

CREATION OR EVOLUTION

Int.

1. Aim: To show that we cannot believe in the theory of evolution because it contradicts the Bible!
2. Genesis 1 tells us that God created all things Gen. 1:1
3. "In the beginning was matter, which begat the ameba, 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 is the genealogy of man." [Charles Smith]¹ [From Ameba to Man]
4. Evolution may be defined as the belief that somehow, multiplied millions of years ago, life began by natural causes from nonliving matter; then gradually that original life changed till from it came all the modern kinds of plants and animals including man.
5. Christians have serious problems with the Theory of Evolution because we believe in Creation.
 - a. We believe that there is an all-wise, all-powerful, eternal God who created the Universe and all the forms of life in it, including people.
 - b. Evolution and creation are two fundamentally different and competing beliefs about the origin of the Universe, of life, and of mankind.
6. Some people, even in the church, have wondered why we cannot believe both the Bible and evolution.
 - a. Many claim that the two can be harmonized.
 - b. Theistic evolutionists say that everything evolved from an original life form, but God began the process and directed it.
 - c. They cannot take Gen. 1 literally, so they say it is figurative speech or legend.

7. Is it possible to believe both evolution and the Bible?
 - a. Does evolution necessarily contradict the Bible?
 - b. Can a person firmly defend evolution and still be a faithful Christian?

Discussion

I. EVOLUTION SAYS THE UNIVERSE BEGAN BY NATURAL PROCESSES.

THE BIBLE SAYS GOD CREATED IT.

A. Evolution Is a Major Doctrine of Unbelievers.

1. The doctrine weakens faith in God, undermines the arguments for God's existence, and is a fundamental tenet of all who disbelieve the Bible.
2. They believe there are several things evolved from an original life form, but God began the process and directed it. They cannot, of course, take Gen. 1 literally, so they say it is figurative speech or legend.

B. The importance of evolution to unbelief.

1. Charles Darwin, said: "I have never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God. I think that generally (and more and more so as I grow older) but not always that an agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind." (Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette, 1/4/82)
2. Huxley, an ardent evolutionist, said: "It is clear that the doctrine of Evolution is directly antagonistic to that of creation,; Evolution if consistently applied, makes it impossible to believe the Bible." (HRQ, p. 63)
3. Charles Smith, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, said: **"Evolution is atheism."** (Evolution: Science False So-Called, 16th Ed., p. 87).

4. Woolsey Teller, also of AAAA, said: "The God idea cannot be reconciled with our knowledge of evolution." (Evolution: Science False So-Called, 16th Ed., p. 87).

C. The Bible repeatedly affirms the doctrine of creation. - Gen. 1

1. Acts 17:24 **"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"**
2. Heb. 1:10 **"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:"**
3. Jer. 10:12 **"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."**

D. The Bible repeatedly affirms throughout that the world and the life on it are the result of Divine creation.

1. To deny this denies, not just Gen. 1, but the fundamental essence of the whole Scriptures.
2. No wonder that, when people come to believe in evolution, they so often lose their faith in God.
3. They have denied an obvious proof of God's existence, they have accepted a major tenet of unbelief, and they have called in question a doctrine found multitudes of times throughout the Bible.

II. EVOLUTION SAYS THE UNIVERSE EVOLVED OVER BILLIONS OF YEARS.

THE BIBLE SAYS ALL WAS CREATED IN SIX DAYS

- A. Many scientists claim that all living things - plants, animals, and man - began by process of evolution over billions of years.
1. Dates range from 10 to 20 billion years
 2. They tell us that men have evolved and inhabited the earth for the last 100 million years or so.
- B. Genesis 1:31-2:3, however, says God made heavens and earth and all the host of them in six days and rested on the seventh day.
1. What is the significance of "day"? Should the days be understood to refer to the natural concept of a day of essentially 24 hours?
 2. Some say the days were long ages, thousands of years each.
 - a. This is an attempt to harmonize the Bible with evolution.
 - b. It is a compromise which will almost certainly lead to deeper compromises.
 3. But consider the evidence that the days in Gen. 1 are natural days, essentially 24 hours long as we think of natural days.
 - a. Note that the 7 "days" must all mean the same throughout Gen. 1.
 - b. God itemizes them one after the other and makes no distinction among them.
 - c. Each consists of "evening and morning," each is counted, etc.
 - d. The normal, accepted meaning of the word day, in a historical context, is that of a natural day (24 hours) or the daylight period of a day.
 - e. The word does have various usages.
 - (1) It may be used, especially in prophecy, to refer to a period of indefinite duration (I sa. 2:12-22; 2 Pet. 3:8; Jer. 46:10).

(2) However, this is not the normal meaning of the word.

(3) The overwhelming usage is for a natural day (24 hours) or for the daylight period of a day in contrast to night.

f. In a historical context, the normal use should be accepted unless there is reason in the context to accept another view.

4. Ex. 20:8-11 - In six days

III. EVOLUTION SAYS LIFE ORIGINATED FROM NON-LIVING MATTER.

THE BIBLE SAYS LIFE CAME FROM THE ETERNAL GOD.

- A. Evolution teaches that billions of years ago the first living thing came from a primordial soup in which nothing was alive. Illustration: Evolution, Statement of belief
- B. This belief of evolution conflicts with both the Bible and science.
1. Genesis 1:11,20,24,26 - The first living creatures were created by the eternal, living God.
 2. This is what the Bible teaches throughout.
 3. We partake of the nature of that from which we are the offspring.
 - a. We are the offspring of God, so we must realize that He is alive and is the giver of life.
 - b. Evolution, in contrast, says that life began by accident in a primeval swamp. Then from that life came all the present kinds of living things. This could only make us dead, lifeless matter.
 - c. Evolution Chart

- C. One of the most firmly established laws of science is the Law of Biogenesis, which says that life comes only from living things.
1. There is no evidence that dead, non-living matter can spontaneously generate life.
 2. The Bible agrees with this scientific fact, for it says that life came from the eternally living Creator [cf. also Acts 14:15].
 3. However, evolution contradicts both science and the Bible since it demands that dead matter must have sometime come to life.

IV. EVOLUTION SAYS MAN IS AN ADVANCED ANIMAL. THE BIBLE SAYS MAN IS UNIQUE FROM THE ANIMALS.

- A. Evolution Says Men Came from Animals.
1. Richard Leakey, a famous paleontologist, said: "There is no law that declares the human animal to be different as seen in this broad biological perspective, from any other animal." (Quoted by Bert Thompson, in "Can America Survive the Fruits of Atheistic Evolution?")
 2. Note this quote from prominent evolutionist George Gaylord Simpson: "Few doubt that [man's] closest living relatives are the apes. ..."
 3. If man evolved from animals then we are just animals and no more
- B. The Bible Says Man Was Created in God's Image. Genesis 1:26-28
1. Unlike the animals, man was created in the image or likeness of God. As a result, God gave men dominion over the animals. [Note that Adam, in the image of God, in turn had a son in HIS image - Gen. 5:1-5].

2. What is involved in the "image of God"? It appears that man is similar to God (though not on His level) and unlike animals in the following ways:
 - a. Man has rational intelligence. He has ability to reason, invent, communicate, etc., in ways far beyond animals. His ability in this regard allows him to communicate with God and understand God's will for him.
 - b. Man has a will, and a power to choose. He is a free moral agent. He is able to choose between alternatives and determine which course he will pursue. He is therefore accountable before God to make the choices and pursue the goals that God instructs him to.
 - c. Man has emotions. He can experience joy, love, anger, hatred, sorrow, etc. The Bible also attributes such feelings to God.
 - d. Man has a conscience. He is able, not only to distinguish right from wrong, but also to have an inherent sense of guilt when he has done wrong and a sense of approval when he has done right.
 - e. Man has a spirit nature which has the opportunity to be with God in eternity.
[Cf. John 4:24 to Ecc. 3:21; 12:7; etc.]

3. The image of God may involve more than this, but it surely includes all this. In all these ways men are like God, but unlike animals.

C. Here is another major contradiction between the Bible and evolution.

1. If man evolved from animals, then, we must partake of the nature of that from which we are the offspring.
2. If we evolved from the animals, we are just animals.
3. But if God created us, then we are the offspring of God and we partake of characteristics in common with God and distinct from the animals.

Conclusion

1. We have to choose - it is either Creation or Evolution
2. You cannot accept both ! They are contradictory of one another.
3. Jesus knew that Creation was correct: Mt. 19:4
4. The Bible is Right: You cannot be a Christian and accept the theory of Evolution !

End Notes

1. Smith, Charles. Third Annual Report of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism. 1928, p. 15. CF.: God is. George Klingman, Gospel Advocate Co. Nashville, Tn. 1929. P. 115. Apologetics Press "Evolution as a Threat to the Christian Home." By Bert Thompson.

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