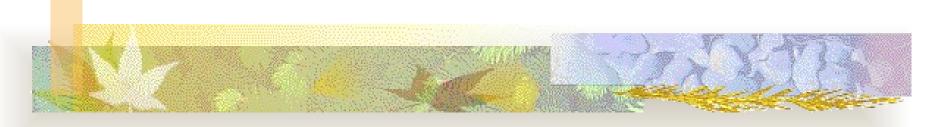
Creation/Evolution – What is the Controversy and Why Does It Matter?



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General Overview

- Creation/Evolution Controversy
 - What, history, importance
- Biblical Basis for Creation
 - Reliability, archaeology, special revelation
- Evidence for a Global Flood
- Scientific Basis for Creation
- Scientific Case Against Evolution
- Compromising Theories of Origins
- Intelligent Design Movement
- The Impact of Evolution on Society
- How Then Should We as Christians Respond?

Introducing the Controversy

- Science and the Bible
- Assumptions and the Search for Truth
- Basic Assumptions of Creationism/Evolution
- History of Evolutionary Ideas
- Darwinian Mechanisms of Evolution
- The Evolutionary View of History
- History of Modern Creationism
- Scientific Creationism
- Science, Origins and Proofs
- Origins and Meaning

Science and the Bible

To Begin the Discussion ...

- In 1903, a British philosopher, Herbert Spencer, made a profound scientific statement:
 - "Everything in the universe can be explained by five basic things space, matter, time, force, and action."
- Spencer, an evolutionist, was a contemporary of Charles Darwin, the British scientist credited with popularizing the concept of evolution. He (Spencer) was given a prestigious award by the British Science Society at the time. This was considered to be a major contribution to science. And it is, until you realize that ...

What Does The 1st Bible Verse Say?

- Moses, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote in Gen. 1:1: "In the beginning (time) God (force) created (action) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter)."
- What makes this even more remarkable is the fact that Moses was educated in the tradition of the Egyptians. They believed that only the ocean existed at first. An egg/flower appeared and the sun god was born. The sun god had four children, of whom one was Geb (the earth). They believed that the earth was a flat disk afloat on the river of the ocean. None of this mythology of the time was included in the book of Genesis.

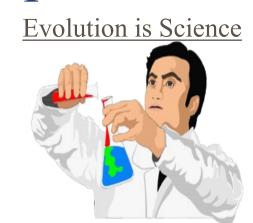
Some Common Misconceptions

Skeptics and unbelievers think:

"The Bible is an antiquated religious book, filled with scientific fallacies and mistakes reflecting the naïve cosmology of the primitive tribes of the Near East."

Even some professing Christians think:

"The Bible is a book of true religion dealing solely with spiritual subjects and that, where it seems to touch on matters of science and history, it must be interpreted spiritually or allegorically, rather than literally.



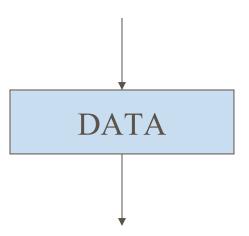
Creation is Religion



Assumptions and the Search for Truth

How Our Thought System Works

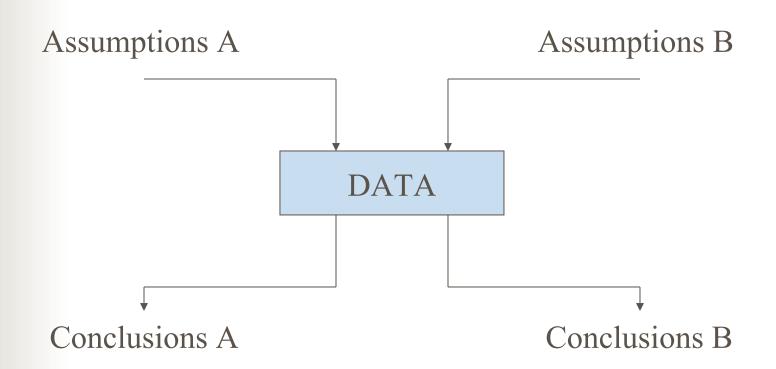
Assumptions (held by faith)



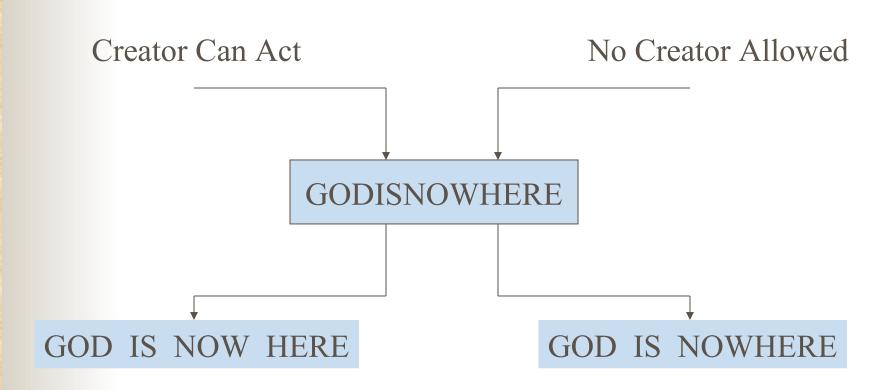
Conclusions

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



The Impact of Assumptions



Two Thought Systems

- Creator Acted
 - Supernatural origins
 - Purpose/design
 - Miracle
 - Event
 - Creation

- Creator Didn't Act
 - Naturalistic origins
 - Random 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

Basic Assumptions of Creationism/Evolution

Model of Creation (Assumptions)

- The Bible is the inerrant Word of God
- God is Creator
 - Six days of Creation **Gen. 1:1 2:3**; **Ex. 20:11**
 - Creatures created/reproduce after their kind **Gen. 1** (10 x)
- Man is created
 - In God's image **Gen. 1:26-27**
- Creation is dependent on God
- Man is fallen and dependent on God
- Creation and Science must be coherent and consistent
 - God reveals Himself in Scripture (Special Revelation)
 - God reveals Himself in nature (General Revelation)
- Jesus and NT authors refer to Gen. 1-11 as history

Model of Evolution (Assumptions)

- Non-living things gave rise to living matter, i.e. spontaneous generation occurred <u>once</u>
- 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
- Man evolved from ape-like ancestor

History of Evolutionary Ideas

History of Evolutionary Ideas

- Greek philosophers (Aristotle, Plato, Socrates)
 believed in spontaneous generation of life from non-life
- Evolutionary systems appear among all the ancient philosophies and religions
 - e.g. Nimrod and Babel
- The idea of the formation of the universe through natural means, without the need for God, has always been with us!
- Darwin gave evolution a "scientific" veneer

Evolution Traced To Nimrod

- Pantheistic polytheism, the universal religion of the ancients
- Identified with astrology
- Rebellion of man against the true God of creation is characterized by:
 - Pantheism, polytheism, astrology, idolatry, spiritism, materialism
 - New Age is nothing but the revival of ancient pantheism
- The source is referred to in scripture in **Rev. 17:5** "Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth."

The World Before Darwin

- 427-347 BC Plato Believed in two worlds:
 - An ideal perfect world that was eternal, but not perceived
 - An illusory world in which imperfection appears because of our imperfect perception
- As the ideal world is perfect and eternal, there could be no evolution variation from the perfect ideal is only perceived in organisms, not real
- This belief was incorporated into the church's theology - God created a perfect world in which everything was perfect and thus any variation was from the ideal God had made

- 384-322 BC Aristotle was ambivalent about Plato's two worlds philosophy
- Recognized a scale of complexity in organisms
- Proposed a "scala naturae" (scale of nature) ranging from simple to complex organisms
- Aristotle proposed a ladder of life with simple organisms forming the lower rungs and complex organisms the top. Each organism was allotted its rung and could not be moved from it
- This belief was also incorporated into the church's theology

- Linnaeus 1707-1778 Swedish physician and botanist
 - Sought to classify, or organize nature
 - The father of **taxonomy** or systematics
 - "Deus creavit, Linnaeus disposuit" (God creates, Linnaeus arranges)
- Lamarck 1744-1829 Published his theory of organic evolution in 1809
 - Proposed that an organ that is constantly used will become more developed unused organ will atrophy
 - "Acquired" characteristics could then be inherited, until finally a new species would evolve
 - Theory of inheritance of acquired characteristics

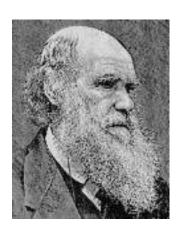
- **Malthus** (1766-1834) Proposed the utterly dismal theorum:
 - All populations of organisms grow until resources are completely utilized so that each individual lives at the razor's edge of existence
 - Poverty and famine were the natural outcomes of population growth and food supply
- Cuvier (1769-1832) Father of Paleontology, the study of fossils
 - Believed fossils were a record of life over time
 - Interpreted the fossil record in the context of catastrophism where strata in the rocks represent catastrophic events

- **James Hutton** Scottish geologist who, in 1795, proposed the theory of **gradualism**
 - Geological strata laid down over a long period of time
 - Logical outgrowth of <u>uniformitarianism</u>, the belief that the way things are now is the same as they were in the past
 - As mountains are eroding slowly now and basins are filling gradually, it follows that if the slow rate occurred in the past, laying down the amount of sedimentary rock we now see must have taken a long time
- Lyell "Principles of Geology"
- Spencer "Principles of Biology"

Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802)

- Charles' grandfather Physician, radical and free-thinker
- Influential in publishing Linnaeus's works in English
- Believed existing life forms evolved gradually from earlier species
- Published *Zoönomia* (1794-1796) ascribed evolutionary development to organism's conscious adaptation (close to Lamarck)
- Phytologia ("The study of plants") contains the earliest detailed description of photosynthesis and the geological principles of the artesian well
- Believed that cross-fertilization was a superior form of reproduction to self-fertilization

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)



- As a theology major at Cambridge University, Darwin was taught a variation of the Greek view of reality
- •Was invited to travel around the world on the HMS Beagle surveying plant and animal life in the southern hemisphere
- •Compared the theory he had been taught with reality and could not reconcile the two
- •Proposed his theory of natural selection in *The Origin of Species* published in 1859

The Voyage of The Beagle



Islands "The object of the expedition was to complete the survey of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego . . . to survey the shores of Chile, Peru, and some islands in the Pacific and to carry a chain of chronometrical measurements round the World."

Darwin's Logic

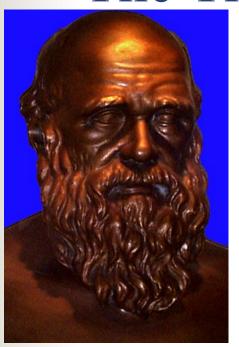
- The fossils in South America were different from the animals that lived there now, but some seemed to be related in some way
- If fossils were a record of the past (Cuvier) then there must have been change (evolution) between the past and now
- Change is happening slowly thus to get change must have taken a long time (uniformitarianism)
- The rock strata took a long time to form (**Hutton gradualism**) thus lots of time is available for evolution
- Organisms evolved over long periods of time

Darwinian Mechanisms of Evolution

The Mechanism Of Evolution

- Darwin was not the first to propose evolution, Lamarck and others had done it before him
- Darwin's real contribution was a credible(?)
 mechanism for evolution Natural Selection
- Natural selection is based on two points:
 - The reproductive capacity of organisms exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment
 - Variation in organisms makes survival a non-random event - some variants are more likely to survive in a given environment
- Of the excess products of organisms reproductive capacity the most fit survive <u>Survival of the fittest</u>

The Triumph of Naturalism



Naturalism - The belief that all phenomena can be explained in a rational way, in terms of natural causes, without invoking the supernatural

Because Darwin proposed a natural cause (natural selection) for organisms' origin his theory is considered scientific - religious accounts invoking the supernatural are not

Uniformitarianism

- Uniformitarianism The belief that nature is the same (uniform) today as it has always been
- Uniformitarianism is true absolutely all the time
- With absolutely no exceptions . . .
- Except when it invalidates our theories

"Evidence" For Evolution

- **Biogeography** The geographical distribution of organisms reflects their origin and isolation from other species
- Fossil Record The fossil record contains missing links between present species and their ancestors . . . sort of . . . maybe
- Comparative Anatomy Homologous (similar) structures must have evolved from the same ancestral structure . . . Except when we don't think two organisms shared a common ancestor with that structure
- Molecular Biology More or less the same idea as comparative anatomy Similar genetic information indicates common origin
- Comparative Embryology Similar organisms go through similar development

In His Own Words

"I may, of course, be egregiously wrong; but I cannot persuade myself that a theory which explains several large classes of facts can be wholly wrong...."

Charles Darwin, November 13, 1859, in letter to L. Jenyns

Darwinian Evolution

- The forces of geographical isolation, natural selection, genetic mutation and drift gave some of these 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

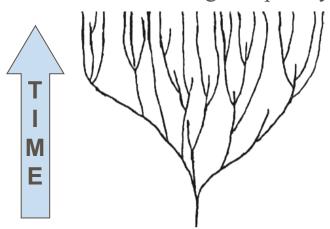
Darwinian Evolution - 2

- 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

Evolutionary "Tree of Life"

Initial Disorganization with later increase in complexity and unlimited diversification

Not just change, but change in the direction of increasing complexity

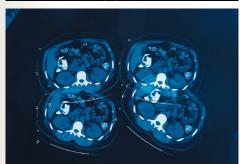


Evolutionary "Tree"
All life came from one simple cell

The Evolutionary View of History

The Evolutionary View of History







- Most recent "big bang"~15 billion years ago
- Our Solar System,5 billion years ago
- □ Single-celled organisms, 3 4 billion years ago
- Multi-celled organisms,1 billion years ago
- ☐ Humankind, 1 3 million years ago
- Modern Civilization, 5 10 thousand years ago



History of Modern Creationism

- 1855-1900 Universal acceptance of Geology among scientists & clerics (i.e. no publications rejecting the antiquity of the earth, or the progressive nature of the fossil record, nor any attaching geological significance to the Noachian deluge). Acceptance of evolution by the vast majority of denominations
- 1917-1968 Anti-evolutionism. The rise of the fundamentalist movement included criticism of evolution. Scopes trial 1925, illegal to teach evolution in many states until 1968. Most fundamentalists of the time were Day-Age, Gap, or Progressive old-earth creationists. Many, like William Jennings Bryan, were theistic evolutionists except as regards human beings

History of Modern Creationism - 2

- 1960s-90s Young Earth Creationism Roots in 7th Day Adventism, 6 literal days, flood geology. Asserted there was scientific evidence for the Bible's creation story & that evolution was at odds with the known laws of physics, e.g. 2nd Law of Thermodynamics
- 1980s "Creation Science" Promoted laws requiring equal time for young-earth creationism in public schools. These laws were opposed by most Christian denominations, including Southern Baptists, as well as Jewish & Muslim groups. In 1987 US Supreme Court ruled these unconstitutional

History of Modern Creationism - 3

- 1990s Neo-Creationism uses scientists' tentativeness & criticism of each others' ideas to imply that evolutionists are promoting unfounded, philosophical & political positions as an attack on religious belief
- "day" in Genesis to mean a literal 24-hour day (even before the sun & planets existed). Sees no life before Eden, and no death before the Fall. Sees fossils & geological strata as the result of Noah's flood. This movement was started by Henry Morris with his 1963 book *The Genesis Flood*

History of Modern Creationism - 4

- Morris' most decisive move was to attempt to take Genesis literally, including not just the special, separate creation of humans and all other species, but the historicity of Noah's Flood. Although efforts to make a literal interpretation of the Bible compatible with science, especially geology, occurred throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, *The Genesis Flood* was the first significant twentieth-century effort. This book made it possible for religious anti-evolutionists to argue that evolution was not only religiously objectionable, but also scientifically flawed. This led to the "Creation Science" movement
- Morris founded the Institute for Creation Research in CA. It was the most influential creationist organization in the late 20th century, but has recently been challenged by groups with different creationist philosophies, e.g. Reasons to Believe, the Discovery Institute, and Answers in Genesis

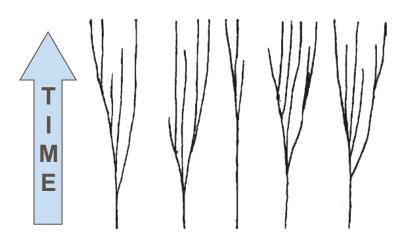
Scientific Creationism

Scientific Creationism

- God created everything in 6 days
 - Space, matter, time
 - Distinct "kinds" of living organisms
 - Man in the image of God
- Fall of man and the resulting curse
 - 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics
- The Flood was global
- Scientific evidence for Creation
 - Design, order, natural laws
 - The Anthropic Principle
 - Catastrophism

Creationist "Forest of Life" (Kinds)

Initial Complexity with later deterioration and diversification within limits



Creationist "Forest"
All life came from <u>multiple</u> complex ancestors.

Ages of the Cosmos

- According to the Bible:
 - Creation of primeval earth
 - Gen. 1:1,31 [conservation of mass/energy]
 - Curse imposed on earth
 - Gen. 3:17 [increased disorder or entropy]
 - Catastrophic destruction of earth
 - **Gen. 6:5** [worldwide flood]
 - Catastrophic reconstruction of "good" earth
 - Rev. 20:2 [millennium]
 - Curse removed from earth
 - Rev. 21:1 [new (renewed) earth]

Contrasts Between Old & New Worlds

Probationary World (Gen.)	Eternal World (Rev.)
Division of light and darkness (1:4)	No night there (21:25)
Division of land and sea (1:10)	No more sea (21:1)
Rule of sun and moon (1:16)	No need of sun or moon (21:23)
Man in a prepared garden (2:8,9)	Man in a prepared city (21:2)
River flowing out of Eden (2:10)	River flowing from God's throne (22:1)
Gold in the land (2:12)	Gold in the city (21:21)
Tree of life in midst of the garden (2:9)	Tree of life throughout the city (22:2)

Science, Origins and Proofs

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

Evolution Model	Creation Model
Naturalistic	Supernaturalistic
Self-contained	Externally directed
Non-purposive	Purposive
Directional (increasing complexity)	Directional (decreasing order)
Irreversible	Irreversible
Universal	Universal
Uniformitarianism (the present is the key to the past)	Completed, Catastrophism

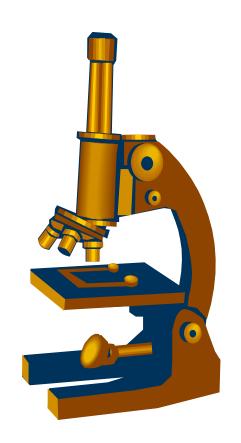
Scientific "Proofs" of Origin

- What we <u>can</u> test scientifically
 - Observable/repeatable processes
 - Trends/tendencies in nature
 - Processes/events that left evidence
- What we <u>cannot</u> test scientifically
 - Identity/motivation of who/whatever brought the universe and life into existence
 - Historical events
 - Morality
 - Meaning



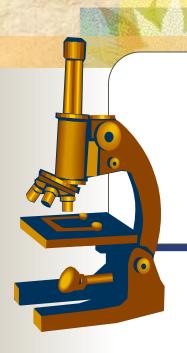
The Scientific Method

- 1. Define the problem
 - What do you want to know?
 (e.g. "Does music affect how plants grow?")
- 2. Gather information on the subject
- 3. Formulate a hypothesis
- 4. Devise a way to test the hypothesis
- 5. Observe the results of your test
- 6. Report the results so others can repeat the test



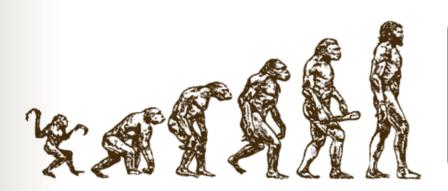
Origins Can't Be Tested or Proved

- 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
 - 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 <u>Creation</u> & <u>Evolution</u>



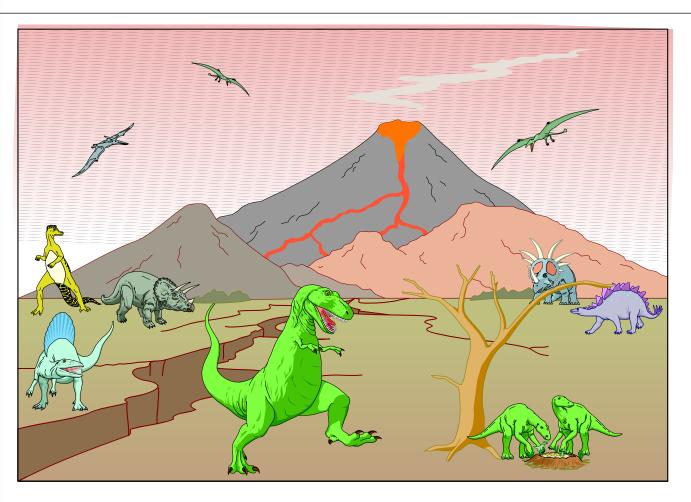
Present +
Repeatable +
Observable =
SCIENCE

Past +
Non-Repeatable +
Eyewitness Account =
HISTORY



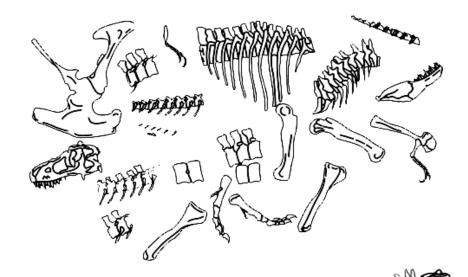
Past +
Non-Repeatable +
No Eyewitnesses =
BELIEF

What TV and Textbooks Show Us



What We Actually Find

A bunch of jumbled up bone fragments



that we put together and make up stories about!

What About Evolution?

- A valid scientific hypothesis must be capable of being formulated experimentally, such that the experimental results either confirm or reject its validity
 - No way to do this to find "the answer" for origins
- **Dr. Heribert-Nilsson**, Director of the Botanical Institute at Lund University, Sweden, concluded:
 - "My attempt to demonstrate evolution by an experiment carried on for more than 40 years has completely failed. The idea of evolution rests on pure belief."

How Can I Be Sure God Exists?

■ Rom. 1:18-23

- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
- Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them.
- For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:
- Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,
- And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

God or Random Chance?

The Bible says that God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your sins.

- A. If you believe in the God of the Bible, and you are right, you can spend eternity in Heaven with Him.
- B. If you are wrong, you will never know it.
- C. If you believe in Random Chance, and you are right, nothing matters anyway.
- D. If you're wrong, you are headed for an eternal hell.

Which step of faith makes more sense?

Ape Brain -> Ape

I Hmin evolved from apes, your brain evolved from an ape brain...

If your brain evolved from an ape brain, your logic evolved from ape logic...





How do you know it evolved right?

Maybe you're not even asking the right questions!

Origins and Meaning

Why Does It Matter If We Were Created Or If We Evolved?

- How did I get here?
- Why am I here?

■ Who am I?

- Where am I going?
- Meaning of anything is tied up with its origin:
 - Human Origin humans decide the meaning
 - Divine Origin God decides the meaning
 - Unknown Origin unknown meaning

Origins Found in Genesis 1-11

Heavenly Bodies The Earth **Animal / Plant Life Human Life** Law Marriage Sex Roles in the Family Childbearing Sin (need for Salvation) **Forgiveness** God as Provider of the Sacrifice

Suffering and Death Clothing Work **Crime & Punishment Freewill Offerings God's Universal Judgment** The Fossil Record The Rainbow **Weather Patterns Change of Seasons** Languages **Agriculture** Civilization

Evolution is Everywhere!

- Taught in public schools and colleges
 - Biology textbooks
 - Library books
- Television shows about nature
- Natural history museums
- Movies
- Zoos
- National parks
- Popular magazines and newspapers

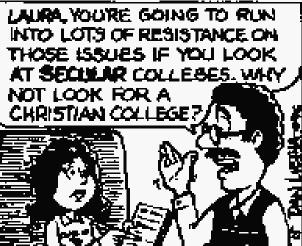
CREATIONWISE





CHATIONWISE







More Information

- ICR Institute for Creation Research
 - www.icr.org
 - Acts and Facts articles on Creation
- Answers in Genesis
 - www.answersingenesis.org
 - Books, seminars, articles on Creation
- Creation Research Society
 - www.creationresearch.org
 - Publication of peer-reviewed creation articles
- Dr. Heinz Lycklama's Lectures
 - HeinzLycklama.com/creation & HeinzLycklama.com/apologetics
- True Origin Archive
 - www.trueorigin.org
 - Exposing the myth of evolution

Thank you for your attention!

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Creation Organizations

- ICR Institute for Creation Research
 - www.icr.org
 - Books by Henry Morris (founder), e.g.
 - The Genesis Flood
 - The Genesis Record
 - The Modern Creation Trilogy
 - Acts and Facts articles on Creation
- Answers in Genesis
 - www.answersingenesis.org
 - Founded by Ken Ham
 - Books, seminars, articles on Creation

Creation Organizations - 2

- Creation Evidence Museum
 - www.creationevidence.org
 - Dinosaurs and human tracks
- Creation Moments
 - www.creationmoments.com
 - Radio spots
- Creation Research Society
 - www.creationresearch.org
 - Publication of peer-reviewed creation articles

Creation Organizations - 3

- Center For Scientific Creation
 - www.creationscience.com
 - "In The Beginning" Book by Walt Brown, Ph.D.
- Creation Science Evangelism
 - www.drdino.com
 - Videos, seminars
- Discovery Institute
 - www.discovery.org
 - Intelligent Design "Think Tank"

Important Books

- The Genesis Record, Dr. Henry Morris
- The Genesis Flood, Dr. John Whitcomb & Dr. Henry Morris
- The Collapse of Evolution, Scott Huse
- The Lie: Evolution, Ken Ham
- Refuting Evolution, Dr. Jonathan Sarfati
- Evolution: The Fossils Still Say No!, Dr. Duane Gish
- Scientific Creationism, Dr. Henry Morris
- Dinosaurs by Design, Dr. Duane Gish
- Genetic Entropy & the Mystery of the Genome,
 Dr. J.C. Sanford

More Important Books

- The Young Earth, Dr. John Morris
- Science and the Bible, Dr. Henry Morris
- Tornado in a Junkyard, James Perloff
- In The Beginning, Dr. Walt Brown
- Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, Michael Denton
- Darwin on Trial, Dr. Phillip Johnson
- Darwin's Black Box, Dr. Michael Behe
- Design Inference, Dr. William Dembski
- Icons of Evolution, Dr. Jonathan Wells

Yet More Important Books

- The Battle for the Beginning, Dr. John MacArthur
- Total Truth, Nancy Pearcey
- The Design Revolution, Dr. William Demski
- The Origin of Species Revisited, W. R. Bird
- It Matters What We Believe, Mike Riddle
- The Evolution of a Creationist, Jobe Martin
- Grand Canyon (a different view), Tom Vail
- In Six Days, Dr. John Ashton
- Starlight and Time, Dr. Russell Humphreys
- Starlight, Time and the New Physics, De. John Hartnett

Credits

- Dr. Duane Gish, ICR
- Dr. Russell Humphreys, ICR
- Dr. Ray Bohlin, Probe Ministries
- Dr. Tim Standish, University Professor
- Mike Riddle, AIG
- Origins Resource Association
 - www.originsresource.org