



Darwinian Evolution

Is It a Plausible Theory?

Jeff Coleman, 17 July 2022

Upcoming Schedule

Basic Theology — Sundays @ 9am

July 17 - Evolution and Origins

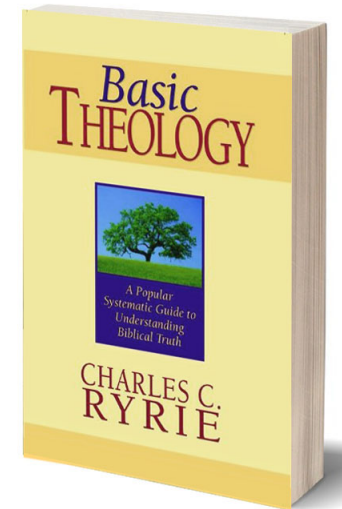
July 24 - The Bible and Origins

July 31 - The Creation of Man

August 7 - The Facets of Man

August 14 - The Fall of Man

August 21 - Not meeting



Importance of the Topic

Darwinian Evolution

- No subject is more widely debated than how man originated?
- Court cases have given global publicity to this subject
- The debate over the Bible's inerrancy seems to depend on the historicity of the Genesis account of creation
- There are a number of views among evangelical Christians

Three Separate but Related Questions

Darwinian Evolution

- How did the universe originate? How long ago?
- How did life on earth originate? How long ago?
- How did human beings originate? How long ago?

Darwinian Evolution

First Major View

- Several billion years ago, chemicals in the sea, acted on by sunlight and cosmic energy, formed by chance into one or more single-celled organisms
- These organisms have since developed through beneficial mutations and natural selection into all living plants, animals, and people.
 - No one denies change and development occur in many areas of creation.
- God is totally unnecessary to the origin and development of the biological life forms we see today.
- Man evolved over long periods of time from simpler, brute forms, and ultimately from an original single-celled creature.

“I will give absolutely nothing for the theory of natural selection if it requires miraculous additions at any one stage of descent.”

- Charles Darwin

“[T]o postulate a Divine interference with these exchanges of matter and energy at a particular moment in the earth’s history is both unnecessary and illogical.”

- Julian Huxley, *Evolution in Action*

Theistic Evolution

Second Major View

- God invisibly directed, used, and controlled the processes of naturalistic evolution to create the world and all life in it.
- The earth and prehuman life are very old, and the days of Genesis 1 are ages.
- Evolutionary processes were involved in the creation of Adam.
- Tries to reconcile evolution and creation
- Two versions:
 - God stepped in only at the beginning (i.e., theistic evolution).
 - God stepped in at key moments (i.e., progressive creationism).
- The creation of Eve poses a problem for this view.

Creation

Third Major View

- Science contributes to our understanding, but it must not control our interpretation of Scripture to accommodate its theories, which after all could be wrong.
- God directly created man in his image from the dust of the ground and his own breath of life (Ge 1:27; 2:7). No subhuman was involved.
- However the days of Genesis 1 are interpreted, Adam was the first man, and the account of his creation in Genesis 2 is historical.
- Adam is the first man from whom Eve was formed and the rest of mankind is descended.
- One view holds the account of the creation of Adam and Eve relates only to the garden of Eden and does not tell us anything about what was happening elsewhere (e.g., evolution). Adam was an island of creation in a sea of evolution.

Darwinian Evolution

A Closer Look

- The planets and stars resulted from a big-bang explosion of compressed, rotating protons and neutrons.
 - But where did the protons and neutrons come from?
- Life began completely by chance when a single cell appeared from non-living matter.
- All other living organisms have developed from that first life form, having gradually increased in complexity.

$$M + NS \times T = E$$

Mutations + Natural Selection x Time = Evolution

Mutations

A Closer Look

- Mutations are sudden, small changes in the DNA code of genes, passed on to offspring, causing them to differ from their parents.
- If enough mutations occur and are preserved, then the organism will become more complex and evolve into a different organism.
- The importance of mutations for evolution cannot be overemphasised.
 - “Not only is it an effective agency of evolution, but it is the only effective agency of evolution.” - Sir Julian Huxley, *Evolution in Action*

Natural Selection

A Closer Look

- Natural selection is the mechanism that preserves changes caused by mutations.
- When a change occurs that is beneficial to the organism, natural selection preserves that change because it is beneficial.
- Harmful changes are not preserved because they are bred out of the line as useless.
- Beneficial mutation increases the complexity of the organism.
- The selection process is raw nature; no intelligence is allowed.

Time

A Closer Look

- Long periods of time are necessary to evolution.
- Since mutations do not occur frequently, there has to be a lot of time for beneficial mutations to occur and be preserved by natural selection.
- In order to decrease the time required, some evolutionists propose “bursts” of mutations occurring at about the same time, which shortens the time required for the necessary changes to take place.

$$M + NS \times T = E$$

Mutations + Natural Selection x Time = Evolution

Problems with Darwinian Evolution

Mutations

- Mutations are rare and almost always harmful.
 - In the famous fruit fly experiment where mutations were produced artificially, only one fruit fly out of a million developed a mutation.
- No mutation has ever produced a new species, organ, or system in an existing species.
 - Mutations produce changes in existing organisms; they do not produce new ones.

Problems with Darwinian Evolution

Natural Selection

- Intelligent/labratory selection produces improvements, but there is little evidence natural selection does.
- Natural selection would not recognise the worth of a single mutation while waiting for other mutations to happen that would be necessary for the production of a new organ or system in the organism.
 - This is the problem of irreducible complexity.

Problems with Darwinian Evolution

Time

- The odds are 10^{161} to 1 that one useable protein would have been produced by chance in all history. Others say 1 out of 10^{243} or 1 out of 10^{160} .
- If one molecule were obtained, it would not help in arranging a second molecule unless there existed an accurate duplication process.
- Even if there was a duplication process, there are many kinds of proteins needed before there can be a living organism.
 - In Morowitz's minimal cell, 239 protein molecules are required from 124 different protein species.
- Even billions of years will not reduce the possibility of putting it in the range of reasonable possibility

Problems with Darwinian Evolution

Second Law of Thermodynamics

- This law states that, though energy in cosmos remains constant, the amount of usable energy decreases while entropy increases.
- Everything is going towards less order and more chaos.
- This runs directly counter to evolution.
 - Darwinian evolution is not "the grand exception to the second law."

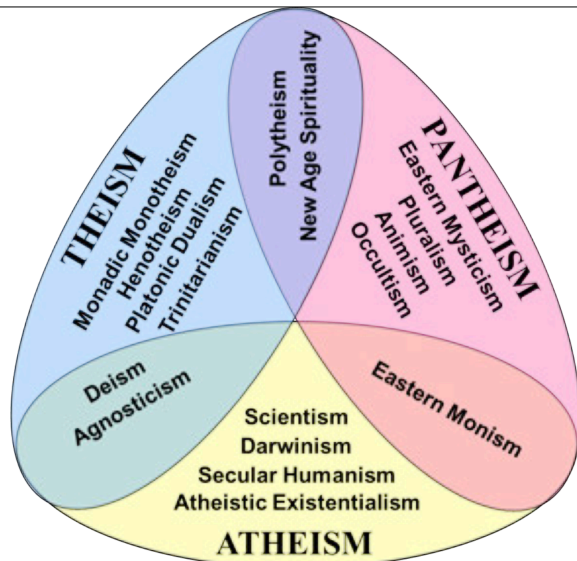
Problems with Darwinian Evolution

Fossil Record

- Dating methods are predicated on a uniform rate of decay of the particular element. We can't assume the rate of change has been uniform during the earth's history.
- Transitional forms have never been found among the millions of fossils that exist.
- The earliest fossils of each group exhibit all the features of that a group without any suggestion of graduation from one form to another.
- Simple forms of life are found in strata of rocks above more complex forms.

$$M + NS \times T = E$$

Mutations + Natural Selection x Time = Evolution



Expose the Weaknesses Darwinian Evolution

- Know and expose weaknesses in the theory of Darwinian evolution:
 - The rarity and harmfulness of mutations
 - Natural selection's inability to preserve beneficial mutations
 - Lack of time necessary for everything to happen by chance
 - Opposition to the second law of thermodynamics
 - Embarrassing gaps in the fossil record

It takes faith to believe Genesis.

It takes more faith to believe in Darwinian evolution.

**“In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.”**

- Genesis 1:1

