

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Developing a Biblical Worldview

How a Biblical Worldview Impacts the Way We View the Science of Life

Introduction: Previously, we had planned to cover in this week's sermon the disciplines of biology and psychology. However, due to the limitations of time, as well as this Sunday being time to celebrate Communion, we will focus solely upon Biology. The subject of psychology—how we view human nature—will be the focus of the sermon on February 17 after our Missions Conference.

- I. Defining Biology—the Science of Life
 - A. Biology: the science that deals with all forms of life, including their classification, physiology, chemistry, and interactions; a branch of knowledge that deals with organisms and vital processes.
 - B. The Biblical worldview embraces “Creationism”: the scientific theory proposing that each living organism was created separately (in much their present form) by a supernatural Being. (Genesis 1: 1 -27; 2: 7; Mark 10: 6)
 - C. Secular Humanism professes that “... man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process” and that “science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces.”
- II. Understanding the Various “Theories of Evolution”
 - A. Cosmic: the development of space, time, matter, and energy from nothing.
 - B. Stellar: the development of complex stars from the chaotic first elements.
 - C. Chemical: the development of all chemical elements from an original two.
 - D. Planetary: the development of planetary systems from swirling elements.
 - E. Organic: the development of organic life from inorganic matter (e.g., rock).
 - F. Macro-Evolution: development of one kind of life from a totally different kind of life. Herein is the essence of Darwin's theory of Natural Selection.
 - G. Micro-Evolution: the development of variations within the same kind of life; for example, this is what we call selected breeding.
- III. Evidence That Argues Against the Theory of Evolution
 - A. The Negative Evidence contained in the fossil record (the Cambrian Explosion)
 - B. The Evidence of Cosmology—the Universe had a beginning and a cause.
 - C. The Evidence of Biological Machines and Biological Information” (i.e., DNA)
 - D. The Teleological Argument (e.g., Paley's analogy of the design of a watch)
 - E. These arguments, along with the advance of the argument of Intelligent Design, have created a crises in the Darwinian theory.
 - F. The compromise: Theistic Evolution—the belief the God works through the natural process of evolution.
 1. The theological implications of such a view
 2. The argument of Scripture: Is Genesis allegorical or real?

Conclusion: The world's reaction to the Biblical worldview is neither kind nor understanding. Even well-credentialed scientists who hold to Intelligent Design and/or Creationism are subjects of ridicule and objects of derision in much of today's scientific community. As Christians who hold to the view “that in the beginning God created ...” can we expect to fare any better? The belief that God created all things, including men and women in His own image, requires faith and that is the gift of God (Ephesians 2: 8-9).

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.
Romans 5:12-14; 18-19

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Genesis 1:26-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) How would you describe your worldview with respect to the science of life? Explain.
- 2.) Consider the arguments against evolution: Are there ones that stand out and/or bear witness to you? Are there some that do not? Share with your small group the reasons why or why not.
- 3.) What do you think is the obvious conclusion to Secular Humanism's worldview as to the origin and meaning of life?
- 4.) Is there a difference between Creationism and Intelligent Design? Explain why you may think there is or is not?
- 5.) How would you explain Theist Evolution? From your perspective, where do you think it comes from?
- 6.) Does Theist Evolution compromise the Gospel? Why is the Biblical idea that we were created in the image of God so important?

Let the focus of your prayers this week be for our missionaries, Dee Krueger and Marshall Mullinax, who will be sharing with us at Missions Conference from Saturday evening, February 9 through Wednesday, February 13.

LORD OF THE HARVEST

<u>Day</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Prayer Theme</u>
Monday	Luke 10: 1-24	Pray that our missionaries will be full of joy as they share their work during missions conference tour and as they return to their countries.
Tuesday	John 4: 27-38	Ask God to make you a sower and a reaper in His Kingdom; pray about how you may sacrificially support His work this year.
Wednesday	Mark 16: 9-20	Pray that our missionaries will grow in faith, preach with boldness, and experience God's miraculous care.
Thursday	Acts 16: 6-10	Ask God to give you a region, country, or people group to pray for and learn about this year. Consider becoming a missionary or taking a short-term mission trip.
Friday	Acts 8: 26-40	Ask God to lead you to people with whom you may share the Scriptures and the Gospel, so that He might rejoice.

NOTES

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UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

DEFINING THE TERM “WORLDVIEW”

The term *worldview* refers to any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement, or religion that provides *an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man’s relation to God and the world.*

David A. Noebel, *Understanding the Times: The Religious Worldviews of our Day and the Search for Truth* (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1991)

TEN CATEGORIES THAT MAKE A WORLDVIEW

BIOLOGY	The study of the origin and development of living organisms. <i>What about life?</i>
PSYCHOLOGY	The study of the soul, mind, and spirit. <i>What about human nature?</i>
SOCIOLOGY	The study of social institutions and society. <i>What about society?</i>
POLITICS	The art of governing a city, state, or nation. <i>What about government?</i>

DEFINING "BIOLOGY"

- ❑ Science of life: the science that deals with all forms of life, including their classification, physiology, chemistry, and interactions
Encarta Dictionary (North America)
- ❑ A branch of knowledge that deals with living organisms and vital processes
Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF LIFE?

- Key Idea: Science is re-learning an old lesson – the more one discovers about the universe, the more one discovers design.



Dr. Dean Kenyon

“When all relevant lines of evidence are taken into account, and all the problems squarely faced, I think we must conclude the life owes its inception to a source outside of nature.”

KENYON'S CONCLUSION BASED ON FOUR PREMISES

1. The impossibility of the spontaneous origin of genetic information,
2. The fact that most attempts to duplicate the conditions for chemical evolution yield non-biological material,
3. The unfounded nature of the belief that prebiotic conditions encouraged a trend toward the formation of L-amino acids, and
4. The geochemical evidence that O_2 existed in significant amounts in the earth's early atmosphere (organic compounds decompose when O_2 is present).

STARK CONTRASTS IN WORLDVIEWS

- ❑ The Biblical Worldview embraces “Creationism”: The scientific theory proposing that each living organism was created separately (in much their present forms) by a supernatural being.
- ❑ The belief that God created all things, including men and women, in His own image requires faith.

STARK CONTRASTS IN WORLDVIEWS

- ❑ Secular Humanism: *Manifesto I* declares that “... man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process.”
- ❑ *Manifesto II* claims that “science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces.”
- ❑ *Manifesto 2000* states that “the unique message of humanism on the current world scene is its commitment to scientific naturalism. ... Scientific naturalism enables human beings to construct a coherent world view disentangled from metaphysics or theology and based on the sciences.”

SCIENCE'S SEVEN STAGES OF EVOLUTION

1. *Cosmic Evolution.* The development of space, time, matter and energy from nothing.
2. *Stellar Evolution.* The development of complex stars from the chaotic first elements.
3. *Chemical Evolution.* The development of all chemical elements from an original two.
4. *Planetary Evolution.* The development of planetary systems from swirling elements.

SCIENCE'S SEVEN STAGES OF EVOLUTION

5. *Organic Evolution.* The development of organic life from inorganic matter (a rock).
6. *Macro-Evolution.* The development of one kind of life from a totally different kind of life.
7. *Micro-Evolution.* The development of variations within the same kind of life.

Source: AllAbouttheJourney.org; also, from the book – *What Happened To Me?: Reflections of a Journey* by Randall Niles

DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION

- ❑ All life is related and has descended from a common ancestor.
- ❑ As random genetic mutations occur within an organism's genetic code, the beneficial mutations are preserved because they aid survival -- a process known as "natural selection."
- ❑ Over time, beneficial mutations accumulate and the result is an entirely different organism (not just a variation of the original, but an entirely different creature).

A SCIENTIFIC DISSENT FROM DARWINISM

"We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged."

Signed by over 600 Ph.D. scientists from major universities around the world.

Source: *The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel

EVIDENCE THAT ARGUES AGAINST DARWINISM

- Negative Evidence
- The Evidence of Cosmology
- The Evidence of Physics
- The Evidence of Biological Machines
- The Evidence of Biological Information
- The Teleological Argument

THE KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT



- Everything that has a beginning of its existence has a cause of its existence;
 - The universe has a beginning of its existence;
- Therefore:
- The universe has a cause of its existence.

THE EVIDENCE OF BIOLOGICAL MACHINES AND INFORMATION

- The complexity of life forms found in molecular biology provide great weight to the argument of intelligent design.
- The DNA molecule – which is the language of life – functions like the most complex software program ever designed.

THE TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT



William Paley
Natural Theology, 1802

- The complex inner workings of a watch necessitate an intelligent designer.
- As with a watch, the complexity of X (e.g., a particular organ or organism, the structure of the solar system, life, the universe, anything complex) necessitates a designer.

A THEORY IN CRISIS

- "...Natural selection acts only by taking advantage of slight successive variations; she can never take a great and sudden leap, but must advance by short and sure, though slow steps." – Charles Darwin, 1859
- "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." – Charles Darwin, 1859

A THEORY IN CRISIS (CONT'D.)

- Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a theory in crisis in light of the tremendous advances we've made in molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics over the past fifty years.

THE SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE

“There is only one cause for the origin of information, and that is intelligence.”

Dr. Stephen C. Meyer, Philosopher of Science - Discovery Institute

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.*

Psalm 19:1

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

“... intelligent design is not a faith-based idea as the media attempts to portray it, nor is it based on a theist belief, but rather, it is based on the discovery of digital code in cells, miniature machines in cells, the fine-tuning of the laws of physics and chemistry, and standard ways of scientific reasoning about the remote past and the history of life.”

Dr. Stephen C. Meyer, Philosopher of Science
The Discovery Institute

THE COMPROMISE: THEISTIC EVOLUTION

- Theistic Evolution: the belief that God works through the natural process of evolution.
- Creation in this context means that God created the first spark of life and then continually directed the creative process via the vehicle of evolution from that first spark to the ascension of human beings.

IF EVOLUTION IS TRUE ...

“... if evolution is true, then the story of the garden of Eden and original sin must be viewed as nothing more than allegory, a view that undermines the significance of Christ’s sinless life and sacrificial death on the Cross. ... The condemnation and corruption brought on us by Adam’s sin are the counterparts of the justification and sanctification made possible for us by Christ’s righteousness and death. If Adam was not a historical individual, and if his fall into sin was not historical, then the biblical doctrines of sin and Christ’s atonement for it collapse.” – Dr. David Noebel

LESSONS LEARNED FROM *INHERIT THE WIND*

- The 1960 film starred Spencer Tracy and Frederic March; a thinly veiled depiction about the 1925 “Scopes Monkey Trial”
- Demonstrated the triumph of reason over the ignorance of fundamentalist Christianity
- A powerful tool that shaped more than a few worldviews including my own

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” John 15:18