

God reveals Himself in two books.

God's Works	God's Words
General Revelation as seen in nature and history	Special Revelation as seen in the Bible and experience
Nature	Scripture
Science	Hermeneutics
Christian Theology	



Our core beliefs

are accredited by their ability to make sense of empirical observations and experiences of our (inner and outer) worlds.



- Philosophical naturalism struggles to make sense of the spiritual dimension of humanity.
- Certain interpretations of Scripture struggle to make sense of modern scientific observations.
- We will resort to irrational means to remove any dissonance in our core beliefs.
- My purpose in this class is to relieve some of the dissonance.



Review

Psalm 8

- **Empirical Reason** is a common ground between Christianity and Science.
- The conflict between Scientists and Christians is between **two faith systems** (philosophical naturalism and Biblical theism).

Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1-2

- The Biblical record addresses **primary causes** and attributes them to God.
- Science is limited to examining **secondary means** which may not be clear from the Biblical record.

Overview - How are we to understand the Biblical account of the creation of man?

1.

1 Corinthians 15:38-49

- Humans share **common** characteristics with animals and yet are **distinct** in important ways.
- We should expect to see **corruption** in nature.
- Human **bodies** are **earthly** (formed from preexisting material).

2.

Genesis 1:24,26; 2:7

- The human **body** and **spirit** can be treated separately.
- The **evolution** question is best settled by looking at the **science** rather than the Bible.

1 Corinthians 15

“38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.”

1. Life forms are distinct by design.

- Common biological materials are used.
- Stasis (natural resistance to change) is real.

1 Corinthians 15

“⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a **perishable** body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ it is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in glory; it is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a **natural** body, it is raised a spiritual body.”

2. Life forms are corrupted (by the fall or before?).

Romans 8

“²⁰ For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its **slavery to corruption** into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

- God has ordered this as a part of His plan.
- Nature does not work perfectly as originally created - (junk DNA, death, mutations, deformity).
- God's character is not revealed in every part of the present workings of nature.
- Can God use death, mutation, etc. in nature?

1 Corinthians 15

“⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ **As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy**; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ And just as **we have borne the image of the earthy**, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

3. Our bodies are made in the image of the earthy (common forms of life).

- We bear the image of God but not in our body.
- Science can explore our earthiness more easily than our spiritual life.

1 Corinthians 15:49

“Just as we (our body) have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.”

the body

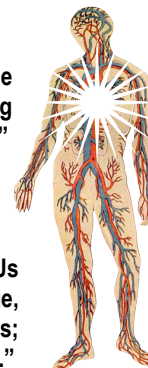
Genesis 1:24

“Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind;’

the spirit

Genesis 1:26

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over . . .’



the body

Genesis 2:7a

“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground,

the spirit

Genesis 2:7b

and breathed unto his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

Genesis 1:24

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind;”

יצא yatsa
“go fourth”,
“come out”



1.
“reproduce”
2.
“develop”
3.
“evolve”

Genesis 1

creation narrative

The Hebrew terms used in Genesis suggest that God formed the cosmos from preexisting material.

create

ברא bara

form

יצר yatsar

make

עשה asah

fashion

בנה banah

Genesis 2:7b
"and man became a living being."

נֶפֶשׁ nepes
"soul", "life"



1.
"biological
life"

2.
"spiritual
life"

The creation of man

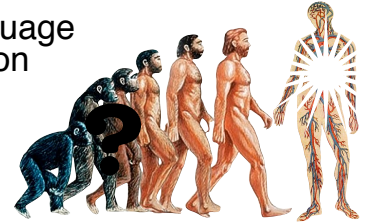
What is the image of God?

The ability to consciously
commune with God

When did homo sapien
become human?

some time after
the body was formed
from the earth

- sophisticated language
- creative imagination
- moral conscience
- autonomous will
- self awareness



Given what I am reading in Scripture
what should I expect to see in science?

- ❑ **Common biology** - building material.
- ❑ **Distinct forms** - distinct kinds of life.
- ❑ **Stasis** - fossil record, cell chemistry.
- ❑ **Corruption** - affect of death and mutation.
- ❑ **Natural bodies** - Human bodies are formed within nature from the earth.

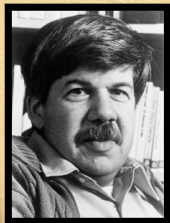
Darwin's insightful acknowledgment.

"The number of intermediate varieties, which have formerly existed on the earth, (must) be truly enormous. Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory."

Charles Darwin

Steven J. Gould

(Harvard paleontologist)

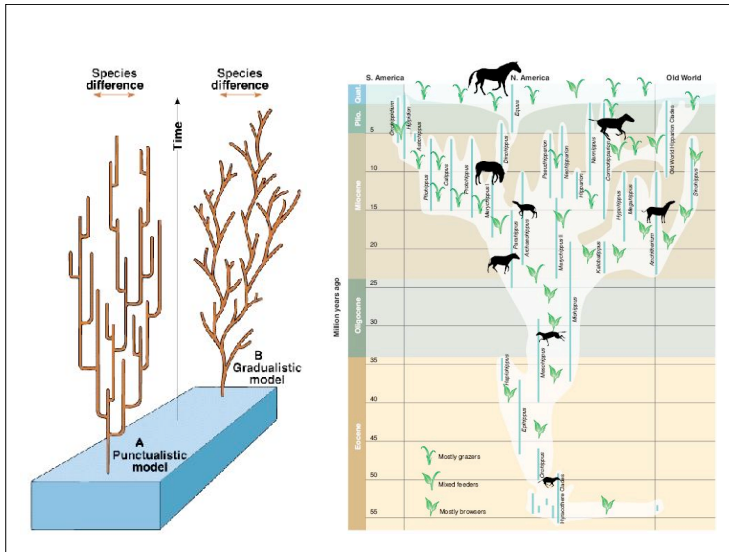


"We can tell tales of improvement for some groups, but in honest moments we must admit that the history of complex life is more a story of multifarious variation about a set of basic designs than a saga of accumulating excellence."

The history of most fossil species include two features inconsistent with gradualism:


1. **Stasis.** Most species exhibit no directional change. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear.
2. **Sudden Appearance.** In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and 'fully formed'. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils.

Steven J. Gould "Evolution's Erratic Pace," Natural History. Vol.5, 1977



Niles Eldredge


(Palaeontologist & Curator of American Museum of Natural History)



“We palaeontologists have said that the history of life supports the story of gradual adaptive change knowing all the while it does not.”

James Shapiro

(bacterial geneticist, evolutionist)



“It has been a surprise to learn how thoroughly cells protect themselves against the kinds of accidental genetic change that, according to conventional theory, are the sources of evolutionary variability.”

Lung Cancer is corruption at the cellular level

Initiation

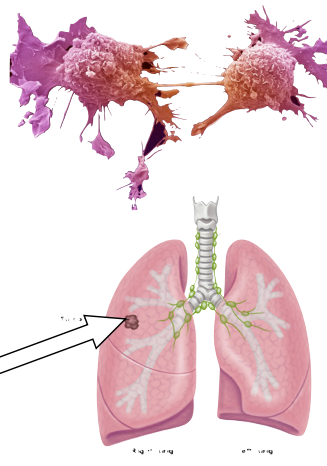
Normal Cell → First Mutation

Promotion

Second Mutation → Third Mutation

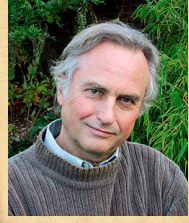
Progression

Fourth Mutation → Cancer Cells







The diagram shows a cross-section of human lungs. A small, dark, irregular mass is visible in the right lung, representing a tumor. An arrow points from this mass to a detailed diagram of a cell, showing its internal structure and the process of division. The cell diagram is labeled 'Cancer Cells'.

Richard Dawkins

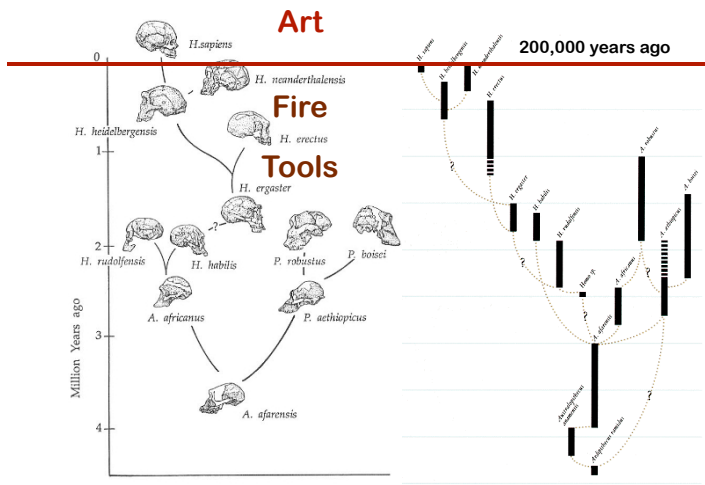


“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

The improbability of pure naturalism and blind chance producing -

- 
➡ The origin of space, matter / energy, time.
- 
➡ The origin of life from non-living elements.
- 
➡ The origin of reproducible cells.
- 
➡ The origin of self consciousness.

Early Man - The Fossil Record



Richard Leakey
(paleontologist)



"If you brought in a smart scientist from another discipline and showed him the meager evidence we've got, he'd surely say, 'Forget it, there isn't enough to go on.'"

Death and the Fall of Adam

Spiritual death was the result of the Fall.

Genesis 2:17
"for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

John 11:25-26
"whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die"

Is this death physical or spiritual?

The physical death of man is tied to sin.

Romans 5:12
"just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Does this apply to animals?

Conclusions and implications

- Scientists must acknowledge the limited authority of science and stay within its bounds. The question of primary origins is not within the purview of science.
- Christians must not read more into the Biblical text than is warranted from a proper respect for human language and literary forms.
- Evolutionary theories are best critiqued by scientific reasoning which is honest, open, and objective.
- The human spirit (not the body) is the image bearing part of humanity (until the resurrection).
- Discussions of human origin and nature should respect the above points.

L. Harrison Matthews
(Director Zoological Society of London)

"Biology is thus in the peculiar position of being a science founded on an unproven theory - is it then a science or a faith? Belief in the theory of evolution is thus exactly parallel to belief in special creation - both are concepts which believers know to be true but neither, up to the present, has been capable of proof."