

LSI Journal

a forum for diverse views consistent with Scripture

Creation / Evolution

a Confessional Lutheran view



"Pillars of Creation"

- **God or No God?** *Creation or Evolution?*
- Our Creator Became Our Redeemer
- *Know Evolution:* Natural Selection
- No Gardeners

Fall 2016

Lutheran Science Institute

Creation / Evolution: a Confessional Lutheran view

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LSI Journal

Published four times annually by the Lutheran Science Institute, inc. (winter, spring, summer, and fall).

Editor: Mark Bergemann

Editorial Committee: Patrick Winkler, David Peters, Jeffery Stueber.

Views expressed are those of the author or editor and not necessarily those of the Lutheran Science Institute.

Rates: Free in electronic form (pdf). Print subscription including postage to LSI Journal and LSI Bulletin (all US \$) 1 year \$16 (\$23 Canada); 3 years \$35 (\$56 Canada). Bulk rates and other countries available. Order via LSI website or by contacting the editor.

Cover Image Credit: Hubble photo, M16, www.nasa.gov.

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Cover photo: Famous “**Pillars of Creation**” photo first taken by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1995. Shown is the higher resolution 2014 retake of this celebrated photo, showing a small portion of the Eagle Nebula (a nebula is a gas cloud). Each of the gas columns in this photo is light-years in length. Evolutionists claim new stars are forming in this nebula. They claim that over millions of years gas collapses under its own gravity to form new stars, yet that process has never been observed. What is observed are blue stars in a moving gas cloud.

Devotion

Our Creator Became Our Redeemer

This is what the LORD, your Redeemer who formed you from the womb, says: I am Yahweh, who made everything; who stretched out the heavens by Myself; who alone spread out the earth; who destroys the omens of the false prophets and makes fools of diviners; who confounds the wise and makes their knowledge foolishness; Isaiah 44:24-25 (HSCB)

Our Creator became our Redeemer. This truth is revealed to us throughout Scripture. The first chapter of John eloquently begins with this truth. Here in Isaiah 44, God weaves this truth into a prophecy about the restoration of Israel through Cyrus.

Our God made “everything” –the “heavens,” the “earth,” and all people too. He did so “alone,” all by Himself. In verse five of Isaiah 44 God declares, “I am the first and I am the last. There is no God but Me.” Our Creator-Redeemer is the one and only God.

The human “wisdom” of evolution sits as judge over Scripture, but it is God who “confounds the wise and makes their knowledge foolishness.” The evolution story, where stars turn into people over billions of years, is the height of foolishness.

In this section of Scripture, the Holman Bible (HCSB) translates God’s name once as “LORD” and once as “Yahweh.” In the original Hebrew both are the same name, the name that emphasizes God’s promises. The God of promises is your Creator and your Redeemer. He used His almighty power to make the heavens and the earth, and also to make your body in your mother’s womb. He uses that same power to fulfill his promises. God’s greatest promise is to redeem us, or buy us back. Our Savior God did this by living a sinless life in our place and by dying on the cross for our sins. We have been redeemed, and will live out eternity in heaven with our Redeemer-Creator.

We pray:

Creator God, there is no one like you. You created everything. You spoke and the universe came into existence. You are not bound by time or space or anything else, for these are all things you created.

You are the God of Promises. Thank You for becoming my Redeemer. Your resurrection demonstrates Your victory over death. Death has lost its power. Thank You for the gift of eternal life in heaven.

-MSB

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God or No God? Creation or Evolution?

Critical Considerations of Your Origin and Existence

Ted M. Reuschel

Say a medical doctor believes that no one ever gets cancer. This doctor decides he will never diagnose any patient as having cancer. When a patient presents symptoms of having cancer, this doctor plans to diagnose his patient as having something other than cancer, and treat for that diagnosis instead of treating for cancer. Trusting such a doctor may be fatal. Such a situation is unimaginable, yet this is precisely what those who write the evolution story do. The evolution story rejects the possibility of a creator god, rejects the possibility of a planet-wide flood on earth, rejects the possibility of a young earth, and so much more. All these are rejected on the assumption that there is no creator god. While trusting the cancer denying doctor could lead to death, trusting evolution can lead to eternal death, since evolution has shipwrecked the faith of many Christians and given false comfort to doubters and scoffers.

This article will compare how creation and evolution view the world around us and show how evolution consistently rejects explanations based on a creator god.

Why does the world exist?

Why is there anything at all? Does science have the answers? Is there a god behind it all? At some point in life each of us *must* come to terms with our existence. You have probably come to one of three positions, 1) Embrace creation by an all-powerful God, 2) Dismiss a miraculous creation altogether, in favor of evolution, or 3) Try to ignore the issue and live with uncertainty.

Most people believe in a higher power. It is historically the natural response of humans to the marvel of existence. The ancient Greeks,

known for their deep thinking on such matters, had over time developed numerous deities in an attempt to represent all aspects of human life. Worried that they might overlook a god, they even constructed an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.

Even in our modern society the natural curiosity and sensitivity pertaining to nature and its origin remain a nagging question for each of us. How did everything come to be? It all comes down to this:

Either it made itself, or it was made.

If there is no creator god, then having taken a position of dismissal or denial is of course of no consequence. If, on the other hand, there is a creator god, then denying that truth would be disastrous.

If we remain open to the possibility of a creator god, then certain questions naturally follow. Why did that god make everything, especially us humans? What does he want of us? Is he going to hold us accountable for falling short?

Whether we care to admit it or not, there are innumerable features of our natural surroundings which strongly suggest the presence of an extraordinary outside influence. Many people, for a variety of reasons, decide to ignore or deny such powerful indications. Yet their human nature, their consciousness and reason, then demands some alternative explanation. Many today claim they find some comfort in the explanations offered by evolution.

For many who are hesitant to believe in a god of creation, it is the declarations of evolution regarding the origin of the universe and the subsequent evolution of life that are among the greatest hurdles to accepting a god-based beginning. Evolution theory attempts to replace a creator god with alternatives, and many humans seem ready to follow this path. That being the case, it becomes especially important when considering “God or no god,” to ask:

- What is the basis for the claims of evolution?
- What is the reliability of those declarations as to our origins?

An Expanding Universe

The theory of evolution as to the origin of everything begins with the observable “now” and then looks backward for explanations. One significant attribute of the universe is that it seems to be expanding. Galaxies are moving away from each other as the universe expands. This characteristic is determined by observing a redshift, that is, a lengthening of the light waves and the subsequent change in the color of light toward the red spectrum. However, this redshift has two independent causes: the Doppler effect and the Hubble flow.

Doppler effect: All of us are familiar with the changing sound of a freight train as it passes by. As it approaches, its sound waves are compressed as they reach our ears, creating a higher pitch. As it passes by, its waves are stretched out relative to our ears, creating a lower pitch. The resulting change reveals that the object is passing by, and even allows us to calculate speeds and distances. Similarly, light also moves in waves, so it too exhibits the Doppler effect. As distant galaxies and stars move through space away from us (or we move away from them), the wavelengths of light lengthen and shift toward the red.

Hubble Flow: On the other hand, there is the Hubble Flow, as astronomer Dr. Danny R. Faulkner (who taught at the University of South Carolina Lancaster for over 26 years, and now is a creationist author) explains,

Cosmologists usually assume that all matter in the universe is at rest with respect to space. What is expanding is space itself. Therefore, as space expands, the matter in the universe is carried along with the expansion. As such, particles are not actually moving apart. Instead, more space appears between particles as the universe expands. ...galaxies can be at rest with respect to space, but they appear to fly apart due to the expansion of space. Therefore, the redshifts due to the expansion of the universe are not Doppler shifts. Sometimes the perceived motion due to expansion is called Hubble flow.¹

¹ Danny R. Faulkner, *Misconceptions About General Relativity, Cosmology, and the Big Bang*, in *Universe By Design*, website version, June 4, 2013,

Evolutionists rely heavily on the expansion principle to justify a “Big Bang” type of beginning, even though the origin of the forces and materials in the Big Bang cannot be explained. Their theory begins with “stuff” existing in a singularity.

Is an expanding universe in conflict with the Bible? Not at all. While some other plausible explanations for the redshift have been proposed, God may well have created an expanding universe. When he created the universe, he did so by the power of his Word. God created and upholds a universe which follows physical rules which he himself established. Our attempt to discover and explain those rules is called “science.”

Age of the Universe

Evolutionists place the age of our universe at 13.81 billion years +/- 120 million years. That’s a very precise figure and therefore looks so believable to many. Such a large number is, of course, very helpful and necessary to evolutionists in accounting for the immense time which they propose would be required for the astounding evolution from gas and space dust to complex human life.

Where did that number come from? Astrophysicist Dr. Ethan Siegel (an evolutionist and award winning science writer) explains how evolutionists calculate the age of the universe in a recent article. He states that there are really only two methods for calculating the age of the universe and then explains both. He describes the primary calculation method,

If we can measure how the Universe is expanding today and how it has expanded throughout its entire history ...we can extrapolate this back in time, and learn the entire expansion history of the Universe, and hence, its age. ...The number we

<https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/cosmology/misconceptions-of-general-relativity-cosmology-and-the-big-bang/> (accessed 11-17-16)

get ...is that the universe is 13.81 billion years old, with an uncertainty of just 120 million years.²

Siegel also lists some of the many assumptions on which this primary age calculation is based:

Under the laws of General Relativity, if you have a universe like ours, which is: of uniform density on the largest scales, which has the same laws and general properties at all locations, which is the same in all directions, and in which the Big Bang occurred at all locations everywhere at once, then there is a unique connection between how old the universe is and how it's expanded throughout its history.³

Siegel then describes the second method, which is calculating the age of stars in clusters. Those result in ages of 13 – 14 billion years, which would seem to affirm the result of the first method.

Astronomer Dr. Danny R. Faulkner writes about the assumptions Siegel lists above:

These assumptions are that the universe is both homogeneous and isotropic (we call this the cosmological principle). Homogeneity is the assumption that matter in the universe is uniformly distributed throughout space and that physical laws are the same everywhere. Isotropy is the assumption that the universe has the same properties in every direction. How well founded are these assumptions? Matter in the universe is very clumpy, but cosmologists generally assume that, at the largest scale in the universe, these clumps smooth out. However, at all scales that we observe, the universe is not smooth. Furthermore, evidence suggests that not only is the universe not homogeneous, it also is not isotropic. If the cosmological

² Ethan Siegel, *How Do We Know The Age Of The Universe?*, Forbes website, April 26, 2016, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/startswithabang/2016/04/29/how-do-we-know-the-age-of-the-universe/#4c9ef09c39ff> (accessed 11-17-16)

³ Siegel.

principle is not true, then one must question whether the big bang model is true.⁴

Faulkner also explains how evolutionists modify their calculations so that the results of each method match,

From the early 1960s until the early 1990s, the age of the universe was estimated to be 16–18 billion years. Notice that the range in this age estimate does not overlap with the current range of age estimate. The gap between the two ranges 2 billion years. Many scientists are convinced that the current age estimate is correct, but there was equal confidence in the older age estimate. Until a little more than two decades ago, the expansion rate of the universe was thought to be much lower than today. This lower expansion rate resulted in an older age. At that time, astronomers generally resisted a higher expansion rate, even though for years a few astronomers had provided evidence for a greater expansion rate. Why was there such resistance? Astronomers realized that a faster expansion rate would shorten the age of the universe, but astronomers also thought that globular clusters were at least 15 billion years old, if not older. If the universe were expanding much faster than generally thought at the time, then the universe would be younger than globular star clusters, which, of course, makes no sense. Once astronomers finally accepted the faster expansion rate and younger age for the universe, they had to rework their understanding of globular star clusters to improve the fit. Clearly, this adjustment would not have been made if it were not necessitated by the new estimated age of the universe. Perhaps these supposedly independent methods of age determination are not so independent after all.⁵

Evolutionists assume that everything we see today came about naturally, that everything has gone through a life cycle. For instance,

⁴ Danny R. Faulkner, *How Do We Know the Age of the Universe?*, Answers In Genesis website, June 13, 2016, <https://answersingenesis.org/astronomy/age-of-the-universe/how-do-we-know-age-universe/> (accessed 11-17-16)

⁵ Faulkner, *How Do We Know the Age of the Universe?*

they assume white dwarf stars are more than 10 billion years old,⁶ since they assume white dwarfs were previously red giant stars, and that red giants had previously gone through the various stages of main sequence stars with their calculated thermonuclear reaction progressions.

However, the Bible tells us that God created a complete working world. Scientists are observing this all in process: the universe expanding, the elements in radioactive decay, the stars at various stages of brightness, a cosmic microwave background, soil in place, trees and animals mature, etc. On day seven of creation week it would already “appear” to a creation-denying scientist that billions of years had passed in order for these phenomena to be observed. *But* these evolutionists would be wrong, because they assumed that there is no creator god and then go about imagining how things came to be without a creator god. It is also of very great importance to note that the numbers proposed by evolutionists are all based on a wide range of *initial* assumptions which best fit their preferred models, and all of which already exclude creation as a possibility.

The worldwide Genesis Flood provides other very fitting explanations for what evolutionists claim requires an old Earth.

Origin of Life

Regardless of one’s position as to how the lifeless physical stuff of the universe came into being, we are left to marvel as to how life itself could possibly have developed from non-living chemicals, and especially how humans came to inhabit the earth.

Evolutionists tell us that heavier elements like carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, which are essential to life, would not under a Big Bang scenario appear ready-made in a universe as it first starts expanding. Rather, they say, these elements were made in stars over billions of years through a series of nuclear reactions and then spread around the universe as certain types of dying stars exploded in supernovae.

⁶ *White Dwarfs -Aging Stars*, National Geographic webpage, <http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/universe/white-dwarfs-article/> (accessed 11-17-16)

Eventually some of these elements reached earth and formed into the non-living chemical building blocks of life.

Evolutionists suggest that the earth itself came into being about 4.5 billion years ago. They further suggest that the first signs of life, simple cells they have given the name “prokaryotes,” appeared around 3.8 billion years ago.⁷ So, in about 700,000 years, life is said to have developed from non-life, and by chance mutations, adaptations and “survival of the fittest” events, subsequently become ever-increasingly complex.

Is this explanation in conflict with the Bible? Most certainly! The Bible tells us that God conceived of, designed, and then created that amazing condition called “life” beginning on the third day.

Consider the extraordinary chain of events which would have been required if evolution were true! Evolutionists claim that critical heavier elements needed for life came to earth from the stars. They say that life – pulsating, moving and performing procreative functions – came from stuff that has no life. Keep in mind that biochemical reactions outside of life or the lab are rare, yet evolutionists propose the chance assembly of biological chemicals required for life (amino acids, proteins, lipids, DNA and RNA, carbohydrates, and others). Thousands upon thousands of these non-living chemicals are required for even the most “simple” life form. Molecules can only react with other molecules by colliding with them. Chemicals, per se, do not undergo natural selection. They randomly collide with other molecules, and then react under certain circumstances.

Evolutionists propose that the first single-celled “prokaryote” life form amazingly appeared. This early form of life somehow survived the many changes which did not occur simultaneously with other critical changes. Then “life” somehow managed to also re-create itself before dying out for lack of a reproductive function. The mutations of genetic DNA are very rare, totally random, seldom of any benefit, and

⁷ www.bbc.co.uk/nature/history_of_the_earth (accessed 11-17-16)

of course highly unlikely to occur simultaneously with related necessary new features.

In fact, the fossil record shows almost no evidence of change from one kind of animal to another, and what little fossil evidence exists is often disputed even among evolutionists. The so-called “missing links” are still missing.

As we consider the origin of life and the plant and animal world, we find them to be compelling testimony to design by a miraculous Creator. Now let’s turn to human life.

Human Life

As life forms became more complex, evolutionists claim, fish evolved into land animals, dinosaurs evolved into birds, and ape-like creatures evolved into humans. Humans by countless and continued beneficial changes and by survival of the fittest, slowly evolved into the current upright, organized, forward-looking and intelligent version.

Is this explanation in conflict with the Bible? Entirely! The Bible states that God created our extraordinarily-designed and complex human form on the sixth day of that first week. Evolutionists imagine that the earliest life forms must have been very simple and just became more complex over time. Yes, very complex indeed!

There is an enormous difference between us and our supposed closest relatives, the primates. Humans are able to question their origin, existence, and future, consider ethics, seek a relationship with a higher power (god), and contemplate visiting other planets. These are remarkable attributes and have nothing whatsoever to do with survival. Nor do they fit well at all with mindless natural selection which expects advances to occur only to the level that is able to cope with the existing circumstances.

Humans are in fact the most marvelous testimony to God’s creative genius. Consider these examples of just a few of our extraordinary

features. As you do, consider also how evolution could bring them to pass.

- The human body is made up of some 10-100 trillion cells.⁸ A cell is by no means simple, containing hundreds of complex components. Each cell is uniquely positioned and equipped to perform its assigned function.
- Most cells in the human body have a nucleus with DNA⁹, a super-molecule that contains coded information in a chemical format for replication. If DNA from just a single invisible cell were removed and uncoiled, it would be about 6 feet long.¹⁰
- The human eye is capable of automatic adjustments for distance focus, light intensity and angle of vision. Nerve sensors convey an image to the brain which blends and deciphers it all for us in an instant. The eyes are paired and wide-set for distance perception, and deep-set with eyebrows and eyelashes to protect them from damage.
- The ear has a vibrating membrane and liquid chamber with over 20,000 auditory receptors.¹¹ The ears are paired to assist in locating the source of sound and, as an added benefit, they maintain our sense of balance.
- The human skeleton has 206 separately distinct bones.¹² They are strong enough to support the body and to protect organs, yet lightweight, and with enough flexibility to absorb shock without breakage. Ounce for ounce, they are stronger than solid steel. Yet bones are living tissue, and by no means inert. They are a reservoir for essential minerals, and the source of red and white blood cells and

⁸ www.statisticbrain.com/human-body-statistics (accessed 11-17-16)

⁹ Red blood cells, for example, do not have a nucleus.

¹⁰ McGraw Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. New York: McGraw Hill, 1997.

¹¹ www.physicsclassroom.com/class/sound/Lesson-2/The-Human-Ear (accessed 11-17-16)

¹² www.statisticbrain.com/human-body-statistics (accessed 11-17-16)

platelets. Some 100 million red blood cells die and are replaced every minute.¹³

- At the core of the circulatory system, the heart pumps automatically some 100,000 times a day, carrying blood through 60,000 miles of vessels, and servicing every single cell in the body.¹⁴ That blood contains essential ingredients for survival, including red blood cells carrying a fresh supply of oxygen, white blood cells ready to attack bacteria and other pathogens, platelets to assure prompt clotting in the event of injury, and many other important components.
- The veins returning utilized blood components to the heart would have a hard time fighting gravity were it not for well-spaced one-way valves which prevent its movement back down the legs and arms.
- In our lungs our circulating blood removes wastes and absorbs fresh oxygen, as we inhale and exhale nearly 23,000 times per day.¹⁵ It happens in the millions of microscopic air sacs, providing an astoundingly large surface exchange area.
- Our kidneys provide further cleansing functions, filtering a quart of blood every minute.¹⁶ At the same time they delicately adjust electrolyte levels, and detect, sort, and get rid of waste.
- Our stomach acid is strong enough to dissolve zinc, yet has relatively little immediate effect on our stomach lining. But just to be sure, the entire lining of the stomach is regenerated every 2 to 9 days to prevent cumulative injury.¹⁷

¹³ <http://book.bionumbers.org/how-quickly-do-different-cells-in-the-body-replace-themselves/> (accessed 11-17-16)

¹⁴ www.statisticbrain.com/human-body-statistics (accessed 11-17-16)

¹⁵ www.statisticbrain.com/human-body-statistics (accessed 11-17-16)

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ <http://book.bionumbers.org/how-quickly-do-different-cells-in-the-body-replace-themselves/> (accessed 11-17-16)

- The brain contains some 86 billion neurons,¹⁸ constantly receiving millions of sensor communications from all over the body, automatically regulating and adjusting all internal functions, carrying out muscular actions, as well as consciously thinking, and all of this simultaneously.
- Our skin is highly protective, yet very pliable and sensitive. Each square inch has 300 sweat glands and 20 feet of blood vessels. It is also constantly re-building to the tune of 30-40 thousand cells each minute.¹⁹
- One of the most amazing other examples is the highly complex human reproduction system. There are very distinct, and yet entirely complementary, differences between male and female reproductive systems. If even one tiny feature in either gender was not perfectly compatible with the other, they could not have reproduced. If the tiny fertilized egg was not totally programmed for precise differentiation of functions, it would just be a mass of useless cells. If the growing baby was not perfectly provided for by means of its own umbilical cord, it could not have developed. If there was not a way for the baby to be born, it would not have lived. If it did not begin immediately to breathe in and utilize oxygen, it would never know life outside the womb. If the mother was not already equipped to feed sustaining milk, the baby could not have survived. If its parents didn't know what it really was, or didn't care, the child would not have been protected and nurtured into maturity to sustain the reproductive cycle into subsequent generations.

How could this possibly come about? “He created them male and female.” (Genesis 1:27)

The entire body of these and thousands upon thousands of other intricate parts and functions, including most so small they can't even be seen, are each doing their job and in a marvel of integration.

¹⁸ <http://www.livescience.com/18749-human-brain-cell-number.html> (accessed 11-17-16)

¹⁹ <https://forefrontdermatology.com/skin-fun-facts/> (accessed 11-17-16)

Your Personal Consciousness

For thousands of years, philosophers have contemplated our existence and consciousness. Evolution offers poor answers and little comfort. If evolution is true, then life is meaningless since we are just space “stuff.”

The Bible makes it clear that mankind is the purpose of God’s entire creation, its focal point and crowning glory.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth.” (Gen 1:28)

As the object of creation, each of us is specifically and individually noticed and loved.

Look at how great a love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children. And we are! (1 John 3:1a)

While God created a world which is intriguing, this wasn’t his ultimate goal of our existence. Humans are not destined for just a short “blip” on earth, but rather they are destined for a special, intimate and eternal relationship with their loving Creator.

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Nature of Science and Religion

We have reviewed some of the basic declarations of evolution. As people try to make sense of all of the features and workings of the universe, they attempt to use science to provide answers.

Unfortunately, evolution begins not with the open question, “By what means might the universe, our Earth, and life possibly have come to be?” Rather it uses the already biased question, “How might earth, life

and the universe possibly have come to be, if we refuse to consider divine creation as one possible answer?" With a beginning such as this, all evidence pointing to creation, as well as a Biblical world-wide flood, is ignored or interpreted in other, often unreasonable, ways. This is precisely what has happened!

Science, by its very nature and definition, attempts to explain everything through natural causes; it is not able to use the miraculous as any part of its explanation!

Consequently, a conflict arises when theories and philosophies are developed by evolutionists who have predetermined not to even consider the supernatural as an option, even if there is evidence clearly supportive of creation and a worldwide Flood. Instead, they relentlessly pursue fabulous explanations as alternatives. They can also be very outspoken and convincing in purporting them as fact. Museums and public agencies like the National Park Service have swallowed biased evolutionary statements and portrayed them as fact in their displays. Publishers of school textbooks have done the same.

Scientists make fabulous and intriguing discoveries and conclusions about nature and the world. However, we need to be aware that these scientific models are constantly revised and even replaced as new discoveries are made. Both evolutionists and creationists are able to see these as evidence of a tremendously complex, yet orderly and marvelous world. Most of these perceptions about the natural world are in keeping with a six-day creation, young universe, and world-wide flood. What scientists are actually doing is discovering, describing and documenting the elements and effects of creation itself.

Evolutionists go further and imagine a history of the universe without a creator god. Is it difficult to conceive of a supernatural being creating all of this? Perhaps so, due to our sin-darkened reason. Our sinful minds would rather believe in a long chain of countless natural events with no creator god, even if those imagined natural events are actually dependent on events even more unbelievable than the six-day creation God reveals in Scripture.

Truth of Our Origin

In seeking after answers, believers in God have a distinct advantage over the theories of evolutionists. The creator God has personally told us how the world originated. It is revealed through the writers of the Bible, who wrote what God told them to say. Let's now look more closely at what the Bible has to say about origins and existence. We will begin by examining carefully its sole opening verse, so simple that its full content is easily overlooked, yet so complete:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
(Genesis 1:1)

“In the beginning...” Note the significance of the catch-all “beginning.” It doesn't say the beginning of this or that, but “in” the beginning, and so indicating the beginning of everything. That includes time, matter, energy, and space. There is nothing at all to contemplate before “the beginning,” with one very important exception, God himself.

“...God...” Nothing or no one else, just the one mighty God was responsible for the beginning of all things. This would require the most powerful and wise being which believers accept as they marvel at the products of his creation.

“... created...” When used in context with “In the beginning,” it means to make something which did not exist before. To make something from absolutely nothing. God “miraculously” made the entire world happen.

“... the heavens and the earth.” In these few words God creates the entire universe, and over the next week, refines it into the perfect habitation for his crown of creation: mankind.

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. By the seventh day God completed His work that He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work that He had done. (Genesis 2:1-2)

Denying the Creator

There is evidence all around us for divine creation. In evaluating this same evidence, evolutionists intentionally develop alternatives to fill the void when a creator god has been consciously excluded. The Bible states very clearly:

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge (Psalm 19:1-2)

For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

But ask the animals, and they will instruct you; ask the birds of the sky, and they will tell you. Or speak to the earth, and it will instruct you; let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? (Job 12:7-9)

The fool says in his heart, “God does not exist.” (Psalm 14:1a)

By open and unbiased observation and study of nature and the universe, we can readily conclude that “miraculous” events had to have been a part of our world’s beginning, and sustaining it yet today. In that sense we can then know that a god exists. But as sinful humans, we suppress the truth of creation and turn to alternate explanations (Romans 1:18-32). By our sin darkened nature we “willfully ignore” the truth of a creator god (2 Peter 3:3-6).

Our Eternal Destiny

Each and every day approximately 150,000 people from around the world die. In that instant, each of them will meet their Creator God: some to eternity with him in heaven, a place of eternal joy, without pain or sadness, and forever present with our Creator God; others to hear

their judgment to hell, a place of eternal darkness, fire, and agony, with eternal separation from the Creator God.

How can we avoid the tragedy of hell? We must understand that God has a standard for living. In Matthew 5:48 he says “be perfect.” We can be thankful that the one and only true God is one of perfect goodness rather than accepting of evil, and that he has set a standard of perfection for all mankind. Yet James 2:10 makes it perfectly clear that “For whoever keeps the entire law, yet fails in one point, is guilty of breaking it all.” Likewise in Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” In other words, we are incapable of attaining heaven on our own effort or merit. What then is our alternative?

Thankfully, the true God is also a loving God, who has not left us to struggle fearfully and guess aimlessly about the sure path to an eternity in heaven.

The Lord has made His victory known; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. (Psalm 98:2)

...God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

God had already revealed this plan firsthand to Adam and Eve, the first humans, and then to subsequent generations as well. As St. Paul responded to the Greeks in Athens who had erected that altar to an unknown God, “...what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.” (Acts 17:23). God has provided, through divine inspiration, the saving words He wants all of us to know. These have been recorded, collected and preserved in the Holy Scriptures:

But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him. (Colossians 1:22)

Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, because the Spirit’s law of life in Christ Jesus has set you

free from the law of sin and of death. What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, (Romans 8:1-3)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

This message is known as the Gospel. It's the Good News of the Bible! It is how we deal with our shortcomings, our natural guilt, and our accountability. It is the amazing phenomenon of grace, God's undeserved and unearned gift of forgiveness and a free ticket to heaven—all the result of the completed work of Jesus as our substitute.

Without God, all of mankind's speculation about time, matter, energy, space, and origins is utterly and totally meaningless. Without God, the universe and our lives have no ultimate purpose whatsoever. What a wonderful thing is faith in a creating, loving, and saving God who invites us to spend an eternity with him in heaven.

Why does the world exist?

We began with questions: Why does the world exist? Why is there anything at all? Either it made itself, or it was made.

Evolutionists might counter one last time with similar questions. "How did God come to be? Did He make Himself, or was He made?" The Bible makes it clear that God was "from eternity to eternity" (Psalm 90:2). We cannot answer in any humanly sensible terms how this could be. Even so, we know that he was the only Being from eternity. All the answers lie within his existence. We can be content to let the incomprehensible details lie within his all-comprehending wisdom.

Evolutionists have no answer to why the world exists other than “for no reason.” To them, there is no ultimate purpose to the universe nor to life, for everything is a cosmic accident.

God himself answers the question, “Why does the world exist?” God created everything for his own purposes, and for his own glory. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1a). Out of divine love, we too were created for God’s glory (Isaiah 43:7).

Faith

Through what does this assurance come? It is through faith that we believe that God created.

By faith we understand that the universe was created by God’s command, so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

And the origin of that faith?

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. (Romans 10:17)

And what is that message?

...the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15b).

Thanks to Rev. David M. Putz who reviewed Biblical references for the author prior to submitting this article to LSI. [editorial note: The LSI Editorial Committee has also reviewed and edited this article as it does for all articles published in the LSI Journal.]

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Natural Selection

The evolution story is a mixture of reality and fabrication. Natural selection is a great example of this truth.

Reality: Natural selection produces new species of plants and animals.

Fabrication: The claim that natural selection produces new kinds of plants and animals.

There are many species in most Biblical kinds. Every kind of plant and animal which exists today, or which has gone extinct, was created by God thousands of years ago during the six days of creation. No new kinds ever develop. New species develop all the time, but always within their own kind. Birds did not descend from dinosaurs, they descended from birds. People did not descend from ape-like creatures, they descended from people.

What Is Natural Selection?

Natural selection is the natural process by which successive generations of plants and animals can eventually become different than their ancestors. To better understand natural selection, let's examine artificial selection. The National Academy of Science gives an example of artificial selection:

Early farmers began saving seeds from plants with particular favorable traits and planting those seeds the next growing season. Through this process of “artificial selection,” they created a variety of crops with characteristics particularly suited for agriculture. For example, farmers over many generations modified the traits of wild wheat so that the seeds remained on the plant when ripe and could easily be separated from their hulls.²⁰

²⁰ National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine, *Science, Evolution, and Creationism*, (Washington: The National Academies Press, 2008), 6. Free pdf at

Natural selection is the same as artificial selection, except the environment does the selecting instead of people.²¹

Bears

The bear kind on Noah's Ark must have had genetic diversity for a range of light to dark fur. The cubs of these two ark bears probably ranged from very light to very dark fur. Future generations of bears migrated throughout the globe. We can speculate how different bear species were produced by natural selection. Light colored fur would be beneficial for bears living in snow covered regions. Dark colored fur would be beneficial for bears living in forests. This is because bears whose fur blended in to the surroundings would have an advantage while hunting. Prey animals are less likely to notice bears with fur matching the landscape. Bears with a hunting advantage would be more likely to find sufficient food and grow to reproductive age. Animals which live long enough and then reproduce pass their traits to their offspring through their genes (DNA). In this way snow covered environments would "select" light colored bears and forests would "select" dark colored bears. Eventually separate species were produced: polar bears who lost the genes for dark fur,²² and grizzly bears²³ who lost the genes for white fur.²⁴ This is probably the way polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) became a separate species from grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*). We know that grizzly bears and polar bears are

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/11876/science-evolution-and-creationism> (accessed Oct 24, 2016)

²¹ "Artificial selection is a similar process [to natural selection], but in this case humans rather than the environment select for desirable traits by arranging for animals or plants with those traits to breed. Artificial selection is the process responsible for the development of varieties of domestic animals (e.g., breeds of dogs, cats, and horses) and plants (e.g., roses, tulips, corn)." National Academy, 5. Bill Nye also comments: "Artificial selection is the same as natural selection. ...Having characteristics that appeal to another species is the same whether it's an insect pollinating you or a human." Bill Nye, *Undeniable – Evolution and the Science of Creation*, (New York, NY: St. Martin's Press, 2014), 74.

²² Or their population mostly lost genes for dark fur.

²³ Grizzly bears are a subspecies of brown bears.

²⁴ Or their population mostly lost genes for white fur.

the same Biblical kind, because they can mate and produce a “grolar” bear (father is a grizzly and mother a polar) or “pizzly” bear (father a polar and mother is a grizzly).²⁵

The National Academy of Science describes natural selection this way,

Natural selection: Differential survival and reproduction of organisms as a consequence of the characteristics of the environment. ...Evolution consists of changes in the heritable traits of a population of organisms as successive generations replace one another. *It is the population of organisms that evolve, not individual organisms.* The differential reproductive success of organisms with advantageous traits is known as natural selection, because nature “selects” traits that enhance the ability of organisms to survive and reproduce. Natural selection also can reduce the prevalence of traits that diminish organisms’ abilities to survive and reproduce.²⁶

Loss of DNA Information

In our bear example, genetic diversity which existed in the parent population was lost due to selective breeding, producing two separate species within the bear kind. The environment “selected” which bears would breed and which would not breed, resulting in a loss of some DNA information (a loss of genetic diversity). Each new species lost some ability that its ancestors possessed. This would never produce a new “kind” of animal. A new kind of animal would require that new genetic information be added. In our bear example genetic information was lost, and no new genetic information was gained. The decedents of bears would always be bears if this is the only way natural selection worked. Creationists and evolutionists can agree that natural selection produces new species in this way, where no new kinds ever develop.

²⁵ Ed Mazza, *Rare ‘Pizzly’ Or ‘Grolar’ Bear Shot And Killed By Hunter In Canada*, The Huffington Post, May 25, 2016. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/pizzly-grolar-bear-shot-killed_us_57453eeae4b055bb1170b094 (accessed Oct 20, 2016)

²⁶ National Academy, 5.

Errors in Reproduction

While not needed in the bear example, an additional factor can come into play in some cases of natural selection. When living things reproduce there are often small errors in that reproduction. Some of the DNA information passed onto the offspring is changed (mutated). A famous mutation example is the antibiotic resistant version of a bacteria called *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). These antibiotic resistant bacteria are often used as examples of evolution in action. Molecular geneticist Dr. Purdom explains,

Antibiotic-resistant *H. pylori* have a mutation that results in the loss of information to produce an enzyme. This enzyme normally converts an antibiotic to a poison, which causes death. But when the antibiotics are applied to the mutant *H. pylori*, these bacteria can live while the normal bacteria are killed. So by natural selection the ones that lost information survive and pass this trait along to their offspring. ... Although the [mutant] bacteria can survive well in an environment with antibiotics, it has come at a cost. If the antibiotic-resistant bacteria are grown with the non-mutant bacteria in an environment without antibiotics, the non-mutant bacteria will live and the mutant bacteria will die. This is because the mutant bacteria produce a mutant protein that does not allow them to compete with other bacteria for necessary nutrients.²⁷

Loss of DNA Information (again)

In our *H. pylori* example, a mutation caused a loss of genetic (DNA) information. The bacteria could no longer produce a normally needed enzyme, but in an antibiotic environment that damaged mutant bacteria could still survive. Environments with antibiotics “selected” the mutant bacteria by killing the non-mutated bacteria. The resulting “superbug” is super only when antibiotics are present. In a normal

²⁷ Georgia Purdom, “Is Natural Selection the Same Thing as Evolution?” in *The New Answers Book 1*, ed. Ken Ham (Green Forest: Master Books, 2006), 279.
<https://answersingenesis.org/natural-selection/is-natural-selection-the-same-thing-as-evolution/> (accessed Oct 20, 2016)

environment that superbug is “selected” for death due to its inability to compete with normal bacteria. Again, this would never produce a new “kind” of animal. A new kind of animal would require that new genetic information be added. Creationists and evolutionists can agree that natural selection works in this way, where no new kinds ever develop.

Enter Fabrication

Because evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god, they need a way for new kinds of creatures to develop. The two examples of natural selection we examined so far do not meet this need. Enter fabrication. Even though it has never been seen to happen, evolutionists claim natural selection can produce new kinds of creatures (like birds descending from dinosaurs, or humans descending from ape-like creatures). Being capable scientists, evolutionists know that this requires the repeated creation of new genetic (DNA) information. The creation of new information has never been observed, but evolutionists still claim evidence for new information.

Claims of New DNA Information

I recently ran across a short article in *New Scientist* magazine where evolutionist Michael Le Page lists half a dozen examples of mutations adding new information to the genome (new DNA information). Le Page’s opening sentence is, “Biologists are uncovering thousands of examples of how mutations lead to new traits and even new species.”²⁸ Just before his last example he writes, “The list of examples could go on and on.”²⁹ I agree that Le Page’s list could go on indefinitely, since he uses a very wide and loose definition for new information. His definition seems to allow most any DNA change to be considered new information. The examples he gives (such as duplicated information) are not the new information needed to begin a journey to a new kind of creature. His examples seem to be as good as any I have seen advanced by evolutionists. In my opinion, these arguments are so extremely

²⁸ Michael Le Page, *Evolution myths: Mutations can only destroy information*, *New Scientist*, April 16, 2008. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn13673-evolution-myths-mutations-can-only-destroy-information/> (accessed Oct 20, 2016)

²⁹ Le Page

weak, they are not worth making. I'll list two of his arguments for you to judge. His opening example of new genetic information is,

Most people lose the ability to digest milk by their teens. A few thousand years ago, however, after the domestication of cattle, several groups of people in Europe and Africa independently acquired mutations that allow them to continue digesting milk into adulthood. Genetic studies show there has been very strong selection for these mutations, so they were clearly very beneficial. Most biologists would see this as a gain in information: a change in environment (the availability of cow's milk as food) is reflected by a genetic mutation that lets people exploit that change (gaining the ability to digest milk as an adult). Creationists, however, dismiss this as a malfunction, as the loss of the ability to switch off the production of the milk-digesting enzyme after childhood.³⁰

Now our DNA is filled with switches that turn sections of our DNA code on and off. How does damage to one of these switches count as new information? Damaging any or even all of these switches does not even start down a path toward a new kind of creature. A new kind of creature requires a tremendous amount of new information. While the above was Le Page's opening example, now let's look at his closing argument.

The list of examples could go on and on, but consider this. Most mutations can be reversed by subsequent mutations – a DNA base can be turned from an A to a G and then back to an A again, for instance. In fact, reverse mutation or “reversion” is common. For any mutation that results in a loss of information, logically, the reverse mutation must result in its gain. So the claim that mutations destroy information but cannot create it not only defies the evidence, it also defies logic.³¹

Let's go back to our *H. pylori* example. A mutation damages a bacteria's genes. A descendent of that mutated bacteria benefits from

³⁰ Le Page

³¹ Le Page

another mutation which reverses the damage. How is this an example of gaining new information? The information was there at the start. We started with an *H. pylori* bacteria having normal genes and ended with an *H. pylori* bacteria having the same genes. No new information was added. That was zero progress toward producing a new kind of creature.

A Significant Scientific Discovery

Natural selection is a significant scientific discovery. It helps us better understand how the Biblical kinds of plants and animals diversified into so many species. It helps us better understand how the estimated 40,500 species³² of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles alive today could have descended from an estimated 627 kinds of those animals on Noah's Ark. [One estimate is that 1,373 kinds were on the ark, 627 for animals alive today, 746 for extinct animals in the fossil record.³³ This estimate is based on a 2011 published study³⁴ and recent updates.]

God built rich genetic diversity into living things allowing their offspring to change in size and color, to adapt to new environments, and to significantly modify their diets, behavior, temperament, and so much more, all "according to their kinds" (Genesis chapter 1). -MSB



Full Size Noah's Ark in Kentucky³⁵

³² Liz Osborn, *Total Number of Species Estimated in the World*, Current Results, <https://www.currentresults.com/Environment-Facts/Plants-Animals/estimate-of-worlds-total-number-of-species.php> (accessed Oct 20, 2016)

³³ Craig Froman, ed., *How Many Animals Were On The Ark?* (Green Forest: Master Books, 2016), 47.

³⁴ Lightner et al., "Determining the Ark Kinds," *Answers Research Journal* 4 (2011): 195–201. <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/determining-the-ark-kinds/> (accessed Oct 21, 2016)

³⁵ photo credit, <https://www.facebook.com/arkencounter/photos/>



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 (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways/photos/60778>) [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

No Gardeners

Imagine that a royal family cared for a centuries old, 100 acre flower garden. Visitors were told the history of how the gardens were planted and maintained by gardeners. A visitor was struck by the great beauty of the gardens, but he did not believe the royal family's history of how the gardens came to be. He then wrote a very detailed natural history of the gardens, claiming the gardens came about without the care of any gardeners. Now a second visitor trusted that natural history story as being true, but he still believed gardeners were involved in some way. This second visitor revised the natural history story by adding back gardeners, asserting that gardeners initiated and guided the natural processes which created and preserved the gardens. Now the royal family's garden history was correct, while the made-up natural history without gardeners was a fairytale. It was foolish to add gardeners back into that fairytale, yet that is exactly what some Christians do by attempting to write God into the evolution story. Writing God into the fairytale called "evolution" makes no sense.

-MSB