

The Best Evidence For Evolution

Mark Bergemann

Creation apologetics should take into account what people view as the most compelling arguments for millions of years

A 2009 survey discovered,

Doubts surfaced before high school among 44% of former church goers who no longer believe the Bible. When asked to explain why they doubt the Bible, young people offered answers like, “it contradicts itself,” “science shows the earth is old,” and “evolution shows the Bible can’t be trusted.”¹

It is clear that evolution has shipwrecked the faith of many. Since 1974, the Lutheran Science Institute (LSI) has worked to provide Confessional Lutheran creation apologetics materials to our pastors, teachers, and laity. Such materials can blunt the temptation of evolution for many. How well is LSI addressing the claims of evolution which young people see as the most convincing? A 2016 survey will help answer that question. It asked young people ages 14 to 24 what they saw as the best evidence for evolution. [One interesting finding is that Christians and non-Christians gave similar answers.]

Survey Question

“Regardless of whether you believe in evolution, what is the best evidence that evolution is true?”²

Answers fell into one of ten categories.³ Percentages total 101% due to rounding.

25%	Human Evolution
21%	Natural Selection, Mutations, Adaption to Environment
15%	Fossils and Transitional Forms
11%	Science as an Authority
6%	Progression of Civilization
6%	DNA
5%	Big Bang / Creation of Earth
5%	Dinosaurs
4%	Deep Time
3%	Homologous Structures

The Top 4 Survey Categories Total 72% of Responses
How Does LSI Address These 4 Best Evidences?

¹ Daniel Biddle, “Targeted Apologetics,” *Answers—Building a Biblical Worldview*, vol. 12, no. 1 (Jan-Feb 2017), 51.

² Biddle, 49.

³ Biddle, 51.

Human Evolution

Two recent LSI Journal articles centered on human evolution:

- *How Religious Were Neanderthals?* (winter 2017)
- *Human or Ape, No In-Between.* (winter 2017)

The LSI topical webpage, “*Ape to Man?*” references the above articles and three others. Many other LSI articles briefly mention human evolution. These materials are a good start, but much more is needed in this category.

Natural Selection, Mutations, Adaption to Environment

One recent LSI Journal article centered on natural selection, mutations, and adaption:

- *Natural Selection* (fall 2016)

The LSI topical webpage, “*Natural Selection,*” references the above article and two others. Many other LSI articles briefly mention natural selection, mutations, and adaption.

Fossils and Transitional Forms

Two recent LSI Journal articles centered on Fossils and Transitional Forms:

- *Dinosaurs –Feathers or Scales?* (spring 2016)
- *Evolution’s Tree of Life* (winter 2016)

Our LSI website has a 2015 video presentation on fossils. The LSI topical webpage, “*Fossils and Rocks,*” references the above articles and four others. Many other LSI articles briefly mention fossils and transitional Forms.

Science as an Authority

Many LSI Journal articles deal with this topic. Some recent examples:

- *Evolutionists Say Amazing Things* (continuing series)
 - Dawkins: “*Evolution is a leap of imagination.*” (winter 2017)
 - Paul Davies: “*We do not know*” how life began. (winter 2017)
 - Scientific Amer.: “*No Experiment Can Ever Disprove It.*” (spring 2017)
 - Milwaukee Public Museum: “*So Much is Unknown.*” (summer 2016)
- *How Can a Lie Like Evolution Have Scientific Evidence?* (Jan 2015)
- *Historical vs. Operational Science:*
 - Why Knowing the Difference Between the Two Matters* (Jan 2015)
- *Witnessing in a World Where Evolution Claims There Is No God*
 - Part 2: *Handling Evolution In You Witness* (April 2015)
 - Part 3: *Evolution / Creation –Two Starting Points* (July 2015)
- *Evolution Apologetics by the National Academy:*
 - Recommended Reading for the Creationist* (winter 2017)

The many recently published LSI articles listed above demonstrate that LSI has been working to better address these four categories, yet there is much more to do. LSI has for some time understood that these topics are important in our creation apologetic. LSI had no knowledge of this survey until it was published in January 2017.

Five of the other six survey categories have also been addressed in 2016-17 LSI Journal articles: DNA, Big Bang and Creation of Earth, Dinosaurs, Deep Time, and Homologous Structures. No LSI articles have recently mentioned the Progression of Civilization.

LSI Topical Webpages

It is interesting to note that the most popular topic page on our LSI website, “Ape To Man?” is the same as the top survey answer above, “Human Evolution.” Also of note is that “Natural Selection” is at the bottom of popularity on our LSI website, yet was second place in the survey. There are many possible reasons for this: The survey was of people age 14-24 while our LSI website has a large portion of pastors and teachers as visitors. Our LSI website also advertises some topics over others.

The chart below lists visits to our topical webpages between March 4, 2016 and March 3, 2017. Percentages are of the 2,792 total visits to these pages. Note that people spent over two minutes average on the top eight pages. This is a long time for pages which are simply lists of links to articles. It is rather rare for web pages to have such high view times, as many visitors will spend only a few seconds, bringing down the average view time. A total of 8,112 visits were made to our website over this period by 6,211 individuals.

Website: www.LutheranScience.org

% of visits	LSI Topical Webpage	Minutes Visited (ave.)
26%	Ape to Man?	2.2
18%	Dinosaurs	2.9
12%	Creation Apologetics	2.3
12%	Theistic Evolution	2.5
10%	Bill Nye Explains Evolution	2.3
7%	Dating Methods	3.0
5%	Fossils and Rocks	2.2
4%	Noah's Flood	3.1
2%	Origin of Life	1.5
2%	For Classroom	1.7
1%	Natural Selection	1.0

LSI Topical Webpage, “Fossils and Rocks.”

LSI

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**75 Million
Years**

Dating Methods



Creation Apologetics



**Did God Use
Evolution?**

Theistic Evolution



Natural Selection



Noah's Flood

Fossils and Rocks



**Select Confessional Lutheran Resources
on Fossils and Rock Layers.**

Dinosaurs: Feathers or Scales?
Mark Bergemann, [Pages 27-31, LSI Journal Spring 2016](#)
Excerpt: Did some dinosaurs have feathers like birds, or did all dinosaurs have scales like lizards? New evidence is constantly found in the quest to answer this question. The Milwaukee Public Museum hosted the traveling “Ultimate Dinosaurs” exhibit in March 2016, so I paid \$24 admission to see how the above question was answered.

[Essays on Origins](#)
Dr. David Menton, 1996

Disclaimer
Views expressed on this website, especially those from sources other than LSI, are not necessarily the views of LSI. In addition, LSI is a [WELS](#) group. There is theological variance between the WELS and some of the Confessional Lutheran church bodies represented in essays and books found on this website.

Evolution's Tree of Life
Mark Bergemann, [pages 28-29 LSI Journal winter 2016](#)
excerpt: The evolution story puts forth a tree of life with an imagined first life form turning into every animal that has ever existed. Darwin's 1837 tree of life is shown above. Evolutionists propose that all creatures, including humans, descended from a single common ancestor. A different tree of life can be drawn based on the truth God reveals in Scripture, and on what we observe about the world around us. This would actually be a forest of trees such as the image shown on the next page.

The Cambrian Explosion Paradox
Warren Krug, LSI Journal, 2012, 6 pages
Excerpt: “The “explosion” refers to the sudden appearance of all sorts of creatures in the Cambrian rocks, as if the evolution of animals suddenly exploded onto the scene following a long period of very little action. As we shall see, this event is a mystery that evolutionary paleontologists and other scientists have difficulty explaining.”

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Darwin's finches and photo of Da Vinci painting are public domain.

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