



## NATURAL SCIENCE PASSAGE I

From a Biblical perspective, the origin of language is deeply tied to God's design for humanity. The Bible teaches that language is a gift from God, designed for communication, relationship, and the fulfillment of God's purposes on Earth. The ability to use language, as noted in the Bible, is one of the key distinctions between humans and the rest of creation.

In Genesis 1:26-27, we learn that humans were created in the image of God, and part of being made in His image is the ability to communicate, as God Himself is a communicative being. When God spoke the universe into existence, He used language as a means of creation. This is the foundation of the Christian understanding of language as a divine gift, uniquely bestowed upon humans, reflecting the Creator's ability to communicate. God's first act of communicating with humanity was seen when He gave Adam the task of naming the animals (Genesis 2:19-20). This task required language, and it demonstrates how the ability to use language was part of God's original design for humans.

The biblical teaching on language stands in contrast to theories that argue language could have developed from animals or other natural processes. Some contemporary scientists, such as Noam Chomsky, believe that language is an innate human ability, but the Bible teaches that language is part of God's intentional creation. It is a tool given to humanity for worship, relationship, and fulfilling the cultural mandate to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28). While animals, including apes, have been shown to communicate in various ways, they do not have the ability to use language as humans do. The Bible teaches that humans are distinct from animals in that we were created with the ability to reason, speak, and relate to one another and God in ways that animals cannot.

The attempts to teach apes to use sign language or keyboard symbols, as described in the passage, are interesting but ultimately show the limits of what animals can do. Despite impressive results, such as the bonobo Kanzi's use of symbols to communicate, they do not possess the full capacity for language that humans have. The Bible clearly shows that human language is different from animal communication. In Genesis 11:1-9, the Bible recounts the story of the Tower of Babel, where God confused the language of humanity as a consequence of pride. This event not only reflects God's power over human language but also reveals how language is intrinsically tied to God's will and sovereignty. Language is not a mere human invention, but a divine gift with a unique purpose.

From a Christian worldview, language is meant to be used for God's glory and for building relationships with others. Proverbs 18:21 teaches that "death and life are in the power of the tongue," highlighting the power of words and the responsibility that comes with using language



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wisely. Unlike animals, whose communication is often driven by instinct or basic needs, humans are capable of deep, meaningful communication that allows us to convey thoughts, ideas, and emotions, as well as engage in worship, share the gospel, and express love for one another.

While Chomsky's theory of language as an innate human ability is well-recognized, the Bible would affirm that the capacity for language is not merely a neurological phenomenon but a gift from God. It is a sacred responsibility for humanity to use this gift in ways that honor God and serve others. Christians believe that language, in its truest form, is a reflection of God's image in us, and through language, we can engage with Him and with each other in a meaningful way.

Therefore, while the scientific studies on apes' communication are fascinating, they do not change the fact that human language is fundamentally different. It is a divine gift, designed for God's purposes, and it sets us apart as human beings created in His image. The Bible's teachings on language call us to use it responsibly, for good, and to glorify God in how we communicate.