

Intelligent Design vs. Evolution

Defending God's Creation

Credentials

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Objectives

- Strengthen our Faith
 - To be impressed with the power and majesty of God
 - To be impressed with the complexity and diversity of God's creation
 - To learn how to defend God's creation
 - Explore scientific evidence for Intelligent Design

Scriptures

- Hebrews 3:4
- Psalm 19:1
- Psalm 139:14
- Job 37:14
- Isaiah 40:21,28
- Romans 1:20

Objectives

- Look critically/challenge Darwinism/Evolution
 - Understand scientific method
 - Understand Darwinism and its underlying premises
 - Examine scientific evidence of “Icons of Evolution”/proofs of Evolution
 - Expose the circular reasoning/logic and philosophy often employed by Darwinists

Definitions

- Intelligent Design
 - the idea that design infers intelligence
 - Is inferred when we see 2 criteria met
 - Improbable object or event
 - Recognizable pattern

Definitions

- Evolution
 - A gradual process in which something changes into a different and more complex or better form

Definitions

- Macroevolution
 - Large scale evolutionary change over a lengthy period to explain the origin of the complexity and diversity of nature.
 - Also called General theory of evolution or usually just evolution

Definitions

- Microevolution
 - Adaptation within a species

Definitions

- Darwinism (neo-Darwinism)
 - Origins of life and complexity of life arise through a slow process of natural selection and random genetic changes

Definitions

- Natural Selection
 - Nature or natural processes select favorable characteristics for survival
 - Requires a self replicating unit

“When we replace the traditional idea of God the creator with the idea of the process of natural selection doing the creating, the creation is as wonderful as it ever was. All that great design work had to be done. It just wasn’t done by an individual, it was done by this huge process, distributed over billions of years.”

Daniel Dennett

from PBS Evolution

Definitions

- Science
 - Careful, disciplined, logical search for knowledge about any and all aspects of the universe, obtained by examination of the best available evidence, and always subject to correction and improvement upon discovery of better evidence

Science

- From National Academy of Science to Supreme Court
 - Creation-science is not science because “it fails to display the most basic characteristic of science: reliance upon naturalistic explanations”
- from Dembski, *Uncommon Dissent*, pg. 31

Definitions

- Scientific Method
 - 1. Observation or Identification of a Problem
 - 2. Hypothesis (working assumptions)
 - 3. Deductive reasoning or Predictions
 - 4. Data Collections / Experiments
 - 5. Conclusions

Definitions

- Theory
 - Conceptual framework that explains existing observations and predicts new ones

Definitions

- Fact
 - Something that has been objectively verified

Definitions

- Circular reasoning
 - Reasoning in a circle, i.e. A is true because of B, and B is true because of A
- If and only If reasoning
 - A theological argument

Fallible Proofs

- All scientists accept evolution

- “It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I’d rather not consider that)”

Richard Dawkins

- from Dembski, *Uncommon Dissent*, pg. 28

Fallible Proofs

- All scientists accept evolution
- All you have is faith while we have science



Fallible Proofs

- All scientists accept evolution
- All you have is faith while we have science
- That has already been proven false
- We are here, so it happened
- Who designed the designer?

“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find no such case.”

Charles Darwin, *The Origin of the Species*

Theological Background

- Deism (late 17th, early 18th century)
 - True religion could be deduced from nature/reason
 - No need for revelation
 - No need for God to be active in the world
 - Humanity really not in fallen state

Theological Background

- Natural Theology (18th and 19th centuries)
 - Extolled God's wonderful world as a reflection of his power and wisdom
 - Ignored/minimized evil by focusing mostly on pleasing aspects of world
 - God created world for happiness
 - God became more distant, not involved in every aspect of creation
 - Produced many powerful arguments for design

Theological Background

- Transcendent God (19th century)
 - God set apart from world and not involved in world
 - World operated by natural laws
 - God is unconcerned with world's evils
 - God is an object of faith, not part of natural history
 - God could not take part in a world with so much misery (similar to Gnostic beliefs)
 - From this arose Darwinian evolution

Evolution's Theology

- Darwin and evolutionists ever since have proclaimed what God would and would not do in creation
- Evolution is weakly supported by scientific evidence but strengthened by (bad) theological arguments

Evolution's Theology (examples)

- When discussing the fossil record of extinct elephant-like species Kenneth Miller states “The designer has been busy and what a stickler for repetitive work.”
- Douglas Futuyma “When we compare the anatomies of various plants or animals we find similarities and differences where we should least expect a Creator to have supplied them.”

Evolution's Theology

- Paradigm of Perfection
 - God would strive to make creation perfect if it were possible
 - Everything must be perfect/optimal in a materialistic sense
 - Example, pentadactyl pattern

“Perfect design would truly be the sign of a skilled and intelligent designer. Imperfect design is the mark of evolution; in fact, it’s precisely what we expect from evolution.”

- Jerry Coyne, University of Chicago biologist

“We go right to the central issue of whether there is a god or not. We're pretty certain that if there were **an all-powerful being** pulling the strings and shaping history for the benefit of human beings, the universe would look rather different than it does.”

PZ Meyers, evolutionist

Scriptural View

- Of God
 - Genesis 1:1
 - Isaiah 55:9
 - Job 38:1-4
 - Job 39:13-17
 - Psalm 19:1
 - John 5:17

Scriptural View

- Of Creation
 - Genesis 1:31
 - Acts 17:24-25
- A Fallen World
 - Genesis 3:17-18
 - Romans 5:12
 - Romans 8:20-22

- “Over and over the Scriptures portray a glorious creation and a sovereign Creator. And they make a connection between humanity’s choice to sin and the natural order. Unlike evolution, which attempts to explain the quirks and evils of nature but cannot explain complexity, and unlike the design argument, which accounts for complexity but cannot explain evil, the Scriptures give us a complete picture of the world. The Bible predicts both evil and complexity. God has created a glorious and awesome world. On the one hand, it includes complexity beyond measure, but on the other hand, it includes predation. And it has been corrupted by humanity’s fall from grace.”

– Cornelius Hunter, *Darwin’s Proof*, page 102