

The Word@ZPC

# The Case for God in an Anti-God World

## **Darwinism vs. Christianity**

*The Evolution Revolution*

April 29, 2009

### **The Battle to Tell the Official Creation Story**

Whoever owns the *metanarrative* (the underlying, all-encompassing story) of the story of humanity and the cosmos owns the soul of Western culture.

What's at stake?

- The nature of science and scientific inquiry
- The identity and meaning of human life
- The legitimacy of "religion" as a source of truth
- The assumptions that underlie public education

*"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane."*  
(Richard Dawkins, Darwinist scientist)

*"Equal time for creation-science in biology classes, the Darwinists like to say, is like equal time for the theory that it is the stork that brings babies."*  
(Philip Johnson, theistic professor of law)

### **What is This Debate Really About?**

It is *not* about the meaning of the book of Genesis, Science vs. Religion, or Reason vs. Faith.

The real clash is between two different \_\_\_\_\_ and two very different definitions of \_\_\_\_\_.

*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."  
"In the beginning were the particles..."

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.

*What place, then, for a creator?*  
(Physicist Stephen Hawking)

**Option B: Theism** (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 change, at least to some degree, with respect to time.  
(Everyone affirms 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 theists deny this).

What do we mean by *creation*?

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

### **Why is it So Hard For Creation to Get a Public Hearing?**

The evolutionary perspective has clearly won the \_\_\_\_\_ battle.

Darwinists have carefully framed the questions and defined the terms so that a believer in the supernatural is a believer in \_\_\_\_\_.

Stephen Jay Gould (a Darwinist) proposed the concept of NOMA (that science and religion can happily co-exist in *Non-Overlapping Magisterium*)

This appears to make science and religion “separate but equal.”

However, in actual application:

Science = \_\_\_\_\_  
Religion = \_\_\_\_\_

Whatever religion proposes is by definition outside the realm of science, and whatever is outside the realm of science is by definition outside of objective \_\_\_\_\_.

All it takes for Darwinists to win a public debate is to label a perspective as \_\_\_\_\_; that view then becomes “personal preference” at best and closed-minded bigotry at worst (*Inherit the Wind*, 1960).

*The problem is to get [people] to reject irrational and supernatural explanations of the world, the demons that exist only in their imaginations, and to accept a social and intellectual apparatus, Science, as the only begetter of truth.*  
(Harvard geneticist Richard Lewontin)

Is the debate over? Shouldn't we just stick to singing “Amazing Grace?”

Just as the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the fall of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the 21<sup>st</sup> century is likely to see the discrediting of Charles Darwin.

**Biblical Creation 101**

- (1) All of reality has its origin in the living God (Genesis 1:1).
- (2) God created by \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:3; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 11:3).
- (3) Creation happened \_\_\_\_\_, from no pre-existing matter.
- (4) The cosmos bears evidence of its Creator (Romans 1:18-20).
- (5) Human beings alone were created \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 1:27-27).
- (6) God is not an absentee landlord, but sustains his creation (Col 1:16-17).

## Essential Darwinism

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

- Species of living things \_\_\_\_\_.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

*Do changes and variations occur in living things?*

Of course they do.

Darwinists commonly cite bacteria, fruit flies, and dog breeds.

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?

This leads to a key overarching question:  
*Is Darwinism based on a fair assessment of the scientific evidence...  
or is it simply another kind of philosophical fundamentalism?*

## What are the Classic PR Images of Darwinism?

Certain pictures have become iconic in the minds of modern science students as part of the "truth" of evolutionary naturalism:

Stanley Miller's 1953 experiments with a pre-biotic \_\_\_\_\_

Peppered moths on the trees of Industrial England

Ernest Haeckel's drawings of different \_\_\_\_\_

The beaks of finches on the Galapagos Islands

Classic *Time / Life* posters showing the \_\_\_\_\_ of Man.

The fossilized missing link of *Archaeopteryx*

One of the trade secrets of contemporary Darwinism is that *none* of these iconic images now represent what they were originally claimed to signify.

### In What Ways is Scientific Investigation Bolstering the Case for Theism?

<i>Cosmology</i>	The _____
<i>Physics</i>	The "anthropic" fine tuning of at least 70 physical constants
<i>Origins</i>	The search for the source of _____
<i>Biology</i>	The extraordinary molecular complexity of living systems
<i>Paleontology</i>	The reality of the Cambrian _____
<i>Anthropology</i>	The mystery of human consciousness

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 God Hypothesis.

Looking for CD's, pod casts, and outlines of past sessions?

Go to ZPC.org or contact the office (873-6503).

**Glenn@zpc.org** and **Nancy@zpc.org**