

The Case for Creation

How the Claims of Darwinism Stack Up Against Genesis
September 30, 2010

Can Christians Even Think Straight?

Scott Altran: Christianity is a commitment to “factually impossible worlds.”

Richard Dawkins: “Faith is one of the world’s great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate... Religion is capable of driving people to such dangerous folly that faith seems to me to qualify as a kind of mental illness.”

[The God of the Old Testament is] “arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynist, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

Sam Harris: Faith is “nothing more than the license religious people give one another to keep believing when reasons fail.”

Christians, however, would say that faith is courageous _____ in an object that one has good _____ to see as credible (Hebrews 11:1).

The Battle to Tell the Official Story of Life’s Beginnings

Option A: Darwinism (a.k.a. Materialism or Naturalism)

“Nature is all there is, all there ever has been, and all there ever will be.”

God and the supernatural are utterly _____.

“Good science” = the search for naturalistic explanations for all data. Evolution is thus a sweeping, comprehensive vision for Everything.

Option B: Theism / Christianity (a.k.a. Creationism or Intelligent Design)

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

The universe cannot be understood apart from its Creator.

“Good science” = allowing the _____ to take us to the most appropriate conclusions about reality.

Definitions Make All the Difference

What do we mean by *evolution*?

- A. Living things _____, at least to some degree, with respect to time. (Everyone agrees with this).
- B. All living things came into existence and into their present form through a process that was 100% natural, undesigned and undirected. (Darwinists affirm this, while Christians deny this).

What do we mean by *creation*?

- A. A transcendent God is responsible for the existence and the maintenance of all living things. (Christians affirm this, while Darwinists deny this).
- B. God created the cosmos and living things _____ in a period of six 24-hour days, and Noah's Flood accounts for all of geology. ("Young earth" creation-scientists affirm this, while "old earth" Christians believe that God was free to generate life through a directed, natural process over many billions of years).

Essential Darwinism

In his seminal publication of 1859, *The Origin of Species*, Charles Darwin made three important claims:

- Species of living things change.
- These changes can account for the entirety of the world's living things.
- Changes are naturally "selected" for survival or extinction by virtue of their positive effect on _____ (hence, "the survival of the fittest").

Darwin declared that if these principles were true, there would no longer be a need for God or miracles as an explanation for life.

The mechanism for change in living things was unknown to Darwin. His successors have identified genetic variation, or mutations, as the key.

Do changes and variations occur in living things?

Of course they do (bacteria, viruses, fruit flies).

Generally what we see, however, are not new _____ but variations within existing, stable populations.

Can mutations & natural selection actually account for the development of complex new organs and entirely different kinds of creatures?

Darwin boldly proposed two tests to prove or disprove his theory:

- (1) Selective breeding will produce new _____.
- (2) Fossil hunters will discover multitudes of _____.

Does Scientific Discovery Support Darwinism or Creation?

Cosmology **The Big Bang**

An immensely powerful release of matter, energy, space and time about 13.8 billion years ago, resulting in a universe that is continually expanding

The Big Bang seems to demand a Creator, and leaves insufficient _____ for Darwinism (“everything happening by chance”) to take place.

Biology **The extraordinary molecular complexity of living systems**

A single bacterial cell has more information (if written out in standard code) than the entire Encyclopedia Britannica.

Even the simplest machines, like a mouse trap, only work if all the component parts are present _____.

How did the human brain – a 3-pound mass of 10 billion nerve cells – come into existence entirely by _____?

Paleontology **The Cambrian Explosion and absence of missing links**

Virtually all animal phyla suddenly appeared 530 million years ago.

“It is as though they were just planted there, without any evolutionary history.”
(Darwinist Richard Dawkins)

After 150 years of digging, “The fossil record does not convincingly document a single transition from one species to another.” (Darwinist Stephen Stanley)

It is safe to say that we live in a time when, as never before, the evidence provided by scientific research is overwhelmingly supportive of the existence of a Creator.

Why, then, do Darwinists persist in believing that everything that exists came about by time and blind chance?

Even before looking at the _____, Darwinists rule God out.
They are willing to wait as long as necessary for better data to come in.

The apostle Paul predicted these very responses in Romans 1:20-22.
“*Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.*”