus making them a defective image of God. When on this planet, they (Cane and siblings) were able to intermate with the primate forms God had prepared through natural process, thus imparting their sentient nature (now a defective Imago Dei) to their offspring from which we are descendent. And, as with Jonah, we who are repentant and thus obedient to God's will, are provided a way back to God through Christ. (All of this to be elaborated in my forthcoming book "Why the Universe Bothers to Exist".
70. The Bible is consistent with first four options above and the issue is of some, but not overwhelming importance.
71. The Bible is consistent with more than one of the above options, and the issue is of great importance generally (in the sense that it is important NOT to teach certain errors on this topic), though which of several biblically consistent options a person believes is not of great importance
72. The Bible is consistent with more than one option; it is important that Adam & Eve are historical.

73. The Bible is consistent with options 3,4, and maybe 5 and it is of somewhat importance.
74. The Bible is consistent with several of the above option, but the issue is one of great importance.
75. The Bible is consistent with several of the above options and issue IS of great importance.
76. The Bible is consistent with several of the above options and reconciling ones opinion of Adam and Eve with question #1 is of great importance.
77. The Bible is consistent with several of the above options and the issue is of importance, but not resolvable. It is important because of teachings about original sin.
78. The Bible is consistent with several of the above options, although it is easier to justify a literal interpretation Biblically, and the last two options would be more plausible from a scientific standpoint. This issue is of much importance and no less important than the debate between free will v. election, etcthough.
79. The Bible is consistent with several of the above options, and the issue is of great importance but generally inaccessible given philosophical presuppositions typical of the Western tradition.
80. The Bible is consistent with several of the above potions and the issue is of great importance (I just have no idea which is correct)
81. The Bible is consistent with several of the above. The issue may be of importance but i do not have enough information to know which is true , and frankly neither do most other people. I would say it was probably between numbers 4-6 in the list above. I was expaecting a way to say something at the end of the survey too. I would have loved to say more about question 1. I think God usually uses natural processes. I don't know whether God used natural processes or not for the origin of all lif, development of human consciousness or behaviors. I generally thing they are affected by evolution , but i don't see that as separate from non-natural causes such as God's activity. This makes a dichotomy I can't see.
82. The Bible is consistent with several of the above...the issue is of importance, but we still don't have all the relevant data that most of the answers above would imply that we do. :-) We are over 60 years old as a Christians in Science organization, so please, some humility here based on our own history.
83. The Bible is consistent with several options and it IS of great importance - and in the first question - there is no option for pointing out that natural causes can be viewed as the hand of God at work...
84. The Bible is not specific with regard to this issue
85. The Bible may be consistant with several interpretations. The issue may be

important.

86. The Bible may be consistent with one or more of the above options, but the issue will not be resolved until we reach heaven!
87. The Bible may be consistent with several of the above options, but the issue is significant and worth exploration, especially underexplored problems such as other Biblical teachings such as original sin and Christ as the second Adam that seem to require more than just a mythical Adam and Eve, no matter the precise historicity of Genesis 1
88. The Bible might be consistent with several of the above options and the issue is of some importance.
89. The biblical Adam and Eve are theological symbols for the first humans - i.e., the first hominids with whom God communicated.
90. The issue is important, but I don't know which view is right
91. The story is history-in-mythology, and to unravel the historical facts from the significance of the myth is not possible. All we can say is that humans are made in the image of God, and they are fallen.
92. The story is meant to explain our separation from our creator and is not to be taken literally
93. The story of Adam and Eve is the simplest and most robust explanation for human behaviour as documented by history. It is a successful predictive hypothesis. A story that is so effective for our understanding of who we are, seems likely to have some significant basis, whether historical or otherwise.
94. they are the spiritual archetypes for the emergence of imago Dei
95. This question is poorly worded. What you apparently meant to ask is, "What do you believe about Adam and Eve?" Your mention of "biblical teaching" leads one to expect otherwise, as if you wanted to know, "what does the Bible say." As for what I believe, having considered both biblical and scientific evidences, I would select option 3 above: Adam and Eve had contemporaries, but were the sole biological ancestors of all humans and initial recipients of Imago Dei.
96. Three with proviso that any "contemporaries" lacked souls
97. We have no way to be certain of initial meanings or conditions.