

Cornerstone Bible Church

Systematic Theology

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APPENDIX: CREATION – SCIENCE OR MYTH –
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THEOLOGY PROPER

General Contents:

1. The Existence of God
2. The Attributes of God
3. The Trinity
4. Creation
5. Providence

God's Voice - Creation's Echo: Divine Attributes Seen in Nature

Objectives/Goals:

1. To equip you to “refute gainsayers”
2. To help you grow in your awe/reverence/trust/obedience to the Lord. Ps 33: 7-9*
3. To understand the self-evident truth that shines in creation and into the heart of all men
4. To stimulate you to explore more on your own.

Background Information:

1. The etymological root for science is “scire” (latin: to know), which in the Greek is “gnosis”
2. After the Darwinian revolution, science was equated with naturalism & materialism
3. Christians and others, make the distinction between two realms of science. There is operational, experimental, science that analyzes, tests and confirms ideas
 - 1) Operational science is what Adam was given to have dominion. It is a “revealed thing for us” Dt 29:29
 - 2) God never intended that man’s progress in operational science would lead them to conclude the painting did not have a painter
 - 3) Christians know that God created but we don’t claim to know how

Background Information:

4. Naturalists/evolutionists have a god shackled by their mandate that all phenomena have material causation: no ex-nihilo processes, no miracles....no god Ps 51:1
 - A. Their misuse of “revealed things” (operational science) has led them to believe they can know “hidden things”
 - B. In their arrogance they pretend to “know his mind” and “be his counselor”, and have pried into the hidden things
 - C. A god that creates, as a mere “construction-site supervisor” is not the Lord (for whom, by whom and to whom all things exist Rom 11:33-36).

What is intelligent design (ID)?

1. Intelligent design is the belief system, paradigm, that holds that the universe is the product of a mind/volition/intent and potentiality. The universe is not the product of mere physical causation or “chance” (materialism/atheism)
2. Disclaimer: ID is a broad group that includes “theists” of all types, whose goal is to show materialism is insufficient.
3. “We” are YEC (young-earth creationists), not just ID, and we know the mind is the Logos/Christ!

How does one discern if an object is ID?

1. You ask, “can it be explained by chance, physical law or design”? (William Dembski’s tripartite filter)

Letters and information don’t arise by chance

{SETI project}

DNA aperiodic info (origin of life, death of materialism)

2. Stephen Meyer in “The Origin of Life, The Death of Materialism” rightly concludes that the aperiodic information in DNA cannot be formed by chance

How does one discern if an object is ID?

If the laws of chemistry and thermodynamics formed DNA then it would be periodic and the sequence could be predicted by bonding enthalpies (ex. T-A-T-A-T-A)

When does a series of highly improbable events become impossible? Maybe around 10×10^{-150} (1/1 followed by 150 zeros) which is greater than the probability of forming a cell from chemical soup

3. In scenarios of molecules becoming cells, the best we can do with our intelligence and technology (*controlling temperature and pressure, isolating and purifying products, using catalysts and computers to guide the next step*) is to build “lego” blocks. Then evolutionists hold them up and proclaim: “random and natural processes made the block, which eventually will become the Empire State Building.”

ID also uses the concept of Irreducible Complexity (IC) to discern if design is the cause.

1. IC is the inference that any functioning system has a required set of parts, of which if any is missing the system is useless (ex. an engine without a fuel system, or a fuel system without a tank or hoses).
2. How do living systems arise whereby existing parts mutate into new parts? How does the part change its structure and function? How do more complex systems evolve from simpler ones?
3. IC systems are the “anathema” of evolutionists, because they prove that descent with modification is impossible (not just highly improbable).

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Darwin admitted, “if it can be shown that a structure cannot arise by slight and successive modification of a previous existing structure, my theory utterly fails”.

Applying ID and IC: The Evolution of a unicycle into a motorcycle

1. Change the existing parts of the unicycle so that new ones are added eventually becoming the motorcycle
2. Does one of the spokes begin to mutate into a chain, and while it is doing it, is it still functioning as a spoke (if not, then the wheel will collapse)

ID also uses the concept of Irreducible Complexity (IC) to discern if design is the cause

3. What good is a half-spoke – half-chain if neither are fully functional, and properly connected to the other parts?
4. Evidence shows us that mutations are fundamentally random and do not occur in large-scale coordinated events.
5. Yet, large-scale coordinated and concurrent (systemic) changes are what must occur, but evolutionists have no mechanism (except faith in a lot of time overcoming improbable odds)

The Analogy of Each Created Kind (a “baramin”, Hebrew for created kind)

1. Baramin is Hebrew for the created kind ** Darwin once believed this, “having the original forms breathed out by the Creator” ... “each according to its kind”.
2. Taxonomically, the developing science of baraminology may exist at the level of a family, or genus, but it is not necessarily as narrowly defined as a specie (example; Interfertile hybrids of different “species” Liger (tiger + lion) Llamel (llama + camel) demonstrate that these belong in the same baramin
3. The baramin taken upon the Ark rapidly and fruitfully spread out over the post-deluge world

Each Baramin is a Genomic Book, with a specific message

1. Each baramin is a complicated operating-manual (it cannot be edited and yet still maintain its intent/theme)
2. Some changes are allowable (limited freedom), a letter here and there (neutral changes that don't harm the organism, or beneficial changes that increase its chance for survival (adaptations))
3. Mutations will always destroy and never have been demonstrated to improve
4. What if you add information? Does a redundant sentence or paragraph improve meaning in a book? Down's Syndrome is Trisomy 21 (an extra chromosome: 3N), yet those that have it function at a lower, not better, level

Each Baramin is a Genomic Book, with a specific message

5. What about organisms (ex. bacteria and insects) that acquire resistance to antibiotics or pesticides because of a “beneficial” mutation?
 - A. About 99.5% of all mutational processes are harmful, and the rare ones that are beneficial are only helpful to the organism because the degradation of information has a “novel” side-effect.
 - B. Mutations that give a bacteria antibiotic resistance are deletions that created a secondary side-effect of changing the structure of the membrane receptors to block the antibiotic. Yet, the overall system is degraded and the informational integrity of the genome is less (genetic entropy: “dust returning to dust” = the 2nd Law of informational thermodynamics)

Each Baramin is a Genomic Book, with a specific message

5. What about “beneficial” mutation? / Cont...

- C. Think of a mutation causing a clogged fuel injector in an engine. There is loss of functionality and potential, but the “beneficial” side-effect of getting better mileage.
- D. Also, the original unmutated type is always more vigorous & viable, and it will outcompete the mutated type once the environmental stress is removed
- E. In conclusion, all the touted examples of evolution and natural selection of “improving” show just “finches adapting to habitat” (nothing Creationists can’t explain or predict)

In the “Tree of Life” what we observe are horizontal changes with baramin, not vertical changes where one kind acquires new parts and becomes another kind

1. Most genetic changes within the DNA code (T-A-C or G) are either **point mutations** (changing a single letter/base), **deletions** (losing/deleting a sequence of letters, ex. a word) or **insertions** (moving)
2. More complex horizontal gene transfer, polyploidy. Loss of use, loss of complexity, specificity, information may lead to unintended secondary consequences.

The Reality of Integrated Hardware and Software Changes.

Another nail in the coffin of evolution

1. All living systems are interactions between parts (hardware), under the control of a managing/operating system (software, DNA operators).
2. How was it that some parts (members in a set) became operators/functions/managers is a mystery
3. Every time a part (anatomy) is changed, there is a change in its corresponding operation/function (physiology), and a change in how it interacts (how it is integrated) with all of its other components (which must be accommodated by a change in the software)

Conclusion:

1. Evolution is a faith-system: by faith we “know” that which is seen must have come from that which already existed. By faith we reject the more empirically verified conclusions of Scripture and Creation, for the more speculative ideas of man (By faith (maybe, possibly, might be,) barren and impotent “mother nature” gave birth to her own creation (but without the Father nothing is possible!).
2. Behold your God, believer, and trust in His Scripture. May you be empowered by the Spirit with “bold humility” to refute the lies (which degrade creation and humanity) and redeem the world for the Lord.

END