



## Humans are a Family - Christians are a Family

Editorial Comment by Warren Krug

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*Discover* magazine in a review of the year 2003 in science reports on the work of geneticists who have determined in their own way that all modern humans are descended from a population of as few as 2,000 individuals.

Humans are so closely related, the magazine claims, that our entire population shows less genetic diversity than that of a small group of chimpanzees. "Our Genes May Prove It: We Are Family," says the headline. The geneticists say the new evidence backs up the out-of-Africa theory in which these 2,000 hunter-gatherers evolved in northern Africa before migrating to other continents.

They examined short, repetitive fragments of DNA called microsatellites, markers found in every person. They say they can determine from these markers when early human populations diverged from each other. But they don't sound too sure of themselves. "We're now trying to confirm these results using different models of how evolution took place," says one scientist.

The Bible paints a clearer picture of how we got to where we are although it doesn't answer all the questions. We know the human race began with two people who lived in a place called the Garden of Eden. Where the Garden was located has been debated over the centuries. Some of the sites nominated as its location include Mongolia, India, Ethiopia, Turkey, Iraq, and even the Persian Gulf. But it doesn't matter.

When the Flood destroyed the world, the only survivors were four families who emerged from the ark to begin the process of repopulating the world. The ark came to rest in the "mountains of Ararat" which may or may not have been where the modern Mt. Ararat is located in Turkey

What is important is that all modern peoples of all races are descended from a small population, as the geneticists say. We indeed are family. But let there be no mistake. Our ancestors were all 100% human.

We Christians are members of another family—the family of believers. We have a Heavenly Father and a Savior Who also is our Brother. May God grant that more and more people become members of this spiritual family!  
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—Warren Krug, editor