



THIRD
**EUROPEAN
CREATION
CONFERENCE**

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Presentation Outlines



Emmanuel Centre
9-23 Marsham Street
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Solid Ground for Sinking Times: The Bible & Creation

By Thomas Fretwell

Synopsis

This talk seeks to highlight the importance of biblical authority and how it relates to the issue of Creation. When biblical authority is jettisoned in favour of another authority the result is often a move further away from the plain teaching of the Bible.

Key Terms:

Biblical Authority: A belief that the Word of God is the final authority in the life of the believer. This applies to matters of faith and practice as well as the history it records.

Deconstruction: A critical dismantling of a person's understanding of what it means to be an evangelical Christian and the beliefs they hold.

Exvangelical: A group of people who once identified as 'evangelical' but have now moved away from common interpretations and beliefs associated with the term *evangelical* – usually undergoing a process of deconstruction.

Main Points

The Bible is unique and orthodox Christianity has affirmed the doctrine of biblical authority

A rejection of the Word of God is given as the reason the nation of Israel fell into apostasy

Jesus warned that rejecting his words is like trying to stand on sinking sand

The contemporary church is making the same error as Israel as it rejects the Bible's authority in favour of man's opinions.

This has led to the Christian deconstruction movement – which often uses evolutionary arguments to reject the biblical doctrine of creation.

We need a return in the Church to the foundational doctrine of biblical authority, Genesis to Revelation

GENETIC INFORMATION AND THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

by Ramón Gómez

INTRODUCTION: The origin of life and the origin of genetic information

PREVIOUS CONCEPTS: Computer-Aided Manufacturing Systems

1. The purpose
2. The Actors
3. The Role of Information

INFORMATION IN THE CELL

1. Storage

The DNA molecule

Genetic Information

The Genetic Code

2. Transmission

Proteins

Genes

Messenger RNA

3. Processing

Amino acids

Protein Manufacture

Sequential Information

The Wonder of the Human Voice

by Andy McIntosh

This presentation shows that our mouths and throats are built with a unique ability for large variations in types sound produced. Unlike chimps, our tongues are very versatile and our oral cavity is built for speech and supremely singing.



The way the Human voice works is a marvel of acoustic engineering. Each person's voice reflects the way first that the original sound is produced at the vocal chords, then in the way the sound waves are channelled through the throat, and finally in the way the sound is released from the mouth where many harmonics are added. High frequency consonants like "b" and "s" and "t" are all formed by the lips and tongue operating in a collaboration which acoustically is very rich indeed. This means that it is very difficult for a non-human primate to emulate and speak in a human-like voice - it does not have the apparatus to do it!

Our voice can be broken into a set of frequencies (or "modes" – sometimes called "modal frequencies"). Each voice will have a different set of frequencies, and a different set of strengths at each frequency. So this brings us to a remarkable fact that each voice is unique. This is also true in the animal world - in a group of overwintering Emperor Penguins an adult female returning across the Antarctic ice with food near the South Pole, will find its male partner and chick, amongst 300,000 others, simply by its unique call! So in humans, though there may be similarities in families, nevertheless, even identical twins will have subtly different voices.

Remarkably each of our voices is unique and One Voice especially is unique such that even the waves and the sea must obey that Voice.

We shall consider:

- 1) The science of the acoustic mechanism in our voices – how does speaking work?

How is this different to chimpanzees and apes?

The oral cavity in humans is rich in possibilities.

We are built to communicate.

- 2) Every voice is unique.

- 3) The wonder of singing.

- 4) The Supremacy of One Voice above all!

Animal Fear and Human Diet Before & After the Flood

By Philip Bell

Proposition

The 'dread of man' was a supernatural intervention that forever altered animal psychology, which is inextricably linked with what people eat and how we obtain our food.

Expository thoughts from Bible scholars

- E.g. H.M. Morris
- E.g. H.C. Leupold

Farming and finding food

- Agricultural revolution
- Hunter gatherers

Ideas of cultural evolution

Altered human diet and animal psychology

Key events: Edenic perfection → Fall + Curse → Out of the Ark (Genesis 9:3)

The biology of animal fear

- Amydala and periaqueductal grey

How might the fear response be lost?

- Unusually tame wild animals
- Suggestion 1—a mutation in a small population broke the neurological transmission of fear
- Suggestion 2—Long-term isolation from human encounters caused fear to wane

Diet in the immediate post-Flood period / The advent of hunting

Dietary issues

- Essentials like vitamin B12

Evolutionary timeline re: human hunting and agriculture / Advent of gardening

Contradictory worldviews

| Timeline | Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| EVOLUTION | Hunter-gathering ca. 1.8 million years ³⁷ | Agriculture 10,000–8,000 BC | Gardening 1,800 BC (Mesopotamia) |
| GENESIS | Gardening 4,000 BC (Genesis 2:8–10, 15) | Agriculture Began in earnest post-Fall ³⁶ (Genesis 2:5, 3:17b–19) | Hunting 2,400 BC, after the Flood (Genesis 9:3, 10:9) ³⁸ |

Life, the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Proof

Vija Soder

A. Introduction. KEY WORD: NONSCIENCE

Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve (RLN) is claimed to be proof of UN-intelligent design

RLN anatomy

diagrammatic

dissection

The UN-intelligent design claim asserted

You can be certain of some things without knowing everything

B. Bananas

Some people are bananas

Impassable chasms between fish and mammals

RLN is itself complex

Two proofs to show that RLN is not an evolutionary legacy

Cranio-vertebral junction and Lizard tail

Coronary arteries

C. Cranio-vertebral junction and Lizard tail

Mammals have completely different skull-spine joints compared to all other vertebrates

Spine (Somite and sclerotome) embryology

Cranio-vertebral junctions could not have evolved

Lizard tail could not have evolved

Mammals are not modified fish

D. Coronary Arteries

Coronary artery embryology

Neural crest cells are fundamental to proper embryological development

Coronary arteries could not have evolved

Mammals are not modified reptiles

E. Conclusion

Counter-intuitively, the Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve is proof of intelligent design

No ancestor-descendant relationship between fish and humans

Prediction versus observation

Making sense of Biology

Nothing in life makes any sense except in the light of embryology and anatomy

Nothing in life makes any sense except in the Light

If there are only two options and one is proved false, the other MUST be true

I am, therefore, **I AM**

Retrieving the Lost Books of God's Revelation: Nature and Scripture

Benno Zuiddam *DTh PhD*

Analysis of our times—Your worldview will determine your values

- Imagine: a world without God, Gen Z disaster among evangelicals, Barna and worldview.

Problem of Christian pilgrims without a roadmap or clear destination.

- How we have lost the roadmap: what has happened to western thinking?

Situation ethics: from Ockam, Abelard to Sartre and Singer

New concept of truth and reality: from Kant and Hegel to neoliberalism.

The unreliable Bible and contemporary Theology.

- We have been there before; you can handle this.

Back to Antiquity. The early Church survived both Celsus and Porphyry.

Christian tradition—Nature and Scripture as sources of knowledge of God and his will

Knowing God's will:

- Light on our path and a destination; Nature and Scripture (St. Paul, Tertullian, Thomas, Calvin, etc.)

1. Nature: creation and preservation, moral structure, Kosmos.

2. Scripture: Bible and witness of truth by Church

The necessity of adopting a Biblical worldview.

Practical challenges—Anchoring in Christ and the pursuit of holiness

- Hebrews 12:14–29
- Challenges of our times
- De Imitatione Christi, Inspiration by heroes

Applying God's roadmap

On the Origin of Languages: Babel contra Evolution

Dr Roger Liebi

Fast Facts on Languages

What does the Theory of Evolution Teach?

What does the Bible Teach?

Language understanding from the beginning

Ability to speak from the beginning

Ability to invent new words

Ability to create poetry (creativity in syntax)

>7000 languages – what about their origin?

The Method of Deduction

Evolutionary Point of View

Biblical Point of View

The Oldest Languages

1st Conclusion

2nd Conclusion

3rd Conclusion

Climate Change and the Christian's Care for Creation

Andrew Sibley

► Introduction

► How has global temperature and CO2 changed in the past?

- The talk will begin by considering how temperature and CO2 have changed in the past, by comparing the Creation model versus the Naturalistic model

► Theological aspects

- We will consider whether Christianity encourages stewardship or exploitation of creation. What does the Bible say? How does Christianity compare against a religion of nature?

► What is Climate Change?

- What do global warming scientists claim, and is there really is a Climate Emergency?

► Observations

- How are temperatures measured, and have measurements changed?

► Computer models

- How do the models compare against observational data sets?

► Stewardship and technology – making decisions in complex situations

- What does post-normal science imply about our knowledge of the climate? And given uncertainty how do we balance human needs versus the needs of creation?

Are we our brain?

Ilanah Pruis

Introduction

The statement 'we are our brain' is commonly heard these days and is based on the conviction that everything there is can be reduced to the physical, also known as physicalism.

We are our brain

Argument 1: the important role of **genes** and **damage** to the brain shows: you are your brain

- Rebuttal 1: Without a functioning brain we are not viable but: the effect of dysfunction is **no proof** that we only are our brain and therefore do not have a soul.
- Rebuttal 2: In addition to genes, **circumstances** also have a significant influence on the life course (nutrition, conversations, living environment).
- Rebuttal 3: Assumption of cause-and-effect relation.

Argument 2: because your brain determines what you do a complete free will cannot really exist

- Rebuttal 1: Empirical results (**the natural**) no evidence for **extra natural** phenomena
- Rebuttal 2: Example from brain function in severely epileptic patients studied by Wilder Penfield, neurosurgeon.
- Rebuttal 3: Example from cognitive therapy: changing your brain's erroneous signals with your consciousness.

Argument 3: religion and consciousness of God are a concept of the brain

- Rebuttal 1: Results 'god-area' can neither refute *nor* confirm the presence of God
- Rebuttal 2: Working hypothesis: God does not exist
- Rebuttal 3: Day-to-day examples: testimonies

Conclusions

We *are* not our brain, we *have* a brain. We have been miraculously crafted with a body and soul, which are interwoven and work closely together.

The Bible and Philosophy of Science: Is creationism scientific?

André Juthe

- **The criticism that creationism is not scientific is a straw man**
 - Confuses the world view *inspiring* scientific hypotheses with the scientific hypotheses themselves.
 - No creationist has ever claimed that “God” is a scientific hypothesis
 - The evolutionary theory works in the same way
- **Creationism satisfies the requirement of the scientific method**
 - It is based on induction and the Hypothetical-deductive method
 - It is as empirically testable or falsifiable as the evolutionary theory
 - It is as correctable as the evolutionary theory
 - Creationist theories can be as simple (or simpler) as evolutionary theories
- **Methodological naturalism (probably) caused the idea that creationism is unscientific**
- **How should faith and science be integrated?**
 - Three basic approaches:
 - Conflict
 - Dichotomy
 - Congruence
- **The Congruence Model is the best, But what to do in case of conflict?**
 - A Conflict Management Model
- **The discussion so far has presupposes Rational Realism but there are others philosophies of science:**
 - Rational Nonrealism
 - Nonrational Nonrealism

Superior or inferior Humans?

'Race' science past and present

By Lucien Tuinstra

Genetics

We have an ever-increasing knowledge of the genomes of living creatures and 'devolution' is a more realistic way to describe changes in living beings.

- Mitochondrial Eve
- Y-chromosome Adam

Racism

Darwin and some of his contemporaries were racists. The church was not free of such thinking.

Slavery

Slavery is not synonymous with racism. The first slaves were 'white'.

Bible—'slaves', 'servants' who had God-given rights.

Some people, deemed to be missing links, were treated as animals.

Eugenics

If evolution is true, and we can breed flowers and animals the way we see fit, why not humans?

The Nazis and Eugenics

Modern times

Human evolution...?

The false ape-to-human progression icon—often modified to propagate the story of evolution.

Conclusions

Science and the Bible are in accord.

There is only one race: the human race!

Why the wrist and ankle joints are masterpieces of engineering

Stuart Burgess

Background: Evolution predicts we should find bad design in the human wrist and ankle joints because of the supposed rapid evolution from four-legged movement to two-legged movement. The evolutionist Nathan Lents has argued that since deletion of bones is extremely difficult to achieve from a genetics point of view, it is predicted that the wrist and ankle should have several functionless bones. The talk will show why the wrist and ankle joints are actually masterpieces of engineering with every bone having important functions.

The challenge of joint design: The design requirements for the hands and feet are extremely challenging. Multiple functions of flexibility, strength and complex joint movements must be packed into a very small space.

Specialised design features: The wrist and ankle joints both have several finely-tuned design features. The wrist joint has: (1) a tripled-arched structure; (2) multiple elastic joints; (3) bi-axial joints; and (4) concentric joints. The ankle joint has: (1) a tripled-arched structure; (2) multiple elastic joints; (3) multifunctioning midfoot; and (4) fibula linkage mechanism.

Bad design arguments: The bad design arguments of Nathan Lents are shown to clearly contradict scientific evidence. Mainstream biomechanics research shows that the joints are very well designed.

Human engineering joints: Human engineered wrist and ankle joints (prosthetic, replacement and robotic) have a performance far below that of human joints which confirms the challenge of design and also the incredible performance of human joints.

You tube video of ankle talk: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmXjK4HiM4M>