

Christian Apologetics

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Summary of Weeks 1 - 10

- Available at www.cpcms.org

Week 11 Agenda: Darwinism

- “Things We Won’t Discuss Today”
- What does the Bible say about creationism?
- Definitions
- Charles Darwin – Background
- Implications to the Christian
- Problems with Darwinism
- Conclusion

Things We Won’t Discuss Today

- Old-earth vs. young-earth creationism
- “The Second Law of Thermodynamics”
- Dating methods (radio-carbon, potassium-argon, strontium-rubidium, etc.)



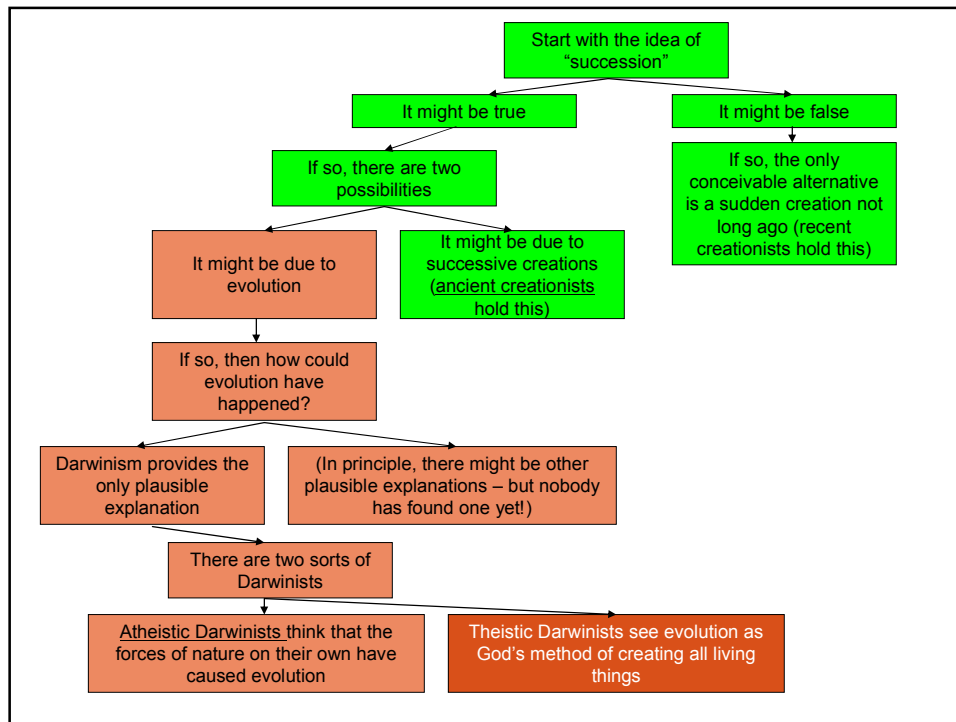
What does the Bible Say About Creationism?

- Colossians 1:16: “For by him **all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”
- Genesis 1:1: “**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**”
- Genesis 2:7: “**The LORD God formed the man** from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”
- Psalm 139:13: “**For you created my inmost being**; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.”
- Isaiah 42:5: “This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, **who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it**, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it...”
- Revelation 10:6: “And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, **who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it**, and said, ‘There will be no more delay!’”

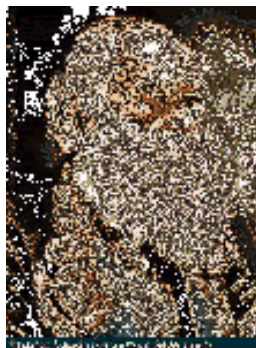
Definitions



- Succession
 - Primitive life appears earlier in the fossil record than more complex forms of life
- Evolution (micro and macro)
 - **Micro-evolution** – the change within a species to adapt to its environment via sequences of **small changes** (different varieties of dogs, cats, fish, bacteria, etc.)
 - Macro-evolution – the change from one species to another (fish become reptiles, reptiles become birds and mammals) via sequences of small steps, **each with a greater advantage for survival**
- Mechanisms of evolution: what is the instrument of change?
 - Lamarckism: giraffes grow longer necks over time via usage
 - Darwinism: some giraffes have longer necks by **genetic mutation and natural selection**, so they have a better chance of survival



Charles Darwin - Background



- Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
 - Cousin to Francis Galton
 - Voyage in 1831 aboard the HMS Beagle to the Galapagos islands
 - Observed many new species and saw how they had adapted to their environment through natural selection
 - Concluded that this same process could account for the development of different species
 - Published On the Origin of Species in 1859

Implications to the Christian

- Evolution is an ideology, or a set of presuppositions
 - If you throw out creationism, you'll be left grappling for some explanation for the origin of living things
- Most Darwinists are Humanists
 - Darwin's theory caught on because it "met a need"
 - Not accountable to God
 - Nietzsche: "God is Dead" movement
 - **Morals are relative**; Truth is not knowable
 - Abortion is a choice; No such thing as sexual immorality
 - Genetic research with cloned embryos is for the good of all mankind
 - Racism is a form of **survival of the fittest**
 - Shaped the view of Hitler, Nietzsche, eugenics movement in early 20th century
- Evolution undermines much critical Christian Doctrine
 - No Creator, No Adam, no Eve, no Fall, no need for a Savior

Implications to the Christian

- *"We civilized men, on the other hand, do our utmost to check the process of elimination; we build asylums for the imbecile, the maimed, and the sick; we institute poor-laws; and our medical men exert their utmost skill to save the life of every one to the last moment. There is reason to believe that vaccination has preserved thousands, who from a weak constitution would formerly have succumbed to small-pox. Thus the weak members of civilized societies propagate their kind. **No one who has attended to the breeding of domestic animals will doubt that this must be highly injurious to the race of man. It is surprising how soon a want of care, or care wrongly directed, leads to the degeneration of a domestic race; but excepting in the case of man itself, hardly any one is so ignorant as to allow his worst animals to breed.**" – Charles Darwin, "The Descent of Man"*

Problems with Darwinism

- X-Men vs. the Elephant Man
- “Two Minute Warning”
- “Beginning with the end in mind”
- My Cambrian exploded
- The “Frogger” problem
- “Rooted to the spot”
- The “Black Box”
- The Mousetrap
- Over & Under
- Strange animals

X-Men vs. the Elephant Man

- Most genetic mutations are **harmful**, not helpful, to the survival of a species
- Most mutations render the mutated species **sterile**
- Mutations tend to regress back to the mean
- “To vary and to evolve are two different things” – Pierre-Paul Grasse



“Two Minute Warning”

- Not enough time for evolution to take place
- Darwinism can't explain the origin of life
 - The chances of the right amount of chemicals forming an enzyme similar to modern bacteria is approximately 10^{20}
 - 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000
 - You need at least 2,000 of these to make a living creature!
- 10^4 vs. 10^{10} : we're still short some zeroes

“Beginning with the End in Mind”

- Each successive step in the genetic mutation / natural selection process **must be an improvement** over its immediate predecessor
- How do wings evolve?
 - Created from thousands of hooks that retract the wing when the bird is standing still, but can extend for flight
- Same can be said for land animals evolving from water-based animals, etc.



My Cambrian Exploded



- Sudden appearance of the major animals that are still alive today during the Cambrian era (about 542 million years ago)
- Prior to the Cambrian period, the fossil record includes some jellyfish, sponges and worms
- BOOM! – all of a sudden we see representatives of the modern animals we see today
- Football analogy – the Cambrian period is the length of one stride at the 16-yard line

The “Frogger” Problem

- Most species appear in the fossil record **fully formed**, looking much the same as when they disappear
- “The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our text books have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is **inference**, however reasonable, **not the evidence of fossils**.” – Steven Jay Gould, Harvard
- *Archaeopteryx* is a rare example of a possible transitional form between bird and reptile
 - Other fully-formed birds existed at the same point in the same point in the fossil record



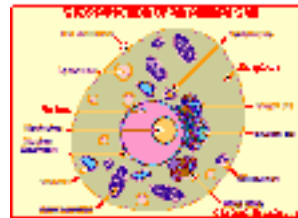
“Rooted to the Spot”

- Plants have large amounts of variation among species that do not lend themselves to advantage
- Meat-eating plants; e.g. the Venus Flytrap, do not enjoy a large advantage in the plant world
- Transitional plant species would be at a geographical disadvantage in the event of climate change
- Cross-breeding would obviate, rather than enhance, genetic mutations



The “Black Box”: The Cell

- Modern science can now examine the cell at the molecule level
- The cell is an **extremely complex** micro-organism with dozens of interrelated systems
- The cell is run by micro-machines of just the right shape, strength, and interactions
- “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, **my theory would absolutely break down.**” – “Chuck” Darwin



The Mousetrap: Irreducible Complexity

- A system is **irreducibly complex** if it has a number of different components that all work together to accomplish the task of the system, and if you were to remove one of the components, the system would no longer function.
- The Darwinism mechanism of **stepwise improvements** can't explain interdependent, irreducibly complex systems
- Example: the mouse trap



Over & Under

- Bee stings are “under-evolved” as they are fatal to the bee!
- Irish elk antlers are of no value in close combat



Strange Animals

- Whales
 - Underwater eye
 - Give birth and feed underwater
 - Communications system like modern sonar
 - Blubber instead of skin & sweat glands
- Trilobite
 - Extinct small marine creatures that walked along the seafloor and filtered mud to obtain food
 - Eyes were made of calcium carbonate; some had an internal doublet structure that would have provided superior vision with a fixed lens

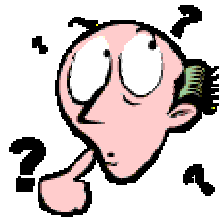


Conclusion

- Evolution has serious moral and theological implications
- Modern scientific data supports the idea for a **creator** more than it does a naturalistic explanation
- Christians need to be prepared to support Biblical evidence for creationism, as well as to refute the case for Darwinian evolution

For next week...

What about...



Evil? The
Crusades? Old
Testament
brutality?