

MAN—NO LONGER ENDOWED BY A CREATOR?

“In the beginning was matter, which begat the amoeba, which begat the worm, which begat the fish, which begat the amphibian, which begat the reptile, which begat the lower mammal, which begat the lemur, which begat the monkey, which begat man, who imagined God.” This, according to atheist Charles Smith, is the genealogy of man. Sadly, he is far from being alone in his views of man’s origin. In fact, a vast majority of modern-day scientists cling vehemently to this Darwinist view of origins as “gospel” on the matter. It has become the light under which all new data is examined. It has become their religion—one for which they will fight for in order to secure its place in academia. And it appears that they are winning.

While you may find the concept of men evolving from some primordial slime repulsive or sickening, the reality of the current politically climate is far worse. For in our country, the only theory about man’s origins allowed in the classroom is this fallacious concept of organic evolution: amoeba to man. And although our country declared its independence with these words: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” (emp. added), we now live in a land where we can no longer discuss that Creator in the classroom. When Thomas Jefferson penned those famous words, he illustrated that from the very beginning, America recognized human rights as a gift of God, not something created by government.

This war to erase God has taken place in every form of media. If this movement had a special forces unit—such as the Navy Seals or Army Rangers—it would most surely be called evolution or neo-Darwinism. The belief of a special creation has been discounted in magazines, on the television, and has now fallen under attack within the Church. The atheists and agnostics of the world have been effective at casting doubt on the very first verse of the Bible, where it clearly states: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth” (Genesis 1:1). These words are no longer viewed as the words of Almighty God, but rather as a nice introduction to a fable or myth. Day-after-day our children sit at the feet of professors who, using fancy words and scientific theories, teach that man’s origins are the result of some Big Bang or Punctuated Equilibrium. And thus we find ourselves in a nation that has outlawed God from the classroom, and who now believes their own origin can be explained by some cosmological accident.

But that is not the most heartrending part. The truly tragic part is that Christians are now clinging to this fictitious theory of how man arrived on the Earth. People who have confessed the name of Christ are suddenly giving more credence to a CNN news report, than to the inspired, God-breathed, Holy Bible. They, too, are willing to toss aside those powerful words—“In the beginning God created...”—in favor of man’s latest scientific theory. Sadly, in the process of discounting the first few chapters of Genesis, these Christians are undermining the very foundation of their own religion. If they question the way the Bible explains how man arrived on this Earth, then what makes them think they can believe what it says regarding salvation and the afterlife? If God did not do it the way He said He did, then why should we believe He sent His only Son to die for our sins? Have Christians not realized the embodiment of all that they are compromising when they buy into evolution and the idea of a six billion year old Earth? If we are to believe and protect the rest of the Bible, then we must be ready to believe and defend that God created the world around us the way He said He did—in six literal days.

-Brad Harrub, Ph.D

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

“...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel...” (Amos 7:8)

**DISPUTING DARWIN TO
THE GLORY OF GOD**

Text: _____

I. Is Creation _____?

Notes:

II. What are the _____ for Creation?

Notes:

III. What if I _____ the Creation Account?

Notes:

**IT KEEPS GOING,
AND GOING, AND GOING**

In 1977, the United States launched a rocket into space. On board was a small craft called *Voyager I*, a probe that was jettisoned into space to explore the planets. After *Voyager* finished sending back photos and data from the planet Jupiter and its neighbors, it didn't stop working. It just kept going.

Today, 30 years later, that tiny vehicle is still going—traveling at a speed of over 38,000 miles per hour. And it is nearly 9 billion miles from the sun! Brilliant scientists sent a ship to the edge of our solar system. It's astounding. It's amazing. Mind-boggling!

But it's absolutely puny when compared to what God has done. It would be like hearing someone brag to the architect of the Empire State Building that he had traveled to the second floor. We have barely begun to explore the vastness of God's creation. Every small step by mankind should continue to put us in absolute awe of God's power and creativity. While we have left the realm of one star with a spaceship, the Creator of the stars "called them all by name" (Isaiah 40:26). After all, He made them. Exploring the universe is amazing. But exploring the God who made it all—that's beyond amazing.

-Dave Branon

RENEW YOUR MIND

Evolutionary Hoaxes

"Ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny." This phrase, often heard in freshman biology classes, was coined by 19th century German biologist Ernst Haeckel to describe the idea that the human embryo replays the steps of evolution as it develops. Specifically, this theory says that human embryos pass through a progression of abbreviated stages in the womb that resembles primary evolutionary stages (e. g., fish, amphibian, reptile) during the course of development.

While Haeckel's name might not sound familiar to you, one of the drawings he used to bolster his theory probably is. This now-familiar illustration of embryos of fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals lined up side-by-side is a common staple in most biology and embryology textbooks. This single figure has altered the public consciousness and has become one of the best known "evidences" for evolution. Additionally, some individuals use this principle of "recapitulation" to justify abortion (they argue that after all, at various stages the human embryo is no different from a fish or reptile).

There is only one small problem. Haeckel's illustration was a fake! He drew the human embryo to look just like the early embryo of the fish, amphibian, and reptile—but it doesn't. Ironically, the fact that these drawings are a fraud is "old-hat" to biologists. History records that Haeckel was accused of scientific fraud by his peers. Recognition of his falsehoods still appears in scientific journals, as noted in a letter to the editor in the May 15, 1998 issue of *Science*.

We could ignore this pathetic chapter in the history of evolutionism—were it still so popularly used in American textbooks. Even Dr. Benjamin Spock saw fit to perpetuate Haeckel's recapitulation myth in his well-known book, *Baby and Child Care*. Spock confidently assured expectant mothers that "each child as he develops is retracing the whole history of mankind, physically and spiritually, step by step. A baby starts off in the womb as a single tiny cell, just the way the first living thing appeared in the ocean. Weeks later, as he lies in the amniotic fluid of the womb, he has gills like a fish" (1998, p. 223).

Make sure your children and grandchildren know when they see these drawings that they are fakes. Humans beings never look like a fish, amphibian or reptile when they are growing in the womb. We were made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), and we must make sure our young people know (and believe) this.

-Brad Harrub, Ph.D

STRENGTH UPON WHICH WE CAN RELY

They occur constantly. Sometimes practically everyday. Trials and temptations bring sorrow, pain, anger, sadness, envy, and hurt, emotions that have the ability, and far too often are successful in discouraging and disparaging the child of God. And if it were not bad enough that they hinder New Testament Christianity, they many times destroy an individual's faith and ultimately their souls. Since such dangers abound and are so indelibly imprinted in our society and our lives, how is it that we can escape the sure destruction that comes from yielding to their influences and in the end be eternally separated from God?

The apostle Paul knew a thing or two about suffering and the need for strength. In fact, in II Corinthians 11, in an effort to defend his apostleship amidst hateful attacks by his critics, Paul went through and defended his record in suffering for the cause of Christ:

“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches” (vs. 23-28).

Can you hear the pain in his voice? His anguish is all too obvious. Not the fact that he had to suffer, but the reason suffering came upon him. His suffering was a direct result of the world's hatred of Christianity. He did not believe himself to be above hurt and sorrow, but the fact that his hurt and sorrow came from negativity toward the gospel was his greatest pain. However, Paul never looked at his trials as an excuse to quit. Giving up was not an option for him because his eyes were set on something greater, something for which all of his suffering was worth. And above all, he had a God who provided strength upon which he could rely. In fact, it was just in the next chapter that after praying for God to relieve his “thorn in the flesh” Paul admitted, *“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”* (II Corinthians 12:10). His own personal weakness made Paul realize just how much he relied upon the strength of God, and we can and should come to the same realization. It is when we are weakened that we are made strongest.

“What about when I am rejected?” In response to the question ask likewise, “Am I truly the one being reject?” It is all too apparent that when we as Christians feel rejected that in reality it is God who is rejected. Samuel felt the same opposition as the prophet of God when the people demanded a king like the nations (I Samuel 8:5-6), but God's response to him was, *“Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them”* (vs. 7). Therefore, when you feel rejection, realize that God is ultimately the one facing rejection, and upon His strength rely.

“What about when I am despised?” Hatred for New Testament Christians and Christianity is nothing new. In fact, hatred for Christianity is as old as Christianity itself. There is really very little that can be done to change this spite on a mass level, but it can be controlled somewhat on an individual level. The greatest fact to which we can look is that the love of God is greater than the hatred of any man. Whether it be friend or foe, family, brother in Christ, or just the world in general, remember the love of God which constrains us (II Corinthians 5:14) and leads to a reciprocation of that love (I John 4:19) is eternal, and shall never cease. Therefore regardless of what the world might throw our way, the love of God is a cushion that will soften each blow and is a strength upon which we can rely.

“What about when I am discouraged?” About what are you discouraged? Are you discouraged that you have a loving God (John 3:16)? Are you discouraged that He sent a Savior to die for you (Ephesians 5:2)? Are you discouraged that a heavenly home is prepared for you (John 14:1-3)? Yes, there may be temporary discouragements in life that can sidetrack our Christian efforts, but never allow these speed bumps to take your eyes off the goal. We have eternal hope, and that provides strength on which we can rely.

Sorrow, pain, anger, sadness, envy, and hurt are all trials that, sadly, have become natural in life. Something, though, that is just as natural to the Christian is an unshakeable foundation, our strength in Christ. Read about it, see the evidence for it, accept it, and enjoy the blessings that come by it. Start today.