

Christian Apologetics (Youth)

Week 3: Creation of God

God as Intelligent Designer & Giver of Life

*How did life begin? Is Darwin's Theory of Evolution **Valid** Based on **Modern Evidence**?*

*Is There Any Evidence for **Intelligent Design**? What is God's **purpose** in creation?*

Fallacies of Evolution

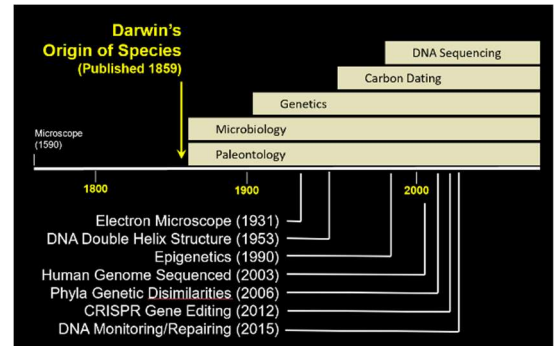
Darwin's Doubts Published in "Origin of Species" of 1859

Quote 1: "Geology assuredly **does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain**, and thus, perhaps is the most obvious and gravest **objection which can be used against my theory**".

Quote 2: "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed, which could not possibly have been formed by **numerous, successive, slight modifications**, my theory would **absolutely break down**."

Darwin's Place in History

- Darwin's Doubt originates from his **lack of empirical evidence** to substantiate his theory.
- Darwin's theory of evolution **preceded** the fields of microbiology, genetics, paleontology, and geology.
- Unfortunately, Darwin's theory was based on simple **observation** of the macroscopic world.
- It is deemed **conjecture**, and "half-baked" in terms of modern scientific rigor and methods.



Darwin's Fallacies

FALLACY 1: Stepwise Refinement for the Origin of Species

- Darwin's theory is predicated on the assumption that the fossil record will **eventually reveal intermediates** to prove his theory of **stepwise refinement correct** for the origin of species.
- Regrettably, fossil records to date do not record any **clear lineage** of "**finely graduated**" mutations.

FALLACY 2: Micro-Evolution Serves as a Plausible Foundation for Macro-Evolution

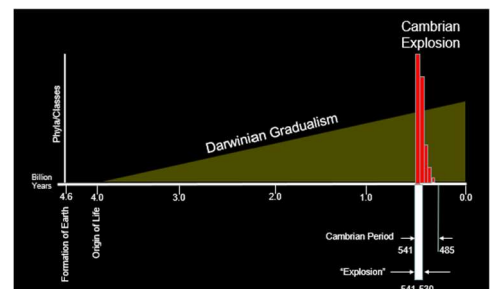
- Darwin's assumption that **micro-evolution** (**adaptability, survival** of the species) serves as a plausible foundation **macro-evolution** (**arrival** of the species) is **unsubstantiated** by fossil records and modern biology.

Challenge #1: Cambrian Explosion

(based on an Old Earth view of creation)

The Cambrian Explosion represents the **most formative** period of **carbon-based life on Earth (biological Big Bang)**.

- In contrast to Darwin's 4-billion-year period of **gradualism**, the **Cambrian period** spans some **56 million years** from 541 to 485 million years ago.
- The Cambrian Explosion took place at the **beginning** of the Cambrian period within an estimated **10-million-year span** from approximately 541 to 530 million years ago.



- The Cambrian Explosion is marked by the **sudden appearance** of defined phyla/species over very short period (5-10M years) with **no transitional intermediate** species in the pre-Cambrian period ...
... followed by an **absence of macro-change** over a very long period (540M years) in the post-Cambrian period.
- The Cambrian Explosion is consistent with the biblical account of the creation of life found in Genesis 1:20-26 which transpired over the course of two days of creation.
- While Darwin's theory of micro-evolution may be valid for **adaptation** and **survival** of species, it does not account for the origin or **arrival** of species.

Challenge #2: Population Genetics

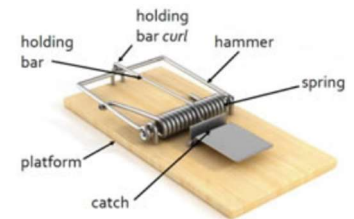
British scientist, J. B. S. Haldane, asserted that there is insufficient time to bring about beneficial evolutionary change due to insufficient population sizes, slow reproduction rates, and unfavorable environmental conditions to successfully produce new phyla and species of the Cambrian Explosion.

Challenge #3: Highly Interdependent Systems

Microbiologist Michael Behe, author of *Darwin's Black Box*, posits that a complex organism or biological system could not have evolved by **point-mutation** and must have mutated by coordinated mutations because they are inherently **irreducibly complex**. Mouse Trap →

- Example: The **circulatory system** of the human body consisting of the heart, arteries, and veins, greatly depends on all other systems to function properly. It depends on the **nervous system** to electrically stimulate the heart muscles to pump blood. It depends on the **respiratory system** to provide oxygen to the heart muscles. It depends on the **digestive system** to provide amino acids to nourish the heart.

If any one of these systems fails, they all fail because all systems are **essential** and **mutually interdependent**.



Evidence for Intelligent Design

Study of Purpose/Design

Thomas Aquinas, one of the earliest Christian apologist of the 13th century, framed the **teleological** argument as a **sylogism**.

- Major Premise: Wherever **complex design** exists, there must have been a **designer**.
- Minor Premise: The universe and life are marked by **complex design**.
- Conclusion: The universe and life are the work of an **intelligent designer**.



Illustration of **Mount Rushmore** →

- We reason that the **busts** of the **four presidents** of Mount Rushmore are **more likely** the **product of a skilled artisan** who knew what each president **looked like in advance** of construction ...
... versus a weather event that was **devoid** of both **skill** and **foreknowledge**.

God's Word teaches that God created the universe and life with **design intent** (Jeremiah 10:12, 51:15).

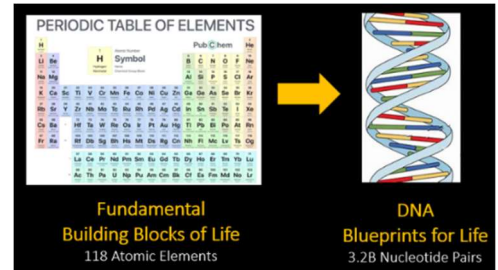
*But the Lord made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his **wisdom**.
With his own **understanding** he stretched out the heavens.* Jeremiah 10:12 (NLT)

- The Hebrew word for **Wisdom** means – skill and craftsmanship.
- The Hebrew word for **Understanding** means – reasonings and design.

DNA: Blueprint for Life

Quantum Leap in Complexity: It is one thing to create the 118 atomic elements in the periodic table, but it is quite another thing to **assemble** these fundamental elements into **complex life forms**.

- The discovery of DNA and DNA sequencing was a **watershed** moment in the history of microbiology.
- In 1990 to 2003, an international committee known as the **Human Genome Project** sequenced the human genome consisting of 3.2 billion nucleotides pairs.



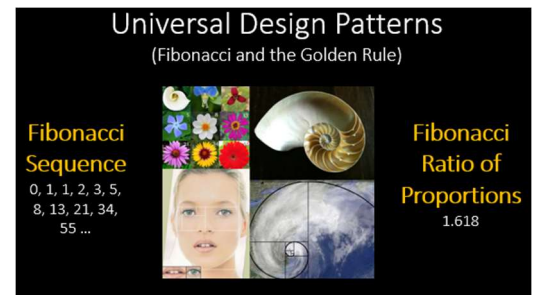
- Later in 2012, a group of scientists at the University of Leicester **printed out** the human genome which resulted in a 130-volume set color-coded by chromosome (double-printed, 4-point font, 43,000 characters per page).

Universal Design Patterns

Universal Design Patterns represent a broad range of properties exhibited throughout creation that point to an **intelligent designer**.

(1) The **Fibonacci Sequence** is a property involving **proportions**.

- The Fibonacci sequence consists of the following numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55,
- Golden Rule: The ratio or proportion between any two consecutive numbers is always 1.618!
- Most of God's creation exhibits the proportions of the Golden Rule, e.g., spiral proportions, petal counts, and ratio of male/female bees in a colony.
- Because the Fibonacci design pattern **broadly span all systems of creation** that have **nothing in common**, this design pattern could not have evolved through a process of replication from a **single natural source**.
- The only reasonable conclusion is that this design pattern was **established by God**.



(2) **Symmetry** is a property involving **organization**.

(3) **Duplicity** or replication is a property involving **composition**.

(4) **Restoration** or healing is a property involving **self-preservation**.

God's Purpose in Creation

Is creation the product of the **purposive act of divine intelligence** or the product of a **cosmic accident**?

God's Word teaches that human life is the pinnacle of God's creation and were created with **intent**.

Genesis 1:26: *"Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us."*

- God created man in his **moral image** which is rooted in the nature of the triune God.
- Therefore, we were endowed with **inherent purpose, dignity** and **worth**.

God's Glory

God's Word makes it crystal clear that He created the universe and life for the expressed purpose of glorifying Himself. God glories in Himself and His creation. (Romans 11:36, Psalm 19:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 1:16)

Colossians 1:16: *"Everything was created through him and for him."*

In a nutshell, everything was created **BY** God and **FOR** God.

Our Enjoyment

Essentially, mankind glories in God and **enjoys God forever**.

John Piper: “God is **most glorified** in us when we are most **satisfied in him**.”

Westminster Shorter Catechism: “Man's chief end is to **glorify** God, and to **enjoy him forever**.”