

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1-24-16 PM NOTES
"HERE WE STAND ON CREATION AND EVOLUTION"
VARIOUS SCRIPTURES
#15 in Series, "Here We Stand"

Macroevolution—Current species evolved from other species.

Microevolution (adaptation) —Small changes happen within species to adapt to changing conditions.

I. Creation or Evolution: Their Commonality

Naturalism—Every law and every force operating in the universe is natural, rather than moral, spiritual, or supernatural. Naturalism rejects a personal God.

True science deals with what can be observed and reproduced by experimentation.

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV) "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Some Scientists Who Were Christians: Kepler in Astronomy, Pascal in Hydrostatics, Boyle in Chemistry, Newton in Physics, Faraday in Magnetic Theory, Babbage in Computers, Simpson in Gynecology, Mendel in Genetics, Pasteur in Bacteriology, Kelvin in Thermodynamics, Lister in Antiseptic Surgery, Maxwell in Electrodynamics, Ramsay in Isotopic Chemistry

"Evolution can be thought of as sort of a magical religion. Magic is simply an effect without a cause, or at least a competent cause. 'Chance,' 'time,' and 'nature' are the small gods enshrined in evolutionary temples. Yet these gods cannot explain the origin of life. These gods are impotent. Thus, evolution is left without competent cause and is, therefore, only a magical explanation for the existence of life..." —Randy Wysong

"What this boils down to is that evolution demands a personal choice—faith, if you will—to believe in natural processes rather than believe in what must logically be acknowledged as a far more credible option—creation by an infinite Designer." —John Ankerberg

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

II. Creation or Evolution: The Evidence for Our Belief

A. The Origin of Life

"The current state of knowledge can be summarized thus: In the beginning, there was nothing, which exploded."

—T. Pratchett

B. The Fossil Record Does Not Match Evolution

"I think...the only acceptable explanation is creation...I know that this is anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it...To my mind the theory [evolution] does not stand up at all."
□Dr. H. S. Lipson

III. Creation or Evolution: What Is at Stake?

A. The Recognition of the Sovereignty of God Over Mankind

Psalms 100:3 (NASB) "Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture."

Romans 9:20-21 (NASB) "20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?"

B. The Trustworthiness of Scripture

"It is clear that the doctrine of evolution is directly antagonistic to creation...Evolution if consistently accepted, makes it impossible to believe the Bible."
□Thomas Huxley

Evolution: Nobody x Nothing + Billions of Years = Everything

C. Moral Stability

1. Racism

"The more civilized so-called Caucasian races have beaten the Turkish hollow in the struggle for existence. Looking to the world at no very distant date, what an endless number of the lower races will have been eliminated by the higher civilized races of the world."
□Charles Darwin

2. Abortion

3. Communism and Fascism

"The simple fact of the matter is that all the philosophical fruits of Darwinism [evolution] have been negative, ignoble, and destructive to the very fabric of society. Not one of the major twentieth-century revolutions led by post-Darwinian philosophies ever improved or ennobled any society. Instead, the chief social and political legacy of Darwinian thought is a full spectrum of evil tyranny with Marx-inspired communism at one extreme and Nietzsche-inspired fascism at the other. And the moral catastrophe that has disfigured modern western society is also directly traceable to Darwinism and the rejection of the early chapters of Genesis."
□John MacArthur

First Baptist Church Powell 1 24 2016 PM
Sermon 15: Here We Stand On Creation and Evolution
Series: Here We Stand
Various Scriptures

Where we stand on origins will ultimately affect our worldview on almost every category of life. To have a biblical worldview, a worldview grounded in truth, requires that one has a biblical worldview of origins. Most Christians draw way too large a circle to include all sorts of views toward our origin and say that it isn't that big of a deal as long as we believe the Bible about sin, Jesus, and the plan of salvation. I hope to show you that this approach is in error, serious error. In fact, the circle drawn around views on origins that are truly biblical and foster a biblical worldview is a very small circle. I am not saying that all those who are outside that small circle are not Christians; I am simply saying that their worldview will be off kilter, contain contradictions, and they will be adversely affected by it.

The book that tells us most about origins is, of course, Genesis. The word "Genesis" means beginnings. The foundational part of Genesis is chapters 1-3. If we are wrong about these three chapters, we will be wrong about the most important areas of life. When a person is wrong about Genesis 1-3, their doctrine will be wrong, their worldview will be wrong, or at least inconsistent, and while they may believe enough truth to be saved, they will not see the past, the present, or the future completely from God's perspective. As you likely would guess, the major enemy of a biblical worldview of origins is Darwinian evolution. The lie of evolution from the 19th century until today has permeated every layer of culture. Since this message is going to focus on contrasting biblical creation and evolution, let's define some terms.

Biblical Creation – When I speak of Biblical creation, I am talking about a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-3. God created all that is in six days. Adam and Eve were literal people. Sin came into the world just as Genesis 3 describes it and the consequences of sin were exactly what Genesis 3 says they were. This view is not "blind faith." It is faith, but genuine, biblical faith is not blind; it is always based on evidence.

Evolution – When I speak of evolution, I am speaking of macroevolution (the prefix "macro" means large and the prefix "micro" means small). I am speaking of the teaching that current species evolved from other species. To focus on man, macroevolution says that the evolution was from a one-celled animal → fish → amphibian → primate → man (with several forms between those).

What is sometimes called "microevolution" is observable and scientifically proven. Microevolution refers to small changes within species such as birds, horses, and even humans. Perhaps a better word would be "adaptation." All the varieties of dogs, horses, and humans came from the ones God originally created. A surface knowledge of genetics gives us the means through which these changes happen over a relatively short period of time. Adaptation is a testimony to the amazing way the Creator made each species. Here is a key statement: Adaptation never results in one species becoming another species altogether.

Microevolution (adaptation) does not contradict Scripture. Oftentimes evolutionists will try to pull what is called a "bait and switch." They will show the evidence of microevolution and then say, "See, there is much evidence for evolution," and then they move into macroevolution of one species into another species. Let me give you an example. Several years ago during a huge controversy over action by the Kansas State Board of Education when they dared question the *fact* of evolution, a defender of evolution, a reporter named Jonathan Weiner wrote an article in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. He said in the article, "Every time a farmer sprays pyrethroids and cotton moths go right on eating his cotton, that farmer is confronting evolution in action." This writer assumes that because moths develop a resistance to pesticides over time, such a change is proof for Darwinian evolution that teaches that one species evolves into another species. Don't fall for the bait and switch. When I speak of evolution from this point on, I will be speaking of macroevolution.

The proponents of evolution oftentimes use outright lies to bully their contemporaries and their students into acquiescing to Darwinian evolution. Let me give two examples. Dr. D. James Kennedy quotes from one textbook entitled *General Zoology* that states, "All scientists at the present time agree that evolution is a fact." [D. James Kennedy, *Why I Believe*, page 47] That is just a lie! In reality there are an ever increasing number of scientists who believe that the evidence points toward the biblical view of creation.

A Christian student at a major secular university wrote a paper in his senior Microbiology class with a title a half-mile long (*Comparing and Contrasting the Regulation of Lactose and Galactose Operons and Regulons in Streptococcus Thermophilus, Streptococcus mutans and Lactococcus Lactis*). The student graduated at the top of his class, but in this paper he made a huge mistake that sent his professor ballistic. On the first page he said, “This genetic group-control mechanism is a wonderful designed informational system...” The word “design” implies a Designer and that sounds suspiciously like God had something to do with it. Here is what his professor wrote on his paper:

... I suggest you grow up and think very hard about your major in Biology. Creationism is not science – it is not testable, it cannot predict future behavior. [This paper] is poorly focused, immature, pedantic, much irrelevant information, blatantly apologetic. Inappropriate for a science course. Poor science. ... Pick another field where personal opinions are all that matters...

[Jobe Martin, *The Evolution of a Creationist*, page 13]

That isn't all that unusual. We have a real job to do in equipping our children. This is one the major motivations behind starting First Baptist Academy.

I. Creation or Evolution: Their Commonality

The commonality is that both the biblical creation account, and evolution, are matters of belief. About two years ago in an opinion column in *USA Today* Tom Krattenmaker argued that there is no essential conflict between evolution and believing the Bible's account of creation. He said that evolution and religious belief are completely separate modes of knowing [whatever that is]. He argued that evolution is “settled science” that requires no belief. Religion, on the other hand, is a faith system that is based on a totally different way of knowing – a knowing that requires belief and faith. The problems with Krattenmaker's article are multitudinous! First, there is no such thing as settled science. If science is settled, when would we declare it settled? 1500? 1850? 1900? 2000? In 1500, what was accepted as *scientific fact* has changed drastically compared with 2016.

The main problem with Mr. Krattenmaker's article is his allegation that science and religion represent two separate types of truth. Truth is truth! There are no different kinds of truth that operate by different intellectual rules. Every mode of thinking requires belief in some presuppositions. Evolution requires belief. The biblical truth of Genesis 1-3 requires belief [The preceding two paragraphs drew heavily on an article at AlbertMohler.com, *Evolution Is Most Certainly a Matter of Belief – and so Is Christianity*, 1-15-14]

Actually, evolution is the key doctrine of a religion called “Naturalism.” Many would desire to quickly change my statement from “a religion called naturalism” to “a philosophy called naturalism.” However, when you examine naturalism, it is completely faith-based and meets the qualifications of a religion. Naturalism says that every law and every force operating in the universe is natural, rather than moral, spiritual, or supernatural. Naturalism rejects a personal God and assumes that things made themselves. Naturalists say that they believe only in what is based on science, but *true science deals with what can be observed and reproduced by experimentation*. Naturalism, in reality, ends up being a religion because its beliefs cannot be observed or reproduced by experimentation. Naturalism's key doctrine of evolution is an explanation about origins that must be accepted by faith because it cannot be observed or reproduced. Naturalism operates under the presupposition that there is no supernatural power in existence. Since that cannot be observed or tested, it is a faith statement. That is more evidence that naturalism is a religion. Someone may say, “Yes, but biblical creation is also a religion because it too is based on faith.” That is true! Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV): “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

Creation is faith based but there is a tremendous amount of evidence that it is true, however, in our culture, the deck is stacked for naturalism because it is passed off as science. The naturalists like to think that all scientists are practitioners of naturalism, but the fact is that the greatest scientists of history were creationists. Here is a sampling: Kepler in Astronomy, Pascal in Hydrostatics, Boyle in Chemistry, Newton in Physics, Faraday in Magnetic Theory, Babbage in Computers, Simpson in Gynecology,

Mendel in Genetics, Pasteur in Bacteriology, Kelvin in Thermodynamics, Lister in Antiseptic Surgery, Maxwell in Electrodynamics, Ramsay in Isotopic Chemistry [Norman Geisler, *When Skeptics Ask*, page 214] Randy Wysong, an instructor in human anatomy and physiology says, “Evolution can be thought of as sort of a magical religion. Magic is simply an effect without a cause, or at least a competent cause. ‘Chance,’ ‘time,’ and ‘nature’ are the small gods enshrined in evolutionary temples. Yet these gods cannot explain the origin of life. These gods are impotent. Thus, evolution is left without competent cause and is, therefore, only a magical explanation for the existence of life...” [John Ankerberg, *The Facts on Creation VS Evolution*, page 27]

John Ankerberg gives a good summary: “What this boils down to is that evolution demands a personal choice – faith, if you will – to believe in natural processes rather than believe in what must logically be acknowledged as a far more credible option – creation by an infinite Designer.” [Ankerberg, page 27] Since both evolution and biblical creation require faith, the real question is, “What does the evidence point to?” Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV): “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the *evidence* of things not seen.”

II. Creation or Evolution: The Evidence for Our Belief

Volumes have been written concerning the problems with evolution and the lack of credible evidence. I will just give a brief look at what I believe are the two most glaring problems

A. The Origin of Life

The Law of Cause and Effect demands that there be a first cause. Evolution has no first cause. The best the evolutionist can do is to say that the universe, or at least matter, is infinite (which is assigning it one of the characteristics of God). Creation says “In the beginning, God...” He is the first cause. Here is the best that one evolutionist can come up with: “The current state of knowledge can be summarized thus: In the beginning, there was nothing, which exploded” [T. Pratchett, Quoted in *Creation* magazine, December 1999, February 2000, page 22]

Paleontologist Duane Gish calls evolution, “A fairy tale for adults.” Someone said, “In Grimm’s fairy Tales, someone kisses a frog and in two seconds it becomes a prince; in evolution someone kisses a frog and in two billion years it becomes a prince.”

B. The Fossil Record Does Not Match Evolution

In Darwin’s day, fossils were scarce, but today there are hundreds of thousands of them. All of the fossil evidence points to a sudden arrival of fully developed species (which is evidence for creation). If evolution were true, you would expect to find that the older the fossil, the less complex would be the organism. That is not the case. You find the simple and the complex all together. However, the main problem with the fossils is that with evolution you would expect to find all kinds of transitional fossils between one species and the more complex species that it was evolving to. We could call these fossils the LINK between two species. Have you ever heard of “the missing link?” The evidence is that the species show up at all levels with no links; they are missing because they never existed. I had a great little tract entitled *Illustrated Guide to Transitional Fossils*. The tract says at the bottom of the cover page, “Every evolutionist should have one!” When you open it up, here is what you find: Primitive → Modern Plants – MISSING, Single Cells → Invertebrates, MISSING, Invertebrates → Fish – MISSING, Fish → Amphibians – MISSING, Amphibians → Reptiles – MISSING, Reptiles → Birds – MISSING, Reptiles → Mammals – MISSING ... Apes → Man – MISSING. Under each are quotes from evolutionists affirming that there is no fossil record. Some evolutionists say, “Well, the transitional fossils are missing, but the similarity between species is evidence of a common ancestor.” I would argue that the similarities are evidence of a common Designer.

There are mounds and mounds of evidence for creation and none clearly for evolution. Even one of the most esteemed evolutionists, astronomer Carl Sagan has admitted that the chance of man evolving is about one in ten to the two billionth power [Ankerberg, page 21]

Dr. H.S. Lipson, a physicist and self-avowed agnostic, concludes, “I think... the only acceptable explanation is creation... I know that this is anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it... To my mind the theory [evolution] does not stand up at all.” [Quoted in Robert Jeffress, *Hell, Yes!* page 166] Yes, both creation and evolution are steps of faith, and not pure science, but the scientific and logical evidence points clearly to creation.

III. Creation or Evolution: What Is at Stake?

The issue of evolution and creation is not a minor one. If we are going to be logically consistent there are some major issues that are affected by whether we stand on evolution or whether we stand on biblical creation.

A. The Recognition of the Sovereignty of God over Mankind

Evolution serves not to do away with the concept of god, only the God of the Bible who is sovereign. By sovereign, I mean in control, the right to rule. In the Scriptures, God’s sovereignty over man is evidenced by His creating man. Psalms 100:3 (NASB): “Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.” Listen to Romans 9:20-21 (NASB):

On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, ‘Why did you make me like this,’ will it? Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

If I admit that God is my creator, then I have to admit that He is sovereign over me and I must give an account to Him. The real reason many reject creation is they don’t want anyone telling them what they can do and cannot do. Over and over God’s sovereignty over our lives is tied in to His creating us.

B. The Trustworthiness of Scripture

If Darwinian evolution is true, the Bible cannot be trusted. If Genesis 1-3 doesn’t tell us the truth, why should we believe anything else the Bible says? If God did not create man in His image, then we have no purpose, no meaning, and no hope. We are mutants headed for being fertilizer. If God is not the creator, then maybe He is not the redeemer either. Many evolutionists understand that. Thomas Huxley, probably the most famous proponent of evolution who ever lived said, “It is clear that the doctrine of evolution is directly antagonistic to creation... Evolution if consistently accepted, makes it impossible to believe the Bible.” [D. James Kennedy, *Why I Believe*, page 50]. He’s right! There are many who come up with various schemes to reconcile evolution and Genesis 1-3. The most common is “Theistic Evolution” which says that God started and superintended the evolutionary process over billions and billions of years. This approach makes the Genesis account little more than an allegory and Adam and Eve as mythical or fictional characters. All of these approaches have huge interpretation problems. If we apply these methods of interpretation to the rest of the Scriptures, we rob the Bible of its trustworthiness. We can make the Bible say about anything we want it to.

Let me give you one of the major criticisms of Biblical creationism. “It is too simplistic for such a complicated universe.” Oh really? You want to talk about simplistic, how about this formula – “Nobody X Nothing + Billions of years = everything.” That’s what I would call simplistic!

C. Moral Stability

History is filled with moral evils that were either encouraged or allowed by a Darwinian (evolutionary) world view. Here are a few examples.

1. Racism

Darwin’s theories motivated philosophers to see certain races more highly developed than others. Hitler was deeply influenced by these philosophers. I am not saying that all evolutionists are racists, but

evolution allows for and even encourages racism. Let me quote an excerpt from a letter from Charles Darwin in 1881. “The more civilized so-called Caucasian races have beaten the Turkish hollow in the struggle for existence. Looking to the world at no very distant date, what an endless number of the lower races will have been eliminated by the higher civilized races of the world.” [Hank Hanegraaff, *Fatal Flaws*, page 9]

2. Abortion

Because of Earnest Haeckel’s intentional deception of showing in textbooks that the human embryo, as it develops, passes through all the evolutionary stages reflecting its ancestry, people did not think of the developing fetus as human and were much more open to eliminating it. Abortion existed before Darwin, but evolution gave it respectability.

3. Communism & Fascism

Mao, Marx, Stalin, and Hitler based many of their views on evolution. Their belief in evolution did not cause them to murder millions, but it paved the way for their views. John MacArthur makes a bold and I believe accurate summary:

The simple fact of the matter is that all the philosophical fruits of Darwinism [evolution] have been negative, ignoble, and destructive to the very fabric of society. Not one of the major twentieth-century revolutions led by post-Darwinian philosophies ever improved or ennobled any society. Instead, the chief social and political legacy of Darwinian thought is a full spectrum of evil tyranny with Marx-inspired communism at one extreme and Nietzsche-inspired fascism at the other. And the moral catastrophe that has disfigured modern western society is also directly traceable to Darwinism and the rejection of the early chapters of Genesis.

[John MacArthur, *Think Biblically*, page 60]

Conclusion

There was a time in my life as a college student that I bought into the lie that you can believe the Bible and accept Darwinian Evolution (macroevolution). I came to a place in my early 20’s that I no longer believed that. You must choose between evolution and the Genesis account of creation. They cannot both be true and they cannot be reconciled. If you believe in the inspiration of the book of Genesis, you cannot believe in evolution. If you accept evolution, you must reject the Genesis account of creation.