

Christianity vs. Evolution

1- Objectives

- ❖ What is the “Evolution Theory”?
- ❖ Can Christianity be reconciled with Evolution?

2- References

- ❖ <http://www.orthodoxy.ca/2011/10/glorified-through-hardship-virtuous-suffering/>

3- Scriptural Verse

- ❖ “The fool has said in his heart: There is no God.” (Psalms 14:1)

4- Lesson Guidelines

The Evolution Theory

- ❖ Charles Darwin (1809 –1882), an English naturalist believed that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors, and proposed the scientific theory that this branching pattern of evolution resulted from a process that he called natural selection and published his theory in his 1859 book “On the Origin of Species”.
- ❖ The scientific community and much of the general public came to accept evolution as a fact in his lifetime, but it was not until the 1930s to the 1950s that a broad consensus developed that natural selection was the basic mechanism of evolution.
- ❖ Macroevolution is a naturally occurring, beneficial change that produces increasing and inheritable complexity that would be shown if the offspring of one form of life had a different and improved set of vital organs. Microevolution involves changes only in size, shape, or color, or minor genetic alterations caused by a few mutations.

Effect of Evolution theory on the Society

- ❖ The social effects of evolutionary thought have been considerable because it includes an explanation of humanity’s origins. Its rejection of the Biblical account of Creation has led to a vigorous conflict between creation and evolution in public education.
- ❖ Some single out “Darwinism” as the cause of many, if not all, of modern society’s ills. Weikart, in his book “From Darwin to Hitler”, claims that Darwinism’s impact on ethics and morality played a key role not only in the rise of eugenics, but also in euthanasia, infanticide, abortion, and racial extermination. All were ultimately embraced by the Nazis.
- ❖ The notion that humans share ancestors with other animals has affected how some people view the relationship between humans and other species. Supporters of animal rights hold that animals are of the same nature, and then rights cannot be distinct to humans.

Effect on Religion

- ❖ Before Darwin's argument, Western religions and most scientists condemned any claims that diversity of life is the result of an evolutionary process. However it was accepted by some religious groups and scientists.
- ❖ In response to the wide scientific acceptance of the theory, many religions have adopted a theistic evolution viewpoint, where God provides a divine spark that ignited the process of evolution and (or), where God has guided evolution in one way or another.
- ❖ The evolution theory has had progressively greater influence on the spirit of researchers, following a series of discoveries in different scholarly disciplines; Life Science, Astronomical and Physical Science, Earth Science ...

Some (out of many) Oppositions and conflicts

- ❖ Ever since Darwin, evolutionists have made excuses for why the world and our fossil museums are not overflowing with intermediates.
- ❖ Spontaneous generation (the emergence of life from nonliving matter) has never been observed: all observations have shown that life comes only from life. This has been observed so consistently that it is called the law of biogenesis. The theory of evolution conflicts with this scientific law when claiming that life came from nonliving matter through natural processes.
- ❖ Acquired Characteristics (gained after birth) cannot be inherited. Ex: large muscles acquired by a man in a weight-lifting program cannot be inherited by his child; nor did giraffes get long necks because their ancestors stretched to reach high leaves.
- ❖ New genetic traits are not created: instead, the environment can switch on genetic machinery already present. Mendel's laws of genetics and their modern-day refinements explain almost all physical variations occurring within species. He discovered that genes are merely reshuffled from one generation to another. Different combinations are formed, not different genes. The different combinations produce many variations within each kind of life, but there are limits to such variation.
- ❖ If evolution occurred, organisms that quickly produce the most offspring (as bacteria) should have the most variations and mutations. We see the opposite. In general, more complex organisms, (as humans) have fewer offspring and longer reproduction cycles.
- ❖ Mutations are the only known means by which new genetic material becomes available for evolution. No known mutation has ever produced a form of life having greater complexity and viability than its ancestors.
- ❖ All species appear fully developed, not partly developed. There are no examples of half-developed feathers, eyes, skin, tubes (arteries, veins, intestines, etc.), or any of the vital organs (dozens in humans alone). If a leg of a reptile were to evolve into a wing of a bird, it would become a bad leg long before it became a good wing.
- ❖ There is no evidence language evolved. Language is learned only from other humans; humans do not automatically speak. So, the first humans must have been endowed with language ability.
- ❖ Some structures in humans were once thought to have no function but to have been derived from functioning organs in claimed evolutionary ancestors (Vestigial Organs). As medical knowledge has increased, some function has been discovered for all alleged vestigial organs as the appendix seems to play a role in antibody production and protects part of the intestine from infections and tumor growths.

- ❖ Fossil evidence showing the evolution of chimpanzees, supposedly the closest living relative to humans, is nonexistent. Bones of modern-looking humans have been found deep in undisturbed rocks that, according to evolution, were formed long before man began to evolve.
- ❖ 70% of the earth surface is covered by water; where did all this water come from? If the earth and solar system evolved from a swirling cloud of dust and gas, almost no water would reside near earth's present orbit. Any water (liquid or ice) that close to the Sun would vaporize and be blown by solar wind to the outer reaches of the solar system, as we see happening with water vapor in the tails of comets.
- ❖ If, as evolutionists teach, the solar system evolved from a spinning cloud of dust and gas 4.5 billion years ago, the slowly condensing Sun would have radiated 25–30% less heat during its first 600 million years than it radiates today. A drop in the Sun's radiation of only a few percent would freeze all our oceans.
- ❖ To claim that life evolved is to demand a miracle. The simplest conceivable form of single-celled life should have at least 600 different protein molecules. The mathematical probability that even one typical protein could form by chance arrangements of amino acid sequences is essentially zero—far less than 1 in 10^{450} . To appreciate the magnitude of 10^{450} , realize that the visible universe is about 10^{28} inches in diameter.
- ❖ From another perspective, suppose we packed the entire visible universe with a “simple” form of life, such as bacteria. Next, suppose we broke all their chemical bonds; mixed all their atoms and then let them form new links. If this were repeated a billion times a second for 20 billion years under the most favorable temperature and pressure conditions throughout the visible universe, would even one bacterium of any type reemerge? The chances are much less than one in $10^{99,999,999,873}$

Christianity and Evolution

- ❖ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge (Psalm 19:1-2)
- ❖ But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this (Job 12:7-9)
- ❖ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (Hebrews 11:3).
- ❖ The righteous will live by faith... For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead (Romans 1: 17, 20).

5- Conclusion

- ❖ As we discussed several inconsistencies in the theory of evolution on the basis of life science, physical science, and earth science; we can say that the theory of evolution is not an immutable fact, and there is much evidence to believe that it is false even without resorting to religious arguments.
- ❖ Explosion produce chaos, mess, less order, degeneration ; not more order and generation.

- ❖ Evolution contradicts with the 2nd law of thermodynamics: things if left will deteriorate and age with time. It doesn't become much better.
- ❖ “Why do I keep defending my harp and not enjoying my Songs?!” Why we consume our energy defending the accusations, while, through our solid faith, we are sure, wealthy and confident of our Almighty God.

6- Activities / Discussion Points

- ❖ Scientific facts and theories are continuously changing: In the “Ottawa Citizen” Sept. 23, 2011, it was written: Subatomic particles moving faster than light which could overturn Einstein's Laws of Universe.
- ❖ After a century of paganism, the tide is turning. Market is now flooded with **books** by top scientists that were Atheist in past decades, who now believe in creation.
- ❖ Pascal: (Physicist, Mathematician and Philosopher) said: If God does not exist, one will lose nothing by believing in Him; if God does exist, one will lose everything by not believing.