

START WITH A STORY: A story or a joke.

LESSON THEME: Let's talk about Adam’s Rib.

INTRODUCTION: Mankind resists the words of truth from his very fallen nature. Accepting God's Word as the inerrant truth seems to be indicative of accepting responsibility for our actions (or lack of action)

Thus, it is pretty common place for the Bible to be under constant attack.

The Scriptures have been challenged since Genesis 3:1 when Satan first started, saying, “Yea, hath God said...”

... and since the fall, half-truths and politician pledges have run wild among mankind!

One such attempt to discredit the Bible is the high skepticism placed upon the creation story. And, of course, Genesis 2:21, is of special interest!



LESSON: Turn in your Bible to Genesis 2:21-24.

Genesis 2

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Is this passage literal or figurative? If the God of creation could make everything *else* out of nothing, why did He need to use a rib to make a woman? Why a RIB?

Irony is pretty funny, and it's pretty comical how Science attempts to copy the God they so often have built a reputation on denying.

For example, a co-worker and I were discussing the “NEW” darling fascination of science... cloning.

... whereas God was able to take a rib from a man and produce a woman! Better than cloning, for instead of creating an exact duplicate, God created the exact complement!

And, for the record, we also find in Genesis 2:21 the very first instance of general anesthesia!

Genesis 2

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So, why a rib? Or was this figurative of something else? If this account of the rib and Adam were true, why wouldn’t all men have one less rib? Why did God choose a rib? Couldn’t he have made something more from dust?

1. WHY A RIB? – Consider the following article from *Science News*, 2003.

“Over the past several years, numerous research groups have reported that bone marrow, the source of a person's blood cells, can transform into cells of the skin, muscle, heart, liver, and even brain. These lab and animal studies have raised hopes that bone marrow or cells derived from it could repair hearts, cure neurological disorders, and treat many other medical conditions.

Some investigators, however, have challenged the bone-marrow results. The stakes seem high because of the politicized debate over whether adult stem cells, such as those in bone marrow, are as promising as therapeutic tool as stem cells derived from embryos are.”

In case you are having trouble following what's going on, male marrow was transplanted in because it is traceable due to it's 'y' chromosome. – Kind of like the red dye they put in off-road diesel.

It would seem that the stem cells from bone marrow is just as effective as taking stem cells from an aborted baby.

In fact, when bone grafting is necessary, one's own rib is the most likely candidate to contribute, as the rib is full of bone marrow...

... the spongy tissue found inside of bones. The marrow from the ribs, breastbone, skull, hips, and spine actually contain super-power filled marrow that can produce WHITE blood cells as well as RED blood cells.

“An unusual study of the brains of women and girls who had received transplants of bone marrow from men indicates that the marrow cells can transform into nerve cells. Researchers found that each female brain had some nerve cells containing a Y chromosome, presumably derived from the transplanted bone marrow.” -- *Bone to Bone - Transplanted male bone marrow makes nerve cells in women and girls*. 2003, *Science News*.

Why would God choose a rib? -- Probably for the same reason we chose the rib as a go-to source of marrow and stem cells. I love how science reacts to God's Word. “That's a CRAZY notion!!!... [rustle, rustle] ‘Let's try it and see if it works?!?’”

2. WOULDN'T ALL MEN HAVE ONE LESS RIB? – Discover Magazine reported that the subject of Adam's Rib arose repeatedly in an introductory course on evolution at an American university in 1995. According to the article:

Professor of Physiology, Robert Root-Bernstein, recalled the first time he thought his course seven years ago. He had asked if anyone in the class could tell him how a human female skeleton differed from a male.

'Five minutes into the lab period,' the professor said, a young woman announced that she could answer the question without even examining the skeleton.'

Her answer? “males have one fewer pair of ribs than females.”

He found that she, and others since, believed that because the Bible records that God took a rib from the first man to form the first woman, then all men must be born with fewer ribs than women.

How would you respond to this claim?

As creationists, We look down on the evolutionists' nativity of believing that 'if something looks similar, it MUST have come from the same source'. (*Such as their claim that a whale's flipper, a human hand, and a bat's wing indicate they come from a common ancestor.*) It drives us crazy when they overlook the fact that all of these appendages perform VERY different functions.

Perhaps my favorite ‘argument’ has always been the 'junk DNA' and vestigial organ argument... “Because we can't figure out what something does or what it is there for, it MUST be extra and optional.” How many vestigial parts I've collected over the years from computers, vacuum cleaners, automobiles and television sets!!!

However, here was the surprising excellent response by the wise professor...

“Let's treat your statement as a hypothesis', he told the young woman, “Now you need to test it.' He sent her off to the back of the classroom to count the ribs on the male and female skeletons. She was shocked to find 12 pairs on each.”

“The professor told her that the belief that a lost rib, or an amputated thumb, could be passed from parent to offspring was a theory, discredited by French biologist Lamarck. He also pointed out that generations of Jewish and Muslim males have been circumcised, but their children are never born that way... And that dogs who've had their tails bobbed do not have pups in the same modification.”

Does that make sense?!?

... But what is evolution biased upon!? A variation of a violation of this same statement?!?

As Christians, we do our faith a grave injustice by repeating beliefs like:

- All men have fewer ribs.
- Stars are pinholes in space where heaven shines through
- Etc. Etc.

3. YOUR DYNAMIC RIBS – Ribs are DYNAMIC – Most bones are usually considered static. But Ribs are quite dynamic!

Both men and women have 12 pairs of ribs. These extend from the vertebrae to form a wall of the thoracic cavity (*Where your lungs and heart reside*). The first 7 pairs are called TRUE ribs, because they connect to the sternum. The last 5 pairs are connected only by cartilage that attaches to the TRUE ribs, and thus are called FALSE ribs. Ribs 11 & 12 are 'floating' ribs... that is, they do not attach to the sternum or other ribs.

Ready to be amazed?!?!?

The function of the ribs are 3-fold.

1. Protection – it's a cage your lungs and heart lives in!
2. They contain stem cells and can produce Red Marrow – create blood cells for the body.
3. They are key to the respiratory function! --- They are attachment points for chest muscles involved in keeping you breathing!

You might say your ribcage is like the handle on a bucket. When we breathe in, the muscles attached to the ribs pull the ribs out... just like lifting a bucket by the handle.

When you breathe out, those muscles relax and push, causing those ribs to lower back down, and forcing air out of the lungs.

Don't believe me? Go ahead and find your ribs. If you can feel them, breathe in. **THOSE BONES AREN'T QUITE SO STATIC, ARE THEY NOW?** Those bones are moving.

If you think THAT's weird, I bet your ears pop every time you swallow?!?!? (*Now you're going to be aware of this all day!*) Back to the ribs though..

The necessity of the free movement of these bones was made very apparent to our savior as He hung on Calvary.

In the crucifixion, the arms are stretched out to the extent that the chest muscles connecting to the ribs are pulled tight. A person enduring this form of execution can breathe in, but have quite a lot of difficulty breathing out of those ribs can't relax.

The only way to relax them is to pull yourself up, abrasing your already beaten back along a rough wooden plank.

Jesus performed this excruciating exercise long enough to say (7) phrases. I should think this would make the physical side of His sacrifice a little more appreciated.

CONCLUSION – *“That the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet ot be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.”* -- Matthew Henry