

LSI Journal

a forum for diverse views consistent with Scripture

Creation / Evolution

a Confessional Lutheran view



• **Books Creationists Should Own**

- So Much is Unknown
- Devotion: This is the Day
- Book Review: Wastelands of Unbelief
- Never Say "Evolution is a Random Process"
- Scientists Struggle to Explain the Origin of Life

Summer 2016

Lutheran Science Institute

Creation / Evolution: a Confessional Lutheran view

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Devotion

This is the Day

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24 (HSCB)

Do you usually get out of bed with a positive attitude, or do you gloomily think the day will be another one filled with problems? Did you know it's possible to improve your outlook in less than one minute? Plenty of secular books recommend thinking positive thoughts to improve one's attitude. This idea is in line with Scripture, where the psalmist declares, "I will not set anything worthless before my eyes," and "Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless" (*Psalms 101:3a, 119:37*). God goes further and directs us to something far more powerful than just positive thinking. God tells us to think about Him and his promises, "I will meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways. I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word" (*Psalm 119:15-16*).

How about starting each day by reciting out loud a positive passage from Scripture? A great choice would be, "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." These words are packed with so much meaning. The Psalmist starts by declaring God to be our creator. God created everything, including time itself. God made today!

God's special covenant name the "LORD" refers to the eternal "I Am" God, and how he faithfully carries out his loving promises to us. What could be better than knowing our creator God loves us and keeps his many promises to be with us and bless us?

Rejoice in God's creation. Look at the birds, the insects, the trees, and the flowers. Isn't the work of God's hand amazing? Look at the stars at night and imagine the vastness of the universe. The stars truly are uncountable. The estimated number of stars in the visible universe increases constantly. Some now estimate the number of stars at 1 followed by 29 zeros. The vastness of the universe reflects the vastness

of God. Even in this sin-darkened and cursed world, God's great power and wisdom shine brightly.

Dear Lord, forgive my gloomy thoughts, my fears, and my lack of trust in you. I want to rejoice and be glad every day, even in days of hardship and trouble. Grant me such faith in you and in your promises. Remind me of your power and glory as I look at the world you created. Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless. Lead me to meditate on your precepts and think about your ways. May I forever delight in your word and in your sacraments, where you reveal your everlasting love for me.

-MSB

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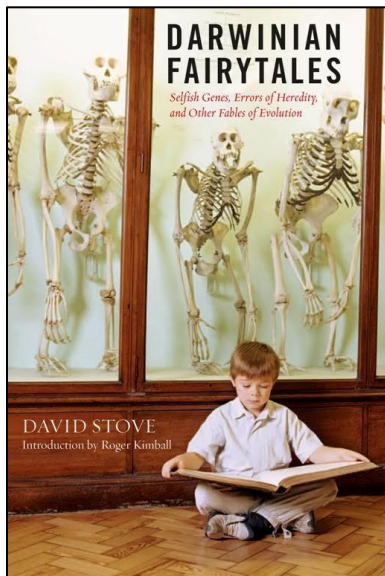
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Books Creationists Should Own

-David Stove's *Darwinian Fairytales*

Jeffrey Stueber



Evolution by natural selection, Stove says, is a general theory that applies to all species including humans, and if it is not true of humans it is not true.

Stove is also blunt in noting that if Darwin's theory were true, the human race would never exist and does so only because, contrary to Darwinian belief, cooperation was always stronger than competition.

David Stove begins his book *Darwinian Fairytales* explaining what he calls "Darwinism's Dilemma."

If Darwin's Theory of evolution were true, there would be in every species a constant and ruthless competition to survive: a competition in which only a few in any generation can be winners. But it is perfectly obvious that human life is not like that, however it may be with other species.¹

¹ David Stove, *Darwinian Fairytales: Selfish Genes, Errors of Heredity, and Other Fables of Evolution* (New York: Encounter, 1995), 3.

Evolution by natural selection, Stove says, is a general theory that applies to all species including humans, and if it is not true of humans it is not true. This is an internal contradiction in evolutionist belief, and if there is an internal contradiction in a world view or belief system, then that world view would not be true.

Stove presents three ways of attempting to get out of this dilemma: the Cave Man story, the Hard Man story and the Soft Man story. But, none of them resolve it.

The Cave Man story claims that humans at one time struggled for existence with only the fittest surviving, but humans do not act that way now. Stove counters that “If Darwin’s theory of evolution is true, no species can ever escape from the process of natural selection.”² Stove is also blunt in noting that if Darwin’s theory were true, the human race would never exist and does so only because, contrary to Darwinian belief, cooperation was always stronger than competition. Evolutionists resolve this dilemma by supposing that we overcame our need for a struggle for existence and learned to cooperate. One example from my own research should suffice.

Humanist Fred Edwords ponders why genocide exists and asks whether people who commit it are mad, whether it occurs because of poor education or whether it is driven by religious fanaticism. Edwords finds all these explanations incorrect and finally yields to Peter Singer who finds the war Moses led against the Midianites³ is similar to that of bonobos and chimpanzees. Singer believes that if Moses had read a textbook on genetics he would have found justification for his actions. Why? Genocide, Singer supposes, eliminates genetic competition and gives benefits to the victors. Edwords says we don’t want to live in a world like that, of course. We now have “civilization” which is, as he says, “humanity’s effort to repeal the law of the jungle...a conspiracy

² Stove, 4.

³ Holy Bible, Book of Numbers, chapter 31, New International Version, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=numbers+31&version=NIV>

of the weak against the strong for the benefit of all.”⁴ In other words, we used to act Darwinian, but not now. Or, to put it differently, we used to act as Darwin’s theory supposes but now we don’t.

I question when was it that people consciously decided such a struggle is no longer suitable and cooperation is better? Cooperation supposes people have the capability to consciously decide to cooperate, but atheist materialism does not allow room for conscious decision making. Since natural selection supposes that the fittest survive via struggle, and since evolutionism supposes we are at the mercy of material processes alone, then we cannot escape the need to evolve via struggle. That is Stove’s point. To circumvent this desire to evolve via natural selection one would have to employ an ability to “think it through” and to consciously contradict that way of surviving. It would be as if I decided that I was going on a hunger strike despite my strong desire to eat. Cooperation would require that kind of conscious rebellion against nature. A robot would not be able to do that but a human would if he or she had a conscious soul.

Stove’s second way, the Hard Man story, presumes that the struggle for existence is a fact, and if humans act different, then humans are acting against their nature. The problem with this suggestion is that it ignores the fact that humans may act in a way that falsifies evolution. If humans survive now overwhelmingly because of altruism rather than a struggle for existence, then how can Darwin’s evolutionist theory be true? Again, I offer one example from my own research.

Alvin Plantinga tells of evolutionist Herbert Simon whose article “A Mechanism for Social Selection and Successful Altruism” ponders the existence of altruism. Why, for instance, do people like Mother Teresa go so far to help others at their expense when the rational thing to do is act in ways that increase one’s fitness and spread one’s genes to future generations. Simon proposes two answers. People, he supposes, may act altruistically because they believe others think they should act that

⁴ Fred Edwords, “Why Genocide?” *The Humanist*, January/February, 2009, <http://thehumanist.com/january-february-2009/why-genocide>

way. The other possibility is that people cannot make a distinction between altruistic behavior and behavior that increases one's fitness.⁵ In other words, people don't behave as evolutionists claim they should.

Finally, the Soft Man approach merely denies there is any contradiction between Darwinism and truth and Stove devotes little attention to it. It's an example of what he calls "intellectual helplessness." Here evolutionists avoid the issue just as I have found they do with other conflicts in their beliefs.

Stove is often quite humorously blunt in his critique of evolutionists, including Richard Dawkins. Stove saunters into his critique by pointing out how foolish it is to think that genes alone can control human behavior with the characteristic of selfishness.— hence the title of Dawkins' book *The Selfish Gene*. As Stove explains, Dawkins claims he does not attribute consciousness to these genes, and selfishness is only a metaphor. Mary Midgley, who is quoted by Stove, says Dawkins has acquired "the useful art of open, manly self-contradiction"⁶ because Dawkins believes we are mere puppets of material forces but cannot apply that belief to himself. He thinks genes are selfish, but that doesn't make any more sense than supposing prime numbers are sex crazed (an example Stove uses), or that books can be shy, or a couch awestruck. Genes are living, of course, but only do what their chemistry tells them to do and nothing more and, as such, are mere automatons no more capable of being selfish than a lump of coal.

At this point Stove is wonderfully brutal on Dawkins. Stove quotes an opinion by a colleague of Dawkins, endorsed by Dawkins, that memes⁷ are spread from person to person just as viruses do, and when

⁵ Alvin Plantinga, "Methodological Naturalism," *Origins & Design*, 18:1, <http://www.arn.org/docs/odesign/od181/methnat181.htm>.

⁶ Stove, 182. Stove's reference for his discussion of Calvinism is John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536), translated by H. Beveridge (Edinburgh: Edinburgh Printing Company, 1845), Vol. 1, 203-209.

⁷ A meme is defined as "an idea, behavior, style, or usage that spreads from one person to another in a culture." "In his 1976 book *The Selfish Gene*, British scientist

a meme is planted inside one's mind it literally parasitizes the mind. Stove says it is impossible to read these words without feeling anxiety for Dawkins's sanity and struggles to find what words could restrain him from going over the edge. When it comes to the "discovery" of memes by Dawkins, Stove calls it one of the most effortless discoveries ever made because everyone knew that ideas existed and were passed from person to person. All Dawkins did is give them a new name and imagined he had contributed something new.

Returning to altruism, Stove lays out the problem it poses for evolutionists. "Altruism ought to be non-existent, or short-lived whenever it does occur, if the Darwinian theory of evolution is true. By the very meaning of the word, altruism is an attribute which disposes its possessor to put the interests of others before its own."⁸ Darwinism until the mid-1960s said that all species act in a way that increases their survival and the survival of their descendants. The level of unselfishness in parenting presented this theory with serious difficulty. The answer to this dilemma is what sociobiologists call "inclusive fitness" that postulates that individuals seek to increase not just their individual fitness but the fitness of the group that the individual shares most of its genes with (parents, children, grandchildren, and so forth). This theory explains why each individual is altruistic, but is it true?

Stove deals with this theory in the same blunt humorous way he deals with other Darwinian fairytales. He doesn't doubt that there is a connection between being related to others and the amount of altruistic behavior toward them. Then again, he says, there is a connection between Newton's laws of motion and the state of the solar system, and, there is a connection between being fond of pastry and being of Cornish descent. However, a lot more is needed to explain human behavior than such reductionism.

Richard Dawkins defended his newly coined word meme, which he defined as 'a unit of cultural transmission.'" Merriam-Webster Dictionary, online, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/meme>

⁸ Stove, 201.

Let me interject here. I frequently see television commercials for the Wounded Warrior Project which helps wounded veterans recover from their injuries and resume their civilian life. I do not donate to the Wounded Warrior Project. I, however, do frequently donate food to food banks and money to church. These donations will benefit people not related to me. How would activities like these be explainable or even commonplace given evolutionary presuppositions *unless*, of course, evolution was false?

After a chapter introducing us to how sociobiologists have created a religion around evolutionist beliefs, Stove tells us how William Paley finally had his revenge. Paley, an 18th century theologian philosopher, argued for God's existence using natural theology. For instance, he argued that if you found a watch lying on the ground, you would never believe that it came about by random processes but was, instead, intelligently designed. This similar argument is used today in intelligent design theorists and creationists and is often dubbed the "watchmaker argument". This argument is criticized by evolutionists such as by Dawkins in his book entitled, "The Blind Watchmaker".⁹

Stove, now deceased, is obviously intelligent and equally devastating to evolutionist belief. He's also quite correct and shows evolutionist belief to be a myth. The reason for such belief is not because material processes create it, but because there is a conscious choice to believe despite all the dilemmas it faces.

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⁹ Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why the Evidence of Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design* (New York, Norton, 1987). Dawkins says "Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose." (p. 1)

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?

Mark Bergemann

Modified from a 2013 LSI video used for confirmation class, adult Bible studies, and in high schools. The video includes additional review and discussion questions. www.LutheranScience.org/video

Introduction

Let's compare evolution and creation, look at a few of the logical problems evolution faces, and learn why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith. We will then consider the question, "Why do some believe in millions of years?"

Evolution is built
on the assumption that
there is no Creator God

We begin by reviewing the evolution story. Much of the evolution story goes against Scripture. Therefore, we can be certain that those parts of evolution are false, because as Christians, we know that the Bible is true. Let's list some of the FALSE parts of evolution, starting with the Big Bang. There are many evolutionary views, but the following is held by most evolutionists.

Some False Parts of Evolution

At the beginning of time, 13.7 billion years ago, a very small point rapidly expanded producing time, space, and energy. This is called "The Big Bang." Over thousands of years the resulting energy cooled, becoming the lightest elements of matter, hydrogen and helium. Some of that hydrogen gas was pulled into balls, under its own gravity, to

form stars. Some of these first generation stars were large enough to produce heavier elements like iron, which they scattered across the universe when they exploded in supernovae. The matter these exploding stars expelled pulled together to form new stars, and planets formed around them from the remaining matter. Our planet, earth, was formed 4.5 billion years ago.

Living things came about naturally from non-living chemicals. The first one-celled life forms gradually changed into all the various plants and animals. Through a process of death and suffering, driven by mutations, animals evolved into new kinds of animals. Ape-like creatures evolved into humans through this same process of death and suffering. Famous evolutionist Carl Sagan said in the original Cosmos TV series, we are all “star stuff.” He said this because evolutionists believe that matter from exploding stars changed into people, over billions of years, all by itself.

Truth Revealed by God in Scripture

In the Bible we learn the truth of our origins from the one who was there, from God. At the beginning of time, thousands of years ago, God created time, space, and everything in the entire universe. He did this in six days of ordinary length. During those six days God created every “kind” of plant and animal. [*The Biblical “kind” is not the same as the scientific word “species.” There are many species in most Biblical “kinds.”*] God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, on day six of creation week. Adam and Eve are the ancestors of every human being, including every one of us here today. God created a perfect world. There was no suffering or death. People and animals lived in perfect harmony with each other. All animals and all people were vegetarians.

Originally Adam and Eve were very happy and content, but this changed when they turned against God. Their rebellion corrupted their entire thinking. We, as their descendants, have inherited this corruption. When Adam and Eve rebelled, everything changed. They now had evil thoughts and desires, and they did evil things. They no

longer loved and trusted God as they had before. Their corrupt thinking (their sin) separated them from God, just as our sin separates us from God. Because of Adam's rebellion, God cursed the earth, causing weeds to grow. The animals were also affected, and they eventually began to kill each other. Suffering and death entered the world because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve.



T-rex eating Triceratops¹⁰

Adam and Eve's children married each other and populated the world. After many generations the earth became populated with people who did not care about God. Only Noah's family still worshipped God. After warning the people for 120 years, God flooded the entire earth with water. God saved Noah's family and two of every land animal, using a large ship called an ark. All the people and land animals alive today descended from the people and animals aboard Noah's Ark.

¹⁰ photo 2011 by Mark Bergemann at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Review

Why can we be absolutely certain that many parts of evolution are false?

ANSWER:

Much of evolution goes against what God reveals to us in Scripture. We can be certain that those parts of evolution are false, because everything in the Bible is true.

In what ways does the evolution story differ from the creation account?

ANSWER:

A few of the many differences are:

1. From the Bible we know that the universe is thousands of years old, but evolution teaches billions of years.
2. From the Bible we know that God created everything, but evolution teaches that God had nothing to do with how things came to be.
3. From the Bible we know that death is bad, because death is the penalty for sin. Evolution teaches that death is good. Evolution says that death is a way that plants and animals produce new and more complex kinds of plants and animals.

Creation and Evolution

Creation and evolution are so very different, because creationists and evolutionists hold different beliefs, or different worldviews.

Creation is the view that there is a Creator God as described in the Bible. Creationists interpret observable evidence in light of this.

Evolution is the view that all things came into existence naturally. If there is a god, he had nothing to do with origins. This view is called “naturalism.” Evolutionists interpret observable evidence in light of

this. [There are Christians who think God used evolution to create everything. We will talk about that later.]

Evolutionists assume the geological
and other natural processes we see today,
are the same processes that shaped the past.
They reject catastrophes such as a global flood.

Since evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god, they must write a story about how they think things might have come into existence without a creator god. Sometimes that evolution story can seem compelling, but it is not what it seems. It is a lie. The physical and spiritual world God reveals to us in Scripture is true reality. The imaginary world described by evolution is a fairy tale.

Even if our human reason (such as our science) told us that the Bible is wrong, we would still believe the Bible. It is through faith we accept creation and other articles of the Christian faith. Our reason does not fully understand several articles of faith, such as the Trinity, or why some come to faith and some do not, when God wants everyone to come to faith.

Even though we believe in creation by faith, our human reason can help us to better see the logical problems with evolution. The world around us is often as we would expect, based on the Biblical account of creation. The world around us is often not as would be expected, if evolution were true. Evolution has many logical problems. Let's look at a few of those problems.

Logical Problems for the Evolutionist

One Race of Humans

DNA and other evidence shows that there is only one race of humans. This is as creationists expected, because God reveals that we

are the children of Adam and Eve. We are all related to each other. If evolution were true, one would expect multiple races of humans. Evolutionists had originally assumed that there were many races of humans, not just the one race that exists.

Planet-wide Flood

The year-long global flood at the time of Noah changed the face of the earth. Earth's vast quantities of fossils, deposits of coal and oil, and continental-sized sedimentary rock are what would be expected from a flood that covered the entire earth. Dead ocean creatures are buried by the trillions all over the earth and on the tallest mountains. Many creationists believe Noah's Flood produced most fossils, and that dinosaurs became extinct because they could not survive in the post flood environment.



Trilobite¹¹



Ammonite¹²

Even though the evidence for a world-wide flood is overwhelming, evolutionists must interpret this evidence in other ways, as a global flood would mean their theory is wrong. Sedimentary rock is formed when water (such as rivers or floods) lays down sediments that are then compressed to form rock. There are sedimentary rock layers, one over the other, all over the earth. Evolutionists assume that these rock layers, and the fossils they contain, were laid down over millions of

¹¹ photo 2012 by Mark Bergemann. Trilobites means “three lobes” for the three body parts of these extinct marine creatures. There are thousands of known trilobite species. Their fossils range in size from less than ½ inch to nearly 2.5 feet, and are found worldwide.

¹² photo 2012 by Mark Bergemann. Ammonites occurred in many diverse species. These extinct marine creatures ranged in size from ½ inch to 9 feet. Their fossils are very common in nearly every part of the globe.

years. Much of the evidence for plants and animals becoming new kinds of plants and animals (biological evolution) is based on the assumption that the sedimentary rock layers were formed over millions of years. Evolutionists reject the possibility of a global flood on earth, because such a flood would mean their theory is wrong.

No New Kinds

God created animals with the ability to have offspring which are bigger or smaller, with longer or shorter hair, and with other changes. Each kind of animal can develop large variations due to natural selection. Lions, cheetahs, and house cats are very different, but they may be of the same biblical kind. The dozens of species of cats alive today may have descended from one or two pairs of cats on Noah's Ark. Many cats can interbreed, including lions and tigers. It is so easy to see that cats may be of the same kind, that some four-year-old children will call all these various cats "kitty."

No new kinds of animals ever develop, but some kinds, like the dinosaurs, have gone extinct. For evolution to be true, new kinds of plants and animals must develop. Books on evolution often show a tree of life with one kind of animal turning into another kind. But there is almost no evidence at all to draw such a tree. Some evolutionists now say the change from one kind to another must have happened very fast, since it left so little fossil evidence.

Evolution Incompatible with Christianity

Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith. Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy. Let's look at some of the reasons why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Creation Beyond Genesis

Creation and Noah's Flood are taught as true history throughout Scripture. The prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles spoke about Adam,

Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, the flood, Eden, creation, the fall into sin, and the curse, as real people and true events.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exodus 20:8-11 | God created everything in 6 days, and rested on the 7th day. |
| 1 Chronicles 1:1 | Genealogy of Noah has Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam. |
| 1 Chronicles 1:1-27 | Noah's descendants formed The Table of Nations. |
| Psalms 90:3 | We return to dust when we die. |
| Psalms 103:14 | The Lord knows how we are formed and that we are dust. |
| Psalms 104 | Shows the order of creation. |
| Ecclesiastes 3:20 | We come from dust and to dust we will return. |
| Isaiah 54:9 | The waters of Noah covered the earth. |
| Matthew 19:3-6 | Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation. |
| Matthew 19:28 | Jesus refers to the restoration of all to the original perfection. |
| Matthew 23:34-35 | Jesus refers to the blood of righteous Abel which was shed. |
| Matthew 24:36-39 | Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and the flood. |
| Mark 10:6-9 | Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation. |
| Luke 3:23-38 | Genealogy of Jesus has Noah, Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, Adam. |
| Luke 11:50-51 | Jesus refers to the blood of the prophet Able being shed. |
| Luke 17:26-27 | Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and the flood. |
| Acts 3:17-21 | Peter refers to the restoration of all to the original perfection. |
| Romans 5:12-21 | Death came to all men through the sin of Adam. |
| 1 Corinthians 11:8 | For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; |
| 1 Corinthians 11:12 | For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. |
| 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 | Death came through a man. In Adam all die. |
| 1 Corinthians 15:42-49 | Adam, the first man, was of the dust of the earth. |
| 2 Corinthians 11:3 | Eve was deceived by the serpent. |
| 1 Timothy 2:13-14 | Adam was formed first, then Eve. Eve was first to be deceived. |
| Hebrews 11:4 | Cain's and Abel's sacrifices. |
| Hebrews 11:5 | Faithful Enoch taken by God and did not experience death. |
| Hebrews 11:7 | Noah condemned the world, built an ark, and saved his family. |
| Hebrews 12:24 | The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. |
| 1 Peter 3:20 | In the days of Noah, an ark was built which saved 8 people. |
| 2 Peter 2:5 | Flood destroyed the ungodly; Noah and 7 others saved. |
| 2 Peter 3:3-6 | Earth was formed from water and was once destroyed by water. |
| 1 John 3:12 | Evil Cain murdered his righteous brother Abel. |
| Jude 11 | Godless men have taken the way of Cain. |
| Jude 14 | Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was a prophet. |
| Revelation 22:3 | In heaven there will no longer be any curse. |

Origin of Death and Suffering

If evolution were true, then death and suffering would be part of God's design. God declared everything he created "very good" (Gen 1:31). Death is not "very good," yet evolution claims God used

millions of years of death and suffering to create animals and people. Death and suffering are a result of sin. Death and suffering are not the means God used to create animals and people.

Throughout Scriptures, God repeatedly reveals that death resulted from the disobedience of Adam, and that death will be destroyed by Christ Jesus. Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-49 explain this in great detail. Here are a few quotes from those sections of the Bible (NIV84): “Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. ...For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ...For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ...Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. ...The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”



Our first parents rebelled against God¹³

¹³ graphic: Northwestern Publishing House, 2003, OT Bible Pictures for Multimedia.

Belief in Evolution is Rebellion Against God

In the Garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve by asking, “Did God really say?” Today Satan tempts us through evolution by asking,

“Did God really say:

- that He created everything in six days?
- that there was a flood that covered the whole earth?
- that death and suffering are a consequence of sin?
- that Jesus came to return creation to its original state?”

By our very nature, we are all rebels against God. The Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator, because then we would be subject to the creator’s authority. This is why evolution can be so seductive to us. Evolution promises to eliminate the need for a god. Famous atheist Richard Dawkins said “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”¹⁴

God’s creation plainly shows that there is a Creator God. Those who reject God, suppress that truth. In the Bible, God describes the corrupted thinking (the sin) with which we are all born. We read from the Bible, Romans 1:18-22 “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.” (NIV-84)

Evolution is built on the assumption that there is no Creator God. In addition, evolutionists assume the geological and other natural processes we see today, are the same processes that shaped the past.

¹⁴ Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 10.

They reject catastrophes such as a global flood. They deliberately forget about God. The following words describe the thinking of a modern evolutionist, even though God had these words recorded in Scripture almost 2,000 years ago. 2 Peter 3:3-6: “In the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, ‘Where is this “coming” he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.” (NIV-84)

Review

- We know from Scripture that many parts of evolution are FALSE.
- Evolution is based on naturalism and the assumption that there is no creator god.
- Evolution has many logical problems
- Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Why do some people, even some Christians, believe in millions of years?

The simple answer is because of sin. The Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator, because then we would be subject to the creator’s authority. Peer pressure also tempts us to reject God’s revealed truth, and instead believe the lie of evolution. Everywhere we are told that creationists are unscientific. How can thinking people believe in a Creator God who made everything in six days? This is why evolution can be so seductive to us.

God reveals to us that wisdom of this world, such as evolution, is actually foolishness. Real wisdom is revealed to us by God in the Bible.

Jeremiah 8:9, “The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?” (NIV-84)

1 Corinthians 1:20-25, “Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.” (NIV-84)

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending our Savior Jesus to live and die for us, so that we can spend eternity with you in heaven. Jesus, you demonstrated your victory over death by rising from the dead. Our enemy, death, has been destroyed. Holy Spirit, protect us from the devil, the world, and our flesh, which work to destroy our faith. Lead us and all Christians, to believe everything you reveal to us in your Word. Amen

Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, holds a B.S. from UW–Milwaukee. He serves as president of the Lutheran Science Institute and as Evangelism Board chairman at Good Shepherd’s Evangelical Lutheran in West Allis WI.

Book Review

The Vast Wastelands of Unbelief, by Jeffery Stueber.
Mustang, OK: Tate Publishing, 2014. 164 pages,
softcover, \$12.99.

This book surveys and critiques the claims made by dozens of well-known atheists. Learn through actual atheist quotes how they claim morality, conscience, and belief in god came about through unguided evolution. Study the claims you may hear while witnessing to atheists, skeptics, and free thinkers. Quotes are documented in 192 endnotes.

Stueber's critiques help the reader see and understand logical errors in the atheist's claims.

Stueber writes:

So God is worth ruminating on to such a degree that even skeptics cannot stop thinking about him. (page 22)

Neither can I submit to Dawkin's suggestion that we must be able to explain the existence of a designer before we can believe something is designed by that designer. For instance, should we have to account for the origin of the builders of the Egyptian pyramids before we attribute the pyramids to design? (Page 35)

What I have clearly done here is show her [Susan Blackmore] beliefs are internally inconsistent –as much as if I had issued a statement to a friend of mine that everything I say is a lie and then told him that I was lying. (page 47)

There are several places where I would have appreciated better transitions between thoughts, but overall the book is well-written and I enjoyed reading it.

-MSB

LSI Blog

LSI Blog writer Warren Krug has posted over 1,250 blogs since 2005, receiving over 540,000 total views. The blog below was posted on March 28, 2016. www.LutheranScience.org/blog

Scientists Still Struggling to Explain the Origin of Life

Warren Krug

There are at least seven theories, none of which is convincing. Secular scientists believe life on Earth began more than 3 billion years ago, evolving from simple microbes in a “primordial soup” into today’s many complex creatures. But how did life get started? These scientists have at least seven different theories.

1 -Electric Spark

The famous Miller-Urey experiments conducted in 1953 suggested electric sparks can generate building blocks of life such as amino acids and sugars from an atmosphere containing water, methane, ammonia and hydrogen. But the Miller-Urey experiments never really explained abiogenesis (life from non-life), and they have now been debunked.

2 -Community Clay

The first molecules of life might have come together on clay which somehow helped them organize into patterns such as our genes do now. However, it doesn’t seem any experiments have shown how mineral crystals in clay could have arranged organic molecules into the organized patterns we see in DNA.

3 -Deep-Sea Vents

Submarine hydrothermal vents today are rich in chemical and thermal energy and support lively ecosystems. Could they have produced the hydrogen-rich molecules needed for life long ago? It's just speculation.

4 -Chilly Start

"Three billion" years ago the sun is thought to have been about a third less powerful than it is today. That would have resulted in a thick layer of ice covering the oceans, ice which would have protected fragile organic compounds and given them more time for the key reactions needed for life to occur. This idea also doesn't really explain abiogenesis or how the "key reactions" originated.

5 -RNA World

Today DNA needs proteins for it to form, and proteins need DNA to form. So, how could either have originated without the other? Perhaps RNA, which can store information like DNA and serve as an enzyme-like protein, helped both DNA and proteins to get started. RNA still exists in the modern world, but this theory doesn't really explain much because, if it were true, we are then faced with the question of how RNA got here.

6 -Simple Beginnings

Instead of complex molecules like RNA, perhaps life began with simpler molecules interacting with each other in cycles of reactions. Contained in simple capsules similar to cell membranes, over time they could have become more complex. Could have! Might have! Should have! Maybe not!

7 -Panspermia

Life could have come to Earth on rocks or comets. This “solution” only pushes the origin of life far out into space and doesn’t really answer the question of how life could have begun.

Comment

Because secular science does not allow for any kind of supernatural explanation for anything, it is not surprising that a Divine Creator is not on this list. Still, we can see from these feeble attempts to explain life from non-life that the evidence in nature for God is overwhelming and becoming more so all the time.

“It is I who made the earth and created mankind on it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts” (Isaiah 45:12)

“He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created” (James 1:18). And the “word of truth” surely includes the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news that we are saved through faith in Jesus as our Savior from sin. This truth enables us to confidently look forward to our created future home in heaven where God greatly desires to have us live alongside Him forever.

Ref: Charles Q. Choi, “7 Theories on the Origin of Life,” Live Science [March 24, 2016].

<http://www.livescience.com/13363-7-theories-origin-life.html>

Warren Krug, a retired teacher, holds a B.S. from Concordia University – Chicago and an M.S. in education from Oklahoma State University. He serves on the board of the Lutheran Science Institute and is a member at Trinity in Caledonia WI.

Luther Days

A Distinctly Lutheran Festival

September 17, 2016
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Luther Days is a “one-of-a-kind event is for the entire family and brings Martin Luther and the Reformation to life by offering participants a uniquely interactive and distinctly Lutheran experience for all ages. The festival also embraces the heritage of the Lutheran Church and is an action-packed day with hands-on exploration into the reformation, our Lutheran faith, and the German heritage of the immigrant Lutherans.”

“Enjoy a day packed with presentations, workshops, hands-on activities, exhibits, worship, and much more!”

Location: Shoreland Lutheran High School in Somers, Wisconsin.

REGISTRATION

FREE ADMISSION with advance tickets or \$5.00 at the door.

Children 12 and under do not need tickets.

www.Lutherdays.org

(920)-573-5903

Four LSI Presentations at Luther Days

Origins: Fossils and Creation

The fossil record provides strong evidence for creation. “Wait a minute, how can that be?” some ask, “I’ve heard that the fossils ‘prove’ evolution.” Actually, the fossil record supports creation and argues against evolution.- the fossil record shows the fantastic, complex design of life. - the fossil record shows an initial great diversity of life. - fossils show evidence of a young age and not millions or billions of years. In this presentation, we will investigate how the fossil record supports the idea of an initial diverse creation by the direct act of God.

Rather than a ‘proof’ of evolution, the fossil record is in agreement with creation as depicted in God’s Word. Creation is a more reasonable explanation for the fossil record than evolution is. Presenter: Dr. Gary Locklair.

Entropy and the Origin of Your Life

Martin Luther never shrunk from using reason where it was appropriate. There are compelling arguments showing God created life even to someone who requires a scientific answer to the question of how life began. Every process that happens all by itself – without the intervention of human or divine action has characteristics which are described by thermodynamic principles. As these principles are explained it becomes evident that only our spiritual blindness, not scientific facts, keep us from recognizing that this could only be the work of an almighty creator God. The scriptures that have proclaimed His acts of creation for thousands of years, also tell us how God has acted to rescue us from death, and give us a new and more abundant life. Presenter: Dr. Bruce Holman.

Essential Tools for the Lutheran Creationist

What is it that God’s people really need with respect to creation and evolution issues? What tools do they need in order to help them evaluate things such as creation models and points of evolution from a Lutheran perspective. When exposed to creation and evolution literature, Christians often find themselves asking only one question: “Is this right/wrong?” A better approach is to maintain the distinction between the scientific and the theological by asking two separate questions instead of only one: 1. “Is this conclusion theologically permissible?” and 2. “Is this conclusion scientifically logical and valid? Presenter: Patrick Winkler.

Did God Use Evolution to Create?

Why do some Christians believe in millions of years? Let’s examine from Scripture why Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy. Extensive discussion will be encouraged, so bring your questions. Presenter: Mark Bergemann.

Arguments Creationists Should Never Use

Never Say “Evolution is a Random Process”

Claiming that evolution is a random process is a strawman argument¹⁵ used by writers and speakers from several well-known creation ministries. Never imply that the evolution story is based on randomness. While some portions of the evolution story include random events, the overall evolution story is NOT random. Evolutionists have spent decades explaining why evolution is NOT random. The non-random nature of evolution was a primary theme of Dawkins’s famous 1987 book, “The Blind Watchmaker.” Dawkins speaks of one natural sieving process leading to another and another until there are significant changes.¹⁶ Bill Nye’s 2014 book proclaims, “Evolution is not random; it’s the opposite of random.”¹⁷ Bill Nye easily defends evolution against the claim that evolution is random,

If you have a system that holds an organism back and keeps it from reproducing with success, that organism will not pass its genes to the next generation. Nobody has to decide anything. Although a change in a gene usually happens at random, the next generation of that gene is subject to forces that are anything but random. You’ve got the right combination of genes or you don’t. You’re still in the game, or you’re not. We call it selection pressure; it determines which genes get through. Many creationists and science deniers, especially in the United States, cite randomness as part of the process of evolution and go on to insist that since evolution is random it cannot explain the rich complexity of life. ... Creationists often use the example of a hypothetical tornado swirling its

¹⁵ A “Straw man Argument” is an error in reasoning where you inaccurately state someone else’s claim. You then easily argue against this fake claim instead of the actual claim.

¹⁶ Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 61-70.

¹⁷ Bill Nye, *Undeniable –Evolution and the Science of Creation*, (New York, NY: St. Martin’s Press, 2014), 23.

way through a hypothetical junkyard whose contents include all the pieces to build one of my beloved old 747s. ... What are the chances, they ask, that you'd end up with a perfectly assembled, operational airplane? Obviously, zero, because it would be random. The problem with this argument is that the premise is wrong. Evolution, and the selection of reproduction-worthy genes that drives it, is the opposite of random. It is a sieve that living things have to pass through successfully, or we never see them again.¹⁸



Boeing 747-541

photo by Aero Icarus from Zürich, Switzerland [CC BY-SA 2.0
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Now maybe you think that the evolutionary processes described by evolutionists as non-random are in fact random. If so, then you must explain that evolutionists claim non-randomness and explain why it is not that way. At that point you may decide your argument is becoming too complex and lengthy for your audience, so you may decide to make another argument instead. Why make a weak argument that evolutionists easily dismiss when much stronger arguments exist? There is an old saying about choosing your battles wisely, and it applies here.

-MSB

¹⁸ Nye, 28-29.

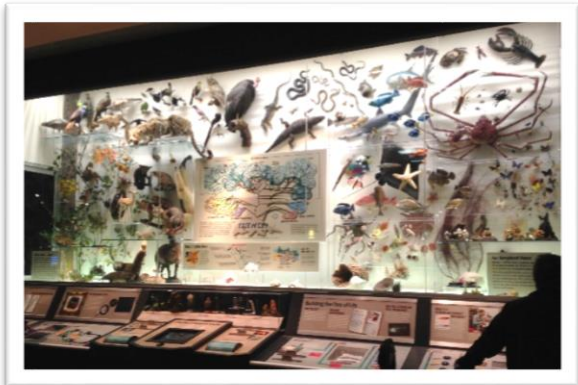


photo: 2016 by Mark Bergemann

So Much is Unknown

This 24 foot wide mural at the Milwaukee Public Museum depicts evolution's Tree of Life. The mural states **“Our understanding of the tree of life may never be complete, since so much of the evolution and relationships of species is unknown.”**

Yes, a great deal is unknown! Evolution's Tree of Life has known kinds of animals at the tips of branches. The nodes where one of these branches joins to another is where so much is unknown. Evolutionists use similarities between creatures to draw connecting branches on the Tree of Life. For instance the supposed common ancestor of humans and apes is an imaginary “ape-like creature,” based on similarities between apes and humans such as anatomy and DNA. While evolutionists view similarities as evidence of common descent, similarities are also evidence of common design by God. Evolutionists assume common decent and interpret all evidence in light of that atheistic assumption. Evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god and write a story about how they think things came to be without a creator.

-MSB