

Creation or Evolution?

An overview of the issues and the impact on our view of the world.

Many of these slides were created by:

Jason D. Browning

B.S, M.S., Computer Science

Overview

- The importance of origins
- What are “creation” and “evolution”?
- Evolution - proved or not?
- Reasons against evolution
- Radiometric dating - does it prove the earth is old?
- The world-wide flood and the geologic column
- An engineering analogy
- Summary of evidence for creation
- How we got here and why are we here are the most fundamental of questions
- The answer to these questions affects how we think about the world, our “world-view”
- Creation is a God-based world-view, evolution is not
- The truth about origins is not being taught - the possibility of special creation being true is disallowed, leading to atheistic thinking

Why is This Subject Important?

- World-view Implications
- *Creation*: man is special, different from animals; put here for a purpose; God is in control
- *Evolution*: man is nothing special, just an advanced animal; man is an “accident” of nature; man is in control
- What are the “fruits” of an evolutionary world-view?

Evolution is Everywhere

- Taught in public schools
- Biology textbooks
- Library books
- Television shows about nature
- Natural history museums
- Zoos
- Popular magazines
- (Most) churches says "creation"
- Almost all other respected influences say "evolution"
- What are we to believe?
- Could all those scientists be wrong?
- Confusing?

What is Creation?

- “Creation” is the idea that our universe and the natural things in it were created by God
- The creation events are described in the first chapters of Genesis in the Bible
- The creation events took place over six days, after which all creating ceased

What is Evolution?

- “Evolution” (“naturalism”) is the idea that undirected natural processes have transformed primeval energy/matter into the structures of the universe, our earth, first life, and eventually people
- Our universe started with the “Big Bang” - an explosion/expansion of a dense collection of subatomic particles and radiation
- The Big Bang material has existed eternally or “fluctuated” into existence from nothing
- The age of the earth is “old”, about 4.6 billion years, while the age of the universe is 9-16 billion years

The "Theory of Evolution"

- The "Theory of Evolution" as outlined by Darwin in his book applies to living organisms
 - His Book is titled: "On the Origin of Species, By Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races In The Struggle For Life"
- "Neo-Darwinism" updates Darwin with genetics
- "*Mutations*" supply the new raw material
- "*Natural selection*" retains the mutations which provide a reproductive advantage
- All life (plant and animal) has derived from a common ancestor

Two Models of Origins

CREATION

- Life from the creator
- First plant and animal
- Types were complete
- Variation limited within a type
- Sudden appearance of types in fossil record
- No transitional forms between higher categories

EVOLUTION

- Life from natural processes
- Life from inanimate matter
- All life from same living source
Each type produced by slow
- change from ancestor
- Variation unlimited Gradual change in fossil record
- Transitional forms between all categories

Interpretation of Scientific Data

- Assumption of Creation



- Scientific Data



- Creation is Seen

- Assumption of Evolution



- Scientific Data



- Evolution is Seen

- Interpretation is influenced by assumptions and biases

"Evolution" - Proved or Not?

- The word "evolution" is used in different ways - one true, the others not
- *"Micro-evolution"* - the adaptation of populations through natural selection is well-proven (shows good design, like bridge expansion joints)
- *"Macro-evolution"* - change between kinds of animals, is "a research topic" with no transitional links to speak of. In fact you have probably heard of the missing link? The reality is; there is a missing chain, and a few highly debatable links.

The Appeal of Evolution

- Basically only *two choices*:
- *God exists* and He created us. Therefore, we have a reason for being made.
- *There is no God*, so natural processes must explain how we got here
- The appeal of evolutionary thought: it provides a way for people to justify to themselves that there is no God, so they can live and *do as they want*

What is Fact?

- Natural Selection - YES
- Subatomic particles to people – NO, A Theory!
- Big Bang to the earth – NO, A Theory!
- Life from non-life – NO, A Theory!
- Simple life to higher order life – NO, A Theory!
- Apes to men – NO, A Theory!
- Textbook examples of “evolution in action” are illustrating natural selection or “Micro-evolution” only

Peppered Moth "Evolution"

- Study took place in industrial England
- Start with mostly light-colored moths, a few dark
- Light moths hidden on light trees, dark eaten
- Industrial pollution turns trees dark
- Now dark moths hidden, light eaten
- Population shifted from mostly white to mostly dark
- Start with moths, end with moths!
- If trees had turned blue from polluting dye, would blue moths have developed?
- Natural selection here, but no evolution!
- What happened when they cleaned up the pollution?

Spectrum of Beliefs

- Creation in six 24-hour days, global flood was real
- Creation; six "days" are long periods of time; no global flood - Progressive Creation/Theistic Evolution
- God exists, but evolution is true
- Evolution only; no God is necessary

Evidence For & Against Evolution

Interpretation of Scientific Data

- Assumption of Creation



- Scientific Data



- Creation is Seen

- Assumption of Evolution



- Scientific Data



- Evolution is Seen

- Interpretation is influenced by assumptions and biases

Best Evidence For Evolution?

- According to Steven Gould at Harvard...
- We see “micro-evolution” and natural selection
 - But creationist or Intelligent Design Theory says: Limited adaptive ability is a design feature
- The fossil record (e.g. Archaeopteryx, whale series)
 - Fossil record shows abrupt appearance
 - Lack of ancestors to Cambrian invertebrates
 - Countless intermediates should be in museums
- Imperfections in nature (e.g. the Panda’s thumb)
 - Does it demonstrate an evolving (better and/or stronger) or a deteriorating of the genetic code.

Reasons Against Evolution

- *Complexity* does not arise from randomness
- Second Law of Thermodynamics (Entropy): things naturally tend to decay.
- Information Sciences: information never arises out of random chance
- The proposed *mechanism* of evolution is *inadequate* - all known mutations are harmful; natural selection cannot create something new

Reasons Against Evolution

- The creation of life is tremendously complex:
- Requires both DNA (the plan) and RNA (the copy mechanism) at the same time
- Laboratory *experiments* to demonstrate evolution have *failed*.
- Fruit-fly experiments have failed to produce anything other than a fruit fly

Reasons Against Evolution

- The *fossil record* shows that evolution has not taken place:
- “Abrupt appearance” is always seen, the “oldest” fossils are already fully formed
- Many complex creatures are found in so-called “Cambrian” rocks (near the oldest), without a trace of any ancestors

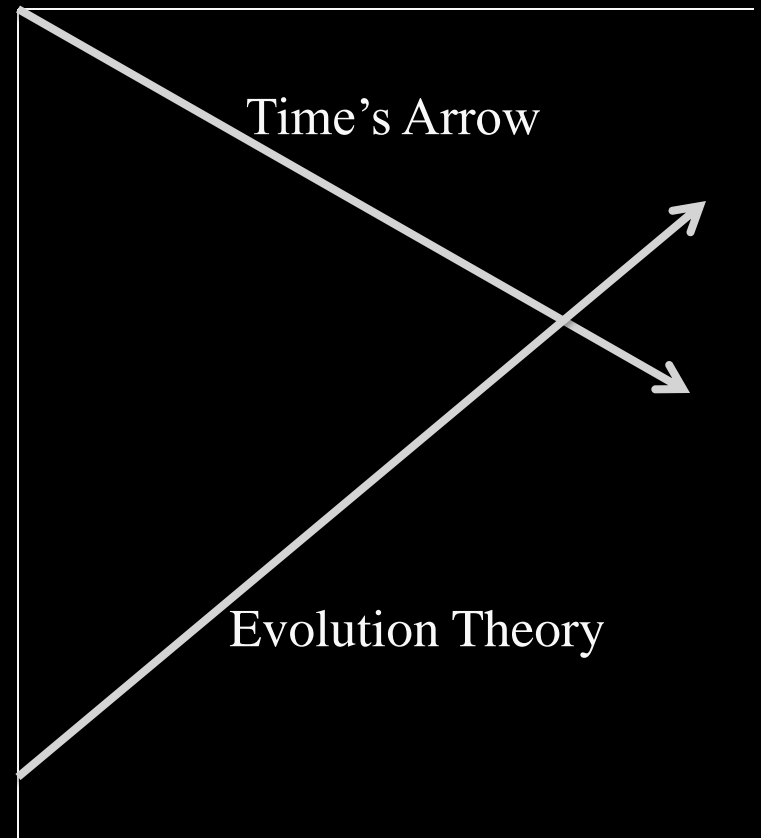
Reasons Against Evolution

- Throughout the *Bible* creation is treated as a “fact” (Is 43:7, Jn 1:3, Col 1:16, Heb 1:2, 10, Rev 4:11)
- *Jesus* spoke of creation and Noah’s flood as facts (Jn 17:24, Mk 10:6, Mt 24:37-39)
- All *scientific data* can be interpreted just as well or better in *support of creation*

Time's Arrow

- Second Law of Thermodynamics
- Evolution runs contrary to "Time's Arrow" - we know from the Second Law of Thermodynamics that the universe is "running down", yet evolution postulates just the opposite!

- Over time information decreases



In Two Weeks: Dating & The Flood

Radiometric Dating Principles

- Potassium-Argon, Uranium-Lead, C-14 methods (and others)
- Parent element (K) decays into daughter element (Ar) over time at a known rate
- Rate is specified by “half-life” - number of years for 1/2 of pure parent to change to daughter element
- Used to postulate dates in billions/millions of years (necessary if evolution is true)
- C-14 dating is for young objects only, that were living or made from living materials:
- Used to date historical objects less than about 35,000 years old (can only measure with precision to about six half-lives and C-14 half-life is 5,730 years)

Radiometric Dating Flaws

Answer depends upon three assumptions:

- Decay rate has been a constant - probably true
- Start with no or known daughter component - unlikely
- Isolated system - no external loss/addition of parent or daughter components - very unlikely over millions of years

Dating the Earth

- Many physical processes (not just radioisotope measurements) can be used to date the earth
- All are subject to the same flaws just described
- But most give a “young” age for the earth (compared with 4.6 billion years), for example:
 - Build up of salt in the ocean = 76 million years
 - Build up of sediment in the ocean = 15 million years
 - Build up of helium in the atmosphere = 1.8 million years
 - Decay of short-period comets = 10,000 years
 - Influx of radiocarbon to earth = 10,000 years
- The majority of the evidence favors a young earth, eliminating the time required for evolution to take place

World-wide Flood Evidences

- Creationists date the flood to about 5,000 years ago
- Earth's geologic features require a catastrophic explanation
- Sedimentary rock formations (water deposited, e.g. sandstone) cover continent-sized regions
- Large coal, oil, ore deposits (not forming today)
- Great fossil beds exist - require rapid burial
- Mountains made of "ocean-bottom" rocks, ocean fossils on continent interior mountains, fossils of warm habitat plants/animals near the poles
- Many exceptions to standard geologic column (e.g. out of order strata, different "age" fossils together)

Other Flood Evidences

- “Origin of civilization” is near ark landing
- Written history appears 5-6,000 years ago
- Pottery, agriculture, domestication, metallurgy, cities date <11,000 years ago
- Tree ring studies of oldest living trees (Bristlecone pines) date to 5,000 years ago
- Population statistics suggest a thousands of years population build up
- Radiocarbon dating age distribution analysis shows large spike of death about 5,000 years ago

The Geologic Column

- The column is not the "onion-skin" textbooks describe
- It rarely exists in entirety in one location
- All types of rocks, minerals, metals are found in all ages
- Progression of fossils through the ages "documents" evolution
- But fossils date rocks, yet rocks date fossils (evolution assumed)
- Creation - column is result of world-wide flood
- Sorting action of water (smaller fossils to bottom)
- Ordered destruction of different habitats
- Mobility of life forms (smarter escape longer)
- Column illustrates a superficially valid "successional tendency", but it represents a fast time sequence, not slow
- Mt. St. Helens has "mini Grand-canyon" created in days

A Feat of Engineering

- Design a robot:
- Less than 1/4 inch tall
- Can carry heavy loads
- Can dig large holes
- Can cross any terrain
- Can find its own energy sources
- Can make other robots like itself
- Do this and you would be famous - people would marvel at your skills

Engineering Performed

- This work has been done
- The robot is called an “ant”
- We squash them because they are trivial and unimportant compared to man
- Complex things require a *designer, intelligence, and a plan!*
- Evolution has *NO designer, NO intelligence, NO plan!*

Top Evidences For Creation

- The Biblical revelation
- Cause and effect must trace back to a “first cause” (God)
- We do not witness complexity arising by chance
- Design and purpose in nature requires intelligence
- The abrupt appearance of fully-formed plants and animals in the fossil record
- Ultimately there are only two origins choices (natural or super-natural), and the random, undirected processes of evolution are incapable of creating life or advancing it to higher forms, or explaining how something (the universe) came from nothing - the super-natural is necessary!

Biblical Concepts Surrounding Creation

- The original creation was “very good” (Gen 1:31)
- Man disobeyed God, sin and death became part of the world, the creation was cursed by God (Gen3:17)
- The global flood was sent to punish mankind (Gen6:5-7)
- Jesus Christ came to earth to redeem mankind (Jn3:16)
- Jesus Christ will come again to judge all men (Rom2:16), and a new heaven and earth will be made (Rev 21:1) to be very good again.

Conclusions

- Belief in special creation is based on the revelation of the Bible, but it is not a “blind faith” - logic and scientific understanding show that naturalism is not enough
- Creation is a very reasonable hypothesis to understand how our universe, earth, and living things came about
- The global flood provides a good basis for explaining the fossil record, the so-called “geologic column”
- Ultimately, the creation/evolution debate is between the world views of theism versus naturalism/atheism - does a creator God exist or not?

For Further Study

- "Scientific Creationism", Morris 1985
- "The Biblical Basis for Modern Science", Morris 1984
- "Darwin on Trial", Johnson 1991
- "Evolution: A Theory In Crisis", Denton 1985
- "Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution", Behe 1996
- Institute for Creation Research (ICR), 619-448-0900
- "Creation" magazine: 4 issues/year, 800-350-3232