

305 Design but no Designer?

In a conversation recently about a man who was having cancer treatment, a neighbour of ours came out with this comment about the prostate gland – “What a bad design! You would think that evolution could do better than that!”.

In those few words, spoken by a literal and typical “man in the street”, are two very telling assumptions: first, that we have indeed evolved as Charles Darwin proposed; and second, that Darwinian evolution involves design. We will use this Reflection briefly to re-visit the Genesis / Darwin debate, because it remains such a key part of the battle being fought out all around us over who is to reign supreme – is it to be God, or Man? How vital it is that Bible-accepting Christians understand the nature of this battle and its significance, and are able to expose the many evolutionary fallacies with a few straight questions directed to Darwin’s supporters.

Darwin’s theory of evolution, (supported by its three fellow-travellers on which it depends, a Big Bang from nothing at all, a time-scale of billions of years, and the spontaneous emergence of life), has conquered the world so spectacularly because it apparently explains how we got here by natural processes alone, with no need for a God. Atheists can thus claim that “the God-idea” and all its implications have been exposed as false, and should therefore be ditched as soon as possible. Such a belief of course appeals to Man’s inherently sinful nature and the various God-rejecters of our day (egs., Genesis 6.5 / Psalm 10.4 / 36.1 / Luke 11.13a / Romans 3.23 / Galatians 1.4).

We now come to our neighbour’s remark about design within Darwin’s theory. Darwin’s suggested mechanism for the “origin of species” is “natural selection”: that is, occasional random mutations have bestowed, by chance, slight advantages on to some life-forms, advantages which then accumulate down through the generations giving benefit in the “struggle for survival”. Given millions of years of these random mutations, the many species we see surviving around us today, including us, “homo sapiens”, can thus be explained by an apparently scientific, no-God-necessary, method.

But never mind Alice, this is “Darwin in Wonderland”. Firstly, two unanswerable problems - the need for extra genetic information and the presence of “irreducible complexity” - block this path of make-believe “just like that” (see TWR 283).

Secondly, the essence of random mutations is a complete LACK of design, plan, direction or goal - the clue is in the term “random”! In Darwinism there is no blueprint anywhere that shows a finished butterfly, or horse, or human being, or blue whale, or golden eagle, or sunflower or oak tree or cactus. There’s nothing. There’s No-one in control. It is just a self-starting, self-trundling process aiming at nothing, going nowhere – yet hey presto, here we all are in this fantastic universe! Whatever else it may be, Darwinian evolution has nothing to do with design, and nothing to do with science.

The only way therefore that we could have evolved is if God used evolution as His method of creation, which gives rise to the Church’s position of compromise and defeat broadly termed “theistic evolution”. This involves downgrading early Genesis

to myth, quite unnecessarily; it yields the ground concerning our origins and even the existence of God Himself to Darwin's supporters; and it gravely weakens the authority of God's Word, the Holy Bible. Theistic evolution is a wholly needless retreat, and has done untold damage to the work of the Church and its proclamation of the Gospel (see TWR 280).

Thanks be to God, it is no surprise that God did NOT use evolution (see TWR 284). He did create the heavens and the earth in six literal days, as revealed to us in Genesis Chapters 1 - 2; He did cause to be recorded the genealogies in Chapters 5, 10 and 11; and He did flood the earth in judgment as in Genesis Chapters 6 - 8, and, despite the incessant Darwinian propaganda, the scientific evidence we see around us is entirely in accord with these foundational scriptural statements.

There is no need at all for Christian cowering over our origins. By our asking simple questions to Darwin's supporters, it becomes quickly apparent that this purported "emperor" named Darwinian evolution has no clothes at all.

What is more, the despatch of Darwinian evolution to the dustbin where it belongs, and the retrieval of the Holy Bible from the dustbin where it does not belong, will do us all a great deal of good.

We have every reason to be of good cheer as we praise God for His continuing and unchanging truth, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119.105).

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