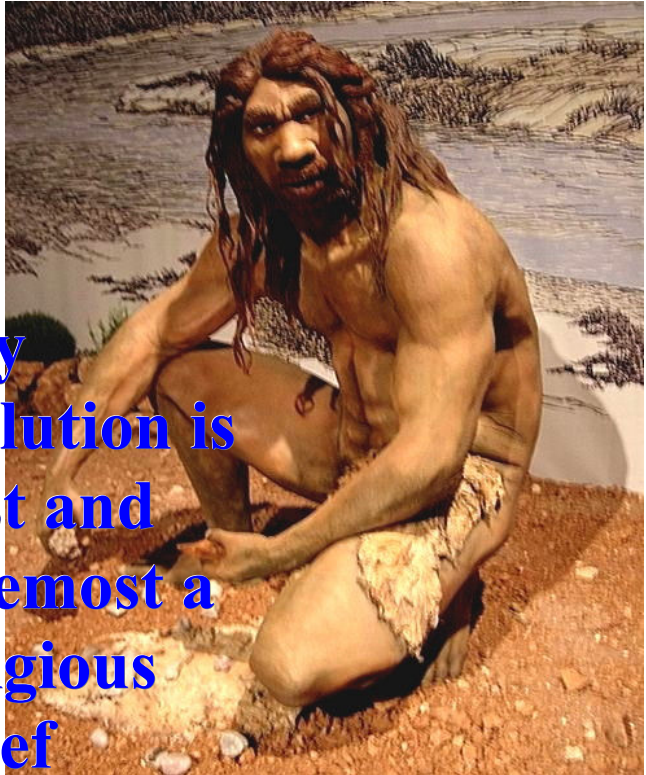


LSI Journal

The Lutheran Science Institute

July-September, 2013

Why Evolution is First and Foremost a Religious Belief



■ Creation-Evolution Q&A

■ Did MSNBC Really Say Children
Should No Longer Belong to Their
Parents?

LUTHERAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE, INC.

4130 Harvest Lane
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<http://www.lutheranscience.org>

The mission of the Lutheran Science Institute is to learn, share, and promote the glory of God as revealed in His holy Word and demonstrated in His created world, beginning with the pastors, teachers, and laity of the WELS (Wis. Ev. Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Ev. Lutheran Synod).

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute is held the Saturday *after* Thanksgiving. At least three other meetings are held during the year at locations selected by the president. Meetings are open to

the public and announced in the LSI JOURNAL and/or on our web site.

MEETING SCHEDULE*

- ◆ 2nd Saturday in January, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday after Easter, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in June, 1:00 p.m.
- ◆ 2nd Saturday in October, 1:00 p.m.

*Dates, times, and locations subject to change. Additional meetings may be scheduled. Check with the president, secretary, or editor or see our web site for verification.

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Cover picture from en.wikipedia.org

Why Evolution is First and Foremost a Religious Belief

by Jeffrey Steuber



Part 1

Sunk science guru Dan Agin provides us with a typical skeptics' view of evolution and creationism:

Evolutionary theory is no more a guess than atomic theory. We have so much evidence supporting not only the idea of the evolution of life forms but of the process of natural selection, that only a person with a closed mind can possibly ignore the obvious conclusions about the validity of the theory. ... Creationism and its offshoot, intelligent design, are not science, they are nonscience, the work of science nullified, and

as such they are of no real consequence to science, since they offer nothing that can be useful in the exploration of the real world.”¹

What Agin is saying is that

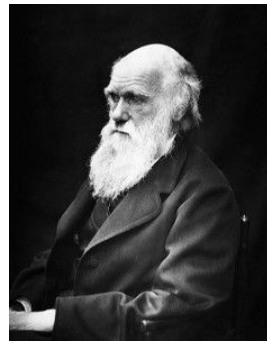
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1. Dan Agin, *Junk Science: How Politicians, Corporations, and Other Hucksters Betray Us* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006), 199.

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there is myth (creation) and there is science (evolution) – a view presented in newspapers, public school textbooks, and many television science programs.

Yet evolutionists are often honest in describing their beliefs as the property of those who seek a worldview away from God's dominion. Julian Huxley's *Evolutionary Humanism* is one of my favorite books – not because I agree with him but because he is someone who is that honest. Huxley says Darwin has rightly been called the "Newton of biology" – a claim that immediately presents Darwin as no more a discoverer of evolution than Newton was a discoverer of the laws of motion. This is contrary to the view of Robert Clark and James Bales who argue that Darwin wanted to escape God's existence with faulty reasoning if necessary.² Darwin, Huxley says, rendered evolution "inescapable as a fact, comprehensible as a process, all-embracing as a concept."³

What does Huxley mean



DARWIN

that evolution is a fact, a process, and a concept? This

2. Robert Clark and James Bales, *Why Scientists Accept Evolution* (Grand Rapids: Baker House, 1966), 50. A quotation therein from Robert E.D. Clark should suffice to sum up Darwin's reasoning: "Perhaps there was never a better instance of a man throwing away the baby with the bath water. Darwin was determined to escape from design and a personal God at all costs. He did so by deciding that either every trivial detail in nature must be designed or else that there was no design at all. Since the former possibility did not ring true, he refused to discuss the subject seriously any more. As Raven has so well remarked, 'His letters exhibit a resolution not to follow his thoughts to their logical conclusion.'"
3. Julian Huxley, *Evolutionary Humanism* (Buffalo, NY: Prometheus, 1992), 9.

strange verbiage doesn't make sense anywhere else. We do not call bacterial resistance to antibiotics a fact (which it surely is), a concept, and process. Huxley notes that "evolution in the most general terms is a natural process of irreversible change, which generates novelty, variety, and increase of organization: and all reality can be regarded in one aspect as evolution."⁴ It is tempting, though, if one is biased, to apply to all of nature and the universe what one sees in a small portion of it – much like applying the concepts of erosion to explaining the origin of the Grand Canyon. Thus the evolutionist applies his idea of the concept of evolution to everything and wants to believe that his ideas are the fact of evolution. Huxley furthermore says:

Thus the evolutionary vision, first opened up for us by Charles Darwin a century back, illuminates our existence in a simple but almost overwhelming way. It exemplifies the truth that truth is great and will prevail, and the greater truth that truth will set us free. Evolutionary truth frees us from subservient fear of the unknown and supernatural, and exhorts us to face this new freedom with courage tempered with wisdom,

and hope tempered with knowledge. It shows us our destiny and our duty. It shows us mind enthroned above matter, quantity subordinate to quality. It gives our anxious minds support by revealing the incredible possibilities that have already been realized in evolution's past; and, by pointing to the hidden treasure of fresh possibilities that still remain to be realized, it gives us a potent incentive for fulfilling our evolutionary role in the long future of our planet.⁵

This is not science. This is metaphysics. What Huxley is proposing is faith built around the foundations of continuing evolutionist progress without the supernatural.

Other humanists want to install evolution as a world view using science for justification of it. In 1933 thirty-four humanists signed just such a statement: *Humanist Manifesto I*. Its first few affirmations state that their bedrock beliefs clearly rest in evolutionist naturalism: the universe exists and has not been created, man has originated as a result of an evolutionary

4. Huxley, 29.

5. Huxley, 88-89.

process, the belief that man is body and spirit must be rejected, and science reveals that our values do not come from any supernatural creator.⁶ No other “scientific fact” is mentioned – the freezing point of water, for instance – and the only conclusion one must reach, then, is that only “the fact of evolution” is the basis for a secular religion of liberal freedom (as in the freedom to obtain an abortion or divorce).

Similarly, Corliss Lamont says that humanism:

... believes that Nature itself constitutes the sum total of reality, that matter-energy and not mind is the foundation stuff of the universe, and that supernatural entities simply do not exist. This non-reality of the supernatural means, on the human level, that men do not possess supernatural and immortal souls; and, on the level of the universe as a whole, that our cosmos does not possess a supernatural and eternal God.⁷

Humanist faith in a future secular country is unceasing and assumes that if religion is not totally eliminated, then at least greater religious tolerance ensues. For instance, Lionel Elvin suggests that fifty years ago (which would for



HUXLEY

him have been roughly 1911) it would have been natural for one person to say to another that the two of them worshiped different gods. But now, one would say that we merely worship the same god differently. Today, he says, “the time is coming when we shall see that this world view based on the postulate of supernatural powers, immediate or distant, intervening or merely originating, does not fit our present time.”⁸ Despite the

6. Paul Kurtz, ed., *Humanist Manifestos I and II* (New York: Prometheus, 1973), 8.
7. Corliss Lamont, *The Philosophy of Humanism* (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing, 1965), 116.
8. Huxley, *The Humanist Frame* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1961),

prevalence of religion, humanists simply ignore the evidence that man is basically religious, and they continue the struggle working toward a secular earthly heaven someday.

Among evolutionists there is always the suspicion that belief in any god may be ratified by new discoveries – hence the need to minimize or refute any evidence that might do that. Conway Morris, described as “one of the foremost paleontologists of his time” by Thomas Hayden in *U.S. News and World Report*, argues that evolutionary history does not make sense if we assume that evolution happens by accidents. Rather, Morris argues evolution has “trajectories” in which life evolves along certain convergent lines because life contains a limited number of possible outcomes.⁹ Hayden suggests that these ideas lead toward an armistice between religion and science, but does note that many scientists lean toward atheism. Morris’ colleagues worry that his book *Life’s Solution* “offers free ammunition to fundamentalist Christians who insist on a lit-

eral reading of biblical Creation.” An unnamed paleontologist whom Hayden quotes suggests that creationists have always misquoted isolated statements by scientists, and now Morris has given them a whole book from which to quote.¹⁰ Once again, it is obvious that science, although seemingly unbiased, is a chosen advocate of evolution guarding its rear flank against religion.

When David Berlinski criticized Darwinism for *Commentary* magazine,¹¹ Paul Gross replied to reduce “the encouragement Mr. Berlinski has given creationists and other consumers of anti-science who might be among

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9. Thomas Hayden, “Divining Nature’s Plan,” *U.S. News and World Report* 135:10 (September 29, 2003), <http://www.usnews.com/usnews/culture/articles/030929/29evo.htm> (accessed April 14, 2013).
 10. Hayden, http://www.usnews.com/usnews/culture/articles/030929/29evo_2.htm (accessed April 14, 2013).
 11. David Berlinski, “The Deniable Darwin,” *Commentary* (June 1996), 19.

Commentary's readers."¹² Berlinski did not extol any type of creationism (young-earth, old-earth, or even progressive), and in his reply to critics he reaffirmed that he did not subscribe to any creationism. Gross, however, was more worried about the satisfaction the religious might get from Berlinski's article than its truth.

Richard Dawkins makes it clear that evolution is a delight to his philosophy when he suggests that Darwin made it possible to be an "intellectually fulfilled atheist."¹³ One of the most recent developments in evolutionary biology is the concept of punctuated equilibrium in which gaps in the fossil record are explained by rapid speciation and not by divine creation. Dawkins admits to this when talking about the fossils in the Cambrian strata appearing already formed – a fact, he says, that has "delighted creationists." He says that adherents of both schools of thought – punctuationists and gradualists¹⁴ – agree that the only other explanation is divine creation, and both reject it.¹⁵ If



DAWKINS

there's one thing that these evolutionists can agree on, whether they have to massage the evidence to show a gradual evolution of species with transitional links or rapid evolution without them (in essence, two choices which are mutually exclusive), it is that creationism cannot receive a hearing.

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12. This is from Gross' critique of Berlinski's "The Deniable Darwin," which critique was published in *Commentary* (September, 1996), 9.
 13. Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (New York: Norton, 1987), 9
 14. By "gradualist" he means those who believe that evolution proceeds slowly rather than in rapid bursts, which is what "punctuationists
 15. Dawkins, 229-230.

Robert Jastrow, in a frequently quoted statement, says:

[S]cientists cannot bear the thought of a natural phenomenon which cannot be explained, even with unlimited time and money. There is a kind of religion in science; it is the religion of a person who believes there is order and harmony in the Universe. Every event can be explained in a rational way as the product of some previous event; every effect must have its cause.¹⁶

Jastrow also has this religious faith and, in an interview for the video *The Privileged Planet*, admits that

Just as I can't believe there was a creator, I can't believe this all happened by chance which implies there was a creator. You see, I'm at a completely hopeless bind and I stay there. Again, I find it hard to believe that this is all a matter of atoms and molecules and so I try to fit into my concept of the world the conclusion that there is a larger force of some kind which we can call "god" or you can call it whatever. But I can't accept that. I'm what's called a materialist in philosophy. It means that I believe the world consists entirely of material substances.... That's what my science tells me.¹⁷

Lastly, when debating J. P. Moreland, Kai Nielsen argues that it is dangerous to base ar-

guments for the existence of God on speculative science that involves risky theories about the origin of the universe, including theories about the Big Bang. Nielsen states that "scientific fads come and go" and that some of these are at the fringes of science. William Lane Craig, replying to Nielsen, states that he cannot help but smile because atheists will seize any scientific evidence that contradicts the Bible or theism, but not jump on the scientific bandwagon when it supports the Bible.¹⁸ Nielsen is worried about and fearful of discoveries that might validate Moreland's case and has revealed that he has prematurely made up his mind before a full debate. ¶¶

Next: The New Age Movement

16. Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*
17. Illustra Media, *The Privileged Planet*, directed by Ladd and Wayne Allen, DVD (La Mirada, California: 2004).
18. J.P. Moreland and Kai Nielsen, *Does God Exist: The Debate Between Theists and Atheists* (New York: Prometheus, 1991), 70,

Creation-Evolution

Q&A

Part 2

By Warren Krug

6. Can we conclude that no species has ever changed into a different species?

Not the way “species” is currently being defined. The term species as it is used today is the lowest rank of the classification system which proceeds from species to genus to family to order to class to phylum to kingdom to domain all the way up to life itself (the “order of taxonomy”). The technical term species is defined as “related individuals that resemble one another, are able to breed among themselves, but are not able to breed with members of another species.”¹²

The word “species” is not found in any of today’s English bibles. However, the word apparently originated in Jerome’s Vulgate (fourth century Latin) and

has been used in some other translations.¹³ In these cases “species” is always intended to stand for the word modern English bibles translate as “kind,” as in “according to their kinds” (Genesis 1). Bible

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12. “Species,” *Dictionary.com*, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/species?s=t> (accessed April 30, 2013).
 13. Bodie Hodge, “Fixity of Species,” *Answers in Genesis*, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/03/16/fixity-of-species> (accessed April 30, 2013).

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scientists believe kind is a broader term than how scientists define species today. Most creationists no longer insist on any “fixity of species” because species has changed into a more narrow classification than the term which is actually used in the Bible. Knowing this helps clear up some misunderstandings regarding the belief that one species can’t change into another.

The Word of God makes it clear that every living thing reproduces according to its own “kind.” In this way the Bible rules out any possibility that one kind of creature could ever evolve into a completely different kind of creature. There is uncertainty as to how to divide current creatures into the “kinds” which God originally created or which left Noah’s Ark (a field of study known as baraminology). Still, the original ancestors of all creatures and the animals which left Noah’s Ark must have had rich genes which contained all the information needed for the wide variety or diversity seen today among their descendents. In other words, it is conceivable that there was just one pair of doglike animals that left the Ark from which all the varieties of dogs and doglike animals such as wolves and coyotes descended. Creation geneticists have no problem with

this scenario.

Evolutionists will claim to find examples of evolution occurring in situations where a species may diverge into two similar creatures which can no longer interbreed. This, they say, is evolution. But even so, it is not Darwinian evolution! The two resulting living organisms still fall within the limits of the biblical kind and won’t ever change into an organism that is a completely different kind of creature. One species may change into another species over time, but it would simply be another species of the same kind of creature. One kind can never change into another kind. The Genesis phrase “according to their kinds” rules that idea out, and we do not observe any exceptions in nature.

One might wonder how it is even possible to classify living organisms into a species, genus, family, etc., if evolution were true. As far as we know, natural selection and mutations have always been with us and always been available to cause changes in creatures and populations. Theoretically then, life should be more or less of a continuum from single-celled organisms to humans rendering it impossible to classify organisms into

groups. Charles Darwin himself recognized this situation when he wrote:

The number of intermediate varieties which have formerly existed on earth must be truly enormous. 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; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.¹⁴

7. Isn't genetics a key to evolution?

An organism's genes or genome is like a blueprint that determines what it will become. For the organism to change into something else, its descendants must experience an actual change in this blueprint. However, all evidence indicates that any outward change or variation seen in organisms is the various genetic expressions that are strictly limited to each "kind" of animal and not actual genetic change.

Scientists sometimes speak of two types of genetic variation and change: microevolution and macroevolution. Microevolution relates to the variations (see Question #6) observed within a created kind and which falls within God's original genetic limits. These variations can be observed and can only lead to

new varieties within the original kind, but in no case is new genetic information added. Beneficial new varieties have been selected for in nature and in human agriculture to provide better crops and herds. The many varieties of dogs is a good example of microevolution. Different types of dogs show lots of outward variations which were all contained within the original genome of the dog "kind" of animal but do not show any new genetic changes containing



added information. All dogs still remain dogs and are generally capable of interbreeding when size permits. This type of so-called "evolution" Darwin actually observed in his finches; however, all his finches were still finches. In fact, microevolution is not evolution at all as most people think of it!

14. "Anti-evolution Quotes," Northwest Creation Network, <http://www.nwcreation.net/evolutionquotes.html> (accessed May 8, 2013)

The other type of “evolution” is referred to as macroevolution — the idea that one kind of organism can change into an entirely different kind of organism. This is what most people generally mean by the word “evolution,” and it’s what Darwin incorrectly believed to be possible. It requires there to be no limits as to how much a genome can change genetically over time. However, there is no convincing evidence for this type of evolution occurring in the past or happening in the present. Using the dog example above, there is not a single example of a dog which is on its way to becoming something that is not a dog.

For any single-celled organism to have evolved into a human via macroevolution (i.e., Darwinian-style evolution), a lot of new genetic information would have had to have been added to the genes of the organism as it evolved from a single cells into a human being. It’s like going from the blueprint for a simple doghouse to the blueprint for the Pentagon! The problem is that there is no known way for nature to add this new information nor for new genetic information to be added spontaneously. Information can be lost or scrambled due to mutations, but it is not clear how new information can be

added to a genome. Alleged examples of evolution generally involve a loss of information, such as the cave fish which lost not only its eyesight but also its eyes.

When stories about genetic changes observed in animals are reported in the news as if they were examples of evolution, these reports invariably describe microevolution. These stories only mention changes in features or ways of doing things and never mention any new type of animal coming into existence — because none has!

8. How do evolutionists explain the origin of life?

They really can’t. The idea that life can come from non-life is known as *abiogenesis* or “spontaneous generation.” Science has come a long way from the days when it was believed rotting meat begat flies, but the problem of explaining how abiogenesis is possible remains scientifically unsolved. The online encyclopedia Wikipedia says, “There is no ‘standard model’ of the origin of life.”¹⁵ Darwin assumed that abiogenesis was true, and the fact that it

15. “Abiogenesis.”, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abiogenesis> (accessed May 8, 2013)

has never been demonstrated has not discouraged those scientists who are convinced of the truth of evolution that it someday will be.

Probably the most famous attempt to create life is known as the Miller-Urey experiment. In this project a sealed glass apparatus was filled with gases (methane, ammonia, hydrogen) which were assumed to be necessary for life to have formed on the early planet earth. In another part of the apparatus, water was heated to boiling in order to form water vapor and represent earth's early ocean. Then a high voltage electrical current was sent into the gases to represent lightning on the early earth. After several attempts some simple amino acids were formed but no living cells. Amino acids are necessary for life on earth, but fewer than half of the 20 amino acids required for life were formed in this experiment. There were other problems as well, but the bottom line is that life was definitely not produced from non-life in this experiment.¹⁶

If there were a logical natural explanation as to how living organisms could spontaneously appear on earth all by themselves, then some thinkers wouldn't seriously be proposing that life originated on some other

planet and was transported to earth – an idea known as *panspermia*. But panspermia just shoves the problem of abiogenesis farther out into space without really explaining it. On the other hand, there is a scientific law known as *biogenesis* which



states that life can come only from other life. This is a well-accepted truth for Christians who understand that we have been given the gift of life by our living and loving Creator.

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16. Jerry Bergmann, "Why the Miller-Urey research argues against abiogenesis," *Journal of Creation* 18(2): 28-36, <http://creation.com/why-the-miller-urey-research-argues-against-abiogenesis> (accessed May 8, 2013); cf. also J. H. John Peet, "The Miller-Urey Experiment," *Truth in Science* (2005-13), <http://www.truthinscience.org.uk/tis2/index.php/component/content/article/51.html> (accessed May 8, 2013).

9. Hasn't the fossil record demonstrated Darwinian evolution?

Fossils are the remains or evidence of once-living creatures now found in the ground. Evolutionists claim that they have found fossils of animals that are transitional forms between one kind of animal and another. If true, that would be evidence for evolution. However, these relatively rare so-called and assumed “transitional” fossils tend to be controversial even among the secular scientists. Since nobody was there to observe the now-fossilized creatures when they were alive, there is often no way to determine whether a so-called transitional fossil couldn't instead be a deformed specimen, an extinct animal, or simply a mistake in judgment. Fossils are often incomplete, and paleontologists (scientists who specialize in studying fossils) have to fill in the blanks by using their imaginations. Sometimes they put bones together which don't even belong to the same creature, as shown by the once popular *Brontosaurus* dinosaur, which we now know didn't even exist because the wrong head had been attached to the body of an *Apatosaurus*.

One group of fossils is especially devastating to the notion of

evolution. The numerous fossils belonging to this group are known as “living fossils” because they look practically identical to their modern counterparts. Examples of living fossils include fish, crabs, cockroaches, spiders, crocodiles, and many



more.¹⁷ Evolutionists believe that they are fossilized animals and plants which lived hundreds of millions of years ago, and yet the descendents of those creatures have remained basically unchanged to the present day. So if evolution means change over long periods of time, then these fossils rebuke the notion of evolution because the plants and animals they represent have not changed in “hundreds of millions of years.” Especially interesting are living fossils such as the coelacanth which was assumed by evolutionists to have gone extinct millions of

17. “Examples of Living Fossils,” LivingFossils.com, http://www.living-fossils.com/3_1.php (accessed May 8, 2013)

years ago as transitional forms only to be found alive today completely unchanged.¹⁸

What evolutionists really need to do is to display various series of fossils which show the gradual changing of any plant or animal into a completely different kind of plant or animal. This would be more convincing than merely reporting isolated examples of alleged transitional forms. For a while scientists thought that they had such a series in horses, but now DNA testing raises serious doubts about this assumed horse evolution series.¹⁹ The lack of any series of fossils showing the gradual transition of a plant or animal into a completely different kind of plant or animal must be considered a serious weakness in the theory.

Because fossils need to be buried rapidly before decay sets in, a global flood is a logical possible explanation as to why most of them exist. We will discuss this further in Question 18.

10. What is *entropy* and how does it affect the evolution theory?

The well-established Second Law of Thermodynamics or law of *entropy* states that over time available energy is lost to nature and systems tend to go from order to disorder. We can see the effects of this law all over the



place. Buildings fall apart, living things die, machines break down and wear out, etc. If one takes a deck of playing cards organized in numerical order according to their suits and throws the deck down a flight of stairs, upon picking up the cards they will likely be very much out of order.

However, the theory of evolution requires nature to go in the opposite direction, from disorder to more order, as simple living things allegedly evolve into more highly organized creatures all by themselves. It's like throwing a disorganized deck of cards down the stairs and upon picking the cards up

18. "Coelacanth," Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coelacanth> (accessed May 8, 2013)

19. "DNA Sheds New Light On Horse Evolution," *Science Daily* (December. 10, 2009), <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091210092001>.

randomly finding them to be in perfect order. Evolutionists have a hard time explaining this apparent contradiction between a proven law of nature and their theory – but they still try.

One common rebuttal they use is to claim that in an open system energy is available from the outside to counter entropy. For example, the solar system is an open system which has a sun which continuously delivers energy to the earth. Seeds make use of this energy to grow into more highly organized mature plants. However, there is no chemical mechanism for converting the sun's light into structures the plant can use for growth and development. There is no such mechanism which links light from the sun to increased genetic order. In fact, plants are actually constructed so that sunlight *can't* alter their ability to keep on producing the next generation "after

their own kind."

The sun's energy did not create the programs in the seeds that allow them to sprout and grow into plants. The seeds require a Divine Designer, the God whom evolutionists reject. Their rebuttal can be easily challenged by asking them whether putting a frog in the sunshine will ever turn it into a prince. Even a snowflake, which evolutionists sometimes use as an example of more order proceeding from less order in nature, is dependent on how water molecules are designed. LSI

Coming:

- 11. Were dinosaurs real and, if so, does the Bible mention them?**
- 12. Were there really cavemen?**
- 13. What about human evolution?**
- 14. Who was Cain's wife?**
- 15. Is there any evidence for the Big Bang?**
- 16. Is there life in space?**
- 17. Why is starlight a problem for creationists?**
- 18. What evidence is there for a global flood?**
- 19. Was Noah Ark large enough to handle all the animals that would have boarded the vessel?**
- 20. Were there really ice ages?**



Monday, April 22, 2013

Did MSNBC Really Say Children Should No Longer Belong to Their Parents?



A political scientist is pushing the idea that children belong to a whole community.

Summary: In a promo for the cable network MSNBC, political scientist Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry advocated ending the “private Idea that kids belong to their parents.” Instead, she is pushing for a “collective notion” that kids belong to the whole community. Perry claimed not enough was being invested in public education because of the private notion of children being totally the responsibility of parents. Host of a program aired on Saturday and Sunday mornings on MSNBC, Harris-Perry added, “Once it’s everybody’s responsibility and not just the household’s, then we start making better investments.”

Lindsey Burke of the Heritage Foundation strongly disagreed

with Harris-Perry. Burke fears the role of government in pre-school programs. "We see, time and time again, that expansive government preschool and child-care programs can never replicate the benefits that strong families and parental caregiving provide," said Burke. She objected to the Obama administration's talk of providing "cradle to career" education, starting with infants and toddlers via such programs as Head Start. "So we know that we're going to see a big push ... by the administration to grow government intervention into the lives of the youngest American children."

Burke explained that statistics show mothers of young children overwhelmingly prefer part-time jobs over full-time so that they can spend more time with their children. The more hours a week a child spends in daycare and preschool programs, the worse their behavior tends to become. "All of the evidence points to that the more you can be with your family and one-on-one, having that really intimate early learning experience, the better."

Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America agreed with Burke. She sees an unrelenting attack on parental rights coming not only from the administration in Washington but also from college classrooms and news desks across the country. She believes teachers, television programs, video games and cultural influences are set to take over from parents the role of shaping the minds and hearts of the next generation of Americans.

To read the entire article, visit <http://cnsnews.com/node/658227>

Comment: The idea that the government or society as a whole should be empowered to assume more control over the lives of individual children is nothing new. It was former first lady and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton who wrote a book titled *It Takes a Village: And Other Lessons Children Teach Us* which was published in 1996 and which presents much the same idea.

To be sure, the rights of some parents to totally supervise the lives of their children can and should be forfeited, as in cases of neglect or habitual child abuse. Also, I believe most people would agree that governments, national, state or local, have the right to see to it that younger generations have access to such

things as a good education and health care. However, governments and society have not shown they can be better parents than the biological parents of children. On the contrary, with governments fast falling under the influence of political correctness and its questionable agenda that includes a push for gay rights and sexual freedoms, among other things, Christian parents especially should be concerned when they hear people like Ms. Harris-Perry talking.

Yet, not all is lost, by any means. Private schools including religious schools are still allowed to operate with relative freedom, even being partially funded in some areas via vouchers. And home schooling appears to be rapidly growing as a popular option to the government schools. Some surveys, as suggested by Ms. Burke, have shown that children who grow up in two-parent homes are apt to be happier and less likely to engage in antisocial behaviors.

The best advice that can be given to concerned parents is to follow the advice given in the Bible. **“Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”** ([Ephesians 6:4](#)). **“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it”** ([Proverbs 22:6](#)). I am not aware of any place in the Bible where governments or society are urged to seize supervision of children away from their parents. If parents do a good job, with God’s help, of raising their offspring to be law-abiding, productive citizens of our country, there will be less support for the position taken by people such as Ms. Harris-Perry.

This matter should not be taken lightly. Governments under the Constitution are not allowed to instruct children in religion. Even if they could, they likely wouldn’t teach a Bible-based religion. Therefore, if governments ever become the primary educators and care-givers of children, who will teach the young folks the way to heaven? Children from the earliest years of their lives need to hear about Jesus Christ, how He came down to earth to suffer and die and rise again for our sins, and how through faith in Him all believers can look forward to an everlasting life in heaven.

Euthanasia Rates Rising In the Netherlands

Euthanasia (“mercy-killing”) deaths in the Netherlands rose to 3,695 in 2011, an increase of 18% over the previous year. That figure has been steadily increasing, and more psychiatric patients are being involved. Meanwhile, the newly-elected government of Quebec, Canada has announced plans to introduce a bill to legalize euthanasia in that province. Adults with a serious and incurable illness who have given their written consent may request “medical aid in dying.”—*Clearly Caring* (Volume 32, Number 2)

Early Use of Fire

Archaeologists say they have discovered evidence that humans were using fire “1,000,000 years ago,” which is even earlier than humans are said to have existed. Bits of burned grass and sedges along with ash and charred bone fragments were found inside the 460-foot-long Wonderwerk Cave in South Africa. A study revealed the remains came from a tended fire. The oldest man-made fire previously had been dated to “790,000” years ago.—*Discover* (January/February, 2013)



Schweitzer Finds More

Dr. Mary Schweitzer, although an evolutionist herself, has made discoveries that have challenged the secular timeline for dinosaurs. First, she discovered soft tissue in dinosaur fossils. Then late last year she found bone cells, proteins and DNA. None of this should be present in dinosaur fossils today if these animals went extinct “65 million years ago.” 8+7—*Creation* (April-June, 2013)

Wrong Way Evolution

Some animals may be “evolving” by becoming less complex. This is the view of researcher David Ferrier who studied some “550-million-year-old” genes and found them to be more complex than their modern day counterparts. Sponges, comb jellies and placozoans are among animals which “may have actually evolved by losing some genes and perhaps became simplified from a more complex ancestor.” The accepted view of most scientists is that animals are becoming more complex over time.—*Creation* (April-June, 2013)

Moore Tornado Stronger Than Atomic Bomb

The tornado that struck Moore, Okla. earlier this year dwarfed the power of the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima, Japan. According to measurements by meteorologists, the massive tornado was anywhere from 8 times to 600 times more powerful than the bomb. Scientists know wind, humidity and rainfall are all involved in creating tornadoes, but they still don’t understand why tornadoes develop in some big storms but not in others.—*usnews.com* (5/21/13)

NASA Would Like to Capture an Asteroid

NASA is seriously considering catching a 500-pound asteroid and placing it in orbit around the moon. The plan is actually part of the proposed federal budget and has been allotted \$100 million. The asteroid would be caught by a robotic spacecraft, towed back towards Earth, and then placed in a stable orbit around the moon. The explosion of an asteroid over Russia in February may have given the proposal a boost.—*www.cnn.com* (4/8/13)

NASA Would Like to Fly to an Asteroid

NASA and its industrial partners are considering a new space mission—sending humans to an asteroid. A mission like that would stretch for millions of miles (it is only a quarter million miles to the moon). One of the main purposes for such a flight is to test systems needed for a trip to Mars. A rocket to an asteroid would use either conventional rocket fuel or solar-electric propulsion.—*Discover* (March, 2013)

Sleep Disorders Could Imperil Mars Crew

A 520-day isolation study intended to simulate a manned mission to Mars found most of the crew members in the study suffered from sleep disorders such as insomnia. The sleep problems also impaired them during their waking hours. As a result, future long-duration travelers in space will need special lighting to replicate Earth’s day-night cycles and other measures to maintain healthy circadian rhythms.—*news.discovery.com* (1/16/13)

Radiation Could Imperil Mars Crew

A trip to Mars would expose astronauts to as much radiation as they'd get from a full-body CT scan once a week. It would raise an astronaut's cancer risk by 3 percent. Radiation is a big concern for those planning deep space exploration — radiation from high-energy galactic cosmic rays as well as sporadic bursts of charged-up particles from the sun. The estimate does not even include radiation an astronaut would be exposed to on the surface of Mars. A radiation sensor on NASA's Curiosity mission helped scientists calculate the radiation danger.—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (5/31/13)



Airplane No Match for Birds in Maneuverability

When it comes to maneuverability, an airplane is no match for birds. Birds can dive, glide, swoop and alight on perches. Now scientists are trying to mimic these mechanics of bird flight by designing robotic ornithopters — aircraft that fly with flapping wings. Two of the most advanced of these machines are the German-made Smartbird, a remote controlled aircraft that flies like a herring gull, and the U.S. designed Nano Hummingbird, which can hover and fly forward.—*Discover* (March, 2013)

Colonoscopy Preferred

Preparing for a colonoscopy may be taxing, but it is still the preferred method for preventing colorectal cancer. "You could say that any screening is better than none," James Church, MD, of the Cleveland Clinic said. "The one advantage that colonoscopy has is that it's the one test that is preventive as well as diagnostic." During a colonoscopy, any polyps can be removed immediately upon discovery. A study published March 5 in *Annals of Internal Medicine* found that people with advanced colorectal cancer had fewer colonoscopies than their cancer-free peers.—*Cleveland Clinic Men's Health Advisor* (May, 2013)

Delaying Fatherhood

According to a new study, men who delay fatherhood could help their grandchildren live longer. These grandkids were found to have longer telomeres (protective caps on the ends of chromosomes). Longer telomeres are thought to protect against aging. However, the risk of passing down genetic mutations also increases as fathers age.—*yahoo news* (6/11/12)

Wiping Out Polio

There are only a handful of polio cases currently being reported worldwide, most of which occur in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. Still, an effort is being made to completely wipe out the disease by 2018. Health groups are launching a new \$5.5 billion vaccination and monitoring plan, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which is being backed by world leaders and philanthropists.—*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (4/30/13)

Women Smoking More

Women smokers in the U.S. are starting to begin smoking earlier in their lives and are smoking more. As a result, women have now caught up to men in their risk of dying from smoking-related illnesses. Lung cancer risk has declined for men but continues to rise for women. "It's a massive failure in prevention," said Dr. Michael Thun of the American Cancer Society. The U.S. has more than 35 million smokers with 20% of men being smokers and 18% of women.—(*Racine*) *Journal Times* (1/24/13)

Advice on Vitamin C

Taking high-dose vitamin C supplements may increase a person's odds of developing kidney stones. A study published online February 4 in *JAMA Internal Medicine* involved 23,355 Swedish men, ages 45-79, who had no history of kidney stones. The finding: men who took high-dose vitamin C were, on average, twice as likely to develop kidney stones. No association was found in men who took multivitamins without vitamin C supplements. The best advice is to get vitamin C from dietary sources such as citrus fruits, broccoli, peppers and tomatoes.—*Cleveland Clinic Men's Health Advisor* (April, 2013)

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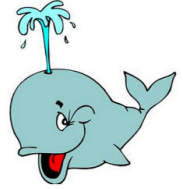
www.lutheranscience.org



NUGGETS

FROM HYENA OR WOLF TO WHALE —THE PROBLEMS

Evolutionists have hypothesized that whales evolved from a hyena-like or wolf-like land animal. For that to happen, the following changes



would be necessary:

- ☐ The land animal would have to develop a dorsal fin.
- ☐ Its bony tail would have to change into a cartilaginous fluke.
- ☐ The land animal's teeth would have to develop into a huge baleen filter.
- ☐ The hair would have to nearly disappear and be replaced by blubber for insulation.
- ☐ The nostrils would have to move from the tip of the nose to the top of the whale's head.
- ☐ The land animal's front legs would have to change into pectoral fins.
- ☐ The land animal's body would have to increase in size from about 160 lbs to 360,000 lbs.
- ☐ The land animal's external ears would have to disappear but somehow evolve to compensate for high-pressure diving.

Source: *Creation* magazine (July-September, 2013)

Foods Your Dog or Cat Shouldn't Consume

Most people food is okay for pets as long as they are not being overfed, but AVOID ...

Milk / Chocolate / Raisins / Onions / and Bread dough

Source: *American Profile* (May 5-11, 2013)

Marxists Loved Darwin

“After 1949 when the communists took control of China, the first new text introduced to all schools was neither Marxist nor Leninist, but Darwinian.”

—Michael Pitman, *Adam and Evolution*, quoted in *The Evolution Handbook* (Illustration from Wikimedia Commons)



Clogged Drain? Try This Before Calling a Plumber

Fill an empty milk jug or two-liter soda bottle with water. Cover the overflow drain of the sink with duct tape to prevent air from escaping. Then, in one quick motion, jam the top of the bottle into the drain and squeeze the bottle hard to send a jet of water into the drain. Remove the tape and run water to see if the clog is gone. Repeat two or three times if necessary. If that doesn't work, it's time to call a plumber.

Source: *Bottom Line Personal*
(June 15, 2013)

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM A VISIT TO THE ZOO

- ✦ Arrive early because animals tend to be more active in the morning.
 - ✦ Check ahead for events like special tours or talks by zookeepers.
 - ✦ Bring your camera and know its setting.
 - ✦ Become a member of the zoo so you can skip having to wait in line.
 - ✦ Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather.
- Animals can be active in bad weather.

Source: Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, quoted in *USA Weekend* (April 19-21, 2013)





MORE NUGGETS

Moth Duplicates Stealth Bomber—For Less

The U.S. military wishes it had a cheaper stealth bomber (presently the most expensive plane in the world). But the tiger moth has a radar jamming device which switches on as soon as a bat heads toward his way—keeping the bat from locating him! The Department of Defense needs to ask the little fellow how he does it. The Tiger moth never paid a dollar for his equipment. It was given to him.

—Vance Ferrell, *The Evolution Handbook*, page 855



Photo of Tiger Moth from
Wikimedia Commons



The heart (of man) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9

Source: answersingenesis.org

The Value of Radiometric Dating !?

“No coherent picture of the history of the earth could be built on the basis of radioactive datings.” --Curt Teichert, *Bulletin of the Geological Society of America*, vol. 69, (January 1958). quoted in Petersen, Dennis R., *Unlocking the Mysteries of Creation*, El Dorado, CA: Creation Resource Publications, 2002-2012.

EFFICIENT MACHINE

Dharmendra Modha, an engineer, wants to transform computing with technology modeled on the human brain, “the most effective and energy-efficient pattern recognition machine in existence.”

Source: *Discover* magazine (June, 2013)

PROS AND CONS OF CONSUMING CAFFEINE

PROS—Can help keep drowsy people awake.

Helps make some people more alert and better able to perform some tasks.

Can improve physical performance in endurance activities such as running.

Reduces headache pain.

Reduces the chance of developing Parkinson's disease.

Reduces the risk of getting gallstones.

Might be able to protect against Alzheimer's disease.

CONS—Can reduce fertility, cause miscarriages, or affect fetal growth when too much is consumed by pregnant women or women trying to become pregnant.

Disrupts sleep.

NEUTRAL—Doesn't seem to either increase or decrease the odds of heart disease.

Doesn't seem to help people lose weight or keep weight off.

Doesn't appear to elevate blood pressure over the long term.

Source: *Nutrition Action* (December, 2012)



Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

Isaiah 64:4

DRAGONS

The great *dragon* was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:9)

In this passage from the last book of the Bible, the devil is describe as an evil dragon. Yet he was a beaten dragon, defeated by our Savior, Jesus Christ, when Jesus died on a cross for our sins and rose again to prove He was the victor.

What is a dragon? Most people would call a dragon a make-believe beast. Dragons are found in stories from many nations all around the world.

How is a dragon usually pictured? Pictures of dragons usually show them

to be large animals with features of a reptile or a snake. They may have two legs or four legs, and sometimes they have wings. A dragon is also sometimes shown to be breathing fire.

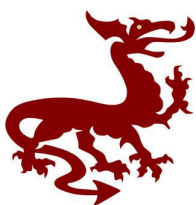
Where else can dragons be found besides in books?

Dragons can be found on flags, pottery, carpets, buildings and as other types of artwork such as statues. Some of these pictures of dragons are very old, from before the time of Christ.

Could dragons have been real animals? Some scientists who believe the Bible think the older pictures of dragons may have been based on meetings people had with living animals — animals we today call dinosaurs.

Some of the pictures of dragons make them look a lot like the type of dinosaur called a sauropod, which had a long neck and a long tail. Other dragons look like a flying reptile from the past

called a pterosaur.



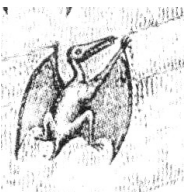
Dragon-1



Sauro-



Dragon-2



Ptero-

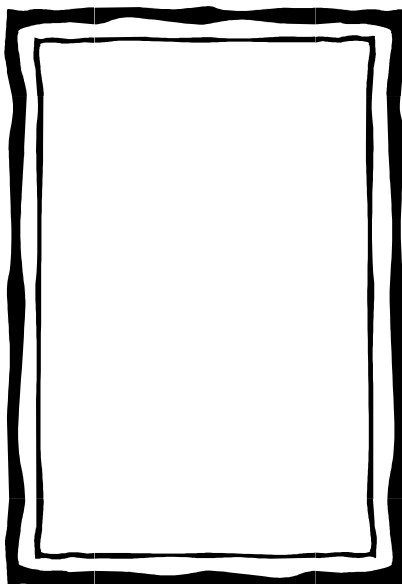
What is interesting about the Chinese zodiac?

The Chinese zodiac is a kind of calendar showing 12 years each represented by a different animal. Eleven of the animals like the dog and pig are alive today. The other animal is a dragon. So it would seem strange if this dragon were not once a living animal that the ancient Chinese had seen just like they saw the other animals in their zodiac.

Could a dragon/dinosaur really have breathed fire? We don't

know everything an extinct animal could have done. We do know there is an insect alive today called a bombardier beetle which can shoot out a spray that is heated to 212 degrees F!

Activity: There don't seem to be any dinosaurs or dragons alive today. So, the only "dragon" we need to be aware of is Satan. As you draw a picture of your favorite dragon or dinosaur in the box below, pray that God will protect you from the devil so he can't steal your faith away from you.



► My View



More Research Indicates Humanity is Declining

More evidence is accumulating that the human race is not getting more intelligent as one generation replaces another, an idea most secular scientists apparently still accept.

Most of us have heard of the work done by Dr. John Sanford, the former Cornell University geneticist who has studied in detail what mutations are doing to our genes. It appears that mutations, even the micro ones, when considered in total, are gradually weakening the human genome and therefore the human race.

Now, according to a news item in the April-June *Creation* magazine, research by a Stanford University scientist is telling the same story. Gerald Crabtree, in a recently published paper, has estimated that in the past 3,000 years (approximately 120 generations), every person has experienced two or more mutations that have been harmful to intellect or emotional functioning.

But Mr. Crabtree doesn't seem worried. Unlike Dr. Sanford, he still seems to be keeping

the evolutionist faith. He suggests that in the future "we may be able to magically correct any mutation that has occurred in all cells of any organism at any developmental stage. Thus, the brutish process of natural selection will be unnecessary." If that isn't a faith statement, what is?

Another item in this same magazine discusses work by other geneticists who studied more than one million mutations. "Most of the mutations that we found arose in the last 200 generations or so," one of the scientists said. If correct, this research would place the beginning of the curse of mutations at roughly the time of Adam and Eve's sin or the beginning of the world.

Secular scientists have only a feeble hope that in the future science can overcome this trend toward genetic entropy or weakening. We Christians are blessed to have more than a hope—we have the certainty that things will be greatly improved for us. But it won't happen in this life. We must wait until heaven.

"(God) will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Eternal life and joy in heaven is a gift from God available through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

—Warren Krug, editor

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