

Scientific Creationism: Basics

Sources

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Scientific Creationism Defined: *“the belief that the account of creation in the early chapters of Genesis is scientifically as well as religiously valid and that it can be supported by scientific evidence apart from scriptural authority.”* - Dictionary.com

Five Main Topics of Discussion

1. Cosmology - the branch of philosophy dealing with the origin and general structure of the universe, with its parts, elements, and laws, and esp. with such of its characteristics as space, time, causality, and freedom.
 - a. Teleonomy – the approach to proving God exists through an examination of and extrapolation from the obvious design inherent in the physical creation.
2. The Origins of Life – an attempt to show through the complexity and improbability of spontaneous creation that life was created through the purposeful intention of the Creator God.
3. Dinosaurs & Man – an examination of the preponderance of evidence supporting the co-existence of dinosaurs and man.
4. The Fossil Record – when examined honestly, it does NOT support the theory of evolution and old earth theories. The phenomena of liquefaction that occurred during the flood is responsible for the layering and sorting effect of sediments and organisms.
5. The Hydroplate Theory – the discussion of compelling evidence that the world has experienced a world-wide flood and the mechanisms involved therein.

Things to Keep In Mind:

Scientific Method is paramount in science – it is the process that science uses to attempt to create an accurate representation of the world. It has four steps:

- 1) Observation and description of a phenomenon or group of phenomena.
- 2) Formulation of an hypothesis to explain the phenomena.
- 3) Experimentation to demonstrate the truth or falseness of the hypothesis.
- 4) Formulation of a conclusion that validates or modifies the hypothesis.

In most cases experimentation will reveal information that will change/modify the original hypothesis and the process begins again. However, in many (if not most) cases crucial evidence is disregarded and the scientific method is ignored.

Observer Bias Effect: *“The observer-expectancy effect, in science, is a cognitive bias that occurs when a researcher expects a given result and therefore unconsciously manipulates an experiment or misinterprets data in order to find the expected result.”*

In other words, as Charles Darwin aptly noted, “the observer is always biased.”

Scientific Creationism: Cosmology & Teleonomy

Cosmology

The Law of Causality (Cause and Effect) is the most basic and fundamental law in all of science.

- Every effect has a cause and vice versa.
- Every cause has an adequate antecedent cause (and adequate explanation for the effects).
- Some entities are contingent (can't account for their own existence) or rely upon outside forces to adequately explain their existence.
 - The Universe is a contingent entity and therefore there are 3 possible answers for its existence:
 - It is eternal and has always existed
 - It is not eternal; it created itself out of nothing
 - It is not eternal; rather, it was created by something (Someone) anterior and superior to itself.
- Many evolutionists suggest that the earth created itself out of nothing. G.K. Chesterton, replied in 1986 about such a nonsensical idea being considered by the cosmological community wrote:
 - ***"It is absurd for the evolutionist to complain that it is unthinkable for an admittedly unthinkable God to make everything out of nothing, and then pretend that it is more thinkable that nothing should turn itself into everything."***

Big Bang Theory

- June 2001 issue of *TIME Magazine* noted that scientists had determined that the Universe is NOT infinite – specifically that it will end (meaning that it had a beginning).
- Dr. Robert Jastrow (leading cosmic evolution scientist and astronomer) admitted that the universe does not explain how it first came to be – therefore it is NOT eternal.
- Jastrow offers three reasons why attempts to prove an eternal Universe failed:
 - 1. The motion of galaxies (most spin in the same direction, and most are moving away from us)
 - 2. The life cycle of stars (science has observed the birth and death of stars and these events do not provide sufficient evidence of an eternal universe).
 - 3. The Laws of Thermodynamics (First Law is called *Conservation* and states that energy can be changed from one form to another, but it cannot be created or destroyed. Second Law is called *Entropy* and states that all things [systems] move to a state of disorder if no energy enters the system).
- February 2001 issue of *Scientific American* made the statement: *"We no longer see a big bang as a direct solution..."* [for the creation of the universe].
- Since the popularization of the "Big Bang Theory" in the late 70's, it has undergone numerous name changes as new information reveals that it is not a viable explanation. For example: *Inflationary Model, New Inflationary Model, Chaotic Inflationary Model, Eternal Inflationary Model*.
 - While the names changed, the theory never really did – for at the core, it relied upon either eternal existence or self-creation.

Teleonomy

The reality of the existence of God can be proven by illustrating that there is order, planning, and design in the many systems of the universe that are indicative of intelligence, purpose, and specific intent on the part of an originating "first cause" (God).

The Universe shows purposeful design – obviously denoting the need for a designer.

Remember the watch argument – if one were to discover a watch lying on the ground and were to examine it, the inherent design would logically lead you to conclude that there was a watchmaker. No one would pick up the watch and say, "Wow! Look at this watch that came about all by itself over millions (or billions) of years through a series of unrepeatable events!" If they did, we would have to seriously question their ability to perceive reality.

What Makes Earth Special?

Earth is a special planet in the universe – it has all the factors necessary for life. The probability of finding another planet in the universe possessing the same factors is 1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000 (or 1×10^{15}). Some of the factors necessary for life are: Plentiful liquid water, Molten Core, Magnetic Field, Large Moon, Correct Type of Star, Atmosphere, Placement within the Galaxy, Correct Distance from the Sun. (MORE INFO ON BACK...)

Three Fundamental Truths

1. The Basic Laws of Science (all fields) are the same everywhere in the Cosmos. ($2 + 2$ is ALWAYS = 4 no matter how far away from earth you get).
2. Unchanging Physical Laws apply everywhere in the Universe.
3. The Factors necessary for life on earth are the same factors necessary anywhere else. (In other words, life on other planets would be based upon the same laws as life on earth – i.e., carbon-based life).

Conclusion

The presence of obvious design in the universe allowing for the existence of complex life forms leads us to the logical deduction that there was/is a Creator.

- The multitude of Factors Necessary for Complex life to exist are often referred to as “Finely Tuned”
- It is equally amazing that the Earth is in the perfect location to allow for Scientific Discovery of the very laws that govern the Universe.
- “The most incomprehensible thing about the Universe is that it is comprehensible.” – Albert Einstein

Scientific Creationism: The Origins of Life

Creation vs Evolution

In discussing the subject of origins, most people you encounter will hold the position that the earth is billions of years old and our existence is due to millions of years of random chance. When engaging such a person in a discussion about evolution, it is important to point out that the need for an explanation of the origin of life. Too often people attempt to explain evolution assuming that it happens without any thought about whether or not evolution could have been the mechanism to bring about life from non-living matter. Try not to discuss particulars until you have dealt with the origins question – it will help you open the mind of the one you are engaging.

Six Definitions of Evolution

To help frame the discussion of evolution, it is good to point out that there are six definitions of evolution and only ONE has ever been observed.

- Cosmic Evolution – the origin of time, space, matter. Big Bang.
- Chemical Evolution – the origin of higher elements from hydrogen. (This is why there is such angst over the discovery of water on Mars).
- Stellar and Planetary Evolution. The origin of stars and planets.
- Organic Evolution. Origin of life. (Our examination will focus on this one.)
- Macro Evolution. Changing from one kind into another.
- Micro Evolution. Variations within kinds (i.e. dogs). Only this one has been observed.
 - The term “Micro Evolution” is a bit misleading as this phenomena has been known for years as “adaptation”.

Organic Evolution

Also known as *macroevolution* or *vertical evolution*. Organic evolution is defined as a naturally occurring, beneficial change that produces increasing and inheritable complexity and is the mechanism responsible for the origin of life.

Basis for Discussion

In order to study the origin of the Universe and specifically Life, we must remember that we cannot speak as first hand observers because *none of us was there*. Thus, any scientific discussion must be based upon certain assumptions, hypotheses, or theories put in place after the fact.

1. An assumption is something taken for granted, and represents a legitimate starting point for an investigation.
2. A hypothesis is merely an educated guess or tentative assumption.
3. A theory is a plausible general principle or set of principles that may be used to explain certain phenomena, and that is supported by at least some documented facts.
4. A fact is defined as “an actual occurrence” or “something that has actual existence.”

Evolution is often touted as a scientific “fact” when it is not. It remains an unproven theory with many, many problems. Evolution cannot be considered a fact because it is based on a number of *non-provable assumptions*. George Kerkut, an evolutionist from Great Britain, listed seven such assumptions; the first two assumptions were:

- (1) Spontaneous generation MUST have occurred
- (2) Spontaneous generation must have occurred ONLY ONCE

Again, Evolution is based upon non-provable assumptions and is therefore NOT a fact!

Mutations

Mutations are often touted as the mechanism for change in evolution. Here are some things to keep in mind as you discuss mutations:

- Mutations presuppose creation (meaning that mutations must occur on living matter and cannot account for the creation of life)
- Mutations are random.
- Mutations are rare, not common.
- Mutations may be good, bad, or neutral.
 - Good mutations are very, very rare (occur less than 1% of the time).
 - Most mutations are harmful.
- Mutations do not result in new genetic information.

Most “examples” of mutations have been shown to be either the result of adaptation or are harmful to the organism in its natural environment.

- Peppered Moths during the industrial revolution (supposedly “mutated” from white to black as the bark of the trees in the area changed from white to black – this “change” was actually due to adaptation because there were always black AND white moths – the white ones were just easier to see and therefore did not have as many chances to reproduce).
- Malaria Resistance in humans brought about by sickle cell anemia (touted as a beneficial mutation – but sickle cell anemia actually kills the person who has it).
- The bottom line is that most mutations, if somewhat helpful, are almost always due to adaptation – and do NOT result in *new* genetic information.

Comparative Arguments and the Case from Homology

While discussing evolutionary theory, one of the most impressive arguments for the theory comes from the realm of comparative sciences or the process of comparing one organism or group with another and documenting the basic similarities. Structures in organisms that resemble other structures in other organisms are said to be *homologous*. The presence of these homologous structures is said to be proof of common ancestry. However, these same structures are also helpful to illustrate a common Designer. For example, most buildings are built in the same way with the same processes going into each – irrespective of the size or purpose of the building and no one would say upon finding an old house next to a skyscraper that the sky scraper came from the old house.

Remember the Big Picture

If you examine only a few examples, the argument from homology seems significant, so be sure to widen the discussion. In summary, adding up all the available data from homology studies makes for an even weaker evolutionary argument than already is present when examining just a few of the data on this topic.

Comparative Embryology

Remember Ernst Haeckel (HAY-kle). Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919)

- Known as the “Disciple of Darwinism in Germany”
- Taught at the University of Jena in Germany
- Popularized the “theory of embryonic recapitulation” or as he referred to it, the great “Biogenetic Law”
- NOT the same thing as the Law of Biogenesis that correctly states that all life comes from previous life of its kind.
- Haeckel suggested that the successive stages of human embryonic development repeat the evolutionary stages of our animal ancestry.
 - The catch-phrase he developed to popularize the idea was that “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny”.
 - Ontogeny – the development of one
 - Recapitulates – repeats
 - Phylogeny – the development of race
 - In other words, the human embryo passes through all stages representing its ancestors – from the one-celled stage to the human. Seeing a human embryo grow would therefore be like watching a silent, moving picture of all our ancestral history.
- The problem is that Haeckel FAKED his research and altered some of his colleagues’ work to make it fit within his preconceived idea.
 - Was found out to be a fraud as early as 1932.
- Even with this revelation – his drawings and theory still appear in high school and college text books!

Irreducible Complexities

An irreducible complexity is a system that cannot be broken down into simpler components (or made less complex) and still function. Remember the mouse trap – it is a simple example of such – without ALL the parts functioning correctly, it ceases to work. These “irreducibly complex” systems are numerous in biology and illustrate how “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14) we are. Examples of these systems are:

- Bacterial flagellum – amazingly efficient, complex and is made of parts used no where else in the bacteria
- Blood clotting cascade – extremely complex and if all the functions are not in place, the organism dies

Probability of One Rung of DNA Being Created by Accident

- 1 in 10^{87} chance that one rung could be formed by accident (Dr. Wilder-Smith of the Origins videos)
- 10^{25} seconds in 4.5 billion years
- Divide 10^{87} by 10^{25} and you get 10^{67} – giving you the number of times an experiment would have to be run each second in order to create just ONE rung on the DNA strand.
- FYI – anything with a probability of 10^{52} is considered an impossibility.

Scientific Creationism: Dinosaurs & Man and The Fossil Record

Dinosaurs & Man

A mention of dinosaurs will invoke thoughts of huge lizards that lived and died long before man ever walked the earth – even amongst those who consider themselves “Christians”. However, the evidence suggesting that man and dinosaurs co-existed is quite intriguing. For instance...

- Dinosaurs are mentioned in the Bible – see Job 40:15-24; 41:1-34
 - However, the term “dinosaur” was not invented until 1842 – so the Bible would not use that word.
- The Doheny Expedition of the late 1800’s was led by Dr. Samuel Hubbard of the California Museum of Natural History in the Hava Supai Canyon in Arizona. On the walls of the canyon were drawings of an elephant, an ibex, a dinosaur and other animals. Concerning the drawings, Dr. Hubbard said this:
 - “The fact that some prehistoric man made a pictograph of a dinosaur on the walls of this canyon upsets completely all of our theories regarding the antiquity of man... The fact that the animal is upright and balanced on its tail would seem to indicate that the prehistoric artist must have seen it alive (1925).”
- Ica Burial Stones depicting dinosaurs, some with dinosaurs and man – about 350 of them have been discovered and dated to have been created around A.D. 500 – 1,500. Each are accurate representations and show skin textures that were formerly unknown until the 1990’s.
- Natural Bridges National Monument is located in extreme southeastern Utah. This area boasts of three natural bridges, one of which has a petroglyph (image etched in stone) depicting a dinosaur. The petroglyph is extremely weathered and when compared to the other drawings in the immediate vicinity, there is no question that the drawings were made at the same time. Although the exact dating of the drawings is unknown, they were certainly made before modern times – well before dinosaur fossils were ever discovered and recorded.
- Dinosaurs in an Ancient Cambodian Temple. The temple was built during the 12th century and “rediscovered” during the 16th. On the columns are carvings of various animals including parrots, monkeys, deer, water buffalos and a stegosaurus.
- Dinosaur Art From Ancient Tombs In Peru housed tapestries and vases depicting dinosaurs.
- Yalanji tribespeople of North Queensland Australia told the story of the “Yarru” and described a plesiosaurus – even went so far as to describe in great detail the throat, stomach and intestinal tract.
- Dinosaurs of Acambaro, Mexico. Over 33,500 figurines and artifacts of ceramic and stone (including some in jade) were uncovered. A key feature of this discovery was the fact that many of the artifacts were highly detailed dinosaur figurines. Multiple dating techniques have shown the artifacts to be between 6,400 to 3,500 years old.

The Fossil Record

The Fossil Record is the name of the history of the earth as preserved in the preserved fossils and layers of the earth. Evolutionists claim that the Fossil Record shows a gradual increase in complexity. However, the truth is that there is no such clean and obvious depiction in the fossil record. Problems with the claims of proof of evolution in the Fossil Record begin with...

- The lack of such evidence in the Fossil Record. Charles Darwin noted himself in “*Origin of Species*” that “*Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and serious objection which can be argued against this theory*”
- The Cambrian Explosion – is the sudden appearance of complex multicellular animals in the “Fossil Record” that presents a problem for the evolutionary model. Every major body plan appeared in this period as well as every phyla being represented.
- “*The Cambrian explosion is not just a case of all the major animal phyla appearing at about the same place in the geologic column. It is also a situation of no ancestors to suggest how they might have evolved.*” Ariel Roth (Ph.D. Zoology), *Origins*, 1998, p. 184.
- The Coelacanth. Evolutionists in the past used the Coelacanth as evidence fish were evolving into amphibians. The claim was that the front fins were “evolving” into legs. However, even though the Coelacanth was supposed to be extinct for 70 million years, living coelacanths were found and their front fins were still fins, not legs as they supposed they would be. This is another misinterpretation of the fossil record by evolutionists.
- Given the “fact” of evolution, one would expect the fossils to document a gradual steady change from ancestral forms to the descendants. But this is not what the paleontologist finds. Instead, he or she finds gaps in just about every phyletic series.” - Ernst Mayr (Professor Emeritus in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, Hailed as the Darwin of the 20th century), *What Evolution Is*, 2001, p. 14.
 - The intermediates needed to support evolution do not exist.
 - Evolution is a matter of faith.