

The Gift of Creation

The Truth about Our Origins and the Word of God

One of the most embarrassing periods of U.S. history was the eugenics fad of the early 20th century. Through the support of Woodrow Wilson in 1907, Indiana became the first of thirty states to adopt legislation which resulted in compulsory sterilization of persons with mental and physical disabilities. Eugenicists believed that if mentally and physically ill people could be prevented from marriage and procreation, our race would be “purified.” All in all, 60,000 people in the U.S. were sterilized.¹

A few years later Adolf Hitler began his “racial hygiene” campaign, now known as the Holocaust, which featured such atrocities as human experimentation and the systematic extermination of undesired population groups. If one includes, along with the Jews, Poles, Czechs, Greeks, Gypsies, Serbs, Ukrainians, Russians, queer, mentally and physically handicapped persons, trade unionists, prisoners of war, and Jehovah's Witnesses, the death toll of the Holocaust numbers somewhere around 11 million people.²

Thanks, Darwin

Horrifying, isn't it? And do you know the philosophical basis for these atrocities? The teachings of Charles Darwin. Simply put, Darwin taught that a process called natural selection “purged” nature of “inferior” species of animals. In his thinking, this evolutionary process would ultimately result in a superior race. Eugenicists proposed to speed up that process, bringing about the superior race more quickly than the natural process would.

One of Hitler's propaganda posters shows a medical professional standing behind a disabled man. The poster says, “This person suffering from hereditary defects costs the community 60,000 Reichsmark during his lifetime. Fellow German, that is your money, too!”³

Ideas are powerful. If a bad idea can lead to a Holocaust, think what a good idea can lead to! If a man's worth is determined by his financial burden, then we will treat him like a liability. If worth is determined by his spiritual worth in God's eyes, then we will treat him with dignity and respect.

¹ Edwin Black, "Eugenics and the Nazis -- the California connection," San Francisco Chronicle (9 November 2003).

² A Teacher's Guide to the Holocaust, <http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/holocaust/people/victims.htm>

³ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenics>

Evolution has never been proven scientifically. This is the best-kept secret of the academic community. Here is a simple explanation of what is right with Darwin and what is wrong with him:

Micro Evolution- This is what is right with Darwin. He began his research observing finches on the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador. Finches in areas where bugs had to be pulled out of rocks had longer, thinner beaks. Darwin correctly reasoned that a process called *natural selection* had caused this adaptation. Simply put, the finches with longer beaks survived, while the shorter-beaked finches died. The longer-beaked finches genetically passed on their long beaks to their offspring. Voila! More long-beaked finches.

Macro Evolution- This is what is wrong with Darwin. He took natural selection too far, claiming that it could account for evolution from one species to another—fish to amphibians, reptiles to birds, and apes to humans. Yet the fossil records provide no transitional forms for the major life groups. The most cutting-edge research designed to “prove” macro-evolution has only succeeded in re-proving micro-evolution.⁴

Irreducibly Complex Systems

Although science hasn't conclusively proven that God created the world in six days, evidence strongly suggests an intelligent designer. The most important evidence is what we call “irreducibly complex systems.” These are various systems in nature in which *all* the parts of the system had to be present in order for the system to survive. Let's look at just a few examples of this:

The Eye- The tiny rods and cones in the eye change light into electrochemical impulses through processes even the most sophisticated laboratory can't reproduce. The human eye is absolutely useless unless complete. The lens, which focuses the light, is useless without the retina, which senses the light. No wonder Darwin said this:

I remember well the time when the thought of the eye made me cold all over... and now trifling particulars of structure often make me very uncomfortable. The sight of a feather in a peacock's tail, whenever I gaze at it, makes me sick!"⁵

Flagella- Flagella are the finger-like projections on the outside of a cell that provide locomotion, or movement. These projections are like a molecular motor. They require the interaction of about

⁴ See, for instance, http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2002/0215hox_hype.asp.

⁵ http://www.darwinismrefuted.com/natural_history_2_05.html

40 complex protein parts, and the absence of any one of these proteins causes the flagella to fail to function. One example of this is the human sperm cell. No flagella function, no sperm movement. No sperm movement, no babies. No babies, no human race!

The Bombardier Beetle- This bug survives by ejecting hot, caustic liquid onto its predators. All the components of this defense mechanism must be present at once for it to function. The body of the beetle has two connected chambers, one containing hydroquinone and one containing hydrogen peroxide. Mixed together, these chemicals produce an explosion. This would kill the beetle if his body didn't also contain an inhibitor. The inhibitor keeps the beetle from exploding just long enough to aim and fire at his predator.

We are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Nature is not collection of inanimate toys assembled piece by piece, but a web of living organisms comprised of intricate, interwoven systems, the only explanation for which is a powerful, intelligent Creator.

Science is *humanly derived* while the Word of God is *divinely inspired*. Science changes, while God's Word never does. When faced with a choice between science and inspiration, we can simplify the problem by choosing the Word of God over all else.

Peter said something very compelling regarding the evidence of our senses. After citing the fact that the apostles were “eyewitnesses” of Jesus, and that they'd heard God's voice at Christ's baptism, he said, “We have also a *more sure* word of prophecy” (2 Peter 1:19, italics supplied). This means that the reliability of the Bible is *more sure* than that of our senses! If our eyes and ears can mislead us, how much more science, which involves human eyes and ears, often operating under theories that exclude the existence of God.

But there are times when science validates the truths of Scripture. This is science at its finest. Consider these examples:

The Evidence of the Word	The Evidence of Science
“The hosts of heaven [the stars] cannot be numbered” (Jeremiah 33:22).	The stars are estimated in to be over 70 sextillion—or 7 with 22 zeroes after it. ⁶
“He hangs the earth on nothing” (Job 26:7).	Newton discovered that the earth was suspended in space by gravitational forces.

⁶ <http://www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/space/07/22/stars.survey/>

“The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11).	The Old Testament instructed that blood was to be drained from food animals. Today we know that the disease-producing aspects of meat are in the blood.
“In Him all things hold together” (Ephesians 1:17).	Atoms don’t fly apart, even though scientists aren’t sure why.
“To establish a weight for the wind” (Job 28:25).	In 1640, Evangelista Torricelli discovered that air has weight.
“In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread” (Genesis 3:19).	Exercise physiology confirms that vigorous exercise tones the muscles, cleanses the body of impurities, strengthens the respiratory system and prevents heart disease.
“You may eat all that have fins and scales. And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you” (Deuteronomy 14:9-10).	Research done for the sake of military personnel who are shipwrecked reveals that the safe fish are those listed in the Old Testament as clean.
“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).	Migration of birds is one of the greatest puzzles of nature—birds weighing less than an ounce navigate thousands of miles nonstop to a destination they’ve never seen. Fish also find streams where their lives began, 1,200 miles across featureless oceans. The honeybee makes the engineering marvel of the honeycomb with a brain no larger than a pinhead. The only explanation for these marvels is “the hand of the Lord.”

Anthropic Constants

In the book *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Norman Geisler and Frank Turek list several “anthropic constants.” This phrase refers to natural conditions on our planet that make human life possible, giving evidence of a loving Creator and a purposeful creation. Here are just a few:

Identity Formation comes as we consider the fact that God made us in His image (See Gen. 1:27)! We were “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). A basic law of human psychology is that we mold to our identity. Identifying with our Creator, we become like Him. But what may we identify with if we embrace the teachings of evolution? Apes? One-celled amoeba? It’s easy to see where this would lead.

Values Formation, or moral development, occurs when we internalize the principles of love in our treatment of others. Evolution has a very narrow, materialistic view of the nature of man. We are physical, but not spiritual beings, it says. Man is valued according to his material contribution, or lack of it. In contrast, believing in a Creator God Who cherishes all His children instills a deep respect for all human beings.

Character Formation is our lifelong calling of becoming more and more like Jesus. How does this take place? Through creation! This time it’s not physical creation, but creation of a spiritual order. The two work on the same basic principle of God *speaking* things into life. As we believe in God’s ability to speak the worlds into existence, we believe that He can speak spiritual life into our dead souls. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). God “calls into being that which does not exist” (Romans 4:17, NASB), even a new life within us, a life in the Spirit, through which we are “transformed into the same image, from glory to glory,” 2 Corinthians 3:18.

The Takeaway

Are you impressed with God’s handiwork in nature? Are you amazed by natural phenomenon like migrating birds and bombardier beetles? As you see the signature of the Creator on the masterpiece of His creation, take heart that this all-powerful, all-knowing, and ever-present God is not too busy to love you. He loves you! No matter how fragmented your life, how broken your heart, He loves you. And He who spoke the worlds into existence will speak new life into your soul so that you can walk from this day forward with a new identity, values, and character.

Quiz

1. Darwin taught that a process called natural selection “ _____ ” nature of “inferior” species of animals.
2. Evolution has never been proven _____.
3. What Darwin had right was _____ evolution; what he had wrong was _____ evolution.
4. One of the best evidences of creation is the existence of _____ complex systems.
5. Irreducibly complex systems include the eye, flagella, and the _____ beetle.
6. Oxygen level, atmospheric transparency, moon-earth gravitational interaction, carbon dioxide levels, and gravity are examples of _____ constants.
7. Faith in God’s creatorship will have a threefold impact on our spiritual lives through identify formation, values formation and _____ formation.
8. As we believe in God’s ability to speak the worlds into existence, we believe that He can speak _____ life into our dead souls.

Answer Key

1. Purged
2. Scientifically
3. Micro
4. Macro
5. Bombardier
6. Anthropic
7. Character
8. New