

Thus qualified and brought more into harmony with the facts as they are known to us, the evolutionary hypothesis is not far removed from the Bible picture when fairly stated. For here, too, there has been a good deal of exaggeration of the simple statements of Genesis in the interest of a certain dogmatic theory. It is true that man is represented as starting out on his career at a comparatively high point, following from the beginning both a pastoral and an agricultural life. But, on the other hand, the narrative makes it clear that this must have been in a simple and unconventional way, far removed from what either of these phrases afterwards came to mean. The earliest man, according to the Bible, neither reads nor writes, builds no house, wears no clothing save a girdle of leaves or skins. The only tools or weapons he has at the outset are either of wood or stone. Brass and iron early appear, but at least six generations and perhaps more must have had to do without them as best they could. If they were not savages, they were after all not so far removed from that condition as to make it worth while to quarrel about the description. It is not stated in so many words that the antediluvians practised cannibalism, but the strong injunctions given to Noah, as to the sacredness of human life, coupled with the permission to use animal food, suggest that they were called forth by cannibal practices which aforetime filled the world with violence and made the very deluge a blessing in disguise. Abel's unavenged murder and Lamech's swaggering boast in the Song of the Sword shows there was no effective machinery for the punishment of crime. The same song addressed by Lamech to his two wives shows that the ideal of the marriage institution was far from being observed by all the people. In fact, the more we study the picture given the less reason do we find for setting it in any kind of antagonism over against that presented by even the most extreme of the evolutionary sociological school. There is every reason to believe that when the last word is said the two may be found to be entirely in agreement with each other.