



➤ **Philosophers' Table: Deciding What to Believe**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017, 12pm - 1pm**

This Philosophers Table will take a running whack at [epistemology](#), the theory of belief and knowledge. How can you know anything, whom can you trust, what can you believe? Your info may come from a loyal friend or respected authority with a nicely waxed moustache. Should you believe them? Suppose the source looks a bit like the unwashed corner wino or your neighbour's nephew who lives in the basement and taxidermies squirrels. Does your skept-o-meter light up? And why?

Exactly what *earns* your trust? If you trust someone thoroughly, are they truly trustworthy?

Let's plunk our collective wisdom on the table, strap it down, anesthetize it and dissect it. Maybe we'll learn something. ... If we can trust each other.

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.



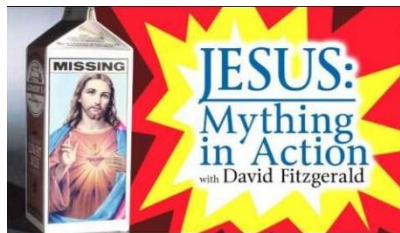
➤ **David Fitzgerald: Jesus, Mything in Action**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017, 1pm - 3pm**

Great news. The AOF Speaker Series brings back [David Fitzgerald](#) to shock and challenge you. His new book, [Jesus: Mything in Action, Volume III](#), presents new findings in the Jesus Myth theory, describes the hubbub of controversy in the halls of modern biblical study, and critically deconstructs the extent and reliability of the various sources for Jesus. It also reveals the surprising, evolving history of the Jesus story. David Fitzgerald's thought experiment, "The Gospel According to H.G. Wells," is time travel expedition through the origins and evolution of Christianity.

You may think he is full of feathers. Come to this meeting anyway, and see if David can change your mind.

**Location:** Reason Center, 1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sacramento. Map: <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>.



➤ **Another AOF/HAGSA Potluck**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017, 3pm**

Again, [AOF](#) and [HAGSA](#) (the Humanist Association of the Greater Sacramento Area, truly nice people) invite you to a potluck. Friends and members of both groups are welcome. Bring a food item of your choice, enough to feed yourself + a bit more. Also a beverage, drink, or libation of your preference. (But *not* a thesaurus, we're good.) We will dine, converse and socialize.

**Contact:** Call 916-514-9974 or 916-302-7176 (Bill)

**Location:** Home of Gloria and Wayne Luney, 8331 Marina Greens Way, Sacramento. For a map, see: <http://binged.it/1lxJpLj>.



➤ **Davis Community Meal: Feed the Hungry**

**Tuesday, August 29, 2017, 4:30pm – 7pm**

In nearby, bucolic Davis city, compassionate citizens have a secular solution for the problem of hunger -- and they need our help! Join local freethinkers in an ongoing effort to feed the poor, the hungry, the indigent, the outcast. Your reward is the opportunity to meet new minds and hobnob with your freethinker friends, a likely free meal, jazzy music, and the warm hearts-glow of benevolence. Also, seriously, it's a blast!

No cooking is required. The Davis Community Meals team will perform food prep and kitchen work. Our job is simply to set up chairs & tables, serve, put things away at the end, and clean a bit (with a minimum of mopping).

Extra points if you can arrive for setup, but if you can't that is OK, any help is good help. Setup begins about 4:30 p.m., buffet food service about 5:45. At 6:30 we clean up, leaving the hall as we found it.

**Contact:** Call the Service Coordinator (Don, 916-447-2169).

**Location:** St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 640 Hawthorne Lane, Davis, CA, for a map see: <http://binged.it/1uBpi57>. *Carpooling may be available. For info, please contact the Service Project Coordinator.*



➤ **Free Movie Nights!**

**Friday, Sep 1 & 15, 2017, 7pm – 10pm**

Yet more free movies at Reason Center (1824 Tribute Rd, Suite A, Sac, map <https://goo.gl/iVQL8z>) but we're fresh out of room. Just mark your calendar. And call Reason Center, ph. 916-426-6416, if you have to know.

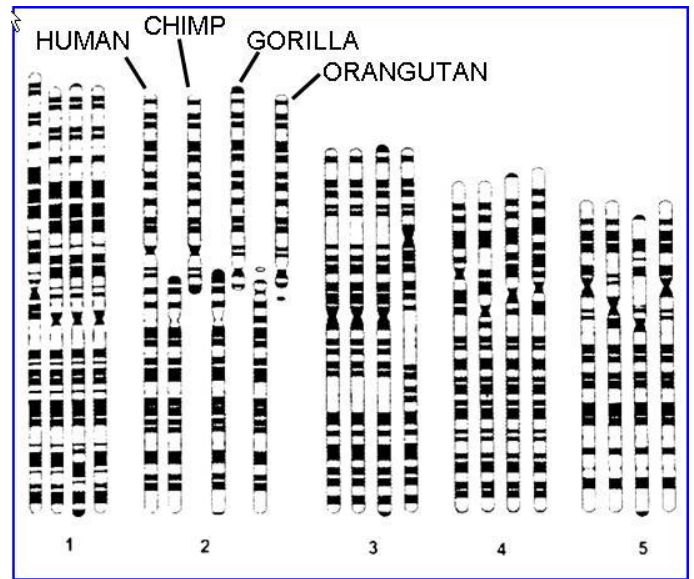


## DNA Evidence for Primate Ancestry

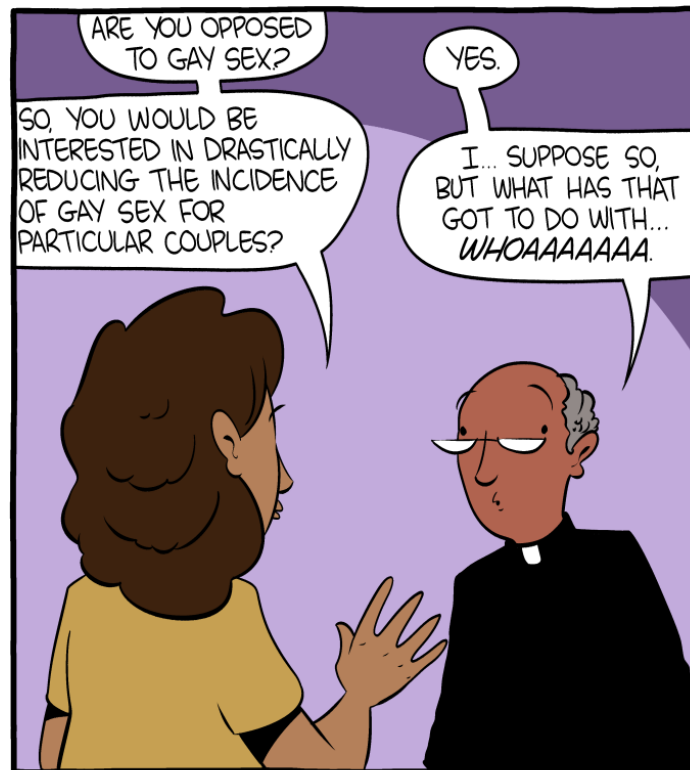
Here are the first five chromosomes in humans, chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans. Gene band patterns confirm that, in humans, the second and third primate chromosomes have fused into one. Also to verify this, the human Chromosome 2 contains vestigial telomeres in the middle (in the q13 band), right at the fusion point. Telomeres are the DNA “punctuation marks” that normally exist only at the chromosome ends.

Did God do it (i.e., theistic evolution)? Well, maybe. Even so it stands as strong evidence for the common ancestry, at least, of humans, chimps, gorillas and orangutans.

But chromosome fusion has occurred in other species too. For example, a 2011 mitochondrial DNA analysis confirmed that the modern domestic horse and the Mongolian Przewalski Horse diverged some 160,000 years ago. The Przewalski's Horse has an extra pair of chromosomes, 33 pairs versus 32 pairs in the domestic horse, and the different species can mate and produce fertile offspring. What happened to human DNA is like what happened to horse DNA. Chromosomes fused. To say that the process was natural for horses but supernatural for humans is pure special pleading.



Source: “The Origin Of Man: A Chromosomal Pictorial Legacy”, article, *Science* magazine, 1982, Vol 215, Issue 4539, pp. 1525-1530, by J. J. Yunis and O. Prakash  
(see [http://www.rpgroup.caltech.edu/courses/PBoC%20GIST/files\\_2011/articles/Science-1982-Yunis-1525-30.pdf](http://www.rpgroup.caltech.edu/courses/PBoC%20GIST/files_2011/articles/Science-1982-Yunis-1525-30.pdf)).



Thanks to SMBC.com

I managed to change the Catholic Church's policy against gay adoption.



## When you donate blood ...

Please consider donating blood at the BloodSource, and if you do, use AOF BloodSource ID# **4857**. Numerous BloodSource Donation Centers exist -- find them listed at: <http://www.bloodsource.org/Locations>. AOF gets no perks when members donate, but it saves lives, and is good for public relations. And what's more Humanistic than donating blood?

## Support Reason Center

Reason Center opened in July 2014. Since opening it has hosted well over 200 freethought events. Currently the Center has twelve partner organizations.

Its mission is to support a social and intellectual community for freethinkers, contribute to society through education and community service, advance the civic understanding and acceptance of freethinkers, and uphold the separation of religion and government.

To continue this work, the Reason Center relies on continued support for its members and donors. Please consider making a contribution to the Reason Center. To set up a monthly, or one-time donation visit ReasonCenter.org.



## Support AOF too

Did you know you can support AOF *without spending a dime*? Next time you purchase goods at Amazon.com, simply use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0325762>. Bookmark it now! Prices & service will be exactly the same, but AOF will get a small kickback for what you purchase.

## Not a member of AOF? Joining is easy!

AOF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association, FEIN 68-0325762. General Meetings are free and open to the public. AOF also hosts civic service projects, dinners, movie outings, parties! To see what awaits you, visit the website, [www.aofonline.org](http://www.aofonline.org); or contact AOF at our 24/7 voice-mail: 916-447-3589; or write to PO Box 15182, Sacramento, CA 95851-0182. Or tickle a Board Member till he talks.

## Subscription / Membership Form

Mail to: AOF, PO Box 15182, Sacramento CA 95851-0182 (Attn: Membership)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address (please print!) \_\_\_\_\_  
*E-mail is required for newsletter delivery.*  
Questions, concerns? Call AOF, 916-304-3796.

### Your Membership Level (annual, please circle):

Patron (\$50) Family (\$30) Individual (\$20) Low-income (\$10)

Basic Dues : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you do NOT want your name on lists occasionally provided to groups similar to AOF.

Please check here if you DO want to be an AOF Activist (e-mail address required).

*AOF is a 501(c)(3) Educational Association, EIN 68-0325762. Dues & Donations are tax-deductible as permitted by law. Non-members may receive the AOF Newsletter for free on request (email only).*

AOF Acting President: Brad Clark. Vice-president: Mynga Futrell. Editor: Fran Evanisko. And all the rest of us, their lackys.

"The purpose of Atheists and Other Freethinkers (AOF) is to promote the civic understanding of atheism and the acceptance of atheists in our community. Through educational programs, projects, and publications, AOF will extend secular perspectives, including the separation of religion and government and the right to think and speak freely on these perspectives."



Who is the vivacious cheerleader on the right? Search this issue carefully for the answer!