

Based on a new discovery, human evolution will have to be rewritten again, for the umpteenth time. The theory of macro-evolution presents the idea that life gradually developed from non-life as a single-celled organism, and from this over many millions of years evolutionary changes took place and many types of creatures came into being, with the final result being that humans developed from ape-like creatures. One of these that is thought to be closest to humans are called "Neanderthals". Theories about exactly who these Neanderthals are have undergone many changes over the last 150 years. The Bible has said all along that, **"From one human being he created all races of people and made them live throughout the whole earth" (Acts 17:26 GNB).**

The following warning should be attached to all theories about human origins which contradict the scriptures:

"A warning regarding theories about human evolution is that not all theories presented about human origins are based on robust scientific evidence, and some may be misleading or even harmful, often promoting pseudoscientific claims that contradict the well-established scientific understanding of evolution; always critically evaluate information sources and rely on reputable scientific institutions for accurate information about human evolution."—AI

**Humans may not have survived
without Neanderthals**



Scientists can tell how ancient human populations evolved by analysing their DNA

Far from triumphantly breezing out of Africa, modern humans went extinct many times before going on to populate the world, new studies have revealed.

The new DNA research has also shed new light on the role our Neanderthal cousins played in our success.

While these early European humans were long seen as a species which we successfully dominated after leaving Africa, new studies show that only humans who interbred with Neanderthals went on to thrive, while other bloodlines died out.

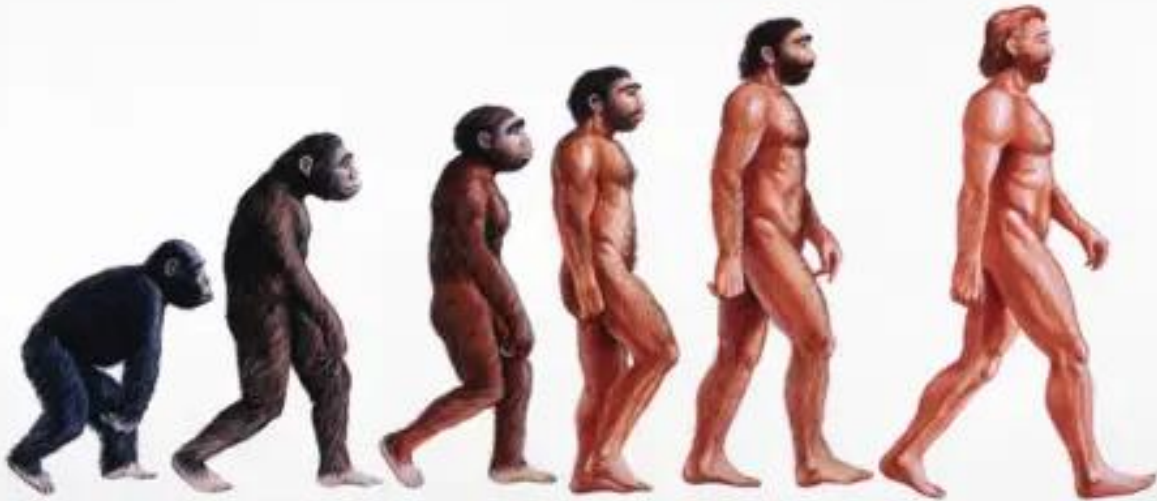
In fact, Neanderthal genes may have been crucial to our success by protecting us from new diseases we hadn't previously encountered.

The research for the first time pinpoints a short period 48,000 years ago when Homo sapiens interbred with Neanderthals after leaving Africa, after which they went on to expand into the wider world.

Homo sapiens had crossed over from the African continent before this, but the new research shows these populations before the interbreeding period did not survive.

Prof Johannes Krause of the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Biology, in Germany, told BBC News that the history of modern humans will now have to be rewritten.

"We see modern humans as a big story of success, coming out of Africa 60,000 years ago and expanding into all ecosystems to become the most successful mammal on the planet," he said. "But early on we were not, we went extinct multiple times."



The story of our species' smooth march through evolution will have to be rewritten, says scientists

For a long time, deciphering how the only surviving species of humans evolved was based on looking at the shapes of fossilised remains of our ancestors living hundreds of thousands of years ago and observing how their anatomy subtly changed over time.

The ancient remains have been sparse and often damaged. But the ability to extract and read the genetic code from bones that are many thousands of years old has lifted a veil on our mysterious past.

The DNA in the fossils tell the story of the individuals, how they are related to each other and their migration patterns.

Even after our successful interbreeding with Neanderthals, our population of

Europe wasn't without hitches.

Those first modern humans that had interbred with Neanderthals and lived alongside them died out completely in Europe 40,000 years ago - but not before their offspring had spread further out into the world.

It was the ancestors of these early international pioneers who eventually returned to Europe to populate it.

Spread of Neanderthals and Homo sapiens

1 Up to **60,000 years ago** – a wave of Homo sapiens moves from Africa and spreads across globe



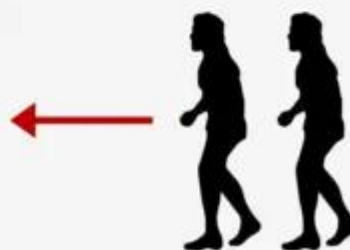
2 **48,000 years ago** - Homo sapiens interbreed with Neanderthals in Middle East and their offspring migrate



3 **40,000 years ago** – Homo sapiens, Neanderthals, and the interbred species in Europe all go extinct



4 New wave of interbred Homo sapiens later returns to Europe



Source: Getty Images

BBC

The research also gives a new perspective on why Neanderthals died out so soon after modern humans arrived from Africa. No one knows why this happened, but the new evidence steers us away from theories that our species hunted them out of existence, or that we were somehow physically or intellectually superior.

Instead, Prof Krause says that it supports the view that it was due to environmental factors.

"Both humans and Neanderthals go extinct in Europe at this time," he said. "If we as a successful species died out in the region then it is not a big surprise that Neanderthals, who had an even smaller population went extinct."



A Neanderthal skull. The species lived alongside us for thousands of years until they went extinct around 40,000 years ago. The climate was incredibly unstable at the time. It could switch from nearly as warm as it is today to being bitterly cold, sometimes within a person's lifetime, according to Prof Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum in London, who is independent of the new research.

"The study shows that near the end of their time on the planet,

Neanderthals were very low in numbers, less genetically diverse than the modern human counterparts they lived alongside, and it may not have taken much to tip them over the edge to extinction," he said.

A separate DNA study, published in the journal Science, shows that modern humans held on to some key genetic traits from Neanderthals that may have given them an evolutionary advantage.

One relates to their immune system. When humans emerged from Africa, they were extremely susceptible to new diseases they had never encountered. Interbreeding with Neanderthals gave their offspring protection.

"Perhaps getting Neanderthal DNA was part of the success because it gave us better adaptive capabilities outside of Africa," said Prof Stringer. "We had evolved in Africa, whereas the Neanderthals had evolved outside of Africa."

"By interbreeding with the Neanderthals we got a quick fix to our immune systems."

Unlike all other creatures, the Bible reports that, **"God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27 NLT)**. This means that humans are in a class by themselves. Rather than evolving up an "evolutionary chain" of ancestors, humans were originally created as humans. Instead of coming from apes, notice where humans came from:

"Yahweh God shaped man from the soil of the ground and blew the breath of life

into his nostrils, and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7 NJB). Humans were made from dirt, not from apes. Scientific tests have proven that the human body decomposes into dirt.

If Macro-evolution was really a fact, it wouldn't have to be written so many times. Contrast this with, **"God, who does not lie" (Titus 1:2 NAB).** **"I, Yahweh, do not change" (Malachi 3:6 NJB), "the Father . . . who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17 NIV).**