

## Evolution and the Origin of Humanity

### **Intro:**

This lecture is specifically over 1). what evolution is and 2). how Christians should think about it. If you want to know more about the age of the earth or whether the “days” in Genesis 1 are literal, you should listen to our lecture online entitled “Creation.”

“Today, the theory of evolution is an accepted fact for everyone but a fundamentalist minority, whose objections are based not on reasoning but on doctrinaire adherence to religious principles” - James Watson

“It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).” -Richard Dawkins

### **Definition:**

“The process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth.”

“The history of the development of life began when a mix of chemicals present on the earth spontaneously produced a very simple, probably once-celled life form. This living cell reproduced itself, and eventually there were some mutations or differences in the new cells produced. These mutations led to the development of more complex life forms. A hostile environment meant that many of them would perish, but those that were better suited to their natural environment would survive and multiply. Thus, nature exercised a process of ‘natural selection’ in which the differing organisms most fitted to the environment survived. More and more mutations eventually developed into more and more varieties of living things, so that from the very simplest organism all the complex life forms on earth eventually developed through this process of mutation and natural selection.” –Wayne Grudem

### **Micro-Evolution vs. Macro-Evolution**

Micro-Evolution – A change within a species.

Examples: Moths changing color to avoid being eaten, skin producing more melanin in sunny climates, differences in height, etc.

Macro-Evolution – A change from one species to another.

Examples: Humans being descended from apes, lizards developing wings and becoming birds, etc.

“Nonliving substance gave rise to the first living material, which subsequently reproduced and diversified to produce all extinct and extant organisms.” –Wayne Frair

Christians are free to believe in micro-evolution but should know that macro-evolution, in its secular sense, is not a Christian position.

### **Charles Darwin (1809-1882)**

An English biologist who is credited with popularizing human evolution.

*On the Origin of Species* (1859)– Promoted the theory of natural selection.

*The Descent of Man* (1871) – Applied the theory of evolution specifically to humans.

#### Fun Facts:

-Though Darwin somehow got the credit for his view, other thinkers both modern (such as Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, 1744-1829), and ancient (Anaximander, c. 500 BC and Lucretius, 99BC-55BC) already had fully-formed views of natural processes, including evolution!

-He used to be on the 10 pound note in England.

-He once ate an owl.

-He married his first cousin.

-He had one degree and it wasn't in science; it was in...theology.

-He believed that the theory of evolution should lead us to conclude that some races are better than others (racism).

The full title of his book, *On the Origin of Species* is: *On the origin of species by means of natural selection or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life*

“The Western nations of Europe...now so immeasurably surpass their former savage progenitors [that they] stand at the summit of civilization...The civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races through the world.” –Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man*

### **Three important evolutionary theories to know**

Darwinian – Evolution is slow, progressive.

Punctuated equilibrium – Evolution happens in spurts.

Theistic – God used evolution to create man.

### **Some logical and scientific problems with evolution**

1. After 100 years of experimental breeding by scientists, they have been unable to make macro-evolution happen. The tendency is that a species tries to retain its original species; it actually resists evolutionary change. Dogs remain dogs and fruit flies remain fruit flies, etc.

2. The argument of evolution is a tautology. The claim is that a creature that develops an “advantage” will survive. But how do we know what really is an “advantage?” We simply see what has survived. This is a circular argument. It states that if something survived it must have had a “competitive advantage” and if we ask what that “advantage” is we just select some feature that modern organisms have and say that must have been the “advantage.”

3. Complex organisms that require multiple parts could not have evolved independently.

4. We do not have fossil records with the intermediate organisms. Darwin knew this and just thought we would find them later. We have never found them.

“Neither of the two fundamental axioms of Darwin’s macroevolutionary theory – the concept of the continuity of nature, that is the idea of a functional continuum of all life forms linking all species together and ultimately leading back to a primeval cell, and the belief that all the adaptive design of life has resulted from a blind random process – have been validated by one single empirical discovery or scientific advance since 1859.” –Michael Denton

5. Evolution explains why certain creatures are similar but not why certain creatures develop differences that seem to provide *no benefit*.

6. The chance of life evolving randomly is ridiculously high.

“The probability of finding two of the active molecules [to produce one enzyme molecule, on an earth covered with 95 pounds of protein molecules] would be  $10^{22}$ , and the probability that they would be identical would be  $10^{70}$ . And could life start with just a single enzyme molecule? Furthermore, what is the possibility that an active enzyme molecule, once formed, could find its way through thousands of miles and millions of years to that randomly formed RNA or DNA molecule which contains the code for that particular enzyme molecule’s amino acid sequence, so that new copies of itself could be produced? Zero for all practical purposes.” – Robert Kofahl

He goes on to say that the chance of a living organism developing, statistically, is  $10^{340,000,000}$ . That's one chance in 10 with 340,000,000 zeros after it.

7. The evolutionary hypothesis still doesn't describe where the universe came from or how everything got started.
8. The evolutionary theory doesn't tell us the end goal. Yes it is to survive and pass our genes but for what purpose? Why is "life" trying to stay alive if there is no reason why it tries to stay alive?
9. Evolution is not strictly provable because it is not strictly testable.

### **Some problems with an evolutionary worldview**

1. Humans do not have more value than any other thing (plants, bugs, rats, etc.).
2. Some races would be further along in evolving than others and this leads to actual racism.
3. If survival of the fittest is true, then you should seek to harm others if it provides an advantage for your offspring over theirs.
4. Rape, adultery, and sexual assault might actually be good if they allow you to produce more offspring.
5. The first evolutionary theorist thought that homosexuality was a mental illness because it did not accord with reproducing with the opposite sex.
6. If your mind evolved to stay alive - and not to find truth - how could you possibly think you were right if you were an atheist?
7. You would not have an objective standard of morality.

### **What if evolution were true?**

It would not provide a "defeater" for Christianity. It would affect how we read the Genesis story, and we would be required to say that God controlled the process of evolution.