

# Did We Really Evolve?



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*The following notes contain some of the material presented in the series "Is God for Real?"*

How did life begin on planet earth? How did we, as human beings get here? There are two basic theories competing for the origin of life on earth. One theory says that chance, and random processes over millions of years produced the vast array of life forms we see today. The other proposition is that life was created by an intelligent being who designed the world we live in and the creatures in it. The Bible expands on this second view, teaching us that God created the world, but since that time something has gone terribly wrong, and the world we now see is but a shadow of the beautiful creation He made in the first place.

So, which of these two theories can we believe; creation or evolution? Some say that evolution is science, but creation is just religion. It is interesting to note what one scientist said in regard to evolution. 'In fact, evolution became in a sense a scientific religion; almost all scientists have accepted it and many are prepared to 'bend' their observations to fit in with it.' *H.S. Lipson, FRS, Professor of Physics, University of Manchester.* Here Lipson recognises that when it comes to origins none of us were there and so, whether we are creationists or evolutionists we have beliefs about what happened in the past.

Much of evolutionary belief depends upon a huge time scale for the age of the earth in order for the various life forms to have had time to evolve. We often read or hear about rocks or fossils that have been found which have been dated to 'millions of years.' But are these dates absolute? Note the following statement by one scientist, "The age of our globe is presently thought to be some 4.5 billion years, based on radioactive rates of uranium and thorium. Such "confirmation" may be short-lived, as nature is not to be discovered quite so easily. There has been in recent years the horrible realization that radio decay rates are not as constant as previously thought, nor are they immune to environmental influences, and this could mean that the atomic clocks are reset during some global disaster, and events which brought the Mesozoic (period) to a close may not be 65 million years ago but, rather, within the age and memory of man." *Frederic B. Jueneman, FAIC, 'Secular Catastrophism' Industrial Research and Development, p. 21.*

William Stansfield PhD adds, "It is obvious that radiometric techniques may not be the absolute dating methods that they are claimed to be. Age estimates on a given geological stratum by different radiometric methods are often quite different (sometimes by hundreds of millions of years). There is no absolutely reliable long-term radiological "clock". The uncertainties inherent in radiometric dating are disturbing to geologists and evolutionists." *William D. Stansfield, Ph.D. Instructor of Biology, p. 84.* Many assumptions are made when dating rocks through the radio metric dating methods, so not all scientists believe that the rocks are millions or billions of years old.

In the Bible God asks Job, 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' (Job 38:4). No human was witness to God's acts of creation. We accept them by faith based on evidence. There are many good evidences for a young age of the earth, consistent with the biblical record. In addition, the recent discovery of the incredible complexity of life leads many to conclude that even if there were billions of years of time, life still wouldn't have a chance of developing in an evolutionary fashion. "Events which need an infinitely longer time than the estimated duration of the Earth in order to have one chance on the average to manifest themselves, can it would seem, be considered as impossible, in the human sense." *Pierre Lecomte du Nouy, Physiologist, 'Human Destiny.'*

In regard to this incredible complexity of life, Michael J Behe writes, "In the face of the enormous complexity that modern biochemistry has uncovered in the cell, the scientific community is paralysed. No one at Harvard University, no one at the National Institutes of Health, no member of the National Academy of Sciences, no Nobel prize winner - no one at all can give a detailed account of how the cilium, or vision, or blood clotting, or any complex biochemical process might have developed in a Darwinian fashion. But we are here. Plants and animals are here. The complex systems are here. All these things got here somehow: if not in a Darwinian fashion, then how?" Prof. Michael J Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*, p 187. Another scientist who now sees serious problems with evolution is Michael Denton, who writes, 'While most evolutionary biologists who have written recently about evolution concede that the problems are serious, nearly all take an ultimately conservative stand, believing that they can be explained away by making only minor adjustments to the Darwinian framework... In this book I have adopted the radical approach. By presenting a systematic critique of the current Darwinian model, ranging from palaeontology to molecular biology, I have tried to show why I believe that the problems are too severe and too intractable to offer any hope of resolution in terms of the orthodox Darwinian framework, and that consequently the conservative view is no longer tenable.'" *Michael Denton, Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, Adler & Adler, Publishers Inc., p. 16*

Even Charles Darwin recognised the challenge that design presented to his theory. He wrote, "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree." *Charles Darwin, The Origin of Species, p.167*. Perhaps the psalmist summed it up best 3,000 years ago when he said, 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made' (Psalm 139:14). When we consider the human body and other wonders of creation we can appreciate the great power and beauty of the God who created them.

The famous British journalist and philosopher Malcolm Muggeridge, commenting on the theory of evolution said, 'I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books of the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.' *Malcolm Muggeridge, Pascal Lectures, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada*.

Science is continually changing as more evidence is discovered. The story next year will be different to the story this year. But if God really does know everything to begin with, shouldn't He be able to share with us the real origin of life on earth? As science progresses it continues to discover things already revealed by the creator. Dr Robert Jastrow put it this way, "At this moment it seems as though science will never be able to raise the curtain on the mystery of creation. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance: he is about to conquer the highest peak: as he pulls himself over the final rock he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries." *Dr Robert Jastrow, 'God and the Astronomers,' p.116*. In Revelation 4:11 the Bible declares that God is worthy of worship because He is the creator. Not only that, He also offers us the chance of everlasting life. The good news is that we can trust God as our creator, and we can trust Him with our eternal destiny as well.

*If you would like to know more about this subject, or others in the series, 'Is God for Real?' then please contact one of our staff and they will be happy to help you.*