

The Great Debate



"How we view our ultimate beginning greatly effects how we live our life!" Are we a product of impersonal forces of matter, chance, and time, or are we a result of a special creation by an infinite, personal Creator with a specific design and purpose?

Evolution: An Irrational Faith

Moore "Darwin, more than any modern thinker, has transformed the way we see ourselves on the planet."

Denton "(The influence of evolutionary theory) is one of the most spectacular examples in history of how a highly speculative idea, for which there is no real hard scientific evidence, can come to fashion the thinking of a whole society and dominate the outlook of an age."

Main Assumptions Of Evolution: (fundamental axioms)

1. Naturalism (states only material or physical reality exist.)

George Simpson "Man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind. He was not planned. He is a state of matter, a form of life, a sort of animal, a species... akin remotely to all of life and indeed to all that is material."

- Uniformitarianism (natural laws always operate the same)
2 Peter 3:3-7

2. Macroevolution

- States all living things are link to a common ancestor.
"Evolutionary change comes about in large numbers of sequential steps involving very small changes at each point over long periods of time. (transmutation)
(Problem: how explain absence of transitional forms)
- if not strongest - didn't survive - no record
- Punctuated equilibrium – states there were rapid changes in short time followed by long periods of no change.
- Adaptive design of life results from blind random processes
- Simple life forms move to complex (gaps/yet no fossil proof)
- Different from micro-evolution within a species
- Archaeopteryx (states scales became feathers)

3. Spontaneous Generation (chance)

- States life arose spontaneously from nonliving matter by natural random process. (poofa theory/it just happened...) Matter created itself?
- The Fine Tuned Universe: perfect environment needed to sustain life

Crick "The origin of life appears to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going."

Carl Sagan stated the chance of man evolving is 1 in 10 to the 2 billionth power.

Schutzenger 'There is no chance to see this mechanism appear spontaneously, and even if it did, even less for it to remain... There is considerable gaps ... in evolution ... and it cannot be bridged within the current conception of biology.'

Hoyle "The chance that higher life forms might have emerged through evolutionary process is comparable with the chance a tornado sweeping through a junk yard might assemble a Boeing 747..."

"The gaps are getting worse rather than better. The more we learn about the complexity of organic materials necessary for life and their complex interdependence - the more implausible a strictly naturalistic account becomes. There are immense problems in the theory of spontaneous generation of life from some primordial soup."

- View of universe (random/accidental OR wonder/beauty/design/order)
- Ethical implications - value of human life, stewardship of the planet

4. Natural Selection/survival of the fittest

Mutations (slight variations/improvements?)

- almost always harmful/and they don't survive (mule/seeds)
- genetic information is lost
- gene pool limiting

Adaptations

- not always beneficial for survival (color blindness)
- how explain schizophrenia/alternate lifestyles
- vestigial organs (thought useless – thyroid, pituitary, tonsils, appendix)

Ethical implications

- survival at any cost/justified violence
- human value/rights (weak/helpless)
- racism

Darwin "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

Criticisms:

- Biogenesis/Origins
 - Everything can't come from nothing
 - Life only originates from life; mind from Mind.
 - No physical effect can exist without a cause
Gen. 1:1; Rom. 4:17b; Heb. 11:3; Mk. 10:6; Ps. 33:6,9; 104:5-9; Is. 40:26,28; 44:24; 45:12;
 - Questions concerning indescribable (irreducible) complexity/miraculous Evidence of design/order
 - Evidence of abrupt appearance
The Cambrian Explosion
- The Fossil record is deficient of transitional forms (intermediate "missing" links)
 - Limited variation within kind (breeds, moths, insecticides, beaks)

- Cross-mating results in sterility (mule)

Genesis 1:11,12,21,24,25,28; 2:19,20; 6:19,20

1 Corinthians 15:38,39

Acts 17:26

(Lucy- 3 year old ape, bones found miles apart; Nebraska Man- tooth of pig;
Piltdown Man- jawbone of ape; Neanderthal Man- old man with arthritis)

- Evidence of cataclysmic, hydraulic event (Hebrews 11:7)
 - Sudden fossilization/freezing/burial (Flood)
 - Extinctions suggest rapid environmental change.
- Lack sufficient time for evolution to occur. (Matthew 1:17; Luke 3:23-37)
- Lack credible mechanism needed for evolutionary change (cause).
 - no effect can exist without a cause
Ps. 33:6,9; Heb. 11:3; 3:4; Is. 40:26
- Mathematical probabilities and scientific laws (biogenesis/thermodynamics) make chance evolution an impossibility.
- Nature is wearing down (order to disorder) (Rom. 8:19-22; Ps. 102:25-27)
- Evolution is not occurring today

Denton "Neither of the two fundamental axioms of Darwin's macro evolutionary theory (the evolutionary continuity of nature linking all life forms on a continuum leading back to a primal origin/the adaptive design of life resulting from blind random processes) have been validated by one single empirical discovery or scientific advance since 1859."

"The incredible complexity of every living thing offers compelling evidence that life could never have originated by accidental chance."

The Limits Of Science

- Scientist say: science is the only discipline which can give a true and reasonable explanation of the real world. (The scientific method: things must be observable, testable, repeatable.)
Wysong "Evolution is not a formulation of the true scientific method. They realize that evolution means the initial formation of unknown organisms from unknown chemicals produced in an atmosphere or ocean of unknown composition under unknown conditions, which organisms have then climbed an unknown evolutionary ladder by an unknown process leaving unknown evidence."

Questions For Science:

- What is science? (objective search for truth – facts/evidence)
- Are there real things which lie beyond the senses and the physical world? (gravity, thoughts, moral values, consciousness, self identity, memory)
- Is science neutral and unbiased? Is science influenced by individual beliefs/assumptions? (no supernatural - only natural explanation.)
- Science is constantly changing and is not absolute truth. (new information/new theory/replacing past history)

Basic Assumptions Of Science:

1. The senses are reliable and give accurate information about the real physical world. (Yet, if everything is random, accidental, how can I trust my thoughts?)
2. Natural laws exist & are consistent from past to future. (Yet, is there anything absolute?)

Definition of Truth:

- Absolute/constant/unchanging/timeless/not relative
- Not always reasonable
- Something either is or is not true.
- Truth can be refined/clarified - new revelation > clearer understanding/
mystery revealed
(Jb. 12:22; Rom. 16:25,26; Eph. 3:3,4,6,9; Col. 1:26)

Difference Between Science And Theology:

Science

- Natural
- What/how
- Secondary effects
- Natural process

Theology

- Supernatural & natural
- Who/why
- Primary cause
- Unexplainable/Miracles

Questions Unanswered By Science - Predicted By Theology:

- The universe is finite and had a beginning
(Genesis 1:1; Psalms 102:25-27)
- Systematic gaps in the fossil record which lack transitional forms
(Genesis 1:11,12,21,24,25)
- Catastrophism would be found in geology (Genesis 7-9 Flood)
- Anthropologists would discover a widespread belief in a supreme Being among cultures of the world. (Romans 1:19,20; Acts 17:26,27)
- Living organisms fall into natural kinds and have natures or essences which define what they are. (1 Cor. 15:38,39; Genesis 6:19-21; 7:8,9) (a dog is a dog is a dog.)

The Great Dilemma Of Science:

- **The Will** (God/no god)
Men often accept naturalistic evolution because the only alternative is creation by God. (Romans 1:18,21,22,25,28)
Job 8:13-15 "Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so perished the hope of the godless. What he trust in is fragile; what he relies on is a spider's web. He leans on his web, but it gives way; he clings to it, but it does not hold."
- **Faith in the Miraculous**
Belief in natural process (effect without a cause)
Isaiah 29:16 "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He did not make me'..."

The Bible Says...

Things outside the physical world do exist!

- the spirit world
John 4:24; Colossians 1:16,17; Ephesians 6:12
1 Corinthians 15:40,44,46,50
- the soul
Mark 8:36,37; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- our sin nature (Romans 5:12)
- the mind/thoughts
Romans 8:27; 11:34;; Isaiah 55:8,9; Matt. 22:37;
Psalms 26:2; 16:7; 94:11