

# THE UNIVERSE: GOD OR CHANCE

## EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 2007

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### INTRODUCTION

Why write about the debate over origins and the existence of God? There are three very good reasons for exploring this topic. First, the affirmation or denial of God has more consequences than any other belief. Mortimer Adler, co-editor of Encyclopedia Britannica, said it best:

**More consequences for thought and action follow from the affirmation or denial of God than from answering any other question.**

How one answers the existential questions of life is primarily determined by whether one believes or does not believe in God. For example, those who do not believe in God will answer the question of origins by appealing to the idea that life is a cosmic accident, whereas those who believe in God will acknowledge a Creator. A second reason is that knowledge concerning the debate over the existence of God is useful for the Christian believer, who is commanded by God through the writing of the Apostle Peter to always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason you believe (**I PETER 3:15**). A third reason is that human beings are naturally inquisitive. Aristotle, who lived more than three centuries before Christ, said:

**All people by nature desire to know.**

I want to make it clear from the beginning that I am a Christian with a high view of the Bible. Despite my very specific Christian worldview, however, I will make every attempt to be fair in my presentation of the material concerning origins and the reasons why I believe that naturalism is scientifically and philosophically bankrupt. With that thought in mind, let us explore the debate over origins and the existence of God.

### DIFFERENT VIEWS ON ORIGINS

Sometimes the topic of origins can get complicated simply because people become confused over the associated jargon. To avoid this confusion, it is good to look at some of the terms that often surface during a discussion on origins.

Creation refers to matter, space and time being willed into existence by a Supreme Being of infinite intelligence. There are five major views among those who call themselves creationists:

- (1.) Theistic evolution is the belief that God used evolution as His means of creating. Theistic evolution, however, suffers from the same problem as atheistic evolution, which is a lack of evidence for macroevolution. Theistic evolution is perhaps the most common view on origins, since it combines the prevalent belief in God with the prevalent belief in evolution.
- (2.) Old earth creationism is the belief in special creation which subscribes to a long time frame - the same time frame that naturalistic evolutionists believe in. The days of creation are believed to be eons in length. In general, old earth creationists believe in a regional rather than a global Noahic flood and the separation of humans and dinosaurs by approximately 65 million years. Many believe in a pre-Adamite race of "people" - what many scientists would call sub-humans.
- (3.) Young earth creationism is the belief in special creation which subscribes to a short time frame. Young earth creationists believe that both the genealogical records from **GENESIS** and

abundant scientific evidence point to the universe and earth being in the neighborhood of only 6,000-10,000 years of age. The days of creation are believed to be six literal (24 hour) days. In general, young earth creationists believe in a global Noahic flood, which is why they are often referred to as flood creationists or flood geologists, and the co-existence of humans and dinosaurs. They deny the existence of a pre-Adamite race of "people", believing that what many scientists call sub-humans are either extinct varieties of apes or archaic forms of fully human people.

(4.) Gap theory creationism (restitution creationism or creation-ruin-recreation) is the belief that a very large gap of time exists between **GENESIS 1:1** and **GENESIS 1:2**, all the time needed to accommodate the geologic epochs proposed by mainstream science. Advocates of the gap theory believe that the correct reading of **GENESIS** should be "the earth became empty and void" - which would indicate a global cataclysm which is usually believed to be associated with the angelic fall - not "the earth was empty and void" which would indicate the initial condition of earth before God continued on with the days of creation. The gap theory describes both an initial creation and a recreation, with the recreation generally the same as that described by young earth creationism.

(5.) The most recent view is the Intelligent Design Movement (ID), which is an attempt to eliminate arguing between theistic evolutionists, old earth creationists, young earth creationists and gap theorists by avoiding what ID describes as peripheral issues such as the age of the universe and earth, the extent of the Noahic flood and explanations for differences in human and human-like skeletons. ID is adamant that creationists of all persuasions "learn to get along" and unify against Darwinism, which is where the debate should always be. ID often focuses on molecular biology, genetics and paleontology, although ID is not limited to these scientific disciplines. The bottom line of ID is that purely naturalistic explanations cannot account for the origin and complexity of life. ID advocates are sometimes referred to as literary creationists, because they believe that **GENESIS** describes the creation in a literary form not meant to be strict science. ID proponents stop short of identifying the Intelligent Designer with the God of the Bible or the Quran, instead emphasizing the inadequacies of Darwinism as a scientific theory.

Evolution simply means change over time. The common definition of the term is matter, space and time coming into existence as a result of random chance. There are several aspects of naturalistic evolution. Cosmic evolution refers to the beginning of the universe, chemical evolution refers to the origin of the elements that compose matter, stellar evolution refers to the formation of stars, planetary evolution refers to the formation of planets and planetary systems and geological evolution refers to the formation of climatic and geologic systems on earth. Biological evolution refers to how life could arise from non-life, and it is split into two categories: Macroevolution and microevolution. Macroevolution addresses how a simple cell could have evolved into all of the species of animals and plants that have ever existed. Macroevolution is believed by faith since it has never been observed, is philosophical since it is not scientifically testable or even feasible yet still believed in, and is not scriptural since the Bible states that creatures bring forth only after their kind whereas evolutionary theory teaches that one specific life form becomes another specific life form over time. Microevolution refers to variation within a biological family or kind (speciation). Microevolution is observed, scientific and scriptural. There are no problems for microevolution, either scientific or Biblical.

Darwinian evolution is the form of evolutionary theory which states that change resulting in new forms of plants and animals occurs slowly over eons of time. The mechanisms are time, mutations and natural selection. It has been shown, however, that the estimated 4.6 billion year history of earth is not enough time to allow for evolution as it has been proposed. Mutations are neutral at best and almost always harmful and biologically degrading, and natural selection only serves to keep a species unchanged which is exactly what the fossil record demonstrates.

Punctuated equilibria, made popular by Niles Eldridge and Stephen Jay Gould, is evolutionary theory on fast forward. This theory states that an animal or plant reproduced a different form of animal or plant, an example being a reptile giving birth to a bird, which is a convenient way of accounting for the lack of intermediate fossils. There would be no intermediate fossils since the

change takes place "instantaneously" at the genetic level. Since plants and animals can only work with the genetic information that they have at their disposal, this hypothesis has serious problems unless one appeals to divine guidance. That, however, would simply be theistic evolution which is anathema to the hardcore evolutionist.

Some of the views on origins can work either in an atheistic or a theistic setting. Panspermia is the belief that the "seeds of life" have always been present throughout the universe, and that life on Earth is a result of this "seeding". Although this view sounds like science fiction, panspermia is a very popular belief, even by many highly-educated scientists such as Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA, and Fred Hoyle, the astrophysicist who coined the term "Big Bang". Exogenesis, also known as directed panspermia, is the belief that the "seeds of life" were actually placed by extraterrestrials. Last but certainly not least is the Ancient Astronaut Theory. Originally proposed by Russian scientists in the fifties and boosted in popularity in the late sixties by Erich Von Daniken, the Ancient Astronaut Theory claims that human life began when extraterrestrials genetically engineered hominids (sub-humans or apemen) on earth thousands of years ago. According to advocates of the theory, the early chapters of **GENESIS** are simply a poetic way of explaining this alien intervention with humans. This belief has become very popular due to the undeniable evidence of the intelligent design of life, yet it offers an explanation for this intelligent design apart from God, which is exactly what many people today want. We also live in a culture in which science fiction is extremely popular, and many people have difficulty differentiating between science fiction and science fact. UFO cultists and Ancient Astronaut Theorists claim that ancient people were not intelligent enough to have been able to construct the ancient megaliths such as the Great Pyramid and Stonehenge, or perform the advanced medical techniques that many archaeologists have unveiled. Therefore, they reason that aliens built these structures and taught ancient people advanced science and medicine. However, creationists believe that the first people were created perfect (or near perfect) and due to the fall of man have degenerated physically and intellectually ever since. Being closer to the original creation, ancient people would have been extremely capable. The major weakness of the Ancient Astronaut Theory is that there is no solid evidence for extraterrestrial life.

Eastern mystical creationism (cyclical creation-destruction-recreation) is the general view among the Eastern religions, and is pantheistic in nature. Pantheism is the belief that "everything is God". In general the Eastern religions believe that the universe as a whole passes through endless cycles of creation-destruction-recreation. The universe is considered to be eternal, and once the present universe contracts down to a zero point a new expanding universe will begin shortly thereafter. This is essentially the oscillating theory of the origin of the universe. In this view of origins macroevolution accounts for physical life, although there is a "divine spark" that set the process in motion.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEBATE ON ORIGINS

Most civilizations in the ancient world subscribed to an eternal universe, spontaneous generation and some type of evolutionary scheme. Although the ancient civilizations believed in many gods, these gods were not responsible for the creation of the universe and life but were rather a part of the eternal universe themselves. The only exception were the Hebrews, who believed in one supreme God who specially created the universe and life. Ancient Greece was a hotbed for intellectual thought concerning the existence of the supernatural and the issue of origins. Anaximander, a pre-Socratic philosopher who lived six centuries before Christ, proposed a belief system as to how life could have begun spontaneously and naturalistically, with no need for God. He taught that the first animals to appear were marine creatures, which is correct according to both **GENESIS** and modern science, and he also taught that these creatures formed spontaneously out of mud, which is incorrect since spontaneous generation was proven wrong by Francesco Redi in the 16th century and confirmed by Louis Pasteur in the 19th century. According to Anaximander, these marine animals in turn gave rise to land animals, birds and eventually human beings. Empedocles, a philosopher and naturalist, proposed two centuries

later the idea that all animals had evolved from plants. A century later Aristotle held a belief in an evolutionary process in which life forms evolved from simple to complex by means of a "tendency within", a self-organizing biological process which has since been proven impossible by modern laws of science. Aristotle did believe in a First Cause, however. Sadly, the ideas of Anaximander, Empedocles and Aristotle are not really different from the beliefs of many people today. The Greek thinkers viewed the universe as eternal. The belief in an eternal universe was carried all the way into the first half of the 20th century, until Albert Einstein eventually confirmed that the universe had a beginning. Opposing these ancient Greek thinkers, four decades before Christ the Roman orator Cicero proposed intelligent design as proof for the Creator, and the Apostle Paul recorded the same belief approximately a century later in his letter to the church in Rome (**ROMANS 1:20**).

In the first and second centuries, as a result of both the Jewish diaspora and the spread of Christianity to Europe, Greco-Roman evolutionism was seriously challenged by the Judeo-Christian concept of creationism. Theophilus of Antioch, an early Church Father, wrote in defense of creationism and belief in a young earth in 170. The Roman physician Galen, also in 170, wrote against creationism and in favor of evolutionism. The stage was set for debate. North African philosopher and theologian Augustine wrote a few centuries later in 415 that the first chapter of **GENESIS** should be interpreted as allegory, but that the remainder of the book should be viewed as history - including the creation of Adam and Eve as well as the flood in the days of Noah. He called for readers not to be too dogmatic in their interpretation of **GENESIS**. A little over two hundred years later Islam was founded in Arabia (c. 632) by Muhammad Ibn Abdullah, a wealthy merchant with great spiritual inclinations. The Quran holds the same core beliefs concerning origins that the Bible teaches. Islam replaced the pagan evolutionism of Arabia with creationism. Today approximately half of the world's population is either Christian or Muslim, which means that in theory half of the world's population should hold to a belief in one supreme Creator.

In 1650 James Ussher, the Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland published a history of the world from the creation to 70 AD. The Ussher Calendar proposed a creation date of 4004 BC, and was widely accepted at the time. Many young earth creationists today still favor this date for the creation event. In 1696 English researcher William Whiston was the first to propose that the flood in the days of Noah was caused by the water in the tail of a comet that had struck Earth. Even today many creationists have suggested that a heavenly body was responsible for initiating the flood - at God's command, of course. Scottish scientist James Hutton, considered to be the first modern geologist, proposed the concept of uniformitarianism. Uniformitarianism states that geologic processes have been extremely slow and constant, and therefore he proposed a great age for the earth. Many if not most creationists considered the earth to be quite young up until this time, as based in large part upon the genealogy records in **GENESIS**. Hutton's arguments formed the foundation for old earth creationism. Scottish philosopher David Hume, known as the father of modern skepticism, argued against intelligent design. He taught that design merely appeared intentional, but in fact was random. English philosopher and theologian William Paley responded to Hume by refining the ancient design argument first proposed by the Greek philosophers as well as Cicero and the Apostle Paul. His watchmaker analogy is still used today as an argument for divine design.

English naturalist Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of Charles, published his ideas on evolutionism in 1796. Erasmus was the true Darwin behind Darwinism. Charles, however, was the Darwin who successfully packaged the theory and sold it to the world. Charles Darwin published **ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES BY MEANS OF NATURAL SELECTION, OR THE PRESERVATION OF FAVORED RACES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE** in 1859. Even apart from his grandfather he was not the first to develop evolutionary ideas in his time. Jean-Baptiste Lamarck and Thomas Malthus in Europe and Benjamin Franklin in America had proposed evolutionary theories before Darwin. Alfred Russel Wallace, a self-taught naturalist and spiritualist leader in England, published papers on evolutionary theory just prior to Darwin as did English naturalist Edward Blyth, whose 1835 and 1837 papers on natural selection most likely

influenced Darwin greatly. American naturalist Asa Gray corresponded with Darwin before and after the publication of Darwin's first book, no doubt shaping Darwin's ideas about evolution. When the first Neanderthal skull was discovered in Germany's Neander Valley near Dusseldorf in 1856 there were many who had proposed evolutionary explanations for the strange shape of the skull, despite the fact that **ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES** would not be published for another three years. The 1860 creation versus evolution debate at Oxford College between English biologist Thomas Huxley, known as "Darwin's Bulldog", and Samuel Wilberforce, the Bishop of Oxford, became the first of many such debates since Darwin. Not surprisingly both men claimed victory! Although Wilberforce was a theologian, the initial resistance to Darwinism came from scientists rather than from theologians and pastors. In the middle of the 19th century Swiss-American paleontologist Louis Agassiz, a creationist, became the first to promote catastrophism, the belief that a series of geologic catastrophes occurred which were followed by divine recreations. Most creationists today believe that many catastrophes have occurred throughout history, but that only the flood in the days of Noah was global in scope.

Canadian George McCready Price established the modern young earth creationist movement early in the 20th century. He became the first successful "creation evangelist" of the modern era. The Scopes Trial of 1925, in Dayton, Tennessee became the most famous court case of its kind. The Butler Act prohibited the teaching of evolutionary theory in Tennessee, and teacher John Scopes was found guilty of teaching evolution to his students and was fined for doing so. The case was later dismissed on a technicality, but it served its purpose of challenging the Butler Act. Shortly after the Scopes Trial a former student of George McCready Price coined the term "creationist". Prior to this time, creationists had been referred to as both "Christian fundamentalists" and "anti-evolutionists". The American Humanist Association formed in 1933, in part as a response to the debate on origins. Members were avid promoters of an eternal, self-created universe and the evolution of life. Most have given up on the belief in an eternal universe but hold tenaciously to the belief in spontaneous generation and macroevolution. The Darwin Centennial celebration in Chicago in 1959 was attended by several of the leading evolutionists of the day. Atheist Julian Huxley announced the death of creationism - the death was obviously premature! In 1961 Americans Henry Morris and John Whitcomb, influenced by Price, wrote **THE GENESIS FLOOD**, which became the book that launched worldwide interest in modern scientific creationism. Several young earth creationist organizations in America formed shortly after this: The Creation Research Society in 1963, the Institute for Creation Research in 1970, the Creation Evidence Museum in Glen Rose, Texas was built in 1984, East Peoria, Illinois native Kent Hovind formed Creation, Evolution & Dinosaurs Ministry in 1989 and Answers in Genesis' American headquarters was established in 1994 (originally begun years earlier in Australia). Among those creationists who adhere to an old earth, Canadian-American astronomer Hugh Ross formed Reasons to Believe Ministry in 1986. This is the most successful old earth creationist ministry in the world and is continually challenged by all of the young earth creationist ministries.

The decade of the nineties saw the rise of the Intelligent Design Movement, which aims to critique Darwinism strictly on scientific grounds with no mention of God or the Bible. **OF PANDAS AND PEOPLE**, by American Dean Kenyon, was published in 1989 and is considered by many to be the book that launched ID. **DARWIN ON TRIAL**, the 1991 book by American Phillip Johnson, further fueled interest in ID. Johnson coined the term Intelligent Design around this time. The Discovery Institute for Science and Culture was formed in 1996 for the purpose of promoting ID. Gerald Schroeder, an Israeli scientist and lifelong student of the ancient Jewish writings, had his first book, **GENESIS AND THE BIG BANG**, released in 1991. Schroeder has some of the most unique ideas regarding creationism and ID of anyone today. Relying upon his vast knowledge of science (advanced degrees from MIT in both physical science and earth science) and his expertise in both ancient Jewish literature and the Hebrew language, he attempts to reconcile the six days of **GENESIS** with the 15 billion year age of the universe proposed by mainstream science. His website, [geraldschroeder.com](http://geraldschroeder.com), provides articles which explain his ideas.

This first decade of the 21st century continues to see the rise of ID. In 2001 American William Dembski formed the International Society for Complexity, Information and Design, promoting

scientific reasons to believe in ID. In 2004 Ohio adopted educational standards sympathetic to ID. In 2005 a Kansas school board decided that evolution is "an unproven, often disproven, theory". On the negative side, at least from my perspective, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania ruled on the case of *Kitzmiller versus Dover Area School District* that the policy instituted by the school board promoting ID violated the state constitution, and declared ID to be unscientific. ID was not to be taught in the Dover Area School District as a result of the ruling. Many state legislators, however, have been supportive of ID.

## PROBLEMS FOR NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION

Biological systems are too complex to have originated apart from intelligent design. The deeper scientists dig into the microscopic structure of the cell, the more complex and interconnected the cellular parts prove to be. When Charles Darwin published his first and most famous book in 1859, cells were believed to be nothing more than just globs of protoplasm. Today, however, we know that the cell is an extremely complex "factory" that defies a naturalistic origin. The information contained in the DNA of just one cell is mind-boggling. A simple cell evolving into more complex life forms would require added genetic information, which cannot happen naturally: Cells can only work with the genetic information that they have, and it has never been demonstrated that they can acquire additional genetic material through naturalistic processes. Each created kind of plant or animal had to have all of the necessary DNA present at the beginning of its existence. A plant or animal can lose genetic information over time but can never gain genetic information, which is what macroevolution requires.

The Law of Biogenesis states that life comes only from life, with no exceptions. Since life obviously exists, and life cannot come from non-living material, the first life forms had to be created. The only option is that the first life forms originated supernaturally, or in other words they were created.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics is in direct opposition to naturalistic evolution. This law states that everything tends to regress from complex to simple, or from order to disorder, unless there is intentional work or energy applied. Naturalistic evolution claims just the opposite. Many have proposed a self-ordering evolutionary force that is present throughout the cosmos, but this is a hypothesis which is clearly contradicted by what is clearly observed in nature.

The Cambrian explosion demonstrates that life "sprang from out of nowhere". Complex animals appear abruptly at the beginning of the fossil record without any evolutionary predecessors. In short, complex life forms appear to come from "out of nowhere" with none of the transitional forms called for by naturalistic evolution. This is exactly what **GENESIS** describes.

A lack of transitional forms in the fossil record indicates that the various life forms were created individually. Not only are there no evolutionary predecessors in the beginning of the fossil record, but also no transitional forms appear after the initial appearance of the different body shapes. Concerning animals, all of the supposed transitional forms are easily refuted, such as *archaeopteryx*, the supposed reptile-bird transition and *ambulocetus*, the supposed land mammal-whale transition. Concerning humans, the myth of the *apeman* is just that: A myth. The *australopithecines* have been shown to be an extinct variation of ape, whereas both *Neandertal* and *Homo Erectus* are within the range of modern human anatomical variation. All of the other so-called human missing links can be explained as being either ape or human, with no reason to believe that any were somewhere between the two classifications. Keep in mind that scientists tell us that of all the varieties of plants and animals that have ever existed on earth, 95% are extinct. It seems not only likely but highly logical that some of these extinct animals were primates, similar to yet different from those in existence today. Also, there is nothing wrong in a Biblical sense with believing that the first men and women were physically different from us in some ways. They were still people, however, not animals.

The advanced body build and technology of ancient people points to an instantaneous creation of mankind. If naturalistic evolution were true, ancient people were closer to a common ancestor with the apes, which would have made the ancients both smaller and less intelligent than people today. Just the opposite seems to be the case. Human skeletons from the very distant past are often quite robust - and sometimes quite tall - in comparison to modern people. Also, ancient people were capable of incredible engineering and technology feats. Scientists today are still unsure of how the ancients were able to construct the Great Pyramid at Giza near modern Cairo, Egypt. Also, many ancient medical techniques were quite advanced, such as trepanning which is precise surgical excision of skull bone, perhaps for the purpose of performing brain surgery or as a stent to relieve cerebrospinal fluid pressure.

## **NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION IS CONSIDERED A WEAK THEORY BY MANY TOP SCHOLARS**

Many of the top scientists of our day have been less than awed by the idea of naturalistic evolution. These quotes show that not everyone has jumped on the Darwinian bandwagon:

**For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.**

Dr. Robert Jastrow, American astronomer

**Evolutionism is a fairy tale for grown-ups.**

Dr. Louis Bounoure, Director of Research at the National Center of Scientific Research, France

**Scientists who go about teaching that evolution is a fact of life are great con-men, and the story they are telling may be the greatest hoax ever. In explaining evolution, we do not have one iota of fact.**

Dr. T.N. Tahmisian, Atomic Energy Commission, USA

**Evolutionists claim their theory is scientific. Where is the science? I can assure the reader the American Kennel Club would not certify an ancestor of your dog based on evidence such as paleontologists present.**

Dr. Isaac Manly, American medical researcher

**I myself am convinced that the theory of evolution, especially the extent to which it's been applied, will be one of the great jokes in the history books of the future. Posterity will marvel that so very flimsy and dubious an hypothesis could be accepted with the incredible credulity that it has.**

Malcolm Muggeridge, British journalist and philosopher

**I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science. When this happens, many people will pose the question: How did this ever happen?**

Dr. Soren Lovtrup, Swedish embryologist

**In fact, evolution became in a sense a scientific religion; almost all scientists have accepted it and many are prepared to "bend" their observations to fit in with it.**

H.S. Lipson, British physicist

## **EVEN THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION CREATE DOUBTS ABOUT THE THEORY**

Sometimes even those who promote Darwinism seem to create doubts about the theory. The following quotes are from anthropologists, and even Darwin himself, that give society a reason to rethink the myth of the ape-man:

**If pressed about man's ancestry, I would have to unequivocally say that all we have is a huge question mark. To date, there has been nothing found to truthfully purport as a transitional specie to man. If further pressed, I would have to state that there is more evidence to suggest an abrupt arrival of man rather than a gradual process of evolving.**

Dr. Richard Leakey, American anthropologist

**I know that, at least in paleoanthropology, data are still so sparse that theory heavily influences interpretations. Theories have, in the past, clearly reflected our current ideologies instead of the actual data.**

Dr. David Pilbeam, American anthropologist

**Modern apes, for instance, seem to have sprung out of nowhere. They have no yesterday, no fossil record. The true origin of modern humans-of upright, naked, tool-making, big-brained beings-is, if we are to be honest with ourselves, an equally mysterious matter.**

Dr. Lyall Watson, American anthropologist

**The problem with a lot of anthropologists is that they want so much to find a hominid that any scrap of bone becomes a hominid bone.**

Dr. Tim White, American anthropologist

**To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I confess, absurd in the highest degree.**

Charles Darwin, who was brutally honest regarding the validity of his theory

## **NOT ALL SCIENTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS ARE ATHEISTS**

Since the time of Darwin it has been the belief among many that all scientists - at least all real scientists - are atheists who reject the notion of the Creator. This, however, is simply not the case. The following is a look at some quotes from several of the greatest scientists and philosophers of both the ancient and the modern world:

**The world must have a cause, and that cause is the Eternal Maker.**

Plato (428-348 B.C.), Greek philosopher

**God, having become unseen to every nature, through His works is seen.**

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Greek philosopher

**What can be so clear when we look at the sky and the heavenly bodies is that there is some deity of surpassing mind by whom these are governed.**

Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.), Roman orator

**For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.**

Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Rome (written c. 57 A.D.)

**I know this world is ruled by Infinite Intelligence. It required Infinite Intelligence to create it and it requires Infinite Intelligence to keep it on its course. Everything that surrounds us - everything that exists - proves that there are Infinite Laws behind it.**

Thomas Edison (1847-1931 A.D.), American inventor

**The universe looks like a "put-up job". A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology. There are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.**

Frederick Hoyle (1915-2001 A.D.), English astrophysicist and former atheist

**Natures laws imply an intelligent law-giving Creator.**

Paul Davies (written c. 1992 A.D.), English astrophysicist and former atheist

## **DARWINISM AS AN ATHEISTIC WEAPON**

Darwinism may not be the single most prevalent reason for atheists believing in a universe without God, but it is surely their most commonly used appeal to Godlessness. The following quotes demonstrate the prevalence of Darwinian thought as a reason for disbelieving in God:

**By far the most potent single factor to undermine popular belief in the existence of God in modern times is the evolutionary theory of Charles Darwin.**

Colin Brown, American theologian

**In compiling my book, Britain Without God, I had to read a great deal of anti-religious literature. Two things impressed me. One was the tremendous amount of literature available, and the other was the fact that every attack on the Christian faith made today has, as its basis, the doctrine of evolution.**

Newman Watts, English journalist

**Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god.**

Richard Bozarth, American atheist

**I came to the conclusion that there were two factors which destroyed Christianity in Western Europe. One was the theory of evolution and the other liberal theology. Liberal theology is just evolution applied to the Bible and our faith.**

Josef Tson, Romanian pastor

## **IF NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION IS SUCH A POOR THEORY, WHY IS IT SO POPULAR?**

Naturalistic evolution is required thinking for those who disbelieve in God. If one wishes to remain an atheist, then naturalistic evolution must be adhered to as fact. Also, keep in mind that naturalistic evolution is both the official and unofficial "party line" of academia and science, and peer pressure is a problem at any age - not just for teenagers! Sometimes people are indoctrinated rather than educated. Many people accept a creation apart from God without questioning it.

## **THE MELDING OF SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY**

Once seemingly enemies, science and spirituality now appear to be two complementary methods for examining reality. Many well-known science writers seem to be abandoning naturalistic beliefs in favor of the idea that the two disciplines are describing the same reality from two different aspects, and in large part this stems from discoveries in quantum physics, especially the discovery of the energy-particle duality of light. However, the brand of spirituality that is almost

always recognized is not Judeo-Christian but rather New Age pantheism. **THE TAO OF PHYSICS** by Fritjof Capra and **THE DANCING WU LI MASTERS** by Gary Zukav are among the top choices of books on science in the light of New Age thought. A major area of study in the partnership between science and spirituality is the topic of near-death experiences and, not surprisingly, the majority of serious researchers in this area hold to New Age beliefs. Authors such as Patrick Glynn in **GOD: THE EVIDENCE** and T. Lee Baumann in **GOD AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT** use near-death experiences as an evidence for the existence of God. Their reasoning is that near-death experiences are ample evidence for the existence of a soul, and only God can create the soul. Keep in mind, however, that the verdict is not yet in regarding near-death experiences. The consideration that there is something beyond the natural realm has been a positive result of the melding of science and spirituality, but the fact that most researchers have an alternative view of the Creator - preferring the New Age mystical view over Biblical thinking - has been a challenge to devout Christians. Christian theologian Doug Groothuis writes about an interesting observation he has made:

**A man finds his way to the science section of his favorite bookstore after browsing in the religion section. Having more than a passing interest in both science and religion, he notices a curious thing. Were the books misplaced? Some of the same titles from the religion section are in the science section. What sort of double-mindedness is this? Puzzled, he begins to leaf through the books: quantum mechanics, holography, Einstein, Buddha, physics, mystics. Having first been perplexed, our friend is now interested. After another ten minutes of skimming, he is positively intrigued. After a few weeks of reading, he is captivated. His library expands, as does his consciousness. He finds that the One for all is the one for science. Today religion and science have come together in a new way; instead of a stand-off, we see a new partnership, even a wedding. After centuries of warfare peace breaks out. Science grasps hands with the spiritual, and together they follow the same path.**

## **IN DIALOGUE WITH EVOLUTIONISTS**

As previously mentioned, most people find the issue of origins to be fascinating. Tell those you engage in conversation with why you believe that the facts of science, not the theories, fully support the existence of the Creator as discovered in the pages of the Bible. Some people will only believe what they want to believe, but if your evidence can be checked and found to be accurate, and you have presented the evidence in a caring manner - not just simply to win a debate - then you have been successful. Remember that your character and actions are most likely the determining factor in how persuasive you are. No matter how impressive your intellectual arguments for your faith may be, it is usually an emotional barrier that prevents people from believing in the Creator. Lifestyle and personal integrity win the day more often than a good argument.

## **RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY**

All of the following books have been used to research this paper. The following 23 books are written by Christian authors and address the topic of origins and the debate over the existence of God:

1. **UNDERSTANDING INTELLIGENT DESIGN.** William Dembski & Sean McDowell. 2008.
2. **CREATION & THE COURTS.** Norman Geisler. 2007.
3. **I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO BE AN ATHEIST.** Norman Geisler & Frank Turek. 2004.
4. **DISMANTLING THE BIG BANG.** John Hartnett & Alex Williams. 2005.
5. **SHOW ME GOD.** Fred Heeren. 2000.
6. **DEFEATING DARWINISM.** Phillip Johnson. 1997.
7. **GOD'S UNDERTAKER: HAS SCIENCE BURIED GOD?** John Lennox. 2007.
8. **RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF EVOLUTION.** Kevin Logan. 2005.

9. **BONES OF CONTENTION.** Marvin Lubenow. 2004.
10. **A SKEPTIC'S SEARCH FOR GOD.** Ralph Muncaster. 2002.
11. **DISMANTLING EVOLUTION.** Ralph Muncaster. 2003.
12. **RECLAIMING SCIENCE FROM DARWINISM.** Kenneth Poppe. 2006.
13. **ANSWERING THE OBJECTIONS OF ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS & SKEPTICS.** Ron Rhodes. 2006.
14. **THE 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION DEBATE.** Ron Rhodes. 2004.
15. **THE CREATOR AND THE COSMOS.** Hugh Ross. 1993.
16. **THE FINGERPRINT OF GOD.** Hugh Ross. 1989.
17. **REFUTING COMPROMISE.** Jonathan Sarfati. 2004.
18. **REFUTING EVOLUTION.** Jonathan Sarfati. 1999.
19. **REFUTING EVOLUTION II.** Jonathan Sarfati. 2002.
20. **THE CASE FOR A CREATOR.** Lee Strobel. 2004.
21. **DARWIN'S ENIGMA.** Luther Sunderland. 1988.
22. **ICONS OF EVOLUTION.** Jonathan Wells. 2000.
23. **DOUBTS ABOUT DARWIN.** Thomas Woodward. 2003.

The following three books are written by non-Christian authors and address the same issues, revealing that anyone from any religious background can readily see the evidence for the Creator:

1. **GOD AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT.** T. Lee Baumann. 2001.
2. **SCIENCE AND THE SEARCH FOR GOD.** Gary Kowalski. 2003.
3. **GENESIS AND THE BIG BANG.** Gerald Schroeder. 1990.