The Scientific Case Against Evolution

Dr. Heinz Lycklama
heinz@osta.com
www.osta.com/creation
Overview

- What is (Macro) Evolution?
  - Macro Evolution vs. Micro Evolution
- Operational Science vs. Origins Science
- Our Assumptions and Thought System
- Five Challenges to Evolution
  - (Macro) Evolution has never been observed
  - Evolution violates the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law of Thermodynamics
  - There are NO credible transitional fossils
  - Life can/did not originate from non-life by chance
  - Evolution is only a (unproven) theory
- Conclusion – Evolutionism Found Wanting
**Evolutionary Theory in a Nutshell**

**How Evolution Works:**
1. Random chance mutations cause changes, or variation, in a population of organisms.
2. These different organisms then compete to survive and reproduce.
3. Those which are best able to survive and reproduce do so, and tend to leave the most offspring. This is called "natural selection."
4. Over time, if some organisms survive and reproduce more than others, a species will "evolve."

**Evolution claims:**
- All organisms are related through "common ancestry."
- All organisms arose through the process of mutation and natural selection.
- All organisms arose and persist because of the random chance processes of nature.

**The story of evolution:**

**Origin of the Universe →** Origin of Earth → Pre-Biotic Synthesis ("primordial soup")

Bacteria ← First Cells ← DNA / Protein World ← RNA World

Primitive Animals → Fish → Amphibians → Reptiles* → Mammals

Humans ← Hominids ← Early Apes ← Monkeys ← Lower Primates

*Evolutionary theory says some reptiles also turned into birds.

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The British naturalist, Charles Darwin, first proposed his theory of evolution in 1859 in *The Origin of Species*. (Picture from [http://www.oab.lsa.umich.edu/mcagoo/darwin.jpg](http://www.oab.lsa.umich.edu/mcagoo/darwin.jpg))
Darwinian Evolution

- The forces of geographical isolation, natural selection, genetic mutation and drift gave some single cell life forms a superior ability to adapt to their environment.
- Their survival ensured the production of offspring which shared their same genetic traits.
- Small changes in the genome, combined with natural selection, and geographical isolation led to speciation of the original population of simple organisms.
Darwinian Evolution - 2

- Over time natural selection, isolation, genetic mutation, and drift caused speciation.
- The descendants of the simple organisms developed into multi-cellular organisms.
- Speciation eventually lead to all of the life forms still present today.
- Most genetic mutations are unfavorable and lead to extinction meaning that most species have since become extinct.
- Shifting and movement of continental plates caused the isolation and environmental changes which natural selection acted on.
The Evolution Model

- Explains origin, development and meaning of all things in terms of natural laws and processes which operate today as they have in the past.
- No extraneous processes requiring an external agent (i.e. a Creator) are permitted.
- The universe in all respects evolves itself into higher levels of order (particles to people), elements -> complex chemicals -> simple living systems -> complex life -> man.
Evolution Definitions

- **Micro Evolution** - comparatively minor changes within a living organism that allow it to adapt to its environment

- **(Macro)Evolution** – Living things (species) are related to one another through common ancestry from early life forms that differed from them (descent with modification)
Evolution Mechanisms

- **Natural Selection**
  - Selection of genes/mutations for survival of the fittest
  - An observable process that supposedly underlies the mechanism of unobservable molecules-to-man evolution
  - Requires a directional change

- **Mutations**
  - Result of random copying errors/changes in genes (DNA)
  - Supposedly source of new traits for Evolution
  - Genetic information is lost/sorted
  - Requires predominantly beneficial mutations
Natural Selection

- Selecting information that already exists

**Natural Selection Can**
- Decrease genetic information
- Allow organisms to survive better in a given environment
- Act as a “selector”
- Support Creation’s “orchard” of life

**Natural Selection Cannot**
- Increase or generate new genetic information
- Allow organisms to evolve from molecules to man
- Act as an “originator”
- Support evolutionary “tree of life”
More Definitions

- **Science** – A systematic process used to study the natural world and develop testable laws and theories about the universe
  - [supernatural explanations/causes are permitted]
- **Scientific Creationism** - The concept that God created everything in 6 literal days, usually coupled with a “young earth” and global (world-wide) flood
Science Without Supernaturalism

- **Naturalism**
  - A belief denying that an event or object has a supernatural significance
  - The doctrine that scientific laws are adequate to account for all phenomena

- **Materialism**
  - A belief claiming that physical matter is the only or fundamental reality
  - All organisms, processes, and phenomena can be explained as manifestations or interactions of matter
What Is Science?

- “Science is the search for truth”
- “Operational” Science
  - Postulate theory -> make observations -> prove/falsify theory
  - Using the Scientific Method
- “Origins” Science
  - “Forensic” science
  - Were you there at the beginning?
  - Model of Creation
  - Model of Evolution
  - Which model fits the observed facts best?
Scientific Methodology

- Make observations
- Develop a hypothesis or theory that explains the observations
- Conduct experiments to test accuracy and predictions made by the theory
- Draw conclusions
- Repeat experiments to verify results and eliminate sources of inaccuracy
- Report results so others can repeat the experiment(s)
Theory Criteria

To apply scientific methodology, the theory must meet these criteria:

- Must be falsifiable or verifiable
- Must make quantifiable predictions
- Experimental results must be repeatable
- Must be as simplistic as possible with no unnecessary components (Occam’s Razor)

Adherence to the methodology allows for self-correction and increases confidence in the assumptions made by scientific philosophy
Origins - Evolution or Creation?

“Science is the search for truth”

Hypothesis, theory, model, law, or fact?
- Fact – proven to be true
- Law – no known exception
- Theory – testable, falsifiable, based on empirical findings
- Hypothesis – provisionally explains some fact
- Model – simplified representation of reality

Which is Evolution? Creation?
- A model – let’s see why …
Models of Origins

- We can neither observe nor repeat “origins”
- Origins “theories” cannot be tested or proven
- We have two models (not theories) of origins
  - Creation and Evolution
- Models can be compared as to their respective capacities for correlating observable data
- Evolutionists regard Evolution as “a proven fact”
  - They believe that Evolutionism is science and that Creationism is religion
  - Evolutionists are unable to prove Evolution
  - Thousands of scientists believe in Creation
# Two Models of Origins

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evolution Model</th>
<th>Creation Model</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naturalistic</td>
<td>Supernaturalistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-contained</td>
<td>Externally directed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-purposive</td>
<td>Purposive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directional (increasing complexity)</td>
<td>Directional (decreasing order)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irreversible</td>
<td>Irreversible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>Universal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniformitarianism (the present is the key to the past)</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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Basic Assumptions of Evolution

- Non-living things gave rise to living matter, i.e. spontaneous generation occurred (only once)
- Viruses, bacteria, plants and animals are related
- Protozoa (single-celled life forms) gave rise to metazoa (multiple-celled life forms)
- Various invertebrate phyla are interrelated
- The invertebrates gave rise to vertebrates
- Within the vertebrates the fish gave rise to amphibia, the amphibia to reptiles, and the reptiles to birds and animals
- All life originated from first living organism
Evolution Cannot Be Proved

- It operates too slowly to be measurable (if it is taking place)
- The scientific method cannot be used to measure it
- Small variations in organisms, observed today, are not relevant (can’t be used to distinguish between Creation and Evolution)

Dr. Heribert-Nilsson, Director of the Botanical Institute at Lund University, Sweden, said “My attempt to demonstrate evolution by an experiment carried on for more than 40 years has completely failed. … The idea of an evolution rests on pure belief.” (Synthetische Artbildung, 1953).
More on Evolution

- Explains origin, development and meaning of all things in terms of natural laws and processes which operate today as they have in the past
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- The universe in all respects evolves itself into higher levels of order (particles to people), elements -> complex chemicals -> simple living systems -> complex life -> man
Basic Assumptions of Creationism

- The Bible is the inerrant Word of God
- God is Creator
- Man is created
- Man is fallen and dependent on God
- Creation is dependent on God
- God reveals Himself in Scripture (Special Revelation)
- God reveals Himself in nature (General Revelation)
Creation Cannot Be Proved

- Creation is not happening now, so far as can be observed
- The scientific method cannot repeat Creation
- Cannot ascertain whether Creation took place (except through divine revelation)
More on Creation

- Involves a process of special creation in the beginning
- All the basic laws and categories of nature brought into existence by special creative processes which are no longer in operation today
- Distinct kinds exist today as they have existed in the past
- Processes of creation replaced by processes of conservation
Creation and Evolution are the only two models of origins
Both models should be considered as equal alternatives and evaluated objectively in terms of their relative abilities to correlate and explain scientific data
The model that incorporates the most data and has the smallest number of unresolved issues is the most likely to be true
Scientific “Proofs” of Origin

What we can test scientifically
- Observable/repeatable processes
- Trends/tendencies in nature
- Processes/events that left evidence

What we cannot test scientifically
- Identity/motivation of who/whatever brought the universe and life into existence
- Historical events
- Morality
- Meaning
Origin “Proofs”

- Creation cannot be “proved”
  - Not taking place now
  - Not accessible to scientific proof
  - Can’t devise experiment to describe creation process

- Evolution cannot be “proved”
  - If it is taking place, operates too slowly to measure
  - Transmutation would take millions of years
  - Small variations in organisms are irrelevant
Present + Repeatable + Observable = SCIENCE

Past + Non-Repeatable + Eyewitness Account = HISTORY

Past + Non-Repeatable + No Eyewitnesses = BELIEF
How Our Thought System Works

Assumptions (held by faith)

DATA

Conclusions

Logical thought is the means by which we draw conclusions from the facts/data after starting with certain assumptions.
Applying This Thinking To The Creation/Evolution Controversy

Assumptions A

DATA

Conclusions A

Assumptions B

Conclusions B
The Impact of Assumptions

Creator Can Act

No Creator Allowed

GODISNOWHERE

GOD IS NOW HERE

GOD IS NOWHERE
Two Thought Systems

- Creator Acted
  - Supernatural origins
  - Design
  - Miracle
  - Event
  - Creation

- Creator Didn’t Act
  - Naturalistic origins
  - Chance
  - Properties of matter
  - Natural process
  - Evolution
Abuses of Scientific Theory

- Dogmatism
  - Theory equated/confused with fact

- Extrapolation
  - Theory extended to areas in which it is not known to apply

- Exaggeration
  - Theory accorded higher degree of verification

- Subjectivism
  - New facts explained as “error of observation”

- Exploitation
  - Theory used to justify activity in other arenas
Challenges to Evolutionism

1. Evolution has never been observed
2. Evolution violates the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law of Thermodynamics
3. There are NO credible transitional fossils
4. Life did not originate from non-life by random chance
5. Evolution is only a theory – it has not been proved
1. Macro-Evolution NOT Observed

- What is macro-evolution?
  - Molecules-to-man
  - Common descent
  - Emergence of new “advanced” features via mutations and natural selection
  - Simple to complex living organism with increase of genetic information

- Macro-Evolution has not been, and is not being, observed

- “Goo-to-you” (macro) evolution requires an increase in information
Micro-Evolution IS Observed

What is micro-evolution?
- Genetic variation, e.g. (dis)appearance of existing/potential genetic traits through recombination of existing genetic code
- Adaptive variations arising from existing genetic potential already in population’s existing pool

Examples of micro-evolution:
- Darwin’s finches
- Industrial melanism in peppered moths
- Insects developing resistance to pesticides

All observed change involves sorting and loss of genetic information
Dobzhansky’s Fruit Flies

- Fruit flies experiment in the lab
  - Radiation-induced mutation of fruit flies
  - Involves deliberate action, not natural

- Results
  - Fruit flies with extra wings, no wings, huge wings, tiny wings, etc.
  - Changes detrimental to survival
  - No advantages over other fruit flies
  - Still fruit flies!
  - No progressive beneficial changes from simple to complex
  - No increase in quantity/quality of genetic info

@ Dr. Heinz Lycklama
Mutations and Information

- DNA/RNA mutations
  - Can’t provide significant new levels of information
  - Produce degradation of the information in the genome
  - Counter to the predictions of neoDarwinism

- Research shows:
  - No good example of a beneficial information-gaining mutation
  - Very few mutations are beneficial (< 0.01%)
  - Thousands of deleterious mutations exist

www.trueorigin.org/mutations01.asp
Quote by Lewin (Evolutionist)

“The central question of the Chicago conference was whether the mechanisms underlying microevolution can be extrapolated to explain the phenomena of macroevolution. At the risk of doing violence to the positions of some of the people at the meeting, the answer can be given as a clear No.”

2. Evolution & 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law of Thermodynamics

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics
  - Increasing entropy (unavailable energy)
  - Order \(\rightarrow\) disorder (systems left to themselves)

- Evolution requires
  - Disorder \(\rightarrow\) order
  - Simple \(\rightarrow\) complex

- What do we observe in nature?
  - Order \(\rightarrow\) disorder (deterioration)
  - Less available energy over time
  - Increased randomness over time
Quote by Isaac Asimov

“Another way of stating the second law then is: ‘The universe is constantly getting more disorderly!’ Viewed that way, we can see the second law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and very easily. Even if we never enter it, it becomes dusty and musty. How difficult to maintain houses, and machinery, and our bodies in perfect working order: how easy to let them deteriorate. In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out, all by itself—and that is what the second law is all about.”

Open vs. Closed Systems

- Evolutionists argue
  - 2nd Law only applies to a closed system
  - Living systems are exceptions because they represent open systems
  - Solar energy is added to the earth
- But 2nd Law applies to the whole universe
  - Entropy is increasing
  - Things become less organized, less complex, more random in the universe
  - Raw solar energy increases entropy, e.g. heat
Quote by Dr. John Ross

“...there are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics. Ordinarily the second law is stated for isolated systems, but the second law applies equally well to open systems ... there is somehow associated with the field of far-from equilibrium phenomena the notion that the second law of thermodynamics fails for such systems. It is important to make sure that this error does not perpetuate itself.”

[Dr. John Ross, Harvard scientist (evolutionist), Chemical and Engineering News, vol. 58, July 7, 1980, p. 40]
Add “Open” + “Energy”

- Apparent increase in organized complexity in living matter requires more than just an open system and an available energy supply:
  - A “program” (information) to direct growth in organized complexity
  - A mechanism for storing and converting the incoming energy
- Examples:
  - Plant photosynthesis, sun’s energy -> proteins
  - Seed -> plant
  - Animal metabolism, energy -> compose diet
Living Systems & 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law

- Living systems have a “program”
  - Living organism’s DNA contains the code (DNA, information) to direct process of building organism
  - Process continues throughout life of organism faster than natural processes (via 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law) can break it down

- Living systems have “storage/conversion”
  - Built-in mechanism to convert and store incoming energy
  - Photosynthesis converts sun’s energy into usable/storable forms, e. g. proteins
  - Animals use metabolism to convert and use stored, usable, energy from organisms in their diets
Order vs. Organized Complexity

“Organized’ systems are to be carefully distinguished from ‘ordered’ systems. Neither kind of system is ‘random,’ but whereas ordered systems are generated according to simple algorithms and therefore lack complexity, organized systems must be assembled element by element according to an external ‘wiring diagram’ with a high information content ... Organization, then, is functional complexity and carries information. It is non-random by design or by selection, rather than by the a priori necessity of crystallographic ‘order.’”

Order vs. Organized Complexity

- Examples of order in nature:
  - Snowflake, crystal, stalactite, lightning, etc.
  - No intelligent “program” required

- Organized complexity
  - All living things, even single-celled organism
  - Each functioning according to its instructions

- Spontaneous generation disproved
  - Redi (1688), Spallanzani (1780)
  - Pasteur (1860), Virchow (1858)
  - Life from non-life NEVER observed
Challenge To The 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law

“The thermodynamicist immediately clarifies the latter question by pointing out that the Second Law classically refers to isolated systems which exchange neither energy nor matter with the environment; biological systems are open, and exchange both energy and matter. The explanation, however, is not completely satisfying, because it still leaves open the problem of how or why the ordering process has arisen (an apparent lowering of the entropy), and a number of scientists have wrestled with this issue. Bertalanffy (1968) called the relation between irreversible thermodynamics and information theory one of the most fundamental unsolved problems in biology.”

[C. J. Smith (evolutionist), Biosystems 1:259 (1975)]
3. NO Transitional Fossils

- The “Cambrian Explosion”
- “Inverted” fossil orders
- Lack of empirical evidence for transitions
  - The archaeopteryx was a bird, not a transitional fossil between reptile and bird
  - Whale “evolution” debunked
  - Horse “evolution debunked
- “Living fossils”, e.g. coelacanth fish
- Polystrate fossils
- No credible ape-to-human fossil identified
“Hominid” Fossils

- Neanderthal Man – accepted as homo sapiens
- Java Man – artificial construct
- Piltdown Man – proven to be a hoax
- Nebraska Man – an extinct pig
- Ramapithecus – an orangutan
- Lucy – make-believe creature

NO credible “ape -> human” fossil found!
Lord Zuckerman Chimes In

“For example, no scientist could logically dispute the proposition that man, without having been involved in any act of divine creation, evolved from some ape-like creature in a very short space of time – speaking in geological terms – without leaving any fossil traces of the steps of the transformation.”

Ape To Man?

- In a Science Digest article written by Lyall Watson, he states that:
  - “The fossils that decorate our family tree are so scarce that there are still more scientists than specimens. The remarkable fact is that all the physical evidence we have for human evolution can still be placed, with room to spare, inside a single coffin.”

- David Pilbeam and Steven Gould (two evolutionists) report that:
  - “Unfortunately, the fossil record of pongids (apes) is nonexistent, making a glaring deficiency in the whole story.”
“As we survey the history of life since the inception of multicellular complexity in Ediacaran times, one feature stands out as most puzzling—the lack of clear order and progress through time among marine invertebrate faunas.”

Quote From Raup [Evolutionist]

“The record of evolution is still surprisingly jerky and, ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be discarded or modified as a result of more detailed information—what appeared to be a nice simple progression when relatively few data were available now appears to be much more complex...”

Quote from Simpson [Evolutionist]

"...Every paleontologist knows that most new species, genera, and families, and that nearly all categories above the level of family appear in the record suddenly and are not led up to by known, gradual, completely continuous transitional sequences."

Quote From West [Evolutionist]

“Contrary to what most scientists write, the fossil record does not support the Darwinian theory of evolution because it is this theory (there are several) which we use to interpret the fossil record. By doing so, we are guilty of circular reasoning if we then say the fossil record supports this theory.”

“In the preceding chapters, we have cited example after example of failure to find transitional forms where evolutionary theory predicts such forms should have been found. … The examples cited in this book are in no way exceptions, but serve to illustrate what is characteristic of the fossil record.”

[Duane T. Gish (Creationist), Evolution: The Fossils Still Say NO!, page 333.]
The Fossil Record

- **Darwin** admitted in 1859:
  - “Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain.”

- **Paul Moody** wrote in a standard textbook:
  - “So far as we can judge from the geologic record, large changes seem usually to have arisen suddenly. ... fossil forms, intermediate between large subdivisions of classification, such as orders and classes, are **seldom** [read never] found.”
The Fossil Record

“I fully agree with your comments on the lack of direct illustration of evolutionary transitions in my book. If I knew of any, fossil or living, I would certainly have included them. . .I will lay it on the line, There is not one such fossil for which one might make a watertight argument.”

-- Dr. Colin Patterson, senior paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural History

140 years after Darwin, and still no credible transition form!
Fully Formed

“It is considered likely that all the animal phyla became distinct before or during the Cambrian, for they all appear fully formed, without intermediates connecting one phylum to another.”

4. Life Did Not Originate From Non-Life by Random Chance

- Spontaneous generation (chemical evolution) has never been observed or shown to be possible
  - Redi in 1688, Spallanzani in 1780
  - Pasteur in 1860, Virchow in 1858
- Law of biogenesis has never been falsified
- Non-complex life form is impossible
  - Mycoplasma, simplest self-reproducing organism, has 482 genes with 580,000 ‘letters’ (base pairs)
  - Requires parasitizing a more complex organism
  - Parasitism resulted from loss of genetic information
The Origin of Life

“Research on the origin of life seems to be unique in that the conclusion has already been authoritatively accepted …. What remains to be done is to find the scenarios which describe the detailed mechanisms and processes by which this happened. One must conclude that, contrary to the established and current wisdom, a scenario describing the genesis of life on earth by chance and natural causes which can be accepted on the basis of fact and not faith has not yet been written.”

Mutations & Information

“Not By Chance”, Dr. Lee Spetner

“But in all the reading I’ve done in the life-sciences literature, I’ve never found a mutation that added information … All point mutations that have been studied on the molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not to increase it.”

- Random (chance) mutation and natural selection are opposites!
A Self-Replicating Organism?

“Prebiotic soup is easy to obtain. We must next explain how a prebiotic soup of organic molecules, including amino acids and the organic constituents of nucleotides evolved into a self-replicating organism. While some suggestive evidence has been obtained, I must admit that attempts to reconstruct this evolutionary process are extremely tentative.”

[Dr. Leslie Orgel (evolutionist biochemist at the Salk Institute, California), “Darwinism at the very beginning of life,” *New Scientist*, 15 April 1982, p. 150]
How Simple Can Life Be?

- Cell structure unknown by Darwin
- Smallest bacteria
  - 482 genes
  - 600 types of proteins
  - 600,000 DNA base pairs
  - Probability of chance formation is zero!
- Human genome
  - 3,000,000,000 base pairs
Spontaneous Formation of Life?

“The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 noughts after it. It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution. There was no primeval soup, neither on this planet nor on any other, and if the beginnings of life were not random, they must therefore have been the product of purposeful intelligence.”

Wickramasinghe, professor of applied mathematics and astronomy, UK
5. Evolution is Only a Theory; It Has Not Been Proved

- Working general biological meaning of “evolution” to most evolutionists is:
  
  “a continuous naturalistic, mechanistic process by which all living things have arisen from a single living source which itself arose by a similar process from a non-living, inanimate world.”

- A theory implies:
  - Self-consistency
  - Agreement with observations
  - Usefulness
Evolutionism is Not Self-consistent

- By requiring multiple “definitions”, depending on the need of the moment
- In the varied, and contradictory camps connected with thermodynamics, phylogeny, proposed mechanisms, and various sub-theories, etc.
Evolutionism Does Not Agree With Observations

- The fossil record
- Geology
- Genetics
- Molecular biology
- Thermodynamics
- Various dating methods – radiometric and geological/geophysical
- Probability mathematics
Evolutionism Has Not Proved Useful

- No new advancements in scientific knowledge or technology, i.e. science does not require belief in Evolution
- No advancements in medicine (hindered in some cases because of false claims (now discarded) re: “vestigial” organs)
- No positive contribution to society through evolution-based social “sciences”, e.g. justification for racism, nazism, communism, other societal/ideological ills
Evolutionism Found Wanting

- Evolution has never been observed
- Evolution violates 2\textsuperscript{nd} Law of Thermodynamics
- There are NO credible transitional fossils
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Evolution Cannot Be Proved!

- It operates too slowly to be measurable (if it is taking place)
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British Evolutionist Colin Patterson noted: “No one has ever produced a species by mechanisms of natural selection. No one has ever gotten near it and most of the current argument in new-Darwinism is about this question.”
Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Heinz Lycklama
heinz@osta.com
www.osta.com

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Backup Slides
Christian Apologetics

- What is the issue?
- Introduction to Apologetics
- Arguments for God’s existence
- Why Apologetics?
- What is truth?
- Contrasting views of truth
- How do we know truth?
- How do we know the Bible is true?
- Does the Truth in the Bible match reality?
- What is the evidence for Truth in the Bible?
Does The Truth in The Bible Match Reality?

- Does the Bible’s Truth Match Reality?
- Does what you believe (your truth) match reality?
- We apply certain tests to biblical Truth
- What happens when we apply the same tests to your truth?
- Does the evidence match up?
Topics/Questions Covered

- Jesus’ Credibility – Is He God?
- Prophecies Come True – Messianic + Others
- Christ Rose From the Grave – What is the Evidence?
- Is the Bible God’s Word?
- Does Archaeology Verify the Bible?
- Creation Apologetics
- Is the Bible Reliable Scientifically?
- If God is All-Loving and All-Knowing, Why Do We have Evil and Suffering?
Jesus’ Credibility – Is He God?

- Evidence of Jesus’ life on earth
  - Biblical, Roman, Jewish
- Jesus in His humanity
- Jesus claimed to be God
- Jesus’ attributes
- Jesus’ actions (miracles)
- The Apostles taught the deity of Christ
- Four possibilities – which one was He?
  - Liar, lunatic, legend, or the Truth
- What are Jesus’ credentials?
Prophecies Come True

- What is prophecy?
- Test of a true prophet
- The importance of prophecy
- Messianic prophecies
- The significance of messianic prophecies
- Messianic prophecy issues
- Probability of fulfillment of prophecies
- Other Old Testament (OT) prophecies
- End Time prophecies
Christ Rose From The Grave – What is the Evidence?

- Jesus’ Resurrection
  - Prophesied in the OT
  - Prophesied by Christ Himself in the NT
- Pertinent data to be considered
- Historical facts to be considered
- Accounting for the empty tomb
- More than a dozen appearances of the risen Lord
  - Includes more than 500 witnesses at once
- Paul teaches the importance of the Resurrection
  - Its significance to the Christian faith

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Is The Bible God’s Word?

- The Bible is unique
- How we got the Bible
- Is Scripture inspired?
- Christ’s teaching on the OT
- Christ’s view of the NT
- Historical reliability of the OT
- Historical reliability of the NT
- Supernatural wisdom of the Bible
Does Archaeology Verify the Bible?

- What is archaeology?
- Some ancient archaeological finds
- The Dead Sea scrolls
- Evidence for the accuracy of the Bible
  - Internal, copy comparison, archaeology
- The Ebla tablets
- The divisions of Genesis
- Genesis and origins
- The walls of Jericho
- Other important archaeological finds
- Archaeology confirms accuracy of the Bible
Creation Apologetics

- What Does the Bible Say About Creation?
- What Do Jesus And The Apostles Say About Creation?
- What Does Science Say About Creation?
  - The Creation and Evolution Models of Origins
  - Which Model Best Fits The Scientific Evidence?
- Challenges to Evolutionism
- Does It Matter What We Believe About Creation?
Is The Bible Reliable Scientifically?

- **Scientific statements in the Bible**
  - Are they accurate?

- **Reliability of the Bible established by:**
  - Prophecy, history, geography, archaeology

- **Laws of science consistent with the Bible**

- **Scientific statements/anticipation in the Bible**
  - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology
  - Meteorology, biology, physics

- **Alleged scientific errors in the Bible**

- **Scientific disciplines established by Bible-believing scientists**
Why Do We Have Evil & Suffering?

- Death and suffering are everywhere
- View of history (and God):
  - Atheists/evolutionists have a wrong view
  - The Bible gives the proper view
- The role of man’s free will
- What about “senseless suffering”? 
- Suffering of believers
- God’s purposes
- Is God doing anything about death & suffering?
- Our source of hope
Christianity – A Rational Faith

- Common misconceptions
- What is faith?
- Can Christianity be tested objectively?
- A rational body of truth
- Creation makes it plain
- Moral smoke screens
- More arguments for God’s existence
- Addressing Bible difficulties
- Addressing postmodernism
- Addressing skepticism
Arguments For God’s Existence

- Cosmological argument
  - Beginning of the universe
- Teleological argument(s)
  - Design and order in the universe, e.g. anthropic principle
  - Design of life
- Moral argument
  - Moral law implies a moral law giver
- Ontological argument
  - The concept of God – greatest conceivable and necessary Being
Cosmological Argument

- Premise – everything that had a beginning had a cause
  - Based on Law of Causality
  - Everything has a cause
- The universe had a beginning
  - Einstein’s General Relativity
  - Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy)
- Therefore the universe had a cause
  - “Supernatural forces are at work …”
Characteristics of First Cause

- Self-existent, timeless, non-material
- Creator of time, space and matter
- Outside of time, space and matter
- Omnipresent – without limits
- Omnipotent – creator of the universe
- Omniscient – intelligent designer
- Personal – choose to convert “nothingness” into time-space-material universe
Teleological Argument

- Every design had a designer
  - A watch requires a watchmaker (Paley)
- The universe has highly complex design
  - Verified by the Anthropic Principle
  - Universe fine-tuned (designed) to make life possible on earth
- Therefore the universe had a Designer
  - Earth was designed for us
Anthropic Principle

- 122 very narrowly defined constants identified
  - Oxygen level in earth’s atmosphere ~21%
  - Gravity force is a precise constant
  - Expansion rate of universe
  - Jupiter orbit protects Earth
  - Thickness of Earth’s crust controls release of oxygen
  - Rotation rate of Earth controls temperature differences
  - Tilt of earth at 23 degrees is just right
- Probability of 1 chance in $10^{138}$ (ZERO/NIL)
Teleological Argument – Life

- Living organisms
  - Are complex
  - Appear designed
  - Contain information

- Life from non-life is impossible
  - Spontaneously generated life never observed
  - Probability is effectively ZERO

- Therefore life requires a Designer
Complexity of Life

- Life requires DNA
- DNA contains instructions for building and replicating living things
- Irreducible complexity
  - All parts required to function
- Specified complexity
  - Order of amino acids is specified in proteins
  - Information in a “simple” amoeba requires 1000 complete sets of an encyclopedia
Moral Argument

- Every law has a law giver
  - Legislation requires a legislature
  - Prescription requires a prescriber
- There is a Moral Law
  - Fundamental sense of right and wrong
  - Conscience (manifestation of Moral Law)
  - Absolute (and universal) moral obligations
- Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver
  - Source higher than ourselves
  - Source of our human rights
Existence of The Moral Law

- The Moral Law is undeniable
- We know it by our reactions
- It is the basis of human rights
- It is the unchanging standard of justice
- Defines a real difference between moral positions
- We know what is absolutely wrong – there must be an absolute standard of righteousness
- It is the grounds for political & social dissent
- If there were no Moral Law, then we wouldn’t make excuses for violating it
Ontological Argument

- Ontology – concerned with the nature and relations of being
- Argues from the concept of God to His existence
- Does not begin with the facts of experience
  - Prior to and apart from experience
- Defines God as the greatest conceivable Being
  - A Being who has every possible perfection
- God, by definition, is a necessary Being
  - Cannot not exist
- Not generally accepted argument
More Arguments

- “Eternity in their hearts”
- The Law of Cause and Effect
- Infinite Time Plus Chance?
- Order and Design in the Universe
- The Universe Had a Beginning
- The Moral Argument
- God Has Penetrated the Finite
- Changed Lives