

The Conflict over Creation

On Thursday night, January 5, 2008, ABC News included a segment in its nightly news broadcast a story covering the National Academy of Sciences' newly released book, *Science, Evolution and Creationism*, described as "a strongly-worded answer to the Creationist movement and the doubts about Darwin that many people express in polls and elsewhere."

Why has evolution become so widely accepted, and why has the Bible come to be viewed with such hostility? What has changed?

Only a few generations ago laws prevented the teaching of the theory of evolution in some communities and regions in the United States. **The Bible was commonly accepted as true and a reliable account of our origins.** But now almost the opposite is true. The Bible is banned from classrooms in American schools, and serious discussion of the biblical view of the creation of our universe—and our human origins—is forbidden. At the same time, criticism of the theory of evolution is at times ruthlessly suppressed in academic and scientific circles.

The Contrast with Creation

Evolutionists claim that all living things have come from one or a few original living organisms (they call it the "common ancestor"). They believe that the first living things on earth were simple life-forms that eventually evolved into very complex life-forms such as humans. Their idea is that all life on earth is like a "chain" throughout time linking simple organisms of the past to

complex organisms of today. Evolutionists believe that:

- single-celled organisms evolved into multi-celled organisms
- which eventually evolved into fish
- which evolved into amphibians
- which evolved into reptiles
- which evolved into birds and mammals
- which evolved into humans.

Creationists, on the other hand, believe that God created all the major types of living things separately in the beginning.

- fish were created as fish
- amphibians were created as amphibians
- reptiles were created as reptiles
- birds were created as birds
- mammals were created as mammals
- humans were created as humans right from the beginning.

Both of these theories cannot be true, since they contradict the other. But which one is right?

Since evolutionists claim that the transition from one species to a new one takes place in tiny, incremental changes over millions of years, they acknowledge that we cannot observe the process taking place today. Our life spans simply are too short to directly observe such a change.

Instead, they say, we have to look at the past-the fossil record that shows the many life forms that have existed over earth's history-to find transitions from one species to another.

The Case for Creation

Traditional evolutionary theory predicts a fossil record that would contain:

- Simple life forms gradually appearing with similar predecessors.
- Simple life forms gradually changing over time into more-complex forms.
- Countless transitional links between kinds of creatures.
- Beginnings of and partially completed features such as new limbs, bones and organs.

The biblical account of creation predicts a fossil record that would contain:

- Complex life forms suddenly appearing with no evolutionary predecessors.
- Complex life forms multiplying "after their kinds" (Genesis 6:20), but with limited variety within those kinds.
- No transitional links between kinds of creatures.
- No partial features such as new limbs, bones and organs; all parts are complete and fully functional.

After years of study and research, what does the fossil record show?

- Complex life forms suddenly appearing with no evolutionary predecessors.
- Complex life forms multiplying "after their kinds," but with limited variety within each species.
- No transitional links between kinds of creatures (the missing links are still missing).

- No partial features such as new limbs, bones and organs; all parts are complete and fully functional.

Harvard University paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould is perhaps today's best-known popular writer on evolution. An ardent evolutionist, yet he recognizes that the fossil record fundamentally conflicts with Darwin's idea of gradualism.

"The history of most fossil species," he writes, "includes two features particularly inconsistent with gradualism [gradual evolution from one species to another]:

"[1] *Stasis*. Most species exhibit no directional [evolutionary] change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking pretty much the same as when they disappear; morphological [anatomical or structural] change is usually limited and directionless.

"[2] *Sudden appearance*. In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors: it appears all at once and 'fully formed'" (Gould, "Evolution's Erratic Pace," *Natural History*, May 1977, pp. 13-14).

But you would never discover this by reading most books about evolution. Instead the fossil record is claimed to "prove" evolution.

Regarding this misrepresentation of the evidence, Phillip Johnson writes: "Just about everyone who took a college biology course during the last sixty years or so has been led to believe that the fossil record was a bulwark of support for the classic Darwinian thesis, not a liability that had to be explained away . . .

"The fossil record shows a consistent pattern of sudden appearance followed by a stasis, that life's history is more a story of variation around a set of basic designs than one of accumulating improvement, that extinction has been predominantly by catastrophe rather than gradual obsolescence, and that orthodox interpretations of the fossil record often owe more to Darwinist preconception than to the evidence itself.

"Paleontologists seem to have thought it their duty to protect the rest of us from the erroneous conclusions we might have drawn if we had known the actual state of the evidence" (*Darwin on Trial*, 1993, pp. 58-59).

The Conclusion about Creation

Evolution requires faith in non-existent facts, and a conclusion that "there is no God" (Naturalism).

The Bible says, "The fool has said in his heart, there is no god..." (Psalm 14: 1)

Creation requires faith too – but in this case based on facts such as noted above.

Now you must make a choice – God or no God? Choose wisely!

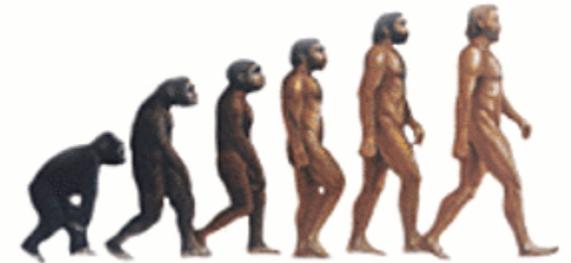
For further study:

Evolution: Exposed! By Roger Patterson, published by Answers in Genesis, 2006

The Face That Demonstrates The Face Of Evolution, by Hank Hanegraaf, published by Thomas Nelson

The Truth About Creation and Evolution

Did God really create man, or did man just evolve?



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

By Tom Stiles



P.O. Box 16319, Rochester, NY 14616