

## Words

Words are the basic building blocks for sentences, and sentences are the building blocks of a particular language. Many animals can make sounds, but the spoken language is uniquely human. [Leakey, 1994, p. 119]

When and how language developed is still a hotly debated topic. (In some ways, the debate reminds me, once again, of the arguments between Creationists and Evolutionists.) But, according to the Bible,

“In the beginning was the Word; the Word was with God and the Word was God.” [Jn. 1:1]

Not only is this a reference to Jesus, but it may also shed light on the *Children of the Rift*...because,

“God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.” [Gen. 1:27]

Therefore, if God is the Word and we were made in His image, then, in the beginning, we were *Words*, too.

Of course, the use of the word *Word* in the book of John can be interpreted as only referring to Jesus...and, therefore, as a spiritual reference. But, even the church admits that Jesus was more than spiritual; he was human.

And, as was already stated, language is uniquely human. According to Richard Leakey,

“There is no question that the evolution of spoken language as we know it was a defining point in human prehistory. Perhaps it was the defining point. Equipped with language, humans were able to create new kinds of worlds in nature: the world of introspective consciousness and the world we manufacture and share with others, which we call ‘culture.’”

[Leakey, 1994, p. 119]

And according to Derrick Bickerton, in his 1990 book *Language and Species*,

“Only language could have broken through the prison of immediate experience in which every other creature is locked, releasing us into infinite freedoms of space and time.” [Also referenced in Leakey, 1994, p. 119]

which sounds a bit like there’s room for yet another timeline...someday. Perhaps, it’s more than a coincidence that bipedism, a larger brain, and the use of tools were all a part of the process through which language developed...and that all of this is believed to have begun in The Great Rift Valley in Africa. Apparently, we are *Children of a Rift* in more ways than one.