

Darwinism and Religion

[Yesterday](#) I talked about the charge that intelligent design is not science but religion. Today I would like to look at the other part of the debate. Does Darwinian evolution function as a sort of secular religion?

Nancy Pearcey writes in her book *Total Truth* that “Darwinism functions as the scientific support for an overarching naturalistic worldview.” Today scientists usually assume that scientific investigation requires naturalism. But that was not always the case.

When the scientific revolution began (and for the next three hundred years), science and Christianity were considered to be compatible with one another. In fact, most scientists had some form of Christian faith, and they perceived the world of diversity and complexity through a theistic framework. Nancy Pearcey points out that Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, and others sought to understand the world and use their gifts to honor God and serve humanity.


By the nineteenth century, secular trends began to change their perspective. This culminated with the publication of *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin. His theory of evolution provided the needed foundation for naturalism to explain the world without God. From that point on, social commentators began to talk about the “war between science and religion.”

By the twentieth century, G.K. Chesterton was warning that Darwinian evolution and naturalism was becoming the dominant “creed” in education and the other public arenas of Western culture. He said it “began with Evolution and has ended in Eugenics.” Ultimately, it “is really our established Church.”

Secular evolutionists may not have church services, but it is easy to see that naturalism and Darwinism have become the main pillars of a secular view of the world. That may explain why

most debates about origins quickly become so intense. Expect more and more controversy as scientists and commentators challenge the theory of evolution.

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PUBLICATIONS

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11. Bohlin, Ray. 2000. Ed., *Creation, Evolution, and Modern Science: Probing the Headlines that Impact Your Family*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Mich., 192 pp.
12. Bohlin, Ray, book review of *The Design Inference: Eliminating*

Chance through Small Probabilities by William Dembski, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998 in *Philosophia Christi* Vol. 2 (2), 2000, p. 142-144.

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14. Sebastian, Sharon and Bohlin, Raymond G. 2009. *Darwin's Racists: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Virtual Bookworm.

PROBE RADIO TRANSCRIPTS

15. Darwin on Trial
16. Christian Environmentalism
17. Sociobiology: Evolution, Genes, and Morality
18. How to Talk to Your Kids about Creation and Evolution (with Sue Bohlin)
19. The Grand Canyon and the Age of the Earth
20. The Epidemic of Sexually Transmitted Diseases
21. The Five Crises of Evolutionary Theory
22. Human Cloning
23. Human Fossils: Just So Stories of Apes and Humans
24. The Natural Limits to Biological Change
25. Why We Believe in Creation
26. The Sanctity of Human Life
27. The Worldview of Jurassic Park
28. Sexual Purity
29. Defending the Faith Philosophically (with Don Closson, Rich Milne, and Jerry Solomon)
30. Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus (with Sue Bohlin)
31. Evolution's Big Bang: The Cambrian Explosion
32. The Battle for Life: Physician-Assisted Suicide
33. Up A River without a Paddle: A Darwinian View of Life
34. Life on Mars: Are We Alone in the Universe?

35. Can Humans Be Cloned Like Sheep?
36. Darwin's Black Box
37. Campus Christianity
38. The Star of Bethlehem
39. Contact: A Eulogy to Carl Sagan
40. Christian Views of Science and Earth History (with Rich Milne)
41. Cloning and Genetics: The Brave New World Closes In
42. Why Does the University Fear Philip Johnson?
43. Darwinism Takes a Step Back in Kansas
44. Mere Creation: Science, Faith, and Intelligent Design
45. Genetic Engineering
46. The Coming Revolution in Science
47. Human Genetic Engineering
48. Human Genome Project
49. Icons of Evolution
50. Global Warming
51. The Controversy Over Stem Cell Research
52. PBS Evolution Series
53. Stem Cells and the Controversy over Therapeutic Cloning
54. Where Was God on 9/11?
55. The Galapagos Islands: Sacred Ground of Evolution
56. Are We Alone in the Universe?
57. The Controversy Over Stem Cell Research
58. Is the Tender Warrior Wild at Heart?
59. Genetic Engineering
60. Human Genetic Engineering
61. The Controversy of Evolution in Biology Textbooks
62. Redesigning Humans: Is It Inevitable?
63. The Continuing Controversy Over Stem Cells
64. Total Truth
65. Was Darwin Wrong?
66. The Impotence of Darwinism
67. The Case for a Creator
68. The Privileged Planet
69. Is Intelligent Design Dead?

ORIGINS LECTURE TOPICS

Amoeba to Man: You Can't Get There From Here

An analysis of the various examples of evolutionary change today and the evidence for the concept of the created kind. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Creation/Evolution: What Can We Know About the Origins of the Universe and Life?

A fast-paced presentation outlining the major tensions in the origins debate and what conclusions we can draw. Summarizes the evidence for the origins of the universe and life, the origin of complex adaptations and the evidence for design and intelligence. Requires 1 hour and 15 minutes. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Christian Views of Science and Earth History

A description of the three most prevalent Christian views of Genesis: Literal or Recent Creation, Progressive or Day Age Creation, and Theistic Evolution. Strengths and weaknesses of each one are analyzed and discussed. Power Point on video projector.

Early Man and Human Fossils

This presentation analyzes the fossil evidence for human evolution from a creationist perspective. The scarcity of fossils, the twists of interpretation, and the fossils that are out of place are discussed. Power Point on video projector.

Evidence of Intelligence

Evidence for an intelligent creator from molecules to the universe. Video and Power Point on video projector.

The Grand Canyon and the Great Flood

This presentation takes you on a hike into the Grand Canyon with the Institute for Creation Research. You'll see some of the fabulous sites in the Grand Canyon as well as an explanation as to how ICR believes the Canyon may have been formed in conjunction with the flood of Noah. Slide illustrated.

In the Beginning: A Study of Genesis One

This is a verse by verse discussion of the first chapter of Genesis.

The Influence of the Evolutionary Worldview on Society

More and more evolutionists are calling for a new society based on the principles of evolution. What do they want? Power Point on video projector.

Life's Origins

A critique of the general scheme of chemical evolution and evidence for the hand of God in living cells. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Why We Believe in Creation

A biblical apologetic for a creationist position based primarily on the nature and character of God and the centrality of creation in the Bible.

NON-ORIGINS LECTURE TOPICS

A Christian Environmental Ethic

Christianity provides the only real basis for ecological concern. It should not take a crisis for Christians to be environmentally aware. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Abortion: The Destruction of the Innocents

Abortion is an unjustifiable intrusion on the safety of the womb. What is the logic behind the abortion movement and how should we respond. Power Point on video projector.

A Defense of Christianity: Can Christianity Be Trusted?

This presentation will defend Christian Theism as a worldview and examine historical evidence for the truth of Christianity. Power Point on video projector.

Campus Christianity: How Should We Live?

Four principles (Think Christianly, Cultivate a Teachable Spirit, Pursue Excellence, and Faithfulness) are presented for effective Christian witnessing in the classroom (or any

sphere of life) are addressed. Also presented as **Being Christian in a Post-Christian Society** for adult audiences. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Human Nature: Who Are We?

Various views of the nature of man and their consequences are examined and contrasted with the Christian view. Video and Power Point on video projector.

Infanticide and Euthanasia: Gateway to the Death Camps of the 21st Century

The legacy of abortion is an ever decreasing value of human life in our society. The slippery slope is becoming steeper. Video and overhead projector.

Genes, Cloning, and Genetic Engineering: A Christian Perspective

How will these new technologies be used? Is it a Pandora's Box or a miracle cure? Power Point on video projector.

The Worldview of Jurassic Park

Scenes from the movie *Jurassic Park* are viewed with the intent of discovering some of the obvious and also some of the subtle messages contained within this incredible piece of entertainment. TV/VCR and Overhead Projector

Guys are from Mars, Girls are from Venus

This presentation looks at the astonishing agreement between the newfound discoveries in the secular world concerning the uniqueness of men and women and their agreement with millennia old statements from the Bible. Power Point on video projector.

A Christian Response to Homosexuality

This presentation investigates the problem of homosexuality in our culture today, bringing together relevant Biblical passages and scientific studies from the fields of psychology, neurology, and genetics. The goal is to understand what God says, what science knows, and how we are to respond. How can we “hate the sin, yet love the sinner”? Power Point on video projector.

Safe Sex and the Facts

This presentation documents the unprecedented epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases. Primary to the discussion is the clear medical evidence that abstinence followed by monogamy is the only way to stay reproductively healthy throughout one's adult life. Slide Projector.

Science and Worldview

This presentation explores the roots of modern science from a Christian world view and why other worldviews failed to produce science as we know it. Power Point on video projector.

Worldviews: What Is True?

The major “isms” (theism, naturalism, and pantheism) in our culture and their influence are discussed. Power Point on video projector.

POSITION STATEMENT ON CREATION/EVOLUTION

1. That God is Creator is clearly taught in Scripture: Genesis 1 and 2, Job 38-41, Psalm 104, Romans 1:18-20, and Col. 1:16,17. The suggestion that life and man are the result of chance is incompatible with the biblical concept of intelligent creative activity. Theistic evolution is not a viable option in my opinion.
2. The data from astrophysics, astronomy, and mathematics do not support the concept of an eternal universe with no beginning. Something, indeed, has always existed, but it is not matter and energy. There is a definite requirement for a transcendent energizing existence which is outside the material universe.
3. The data from geology, chemistry, biochemistry, and molecular biology do not support the theory that life arose from non-life by some process of chemical evolution. There is a definite requirement for intelligence in organizing and ordering living systems.
4. The data from paleontology, genetics, ecology, and molecular biology do not support the theory of descent with modification from single-celled organisms to man. The elements of intelligent design in nature point to a Supreme Designer that possesses a sense of beauty, form, function, and even humor. Though organisms do change over time, there appears to be genetically built-in limits to the amount and type of biological change that is possible.

5. The plain language of Genesis 1 seems to teach a recent literal six-day creation. There is much data from science, however, that indicates the universe and earth are billions of years old. I do not believe that certainty regarding the age of the earth is either necessary or possible at this time. Tension in areas of conflict between science and biblical interpretation should not necessarily be viewed as either questioning the inerrancy of scripture or a lack of faith. This issue should not be the focus of the creation/evolution debate at this time.

6. The plain language of Genesis 6-8 teaches a violent universal flood which would be expected to leave discernible scars on the earth. However, it is difficult to assimilate all geological formations into a model of a single worldwide flood only 5,000 years ago. There is also a significant amount of geological data that is not easily explained by uniformitarian principles. Research of a water canopy/universal flood model should be vigorously pursued, but belief in such should not be made a litmus test of true Christian belief.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

The creation/evolution debate is not only a divisive issue between the conservative Christian community and the scientific establishment, but it also divides Christians as well. The tension between both sets of groups often arises because people are talking with no one listening, and hearing without understanding. Strict adherence to a position is more important than understanding another's point of view. This lack of communication only intensifies the confrontation due to internal biases.

I believe that a reasonable and calm presentation of the evidence can defuse the emotional bullets, especially if questions are answered straightforwardly and with integrity. As a result, the level of learning on both sides is

drastically increased. While there are some points in which I believe strongly and will defend them rigorously, there are other issues which still require much study and discussion between all parties before a firm commitment can be taken. Part of my overall purpose is to increase the level and depth of communication between differing camps of the creation/evolution debate while reducing the level of suspicion, contempt, and confrontation. This approach is aimed first of all at bringing Christians together and secondly towards increasing the level of communication between creationists and evolutionists outside the church.

We must take up the Lord's invitation to the nation of Israel through the prophet Isaiah when He said, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Is. 1:18).

What is Probe?

Probe Ministries is a non-profit ministry whose mission is to assist the church in renewing the minds of believers with a Christian worldview and to equip the church to engage the world for Christ. Probe fulfills this mission through our *Mind Games* conferences for youth and adults, our 3-minute daily radio program, and our extensive Web site at www.probe.org.

Further information about Probe's materials and ministry may be obtained by contacting us at:

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