

STONES AND BONES

Powerful evidence against evolution

Carl Wieland

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The help of the following scientists in checking the text of this booklet (or an earlier version) is greatly appreciated. In alphabetical order:

- Dr Don Batten (biology)
- Dr Len Morris (physiology)
- Dr Jonathan Sarfati (physical chemistry)
- Dr Andrew Snelling (geology)
- Dr Tas Walker (geology, engineering)

Isn't evolution science, and creation just a religious belief?

If this common idea were true, why would so many highly qualified scientists today accept the direct, recent creation of a functioning world (just as it says in Genesis, the first book of the Judeo-Christian Scriptures)? And why would they reject evolution (the idea of slow self-transformation of all things from extremely simple beginnings) and its stable-mate, vast ages of time?

The modern creation movement is a rapidly-growing minority. In the US alone, it is conservatively estimated that there are upwards of 10,000 professional scientists (the vast majority not officially linked to creation organizations) who believe in biblical creation. The Korea Association of Creation Research has a membership of hundreds of scientists with at least a Master's or Ph.D. degree in some area of science, which includes dozens of full-ranking university professors.



This tract, available for free download from creation.com (or purchase in bulk), features just some of the many highly qualified scientists alive today who believe in biblical creation, covering fields such as astronomy, molecular biology, geophysics, nuclear physics, zoology, plate tectonics and more.

Almost all branches of modern science were founded, co-founded, or dramatically advanced by scientists who believed in the biblical account of special creation and the worldwide Flood of Noah.

But science ... ?

Science is a wonderful tool. But the sort of science which has had so many impressive achievements in our modern world is quite different from the science that seeks to investigate the past. The science that put men on the moon is all about the laws by which our world operates *in the present*. It relies on being able to measure or watch something happen,

and being able to check on these observations at any time by repeating them. Of necessity, the sort of science which tries to establish what happened in the unrepeatably past is quite different.

Think of the work of a detective, or a forensic scientist, who can carefully gather and measure the ‘clues’, but must then *interpret* them to try to fit them into some sort of a *story*. The same ‘facts’ can fit many different stories, and a lot depends on the beliefs, biases and underlying assumptions of the investigator. Even if, for example, reptiles *did* change into birds millions of years ago, as evolutionists allege, the ‘scientific method’ most of us were taught at school could never be applied to test this idea, because it was not observed happening. If you *could* somehow turn a reptile into a bird today, even that wouldn’t prove it happened millions of years ago. Equally, you can’t insist that God should repeat the miraculous creation of many groups of birds and reptiles, programmed to reproduce after their kind, just so you can watch it.

Both are ideas held *on faith*; each belief system (evolution or creation) offers arguments and evidences to bolster that faith. Both systems have the same facts, the same observations. Creationists maintain that theirs is a *reasonable and logical* belief system, backed up by the weight of evidence observable in the *present*.

Creationist scientists don’t have all the answers

There are unsolved problems and unanswered questions for those holding to the creation framework, but the same is true for evolution. Billions of tax dollars are spent each year trying to solve evolution-related questions; a pittance by comparison is spent on real creationist research.

Nevertheless, some of the seemingly difficult problems have been resolved through research by creationists in the past few years. (In the process, some previous creationist ideas and suggestions put forward in response to such problems have had to be revised or abandoned, which is normal in science.)

By evolution, we mean the non-provable (i.e. religious) belief that all things have made themselves by means of their own natural properties, with no supernatural input. Chaos has become cosmos, all by itself; particles have given rise to planets, palm trees, pelicans and people, with no help from ‘outside’ of the properties of matter and energy. Theories of *how* this may have happened (i.e. the mechanisms of evolution) may come and go, but the underlying belief that it *did* somehow happen is an article of unshakable faith for many today.

Some people try to involve a ‘god’ in such a process, but mostly, evolutionary theorists strongly reject all suggestions of any intelligent direction. Even many academic ‘theistic evolutionist’ scientists (who claim to believe in both evolution and a god) insist that the process was entirely natural. This evolutionary ‘creation process’ supposedly took place over billions of years in which countless creatures struggled, suffered and died, with the strong ruthlessly wiping out the weak at many points.

Why does it matter?

1. Evolution justifies atheism

Everyone who insists there is no God relies upon evolution to explain nature without a designer. It is the necessary foundation for many religious world-and-life views such as atheism, agnosticism and the associated secular humanism with its motto: ‘Since nobody made us, nobody owns us, so there’s nobody to set the rules except us’. There is no logical reason to be bound by the biblical commandment not to steal, for example, if other parts of the Old Testament are rejected as cultural myths.

2. Opposite to Christianity

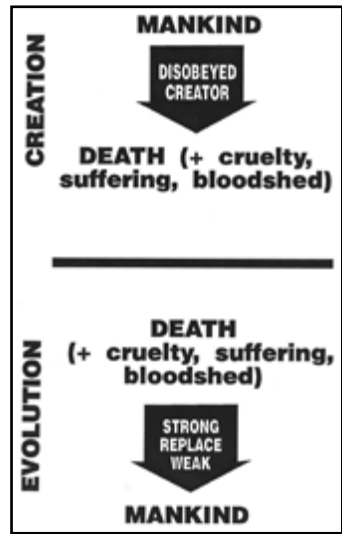
Running right through the entire Bible (which Christians claim is a reliable revelation from the Creator Himself) is the theme that the God who consistently reveals Himself therein made a *good* world (no death, struggle, violence, cruelty or bloodshed). This entire universe has been *curled* by God (Genesis 3; Romans 8) as a consequence of the rebellion (sin) of the first man, Adam, against his Maker.

However, the entry of death and suffering etc. is only a temporary intrusion, as this world will be *restored* (Acts 3:21)—not back to billions of years of death, cruelty and bloodshed, but to a sinless, deathless state, which is how it began.

Jesus Christ, the Creator made flesh (the “last Adam”), shed His innocent blood in death to redeem/restore not only those of sinful humanity who believe, but ultimately to liberate the whole universe from this Curse of death and bloodshed triggered by the rebellion of the first Adam.

If the evolutionary story were true, the whole point of this Gospel (‘good news’) message would be lost, because Adam’s predecessors would then have been clawing or clubbing each other to death in a world of bloodshed. It would also mean that the idea of a real, space-time Fall of Adam with the associated Curse on creation was a myth.

The truth of the *good news* about Jesus Christ (that people can be eternally restored to fellowship with their Creator) is utterly dependent upon the truth of the *bad news* of how our ancestor Adam rebelled, breaking that original harmony between God and man. (1 Corinthians 15:21–22 links the Gospel inexorably to Adam’s bringing of death: “*For since by [a] man came death, by [a] man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*”) Overall, doubting Genesis has caused huge numbers of people to doubt the rest of the Bible.¹



But how do we know that Genesis was meant to tell us that things were really made in six Earth-rotation days—couldn’t there be some other meaning?

If we wish to be honest, it is no longer possible to suggest that perhaps Genesis was *meant* to be something other than real, true history. According to one of the world’s leading Hebrew scholars,² all world-class university professors of Hebrew he knows of are unanimous that Genesis 1–11 was written to tell us of a real, recent creation of all things in six ordinary days and a globe-covering catastrophic Flood.

1 Some Christians try to maintain belief in ‘millions of years’, while at the same time rejecting evolution in favour of ‘intelligent design’ or ‘progressive creation’ (God created in ‘batches’ over billions of years). This juggling act generally fails to impress the very people, educated non-Christians, whom they are trying to reach. Moreover, it charges God with sanctioning millions of years of disease and untold bloodshed, calling it all “very good” at the end of creation. It also contradicts Jesus Christ’s statements that people were there at the beginning of creation, not billions of years after its beginning (Mark 10:6, Matthew 19:4). Romans 1:20 also indicates that people have been around to see God’s power, manifested in the things He has created, since “the creation of the world”.

2 James Barr, Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, who does not believe in the literal truth of Genesis. See *Creation* 19(1):23–25, 1996; creation.com/sixdays.

That does not mean such professors necessarily *believe* it, just that the language of Genesis tells us that the writer could not have had any other intention. It clearly was written to mean what it says, which is what has always been obvious to every 10-year-old. Some other parts of the Bible are clearly written as allegory, or poetry, or parable, but not Genesis.

Let's be frank—other ideas about the meaning of Genesis (e.g. gap theory, 'long days', etc.) did not arise from the Bible, but from trying to make the Bible somehow fit with *other beliefs* (such as the idea of long geological ages).

Just a moment

If there was no death and bloodshed before Adam, you might ask, what about those water-deposited rock layers around the world, containing the buried remains of billions of *dead* things, which often show signs of violence, cancer, etc.?

In reply, isn't that the sort of thing you would *expect* if the Bible is right about the destruction of the whole Earth by water—Noah's Flood—*after* Adam? The fossils actually show signs of rapid burial, not slow and gradual processes as most people believe. For example, there are countless millions of well-preserved fossil fish, even showing scales, fins, etc. In nature, a dead fish is quickly torn apart by scavengers and decomposes readily. Unless the fish were buried quickly, and the sediments (e.g. mud, sand) hardened fairly rapidly, such features would not be preserved.



Mother ichthyosaur (an extinct marine reptile) fossilized in the process of giving birth. Such well-preserved features could not have come from mother and baby lying on the ocean floor through countless ages of slow processes.

Photo: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart.

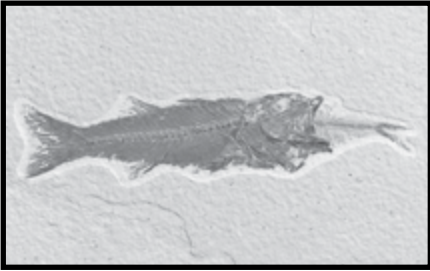
But didn't coal form slowly in swamps over millions of years?

The evidence points overwhelmingly to the *rapid* formation of coal as vast forests were uprooted and deposited, then rapidly buried. At Yallourn, in Victoria (Australia), there are huge brown coal beds containing large numbers of logs of pine trees, of types which today don't grow in swamps.

Sorted, thick layers of up to 50% pure pollen over vast areas unmistakably

Stones and Bones

Photo: public domain via nps.gov



Above: This fish was buried so quickly it didn't even finish its lunch.

Photo: Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Above: Dead jellyfish literally melt away in days. The layer of sandstone near Ediacara in South Australia, in which there are millions of such soft-bodied fossils, extends for thousands of square kilometres. This whole layer had to have formed in a day or two, with water-borne sand burying these creatures and hardening rapidly.

Photo: Steve Minkin



Above: If the layers through which such fossil tree trunks penetrate took long ages to form on top of one another, why is the top not rotted away? This sort of (polystrate) fossil is commonly found in association with coal seams.

show the water-borne nature of these brown coal beds. Also, many southern-hemisphere coal deposits show no sign of anything which could represent the fossil 'soil' in which the forests allegedly grew.³

Researchers at Argonne National Laboratory (USA) have shown that high-grade black coal results from the following procedure. Take lignin (the main component of wood), mix it with some acid-activated clay and water, and heat all this at only 150°C in an air-free sealed quartz tube. Geologically this is not very hot at all; in fact, there is nothing exceptional or 'unnatural' about any ingredient. The process does not need millions of years, either, just 4–36 weeks!⁴

3 The so-called 'root soils' of northern-hemisphere coals show overwhelming evidence that the stigmatic 'roots' were actually floating in water, not growing in a soil. See Wieland, C., Forests that grew on water, *Creation* 18(1):20–24, 1995; creation.com/floatingforests.

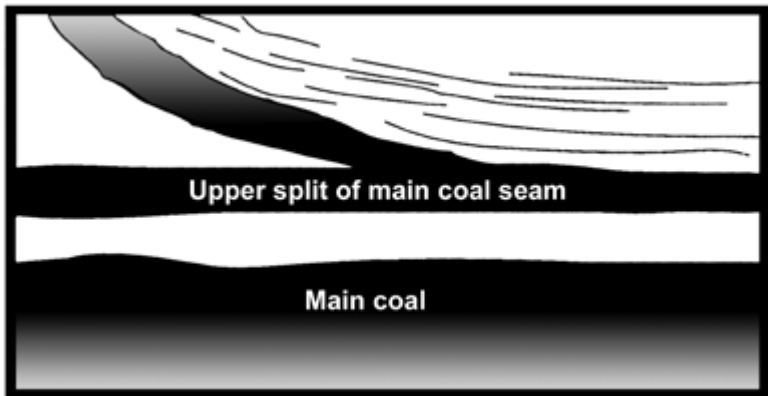
4 *Organic Geochemistry* 6:463–471, 1984.

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Coal seams are known which fork (see diagrams below and overleaf); others connect with each other in a ‘Z’ formation. In his 1907 report, famous Australian geologist Sir Edgeworth David described upright coalified tree trunks (like the polystrate fossil shown on page 8) between black coal seams at Newcastle (Australia). Their lower ends were embedded in one coal seam, and then the trunk went right through the intervening strata to be within the coal seam above!

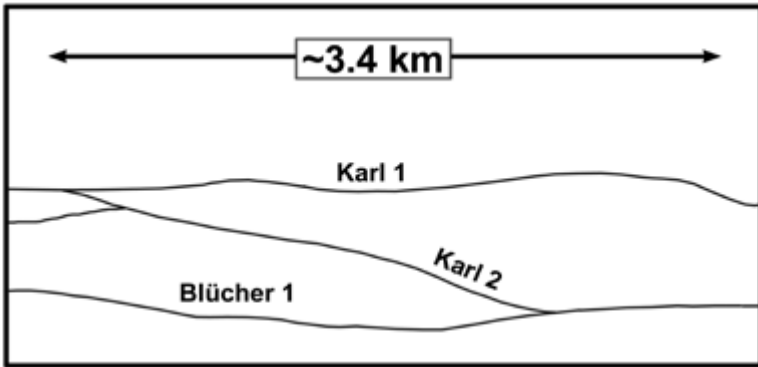
Think of trying to explain any of this by means of slow growth processes in two separate swamps, separated by vast time periods. It is clear that the ‘slow and gradual’ bias has prevented the obvious explanation for the origin of coal—rapid burial of catastrophically ripped-up vegetation by massive watery catastrophe.⁵

Moving water, especially a lot of it, can rapidly perform an enormous amount of geological work which most people think must take millions of years. The photo on page 11 shows about 8 m (25 ft) of layered sedimentary rock built up in one afternoon! This was in association with the upheaval caused by the 1980 eruption of Mount St Helens in Washington State, USA. When this mountain blew its top (and following subsequent eruptions), there were landslides, mud-flows and other sedimentary phenomena—over 180 m (600 ft) of layered sedimentary rock has built up since the initial explosion.⁶



Forking in coal seam (drawn from photo [fig. 8] in Cross, A.T., *The Geology of the Pittsburgh Coal*; pp. 32–111 of *Proceedings of the Second Conference on the Origin and Constitution of Coal*, Crystal Cliffs, Nova Scotia, 1952).

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- 5 See the video download *Raging Waters*, creation.com/s/35-6-524, for many detailed evidences of catastrophism.
- 6 See the DVD *Mount St Helens: Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe*, creation.com/s/30-9-620.



Z-shaped coal seam connections in Germany (Raum Oberhausen-Duisburg) after Bachmann 1966 (courtesy Dr Joachim Scheven). How could these layers possibly represent swamps separated by millions of years?

In the same state are the Channelled Scablands, which most experts now acknowledge were carved by massive Ice Age ‘damburst’ flooding. Many experts think that the Grand Coulee (pictured page 11), a gorge 80 km (50 miles) long, 1.5–10 km (1–6 miles) wide, and 275 m (900 ft) deep, was carved through solid granite by a flood or floods from the same lake system.

Some geologists (including of the orthodox ‘millions-of-years’ variety) are now saying that the Grand Canyon was formed catastrophically in a similar way and was not the result of the Colorado River’s carving it out slowly over millions of years.

The year-long, mountain-covering Flood of Noah was associated with global upheavals rending the earth’s crust such that water (and inevitably some magma) was bursting forth for months (the breaking up of the “fountains of the great deep” in Genesis 7:11). Such an awesome catastrophe would do an unimaginable amount of geological work.

Do the fossils show evolution?

Darwin indicated, quite correctly, that if his theory were true, there should be very large numbers of ‘in-between types’ found as fossils. If the forelimb of a reptile, for instance, has turned into the wing of a bird, why don’t we find a series of fossils showing these stages—part-limb, part-wing; or part-scale, part-feather—one gradually giving way to the next?

Darwin said that the absence of such intermediates was the “most obvious and serious objection” against his theory. One hundred and twenty years later,

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Photo: Dr John Morris



Above: Grand Coulee Gorge
Right: Layers at Mt St Helens

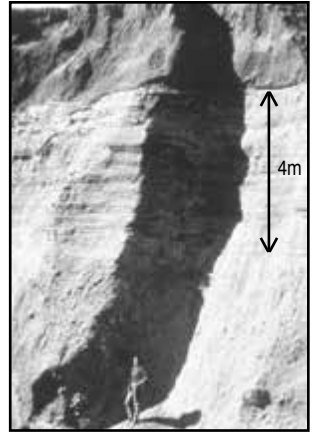


Photo: Dr Steve Austin

Dr David Raup, the head of one of the great museums in America, said that the situation concerning missing links “hasn’t changed much” and that “we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time”.⁷

The late Dr Colin Patterson was Senior Paleontologist at the British Museum (Natural History)—an evolutionist and a fossil expert. He wrote a significant book on evolution; but when someone asked him why he did not show any pictures of in-between (transitional) forms in his book, he wrote the following:

“I fully agree with your comments on the lack of direct illustration of evolutionary transitions in my book. If I knew of any, fossil or living, I would certainly have included them. You suggest that an artist should be used to visualise such transformations, but where would he get the information from? I could not, honestly, provide it, and if I were to leave it to artistic licence, would that not mislead the reader?

“I wrote the text of my book four years ago [in the book he does talk of his belief in some transitions—author]. If I were to write it now, I think the book would be rather different. Gradualism is a concept I believe in, not just because of Darwin’s authority, but because my understanding of genetics seems to demand it. Yet [famous fossil expert Stephen J.] Gould and the American Museum people are hard to contradict when they say there are no transitional fossils. As a palaeontologist myself, I am much occupied

7 Raup, D.M., Conflicts between Darwin and paleontology, *Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin* 50(1):22–29, 1979; p. 25.

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with the philosophical problems of identifying ancestral forms in the fossil record. You say that I should at least ‘show a photo of the fossil from which each type of organism was derived.’ I will lay it on the line—there is not one such fossil for which one could make a watertight argument.”⁸

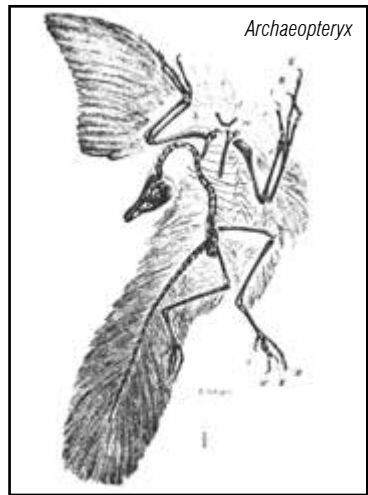
So what do we have? Evolution-belief anticipates millions of in-between forms. Some evolutionists claim there are some—maybe a handful—of such in-between fossil types. Other leading experts have rejected some or all of these.

What is not well known is that the interesting fossil creature *Archaeopteryx*, often used as an example of a transitional form between reptiles and birds (because it shares features found in both classes), shows none of the crucial transitional structures which would strongly argue for ‘transitional’ status. The feathers are fully formed, and the wings are proper wings. It has the backward-facing claw and curved feet characteristic of perching birds. It was most definitely not, as some would reconstruct it, a running feathered dinosaur.⁹

Some living creatures (e.g. the platypus) are also a mosaic of features normally found in different classes. This odd little creature (which has fur as do mammals, a beak as do ducks, a tail as do beavers, venom glands as do snakes, lays eggs as do reptiles, yet suckles its young) is a good example of such mosaics. It is not, however, a ‘half-way house’ between any two of the creatures listed.

This general absence of in-between forms also applies to so-called ‘human evolution’. This might be surprising considering that so many alleged ‘ancestors’ are paraded. It is difficult to track all the varied and changing claims, but the past century has shown that each widely trumpeted ‘ancestor’ claim is quietly discarded—but only when some new candidate(s) can be found to replace it.

Today, much is made of the australopithecines/habilines—a broad group of which the famous *Lucy* fossil is



8 Patterson, C. Personal correspondence to Luther Sunderland, 10 April 1979. Reproduced in *Darwin's Enigma* (Green Forest: Master Books, 1988), pp. 101–102.

9 For more detailed and up-to-date commentary on the alleged dinosaur-to-bird idea, including transitional claims, see creation.com/dinobird.

best known. Dr Charles Oxnard is one of a growing number of evolutionist anatomists who, having painstakingly examined vast numbers of measurements by computerized multivariate analysis (an objective method that does not depend on preconceived beliefs about ancestry), do *not* believe that these creatures are human ancestors.¹⁰

He states that although initially it was thought that they were human-like, or at least intermediate between apes and humans, the reality is that they “differ more from both humans and African apes than do these two living groups from each other. The australopithecines are unique.” Oxnard indicates that the non-ancestor status of these creatures is supported by an increasing number of investigators who are “independent of those representing individuals who have found the fossils.” Recent CAT scans of the bony labyrinth which once housed their organ of balance have shown conclusively that they did *not* habitually walk upright, as many still insist they did. This is consistent with the relatively recent discovery that Lucy’s wrist had a locking mechanism enabling her to knucklewalk, like chimps and gorillas.

What about so-called *Homo erectus*? Well-defined *Homo erectus* skeletal types were most probably true humans¹¹ living after the Flood and expressing bony ‘racial’ variation. Enormous variation is possible between the bones of different types of dogs, such as Chihuahuas and Great Danes. Such variation can be selected for in only a few generations. The ‘selection pressure’ from the rapidly changing environment after the Flood, and the break-up of people (after God’s forced dispersion at Babel) into small, isolated populations gave ideal conditions for the rapid isolation and consequent highlighting of (pre-existing, created) genetic variants. Such ‘racial’ variation could also have included bony features.



The skeleton of the famous ‘Lucy’—regarded as a “remarkably complete” ‘hominid’ skeleton. Her claims (and those of her type) to human ancestry have been discredited by expert anatomists (see text).

10 Charles E. Oxnard, *Fossils, Teeth and Sex—New perspective on Human Evolution*, University of Washington Press, Seattle and London, 1987, p. 227.

11 Not everything that has been labelled *Homo erectus*—sometimes a few scraps of bone—necessarily deserves the title. *Erectus*-type skeletons have been found contemporaneous with those of ‘modern’ types, and some of the *erectus* bony features can be found among living populations.

Compared with the very wide variation in other features in the human race, the skeletal differences between *erectus* and other human skeletons are, after all, not that great. Interestingly, Neandertal types (which have larger brain capacities, on average, than today's populations, and show all the hallmarks of humanity in their artefacts) are now known to have been not just living at the same time as 'modern' types, but also interbreeding with them.

Tools found on an Indonesian island in association with stegodon (an extinct elephant) remains have caused evolutionist Dr Alan Thorne to suggest that these alleged 'prehuman ancestors' had seafaring skills and technology. As far back as 1993, he said, "They're not [i.e. shouldn't be called] *Homo erectus*, they're people."¹²

If one uses the evolutionists' own timescales and criteria for classification, and plots *all* 'hominid' fossil discoveries on a chart, it will readily be seen that the idea of any evolutionary sequence is a shambles.¹³

Do we see evolution happening?

In brief, no. Though we see many changes in living things, none of them is heading in the 'right direction'. To explain: We now know that every living thing contains a program (a set of instructions, like a blueprint or recipe) that specifies

whether it will be an alligator or an avocado tree, for instance. For a human being, it specifies whether that person will have brown or blue eyes, straight or curly hair, and so forth. This *information* is written on long molecules called DNA.¹⁴

Evolution teaches that a comparatively simple creature, like the

Illustrations: Robert Smith



Straight hair or curly hair? Light or dark skin?
The information is written on your DNA.

12 *The Australian*, 19 August 1993. Dr Thorne was then a paleoanthropologist at the Australian National University.

13 See M. Lubenow, *Bones of Contention*, creation.com/s/10-2-173.

14 DNA, as such, is biologically meaningless, just as a jumble of letters carries no information; it is only when the chemical 'letters' that make up DNA are arranged in a specific sequence or order that it carries the *information* which, when 'read' by complex cellular machinery, controls the construction and operation of the organism. This sequence does *not* arise from the intrinsic chemical properties of the substances which make up the DNA, in the same way that ink and paper molecules (or Scrabble® letters) do not spontaneously assemble themselves into a particular message. The specific sequence of any particular DNA molecule occurs only because it is assembled under the 'external' direction of the instructions carried by the DNA of the parent(s).



If today's creatures really had evolved from humbler beginnings, the process would have required a huge net *increase* in DNA information (symbolized here as books).

information-gaining changes occur with such exquisite rarity, if at all, as to be for all practical purposes non-existent. Examples of 'evolution happening' invariably involve a decrease of information, i.e. in the wrong direction to support evolution, as we shall see.

one-celled ameba, has become a much more complicated one, like a horse. Even though the simplest-known one-celled creatures are mind-bogglingly complex, they clearly do not contain as much information as, say, a horse. They don't have instructions specifying how to make eyes, ears, blood, brains, hooves, muscles. So to go from A to B in the diagram would require many steps, each involving a net **increase in information**. That means we need new information, coding for new structures, new functions—new, useful complexity.

If we saw those sorts of information-increasing changes happening, in reasonable number, this could be used as support for the notion that fish may, indeed, change into philosophers, given enough time. In fact, however, such

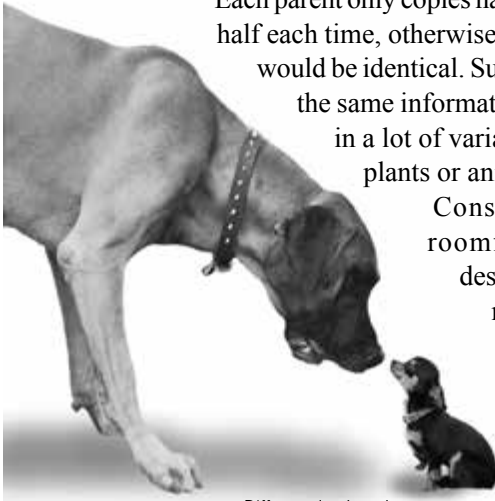
Natural selection is not the same as evolution

Living things are programmed to pass on their information, to make copies of themselves, in a sense. The DNA of a man is copied and passed on via the sperm cells, that of a woman via her egg cells. In this way, the information of a mother and father is copied and passed on to the next generation. Each of us carries inside our cells two parallel long 'ropes' of information, as it were—one from mother, one from father (think of it like a knotted string carrying a Morse code—in the same way, DNA has to be 'read' by the complex machinery of the cell).¹⁵

15 In humans, these 'ropes' are as if 'cut' into 46 pieces called chromosomes, but that's not important here.

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Composite image © Creation Ministries International



Different dog breeds

Each parent only copies half of their information—a different half each time, otherwise all the children in any one family would be identical. Such reshuffling or recombination of the same information in many different ways results in a lot of variation in any population—humans, plants or animals.

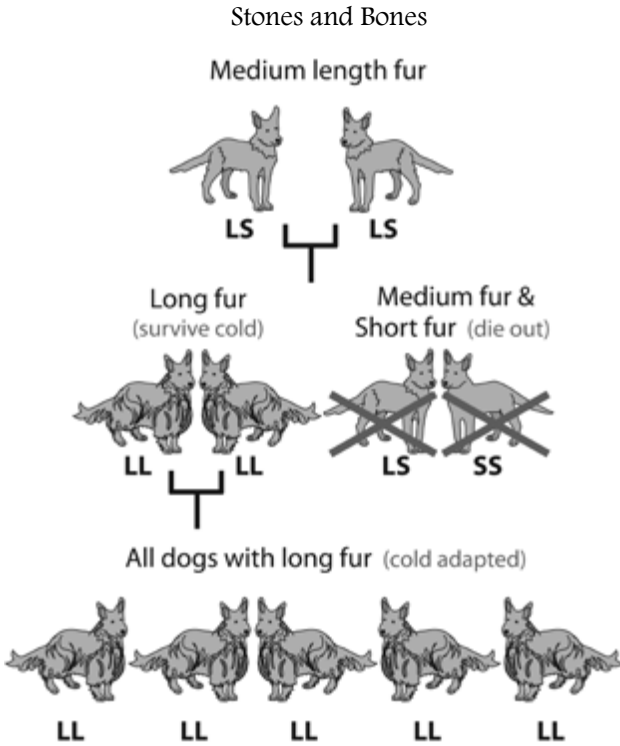
Consider a simplified example—a roomful of dogs which are all the descendants of one pair of dogs with medium-length fur. Some will have fur which is slightly longer, some slightly shorter, than their parents. But this normal process of variation decidedly does *not* involve any new information—the information was already

there in that original pair of dogs. So if a breeder *selects* those which are already longer-haired, then mates them, then chooses the longest-haired of their offspring, and so on, it is no surprise if in time a ‘new’ type of long-haired dog arises, the descendants of which thereafter all have long hair. But *no new information* is involved. The breeder has simply selected the dogs she wants (those which are most ‘fit’ in her view to be allowed to pass on their genes)—and has rejected the rest.

Selection does not change the total length of DNA available to store information. So once the maximum number of ‘long-haired’ genes has accumulated in that line, they have occupied some positions formerly held by ‘short-haired’ genes, which are now absent. So the long-haired variety has less information than its medium-furred ancestors, which had information for both short and long hair. (See diagram opposite.)

‘Nature’ can also ‘choose’ some and reject others. In a given environment (e.g. a very cold region), some (e.g. the long-haired dogs) will be more likely to survive, and so pass on their information, than others. Natural selection can *favour* some sets of information above others, and can *eliminate* some of the information, but it can’t *create* new functionally complex information.

In evolutionary theory, the role of generating new information is given to mutation—random, accidental mistakes that happen as genetic information is copied. Such mistakes do happen; they are inherited, because the next generation is making a copy from a defective copy. So the defect is passed on;



in a subsequent generation another mistake happens, and so mutational defects tend to accumulate. This is known as the problem of increasing mutational load or genetic burden.

There are thousands of such genetic defects known in humans—known by the inherited diseases they cause. These include sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis, thalassemia, phenylketonuria It's no surprise to find that an accidental change to a highly complex code¹⁶ can cause disease and dysfunction.

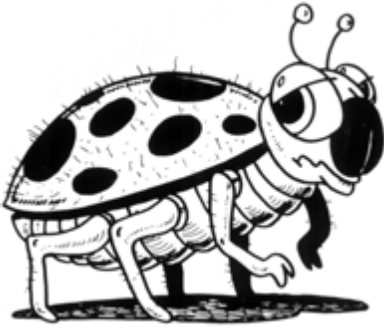
Beneficial mutations?

Evolutionists know that mutations are overwhelmingly either harmful or just meaningless genetic 'noise'. However, their belief system demands that there must have been 'upward' mutations on occasion. But while there are a tiny

¹⁶ These mistakes are not usually totally eliminated by natural selection, by the way, since most only show up as a problem if they are inherited simultaneously from both parents. Thus, one can *carry* these defective genes without suffering from them—in fact all of us carry many such mistakes in our DNA.

handful of mutations known which make it easier for an organism to survive in a given environment, and so by definition are beneficial, none of these are ‘uphill’ in the sense of adding new information. Thus, they do not help the evolutionary cause.

Illustration © Creation Ministries International



Fish in caves survive better if a mutation causes them to lose their eyes, since they are then not prone to disease/injury of their eyes, which are useless anyway without light; wingless beetles do better than winged ones on a windy island in the sea because they are less likely to be blown away and drowned. But the *loss* of eyes, or the *loss* or corruption of the information necessary to manufacture wings is, however you look at it,

a defect—a crippling of a previously functional piece of machinery.¹⁷

Such defects, though ‘beneficial’ in a purely survival sense in some particular environment, beg the question—where do we see any example of real, upward increases in information; new coding for new functions, new machine programs, new useful structures? It’s no use turning to insecticide resistance in insects—in almost every case¹⁸ the information for resistance was there in a few individuals in the population *before* the sprays were even invented.

When the non-resistant mosquitoes in a population are killed by DDT, for instance, and the population breeds up again from the survivors, some of the information carried by those in the (now-dead) majority is not present in the surviving minority, and so is *lost forever* to that population.¹⁹

17 This is also true for sickle cell anemia, a prime example evolutionists use to show ‘beneficial mutation’; although carriers are less prone to malaria, they have inherited a damaged gene which is no longer able to make anything other than a crippled form of hemoglobin. If inherited from *both* parents, it is a potentially lethal disease.

18 See Francisco Ayala’s article, ‘The Mechanisms of Evolution’, *Scientific American* **239**(3):48–61, September 1978.

19 This is true for much antibiotic resistance in bacteria as well. The information coding for resistance may be transferred from other bacteria; even from a different species. In a few cases, mutation can enhance resistance. For example, a less efficient membrane transport mechanism means certain types of antibiotics are not taken into the bacterium as readily. That such mutants are inferior overall is demonstrated by the fact that when the antibiotic selection pressure is removed, the population rapidly shifts back to the ‘non-resistant’ type. There is also at least one example of a similar situation for insecticide resistance caused by mutation.

PEPPERED MOTHS—AN ACKNOWLEDGED FRAUD

England's famous peppered moths, shown resting on tree trunks.

The standard story: Darker tree trunks from pollution meant that dark moths, now better camouflaged against being picked off by marauding birds in daylight, increased in proportion to the lighter form. This was long touted as evolution's prize exhibit, even though the story only demonstrated natural selection, without any new information. However, even this has now been largely debunked; the moths do not even rest on the tree trunks by day! Dead moths were glued or pinned to the trees to provide the photos that 'proved evolution'.

(See C. Wieland, Goodbye peppered moths: A classic evolutionary story comes unstuck, *Creation* 21(3):56, 1999); creation.com/peppered.



Illustration © Creation Ministries International

When we look at the inherited changes actually happening in living things, we see information either staying the same (recombining in different ways) or being corrupted or lost (mutation, extinction), but we as good as never see anything which could qualify as a real, informationally 'uphill' evolutionary change.²⁰

Think about it

Isn't that exactly what you'd expect? Information science and common sense unite to tell us that when information is transmitted (and that's what reproduction is), it either stays the same or gets less. And meaningless 'noise' gets added.²¹

20 In a complex world, it is to be expected that one will find the occasional mistake which adds a tiny amount of information. Israeli biophysicist Lee Spetner points out in his book *Not by Chance* that evolution theory requires large numbers of such information-adding mistakes to be observable today. This is not the case. See also creation.com/nylon discussing an example some evolutionists use to point to increased information from a mutation.

21 Examples include copying from one audio tape to another repeatedly, or copying generation after generation of a computer program or file. At best, the information stays the same, though with enough time, degradation is inevitable. This reflects the tendency of all systems to spontaneously head to the most probable configurations, which are almost always those of maximum disorder. This tendency is formalized in the famous 'law of decay', the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

Whether in living or non-living things, real information is rarely seen to arise or increase by itself. Therefore, when you consider the world's biota—all its living organisms—as a whole, the total amount of information is decreasing with time, as it is being copied over and over. So if one looks back in time, this information must increase, if anything, as one goes backwards. Since no-one suggests that one can take this process back forever (there were no infinitely complex organisms living an infinite time ago), this points back to a time when this complex information had to have had a beginning.



Photo: Amanda Greenstade

Matter left to itself (as far as real, observational science goes) does not give rise to such information. The only alternative is that at some point a creative mind ‘outside the system’ imposed intelligence onto matter (as you do when you write a sentence) and programmed all the original kinds of plants and animals. This programming of the ancestors of today’s organisms must have been achieved miraculously (supernaturally), since natural law does not create information.

This is quite consistent with the Genesis statement that God created organisms to reproduce “after their kind”. For example, a hypothetical ‘dog kind’, created with a large amount of built-in variation (and no original defects), could vary simply by recombinations of that original information to give rise to wolf, coyote, dingo and so forth.

Natural selection can ‘cull and sort’ this information (but cannot create any more), as we saw in our mosquito example. The differences between the resulting offspring, without any new information being added (and therefore no evolution) can be large enough to warrant them being called different species.

The way in which a mongrel dog population can be thinned out by artificial selection into sub-types (domestic breeds) helps us to understand this. Each sub-type carries only a fraction of the original ‘pool’ of information. That’s why, starting only with Chihuahuas, you will never be able to breed anything like a Great Dane—the necessary information is simply no longer in the population.

In the same way, the original ‘elephant kind’ may have been ‘split’ (by natural selection acting on its created information) into the African elephant, Indian elephant, the mammoth and the mastodon (the last two now extinct) and

Photo: Dennis Swift



The Beresovka Mammoth, St Petersburg Museum

possibly others.²²

It should be obvious, though, that this sort of change is only within the limits of the original information in that kind; this sort of variation/speciation does not offer any way to eventually turn an ameba into an armadillo, since it is not informationally ‘uphill’—nothing is added. Such ‘thinning’ of the gene pool may

be *called* ‘evolution’ by some, but cannot represent the sort of (information-adding) change necessary for the net gain of complexity that molecules-to-man evolutionists claim has happened.²³

What about the similarities in living things?

One would expect a similar design for a similar structure or purpose from the hand of the same Designer. The same is true of the molecular similarities—a chimpanzee is more like us than, say, a bullfrog is, so one would expect this to be reflected in its internal make-up as well, such as the structure of its proteins.²⁴ Incidentally, the common belief that our DNA is some 96–99% identical to that of a chimp is now known to be mythical.²⁵

Similarities, like those shown in the diagram (p. 22) of forelimb bone patterns (this is called ‘homology’) can be explained in two ways—they all had the same ancestor *or* the same Designer. So their existence can hardly be called

22 This is why informed creationists are actually delighted when such speciation (formation of new species) is seen happening very rapidly today—because this is consistent with the short biblical timescale.

23 More than a quarter of a century ago, leading evolutionists already knew that new species can form without any new genetic information being required. See Lewontin, R., *The Genetic Basis of Evolutionary Change* (Columbia University Press), p. 186, 1974.

24 This general principle usually holds true, though there are many exceptions for individual proteins, which are difficult for evolutionists to explain.

25 For several reference articles, search **human chimp DNA** on creation.com.

proof for *either* explanation.

But evolutionists in fact have some big problems here, for there are many creatures in which ‘homologous’ structures arise:

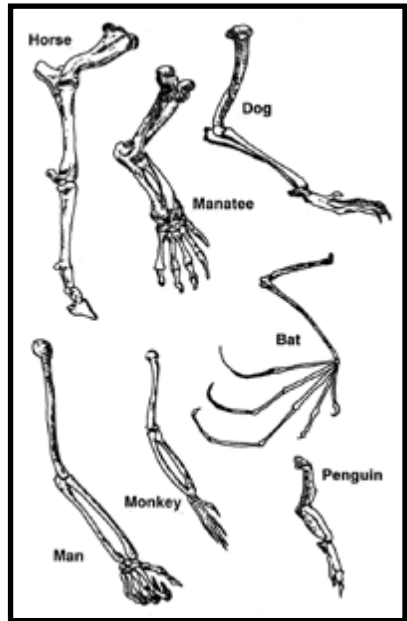
- from completely different parts of the embryo;
- from non-homologous genes, and also
- from different embryonic segments.

These are very major stumbling blocks.²⁶

Notice also that the *hind* limbs of all the creatures whose forelimb bones are shown also have the same basic bone pattern. To be consistent, evolutionists should interpret this to mean that they all evolved from creatures that had only one pair of limbs, which were the common ancestral structures to both forelimbs and hindlimbs.

Of course, most evolutionists would agree that this is nonsense, and would likely argue that this same pattern has evolved in forelimbs as well as hindlimbs because it probably has some unknown bio-engineering advantages. But would that not then be a good reason for it to be the Designer’s choice for the limbs in many different types of creatures?

Molecular biologist Michael Denton (not a creationist, incidentally) has shown that biochemical comparisons between the proteins of different species, far from supporting evolution as is universally believed, make a strong case for the existence of discrete types (or kinds) and offer no evidence for common ancestry.



Evolutionary leftovers?

Hardly anyone uses the ‘leftover organs’ argument any more—probably because there’s been too much embarrassment in the past. Early in the twentieth century, evolutionists confidently stated that we had more than 100 organs which were

26 See Sir Gavin de Beer, *Homology: An Unsolved Problem*, Volume 11 of Oxford Biology Reader Series, 1971.

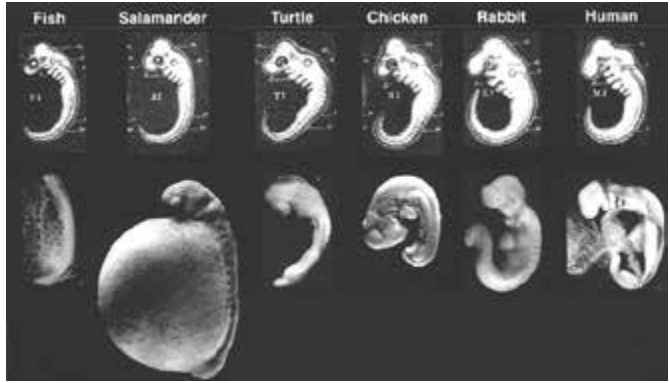
Stones and Bones

Photos by Dr M. Richardson *et al*, There is no highly conserved embryonic stage in the vertebrates: implications for current theories of evolution and development, *Anatomy and Embryology* 196(2):91–106, 1997, © Springer Verlag GmbH & Co., Germany. Reproduced by permission.

Just as office buildings, homes and factories look superficially similar when foundations are poured, the embryos of many different creatures are more similar in their early stages than later.

However, they are much *less* similar than most people think. This is because the drawings (shown in the top row above) by the prominent German evolutionist Ernst Haeckel, relied

upon by countless textbooks and encyclopedias, have misled millions. They have been revealed by an English medical expert as totally fake (see *Creation* 20(2):49–51, 1998). The photographs in the bottom row show what these embryos really look like at the same stage of development.



useless, leftover (‘vestigial’) relics of our evolutionary past. One by one, functions were discovered for these until there were hardly any left.

Even the humble appendix now appears to have a role in fighting infection, at least in early life.²⁷

The belief that the human embryo goes through its alleged past animal stages, with gills etc., was thoroughly discredited a long time ago, but dies hard.²⁸

Human history

In modern times, human populations are seen to be increasing consistently at more than 1% per year. Allowing for disease, famine, wars and so forth, let’s take a much more conservative figure of 0.5% every year. At this rate, it would take only around 4,000 to 5,000 years, starting with eight people at Ararat after the Flood, to reach today’s population.

27 See Glover, J.W., The human vermiform appendix—A general surgeon’s reflections, *Journal of Creation* 3:31–38, 1988; creation.com/appendix2.

28 At one Australian university, the vast majority of fifth-year medical students were found to believe that gills form in the human embryo, even though their third-year embryology textbook says no gills form. (See *Creation* 14(3):48, 1992; creation.com/glover.)



It is well documented that racist attitudes skyrocketed after Darwin published the *Origin of Species*. After all, evolutionists believed that the races had been evolving separately for tens, if not hundreds of thousands of years, so it was logical that this ‘progress’ was happening at different rates; therefore, some races were not as far removed from their animal ancestors as others.

Modern genetics shows, however, that all human ‘races’ are extremely close biologically, consistent with all the racial characteristics having been present in one small ancestral population which was then ‘split’ into subgroups at Babel.²⁹ Many are surprised to learn, for instance, that there is only *one* main skin colouring pigment in humanity. What shade of brown you are depends on how much you produce of this substance, called *melanin*. No-one *really* has ‘white’ or ‘black’ skin—try holding white and black paper against, respectively, a typical European and African person’s skin. Since all of the created characteristics in the human population were present in Noah’s family (and before that in Adam and Eve), we can deduce that these were most probably mid-brown in skin, hair and eye colour.³⁰

Incidentally, the alleged ‘problem’ about Cain’s wife having to be a close relative (Genesis 5:4 indicates that Adam and Eve had daughters, too), far from being a challenge to the truth of Genesis, actually strengthens it. Since mutation-caused defects, occurring after a fault-free beginning, take time to accumulate over generations, Adam’s descendants need not have feared deformities in the offspring of close marriages for many centuries. Even Abraham could marry his half-sister safely. Consistent with all this, God’s law against the intermarriage of *close* relatives (of course, being all descendants of one couple, we all marry our relatives) was not given until Moses’ time, hundreds of years later.³¹

Since human ‘races’ have arisen from the splitting up of the descendants

29 For details, see my book *One Human Family: the Bible, science, race and culture*, creation.com/s/10-2-578.

30 Eye and hair colour is also largely determined by the same pigment, melanin; light scattering off a lesser amount of melanin in the iris gives ‘blue’ eyes.

31 See Who was Cain’s wife? in *The Creation Answers Book*, available from CMI, creation.com/cab.

of those who survived such a colossal catastrophe as Noah's Flood, is it not logical to expect widespread memories of this awesome event in stories and legends? In fact, whether Australian Aborigines, Arctic Inuit or American Indians, virtually every tribe and nation on Earth has such a Flood story. Though distorted by time and retelling, the parallels with Genesis are often remarkable, frequently including such things as the sending out of the birds, the rainbow, the after-Flood sacrifice, and so on.

There are other stories, predating the arrival of missionaries, with intriguing parallels to other events in Genesis prior to (and including) the dispersion at the Tower of Babel, but not about things such as Moses' Red Sea crossing, which happened afterwards.



The ancient Chinese pictogram for 'boat' (above) is a combination of the symbols for a vessel and eight mouths (people).

Doesn't radiometric dating 'prove' an old earth?

There are, in fact, many dating methods which give upper limits to the age of the earth and universe far less than evolution requires. Some point to an age of several thousand years at most. Naturally, evolutionists will automatically, even unconsciously, prefer methods (e.g. most radiometric techniques) which allow enough time to make the transformist belief seem possible. Significantly, the whole 'millions of years' belief system of historical geology was largely established well before radioactivity was even discovered.

Contrary to what is popularly believed, carbon-dating has nothing to do with millions of years (even with the best analytical equipment today, its upper limit is less than 100,000 theoretical years). It is a method which can only date things which still contain organic carbon (like charcoal, wood, non-mineralized bone, etc., but unlike most rocks). When the ^{14}C method and all its assumptions are understood, and are checked against real-world data, it is certainly no threat to the idea of recent creation (see *The Creation Answers Book*—available from CMI). Fossils do not usually contain radioactive minerals, so they cannot generally be dated by radiometric means. What is usually done is to find a

Stones and Bones



Photo: Mt Isa Mines

An array of stalagmites and stalactites inside a mining tunnel at Mt Isa, Queensland, Australia (note, for scale, helmeted miners, bottom right). The tunnel was around 50 years old when this photo was taken.

volcanic flow in association with the fossil layer, and try to date that using methods such as potassium-argon (K-Ar) dating.

Another popular belief is that radiometric methods generally agree with each other and with prior beliefs about the ages of the various rock layers. Perhaps this impression has come about because of an ingrained selection process; as evolutionist Professor Richard Mauger says: “In general, dates in the ‘correct ball park’ are assumed to be correct and are published, but those in disagreement with other data are seldom published nor are discrepancies fully explained.”³²

Carbon-dating of wood *under* lava that erupted from Rangitoto (an island volcano near Auckland, New Zealand) indicates that the eruption was around 200 years ago (the name is said to mean ‘red sky’, suggesting that the

Maoris, who have been there for 1,000 years at the most, witnessed this event). Yet potassium-argon dating of the lava has given ages of up to half a million years! (creation.com/rangitoto) We have published detailed reports in which wood found in ‘250-million-year-old’ sandstone,³³ or in volcanic rock ‘tens of millions of years old’³⁴ has given carbon-dating results of only thousands of years. When creation geologists sample volcanic rock known to have flowed in historic times, sending it to the evolutionists’ own radiometric dating labs, the ‘dating’ almost invariably gives results in the millions of years!³⁵ This strongly suggests that the assumptions behind the dating are flawed.

32 Mauger, R.L., K-Ar ages of biotites from tuffs in Eocene rocks of the Green River, Washakie, and Uinta Basins, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado, *Contributions to Geology* 15(1):17–42, 1977; p. 37.

33 creation.com/sydney-wood

34 creation.com/basalt-wood

35 creation.com/nzvolcano



Photos: Bev Lunt

A waterwheel at Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia, entombed in solid rock in less than 65 years. (See *Creation* **16**(2):25, 1994.)

What about dinosaurs?

You might have wondered why it is that so many cultures have legends of dragons—great, reptilian beasts, featuring horns, scales, and armour plating (and some were said to have flown)—which are remarkably similar to the fossil-based reconstructions of dinosaurs and other extinct reptiles; yet we are told that no-one has ever seen a dinosaur *or* a dragon. The Bible actually mentions dragons (the Hebrew word is *tnn* (*tannin*)—the word ‘dinosaur’ was not invented until the nineteenth century).

If we take biblical history at face value, then the notion of men and dinosaurs having lived together in the past is not so difficult. Many creatures have become extinct—it is even happening today. Extinction is not evolution, and the fossils do not show that dinosaurs evolved from non-dinosaurs.³⁶



Photo © Creation Ministries International

³⁶ There is even a probable description of a dinosaur in the Bible—Behemoth in Job 40. See, What about Dinosaurs? in *The Creation Answers Book*, available from CMI, creation.com/cab.

Biology by chance?

Consider the incredible improbabilities involved in getting the whole evolutionary show started in the first place. People talk as if it were somehow an observed *fact*—but the fact is that no-one really has any sort of scientific explanation for how the complicated, information-bearing molecules required for even the simplest conceivable ‘first life’ could have arisen without outside intelligence. And there are good scientific reasons for believing this to be impossible.

It’s often overlooked that the properties of a cell which make it alive cannot be explained by just referring to the chemical properties of its building blocks. In the same way, the total properties of a car cannot be explained by the properties of rubber, metal, plastic, etc. The idea or concept ‘car’ had to be imposed on to the raw matter from the ‘outside’, as it were. It takes matter/energy plus *information*, which is a non-material property that is carried on matter, but does not reside in matter.³⁷



³⁷ The total properties of this page, which include the ideas it conveys, cannot be reduced to the properties of ink and paper, but to ink + paper + *information*—the exact sequence in which the letters have been arranged on the page. I can transfer the information ‘the cat sat’ from mind to computer disk to pen and ink; though the information is being transferred from one type of matter to another, the matter itself is not what is being transferred. Information as such is not material, though it requires a material substrate.

If all it took were the right ingredients, why don't we see a freshly swatted dead mosquito occasionally spring back to life? Or a sardine from a can? Perhaps it would happen if energy were added? Of course not. It takes much more than energy plus the right ingredients; it requires order, organization—i.e. **information**. Living things get their information from their parent organisms, but we *never* see information arising from raw, unprogrammed matter.

All known life depends on information-bearing polymers. These are long-chained molecules; their function depends on the sequence in which the sub-units are assembled, just like the function of a computer program depends on the sequence of symbols in the program commands.

To explain how such mechanisms evolved, natural selection is of no use, because you have to have the ability for a system to make copies of itself before you can talk about selection. But self-replication requires information-bearing, programmed mechanisms. In other words, one would need information-bearing programs to explain the origin of information-bearing programs; not a good way to start one's theory of origins. The bottom line is that evolutionists have to believe in *information* having arisen by *pure chance*.

Non-creationist Sir Fred Hoyle said in his book *Evolution from Space* that the odds against even *one* such information-bearing molecule, a protein, arising by chance from a random 'soup' are about the same as if the solar system were filled with blind people, shoulder to shoulder, all randomly shuffling Rubik's cubes—and then *all of them*, by pure chance, happened to solve the puzzle at the same time!

Why then do so many people believe strongly in evolution?

There are of course many reasons: social/cultural pressures, not having a chance to consider alternatives, academic upbringing But the Bible indicates that another, deeper reason should also be considered. It refers to the fact that humanity, ever since the rebellion of its first representative, Adam, has had an innate tendency to oppose the Creator's rule over their lives.

In Romans 1, verses 18–22, we read:

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Stones and Bones

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.”

The choice

You can continue to believe in evolution by faith, or choose to believe in creation by faith. Belief in biblical creation is not only scientifically reasonable, but makes much more common sense. Stand back and take a look at this incredibly complex, interacting world, not to mention the astonishing human brain, and think of the belief that all of this came from nothing, ultimately by chance. Surely such a belief involves blind faith, rather than the reasonable faith of the creationist?



Illustration © Films for Christ

If it came about on purpose, due to the deliberate actions of a great intelligence acting, then the only way we could know about the purpose of the universe would be if it had been revealed to us, which it has. The Bible is unique, and claims repeatedly to be the totally reliable communication of the Creator Himself, telling us about that purpose.

Are you concerned or puzzled about death and suffering in a world made by God? Because Genesis is true, we can know why such things exist and know

that they are not a permanent part of creation for all time.³⁸ The ugly aspects of nature are because (as a result of Adam's disobedience) it is a ruined, cursed creation, which nevertheless still shows remnants of its original beauty and total goodness.

The people who have published this booklet are not interested in getting you to join a particular group or church denomination—they want you to face up to the evidence that the world was created *by* Jesus Christ and *for* His purposes (Colossians 1:16). They would urge you to be reconciled to your Creator, the sinless God, the Son, who was made flesh, suffered and died, then rose from the dead.

He bore the penalty for your sins against a Holy God, the Father, whose laws we have all broken, so that you might repent (change your mind about God, change course), and cast yourself on His infinite mercy and grace on the basis of that blood sacrifice on your behalf. The Bible says, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.” Then you will not only have life abundantly now, but eternal life with Him rather than condemnation for eternity (John 3:18).

Why not read the Bible right now? A good way to begin is as follows: read the first 11 chapters of Genesis to understand the true history of the world. Then the gospel of John, followed by the book of Romans. We would encourage you to discuss this issue with the leadership of a reputable, Bible-believing Christian church in your neighbourhood.

If you are a Christian already, we want to urge you to understand the realities behind this crucial spiritual battle of creation/evolution. We see the fruits of the increasing acceptance of evolution all around us, as society more and more accepts the philosophy that ‘no-one made us, so we can do as we please’.

The logical foundations of Christianity are under attack as never before—yet never before have there been so many good, solid answers available for Christians to defend their faith and to use in seeing others won to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We suggest you read the appropriate in-depth material, especially if confronted with an apparent rebuttal of an argument in this necessarily brief booklet.³⁹ See ‘Recommended Resources’ at the rear.

38 On the question of why God allowed sin to enter creation, a suggestion: for there to be the possibility of true love between man and God, mankind had to be created with a free will capable of rejecting that love—i.e. capable of sin (discussed more in my book *One Human Family*, creation.com/s/10-2-578. See also creation.com/creation-perfect).

39 See creation.com/qa, for example.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



- Refuting Evolution
(J. Sarfati, Ph.D.)



- Refuting Compromise - Updated + Expanded
(J. Sarfati, Ph.D.)



- The Creation Answers Book
(D. Batten, Ph.D. ed.)

These will open up a world of further insight and areas to explore, pointing to other resources as needed. All these, plus many more, and a wide range of teaching DVDs, (plus thousands of searchable free articles) are available from our website at

CREATION.com

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for contact details.