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The Great Debate

by

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Mankind is inherently curious. We want to know the answers for everything; we want to understand. One of the most plaguing investigations throughout the history of mankind is this question: how did the world come to be? There is much controversy on this topic, with countless different theories and viewpoints. Some people are satisfied by simply saying that it is impossible to know. But others take a stand and fervently guard their belief. Two main viewpoints result from this: creation and evolution.

A popular approach to these outlooks is defining one as “science” and the other as religion.” Evolution gives man a feeling of independence, because it states that we have no obligation to anything or anyone. There is no God! We are left to our own devices, able to live whatever way we please. In contrast, creation gives man a sense of duty and purpose.

Creationists recognize their purpose on earth, and they know that life does not end after death. These two perspectives are polar opposites, and only one is true. In the study of the earth’s beginning, evidence points to the true origin of the earth – creation.

In order to understand the truth of the creationist viewpoint, it is necessary to understand the other opinion. When one thinks of evolution, their mind will most likely go to the picture of an ape evolving into a man. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines evolution as “A process of change in a certain direction; especially: a process of constant change from a lower or simple state to a higher or complex state.” (Webster) Although this is the most common idea of evolution, and likely the most prevalent aspect of it, there is more to the idea.

There are two kinds of evolution: microevolution and macroevolution. Perhaps microevolution is misnamed, because the whole idea of the word “evolution” is something changing into another thing. Wile and Durnell, in the book *Exploring Creation with Biology*, define microevolution as “The theory that natural selection can, over time, take an

organism and transform it into a more specialized species of that organism” (268).

Microevolution is simply small changes within a species’ gene pool. Wile and Durnell also say that microevolution is a testament to a creator! “As the creator, God knew that the creatures of His world would have to adapt in order to survive. Thus, He built in their genetic codes the ability to change.” (269) Based on this information, it is apparent that microevolution does not support the evolutionist viewpoint. God made His creatures able to adapt and survive; just because one or two of their features change, it doesn’t support the hypothesis of macroevolution.

According to Wile and Durnell, macroevolution is “the hypothesis that processes similar to those at work in microevolution can, over eons of time, transform an organism into a completely different kind of organism” (268). Notice that microevolution is a theory, because we have seen it happening. In contrast, macroevolution is a hypothesis – a mere guess.

Not only is macroevolution unproven, the entire beginning of the universe is also a presumption. Indeed, in the past, some research pointed to the fact that the universe came into the existence by a huge explosion. This explosion, called the big bang, is now universally accepted as the beginning of the earth. According to Lutgens and Tarbuck in Prentice Hall Earth Science, “...18 to 20 billion years ago all the matter in the universe was concentrated into one very hot, very dense region that may have been much smaller than the period on this page. For some unknown reason, the region exploded. This explosion is called the Big Bang.” (qtd. in Hovind) Where did that matter come from? Where did the energy for the explosion come from? Although this description seems quite indecisive and inconclusive, it is globally established as the origin of the earth.

If somehow the Big Bang did occur, and suddenly there was a universe, there is still much more for evolutionists to explain. For example, who gave the laws of the earth? Where did gravity come from? The universe is infinite...so how could it have been concentrated into one point at the big bang? One complication that evolutionists struggle to solve is the conservation of angular momentum. Conservation of angular momentum states that when something explodes, all objects from an explosion will keep going on the same direction they started in. If this is the case, why do two planets and six moons spin backwards?

If the big bang really did create the earth, it would have remained barren rock for eons. Where did life come from? Well, evolutionists have a way to solve this problem. They say that it rained on the earth for billions of years, eventually creating a primordial soup. Clara Moskowitz states on the science news website "Live Science" that "Life on Earth first bloomed around 3.7 billion years ago, when chemical compounds in a primordial soup somehow sparked into life, scientists suspect. But what turned sterile molecules into living, changing organisms? That's an ultimate mystery." From this soup sprouted the first form of life. Over billions of years, it evolved more and more, eventually resulting in all the life forms we see today.

Here at last was an explanation that removed God from creation: evolution. But there were still problems involving evolution. Because of the lack of proof, evolutionists composed the geological column to act as a timeline. Supposedly, the different rock layers show different eras in the evolution of the earth. The Cambrian Period is the most prehistoric period, containing only the simplest life forms, such as trilobites. The column goes on through the years until the Tertiary Layer, which holds primitive horses. This was one and a half million years before the present time; how do we know this? Evolutionists use index fossils in order to date the layers of rock. However, the geological column uses

what is called circular reasoning in order to do this! The age of the fossils is determined by which layer they are found in, and vice versa. In the words of one evolutionist, “The rocks to date the fossils, but the fossils date the rocks more accurately.” (Hovind) In spite of all this, the geological column might have settled the disputes of evolution for a time, contenting the majority of scientists. Then problems began to emerge.

The only way the geological column could have been laid down in clear layers was if the world was relatively anticlimactic for several million years. However, creationists know that this was not the case, and evidence found in the earth supports this. Along the coast of South Africa are the Karoo Beds – huge fossil graveyards full of the fossils of fish and other sea creatures. How did these all get there? According to the Bible, God sent The Flood to wipe out all life on earth. From the evolutionist perspective, “the Flood” is simply a fairy tale from an ancient book, probably made up by some religious person that wanted to feel better about their existence. However, that idea is contradicted by evidence around the world that points to the Flood. One of these is the Karoo Beds. The Flood would have swept hundreds of animals in huge waves and deposited them into the same area. Because of the crashing water and sediment, these animals would have been buried immediately under piles of silt and debris. As a result, they all would have been fossilized together. A similar occurrence can be found in Maryland. The Cumberland Bone Cave contains fossils from many different species of animals. While this circumstance is strange and mysterious from the evolutionist perspective, it is easily explained by the Flood. Another predicament concerning the geological column is the presence of petrified trees. “All over the world we find petrified trees, standing up and running through multiple rock layers.” (Hovind) Sometimes the trees are even upside down. How did this happen? Creationists have an easy and true answer – they were put there by the Flood.

Formations all over the world point to the evidence of the Flood. One of these structures is the Grand Canyon. According to Levine Miller in Prentice Hall Biology, "The Colorado River has...cut through layers upon layers of rock over millions of years." (Hovind) In addition, the Grand Canyon is supposedly one of the best places to observe the geological column in the prominent layers of strata. But upon investigation, these hypotheses prove incorrect as well. The dry stream bed in the bottom of the Grand Canyon angles upward. Rivers don't flow up. Contrary to evolutionist view, the canyon was first formed by the flood, and the river came later. Evidence for this is shown in the construction of Engineer's Canyon.

When Mount St. Helens erupted in 1980, the force of it deposited a layer of stratified rock in a matter of hours. It also formed Engineer's Canyon. This canyon is so similar to the Grand Canyon that it is often called Little Grand Canyon...and it was formed in one day. (Hovind) The latest theory concerning the Colorado River is agreed upon both by creationists and evolutionists: a huge lake in the canyon area drained, thus forming the Colorado River.

Yet another problem with the geological column was shown in the discovery of the coelacanth fish. The coelacanth was thought to have gone extinct around the time of the dinosaurs – sixty-five million years ago. Fossils of this fish were found in the layer of rock that identified the cretaceous period. In 1938, a woman named Marjorie Courtenay Latimer discovered a live coelacanth off the coast of South Africa. Upon the discovery of the coelacanth, a chemistry lecturer named James Smith said, "There was not a shadow of doubt. Scale by scale, bone by bone, fin by fin, it was a true coelacanth. It could have been one of those creatures of 200 million years ago come alive again" (Dawkins 163). The coelacanth hadn't gone extinct after all! Once again, the geologic column was proven inaccurate.

Over and over, evolution has been proven false. Yet in spite of this, people cling to it and fervently defend it, constantly inventing new hypotheses in order to conserve it. Those who realize God's sovereignty don't need to wonder about our origins; we as Christians know that He is gracious and loving, and this is shown everywhere by His creation. All throughout nature are phenomena that are inexplicable when you look at them through the glasses of evolution. However, when you observe the world through the clear Biblical perspective, it is a simple matter to understand God's glorious creation. For example, evolutionists struggle to explain mutualistic relationships. A mutualistic relationship occurs when two different species of animals simultaneously benefit one another. One of the most fascinating mutualistic relationships occurs between a tropical fish called an oriental sweetlips and another fish, the small blue-streak wrasse. The oriental sweetlips has large teeth that need to be cleaned daily. When it senses the need for a cleaning, the sweetlips swims up to a certain area of a coral reef called a "cleaning station" and opens its mouth wide. A tiny fish called a blue-streak wrasse swims directly into the mouth of the sweetlips and proceeds to eat all the plaque and other material off the sweetlips' teeth! According to Wile and Durnell, "...this is a mutually beneficial relationship. Without the blue-streak wrasses, the Oriental sweetlips would lose its teeth. Without the Oriental sweetlips, the blue-streak wrasses would not have such fine meals." (308) Wile and Durnell also state that "Mutualism presents a...challenge to the hypothesis of macroevolution." (309) The Oriental sweetlips' instinct to get its teeth cleaned would need to evolve at the exact same time as the blue-streak wrasse developed the instinct to swim into its mouth to feed. How could evolution possibly explain this wonder of nature?

Another testament to creation is the design of different types of animals. Have you ever stopped to consider a chicken egg? This relatively "simple" design will prove fascinating upon further investigation. God formed the egg with ten thousand tiny holes that allow the

chick inside to breathe and gases to escape. Without these holes, the chick would die immediately. Another amazing creation that is often overlooked is the woodpecker. A woodpecker's feet and tail are specially designed to grip a tree while it pecks a hole in it. A woodpecker can peck up to twenty times per second – without pain! There are special shock absorbers in its brain that prevent damage as the woodpecker drills a hole in the tree. In addition to all this, a woodpecker's tongue extends ten inches past its beak in order to grab bugs in the hole. This is truly an incredible design.

The whole world practically shouts out evidence of intelligent design. The Flood is not merely a fairy tale in the Bible; we can find evidence for this Flood by looking at the fossil record. The very existence of fossils gives testimony to the Flood. Fossils are rare. It is said that the chance of a dead animal fossilizing is one in a million. Although this is an exaggeration, the expression effectively communicates the truth that it is unusual for a fossil to form. Normally, when an animal dies, it decays and eventually dissolves into the ground. So why are there so many fossils in the world? Well, a fossil forms much more easily if it occurs as the result of a catastrophic event. If a pile of rushing sediment was suddenly deposited on top of an animal, it would most likely fossilize rather than decay. In a world-wide disaster such as the Flood, thousands of animals would be fossilized.

Nevertheless, there is still some controversy involving creation. Evolutionists find evidence in animals that shows that we have a common ancestor. For instance, the bones identified in a human's arm, the radius and ulna, are also found in whales, bats, and birds. Does this mean that we share a common ancestor with these animals? Our own human activities and inventions point to the opposite. Kent Hovind uses the example of building a bridge. All around the United States we can find bridges that have a very similar design.

However, this doesn't mean that they all evolved from one bridge! It just means that the inventors found a good design and stuck with it. This is the same with God's creation – He found a successful way to construct the arm bones, and he used it for several of His creations. (Hovind)

Despite all the division between creation and evolution, there is one thing that they have in common. In the beginning, whenever the beginning was, nothing somehow became something. Kent Hovind summed this up with the words “We believe that in the beginning...God, and evolutionists believe that in the beginning...dirt.” The popular saying that creation is religion and evolution is science is not the truth. They are both religion. Religion is defined as “A cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith.” (Webster) This certainly describes evolution! As a result, it just as much a religion as creation is.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word was with God.” (KJV, John 1:1) Not: “In the beginning there was a big bang.” The Lord completed the world as we know it in seven days; He designed man in His image, just how He wanted us. He formed all the animals exactly how He desired, and with amazingly complex design. One by one, the ideas of evolution are being disproven and replaced by facts. Macroevolution has no affirmation; there is countless data against the geologic column; and as for the big bang, it doesn't even make sense! All evidence testifies to the fact that evolution has no place in the True history of the world. Our very language speaks evidence of a Creator – the word universe means “single spoken sentence.” God said “let there be light” (KJV, Gen 1:3), and there was light. All creation – from the tiniest bacterium to the largest star in a faraway galaxy – speak of the sovereignty and glory of our God.

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