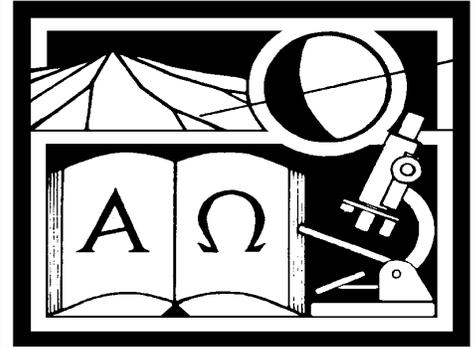


Origins Insights

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January 2000

Teaching Evolution Is a Religious Activity

By Bob Harsh

One of the oldest arguments that Creationists have used to build their faith that God really does exist has been the concept that the design clearly observed in nature points towards a supernatural Designer.

I do not think that "initial" faith for most people is attained through observing God's design in nature. But I do believe that the faith of a believer is strengthened when he/she is able to see their Creator through studying His creation. Throughout scripture we find that, whenever God wanted to bring a new message to man, He made use of miracles. These powerful messages gave the people confidence that the messenger really was sent from God. When John the Baptist sent two of his disciples out to ask Jesus if he really was the Messiah, Jesus answered with, "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the

dead are raised." [Matt. 11; Lk.7] So what kind of an answer was that? He had the power of God so maybe he was really the "God in the flesh" that they were looking for. Materialists have no place in their paradigm of nature for anything supernatural. God's creation of the universe and living things was a supernatural event.

David the Psalmist wrote, *You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you be-*

cause I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know full well. [Ps. 139] John wrote, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, {Why John?} for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. [Rev. 4] When Job was done with his biology lesson, taught by God [Job 38-41], his response was, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." [Job 42] Pretty

MEETING INFORMATION

HOST: Stephen Rodabaugh

TOPIC: Philosophical and Logical Evidence (Arguments) for Creation

This talk will outline what generally a philosophy and logic are, and that only from the standpoint of Biblical Creation can a consistent, coherent, and non-tautologous metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and logic be constructed and discussed. Further, we shall see that a reductionistic, evolutionary worldview (Weltanschauung) cannot be the basis for a consistent, coherent, and non-tautologous philosophy and logic. Finally, we shall discuss apologetics and, in connection with our topic, demonstrate the limitations of evidentialism and the necessity of presuppositionalism.

DATE: Tuesday, January 18, 2000

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Mars CMA Church, 997 Route 228, Mars, PA, 16046.
Church Phone: (724)776-9400

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powerful biology lesson! Job got the picture of who God is through a real understanding of God's place as Creator.

Rene' Dubos wrote his appraisal of nature that, I suppose a theistic evolutionist could agree with. *"Everything in the cosmos – from heavenly bodies to human beings – has developed and continues to develop through evolutionary processes."* Dubos' paradigm, in my opinion, did not allow him to develop his faith in the Creator God in whom I have placed my faith. Julian Huxley went further in his explanation of nature from a materialist's paradigm. *"In the evolutionary system of thought there is no longer need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created: it evolved. So did the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul, as well as brain and body. So did religion."*

One of the "expert" guests on "Face the Nation" on December 26, 1999 was Stephen Gould who is one of the most influential proponents of evolution today. He is one of the founders of the "punctuated equilibrium" hypothesis. This is a popular idea of evolution that is groundless as a biological mechanism for anything. I cannot quote Gould word for word, but I was most interested in his response to the moderator's question about all the fuss that creationists have caused with how evolution should be taught in schools. As is his style, Gould trivialized the "problem" and the proponents of scientific creationism. Even the moderator referred to our

side as "so-called scientific creationists". Gould comforted the audience with his prediction that this was a temporary minor problem that will soon go away. With a big reassuring smile he went on to proclaim

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that there is no real conflict between "religion" and "science". The ethicist on the panel piped in that the Bible was never meant to be a book of science but was instead, a book of philosophy. He agreed that there should be no conflict between creationists and scientists, but did not agree that the conflict was so minor that it will go away.

On December 17, 1999 the Kanawha County, West Virginia School Board held a hearing, attended by over 300 concerned people. The topic of discussion was a resolution to support teachers who criticize evolution in the Kanawha County schools. Eric Eyre, from the Charleston Gazette, reported some of the debate that occurred at the school board meeting:

"There is nothing, there is very little in the Bible that is scientific at all," said Weldon Burns, a former science teacher.

Betty Jarvis, the lone school board member to support the resolution said, "We can't allow our children to be indoctrinated and brainwashed by lies."

From the first, religionists have joined in defending Rev. Charles Darwin's viewpoint. Many religious people have foolishly joined with the forces that promote atheism under the delusion that evolution is not religion and creationism is not science!

"I don't want someone else teaching my child religion," said Karl Rattan, director of St. John's Episcopal Church in Charleston. "That's my job as a parent. Creationism is not science. It is not based on science. It is based on faith."

Rebecca Catalanello, for the Charleston Daily Mail reported:

Even some educators said they felt adoption of the resolution would give teachers more freedom to do what they feel is right -- present two sides of the evolutionist theory.

"The idea is not to preach in schools," said Stonewall Jackson Principal Carol Thom, who favored the resolution. "The idea is allow the free flow of ideas." But opponents had one answer: Religion belongs in the church and the home, not in the science classroom.

Is it really all that important that the truth about origins be taught in school as well as the home and the church?

You bet it is!

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You may recall my article in the November 1997 "*Origins Insights*" about the important evolutionary naturalist, E.O. Wilson. E.O. Wilson has been responsible for effectively spreading the "*gospel of evolutionary naturalism*" for decades. Did he start out as a follower of Rev. Darwin? No, he evolved into an evolutionist. E. O. Wilson's tutors were the authors he read. In college he was introduced to evolutionary naturalism and he bought it; hook, line and sinker! Humanism became Wilson's religion. In his autobiography, *Naturalist*, Wilson wrote, "*Religion had to be explained as a material process, from the bottom up, atoms to genes to the human spirit. It had to be embraced by the single grand naturalistic image of man.*" E.O. Wilson rejected God because of his faith in naturalism. There are untold thousands of young men and women who also have lost their fragile belief in God due to a new-found faith they acquired during their schooling. I do not know how accurate the July, 1997 TV news report was, but that science reporter said that 60% of scientists today do not believe in God. Way more than 40% of nonscientists believe in God. So if these figures are right, I would say that science education in America does have a religious impact!

We need to lend all of the support that we can to those brave people like our creationist friends in Kanawha County, West Virginia.

Richard Dawkins, the most influential proponent of Rev. Darwin's dogma today, agrees

with my assessment that belief in evolution can aid a person on their road towards the religion of atheism. In 1986, Dawkins wrote a best selling book, *The Blind Watchmaker*. Dawkins got the idea for his book from a famous treatise by William Paley. Paley's famous

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argument from design was titled, *Natural Theology – or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity Collected from the Appearances of Nature* and was published in 1809. Paley used the story of someone finding a watch on the ground and after picking it up, wondered how the watch came to be. His logical conclusion was that someone, let's call him the designer, designed and then constructed the watch. The explanations that the watch was always there, lying on the ground and it had no beginning, or that the watch had just formed on its own by natural forces made no sense to William Paley. Dawkins wrote:

It is a book that I greatly ad-

mire, for in his own time its author succeeded in doing what I am struggling to do now. He had a point to make, he passionately believed in it, and he spared no effort to ram it home clearly. He had a proper reverence for the complexity of the living world, and he saw that it demands a very special kind of explanation. The only thing he got wrong – admittedly quite a big thing! – was the explanation itself.

He gave the traditional religious answer to the riddle, but he articulated it more clearly and convincingly than anybody before. The true explanation is utterly different, and it had to wait for one of the most revolutionary thinkers of all time, Charles Darwin.

Paley's argument is made with passionate sincerity and is informed by the best biological scholarship of his day, but it is wrong, *gloriously and utterly wrong*. [my emphasis] All appearances to the contrary, the only watchmaker in nature is the blind forces of physics, albeit deployed in a very special way. A true watchmaker has foresight: he designs his cogs and springs, and plans their interconnections, with a future purpose in his mind's eye. Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered, and which we now know is the explanation for the existence and apparently purposeful form of all life, has no purpose in mind. It has no mind and no mind's eye. It does not plan for the future. It has no vision, no foresight, no sight at all. If it can be said to play a role of watch-

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maker in nature, *it is the Blind watchmaker.*

I said that I could not imagine being an atheist at any time before 1859, when Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published. 'What about Hume?' replied the philosopher.

'How did Hume explain the complexity of the living world?', I asked. 'He didn't', said the philosopher. 'Why does it need any special explanation?'

Paley knew it needed a special explanation; Darwin knew it.

An atheist before Darwin could have said, following Hume: 'I have no explanation for complex biological design. All I know is that God is not a good explanation, so we must wait and hope that somebody comes up with a better one.' I can't help feeling that such a position, though logically sound, would have left one feeling pretty unsatisfied, and that although atheism might have been logically tenable before Darwin, *Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.* [my emphasis]
Dawkins, 1986, pp. 4-6

I believe Dawkins makes a good point. If life really did evolve from that nonliving primeval soup by spontaneous generation, and living organisms evolved from simple life by means of random mutations and directed by natural selection then the natural conclusion would be that supernatural forces were not necessary for the creation of humans. If

Darwinian evolution was good enough for the rest of nature, what would make you think that supernatural forces were necessary for the "creation" of humans?

You might answer, "The Bible said that humans were created as special in God's

Enough of our young people have become casualties in this war and have become "functional" atheists due to becoming convinced that evolutionary dogma is true and the Bible is folk fable!

sight." I would challenge you with, "If the part about the creation of the rest of the living organisms is fable, then on what basis would you segregate out the creation of man as literal?" If the part about the creation of man is fable and there never was a literal Adam and Eve, mere folk heroes, then the story of sinning by eating the forbidden fruit was also just a nice folk tale. How did the soul evolve? It didn't. Sin and the need for a savior is just one more folk tale!

Is the fact that the Pope and the leaders of many Protestant denominations teach that humans evolved from a common ancestor along with apes cause for alarm? I believe that one of Satan's greatest achievements with humans was his convincing so many church leaders that Darwinian evolu-

tion is irrefutable fact! The church's false teaching on the truth or falsehood of evolution/creation has led to the situation we have had in our science education for at least the past eighty years. Many atheists have been born from this atmosphere of no logical need for anything supernatural.

We need to understand what is at stake with how, we who have been blessed with better understanding of our God as Creator than most other people, make productive use of that understanding. We need to understand that we are in a spiritual war and it seems that the other side is winning too many battles!

Creation Science Fellowship in Pittsburgh, I am sure, can play an important role in this war. We need your help! We need your presence at our monthly meetings to provide mutual encouragement. We need your good suggestions as to how we can make CSF produce more of an impact. We need for you to provide your volunteer service when it is needed. We need your input into ICC 2002. We need each other's prayers.

Let us understand what is at stake and enthusiastically join in the battle. Enough of our young people have become casualties in this war and have become "functional" atheists due to becoming convinced that evolutionary dogma is true and the Bible is folk fable!

ATTENTION

*We offer childcare service
for ages 3-8 in an
attempt to include
Mom's and Dad's
in the Creation Science
Fellowship meetings.
Come join us!*

HOW BOMBS ARE BEING BUILT: In the Public School System by David Catchpoole

First published in:

Creation Ex Nihilo

22(1):17

Dec. 1999 – Feb. 2000

How could they shoot and kill their fellow students? That was the question asked following the shooting deaths of 15 people at Columbine High School in Colorado, USA, last April. Why would young people kill, destroy and bomb in a suicide attack?

Their clothes may give a clue to the thinking of these teenage murderers. The autopsy report for one of the killers documents that on the day of the tragedy he was wearing black combat boots, a black glove on his right hand, and a white T-shirt with the inscription 'Natural Selection' on the front.¹

What was meant by 'Natural Selection'? One newspaper reporter has linked the T-shirt's inscription to a video game of the same name, which is promoted as 'a place where survival of the fittest takes a very literal meaning ... it's the natural way, it's Natural Selection.'¹ Since the Columbine massacre, it has become widely known that the kill-

ers were obsessed with blood-drenched video games and violent death. They were also fascinated by the German Nazi belief, fuelled by ideas of Darwinian struggle, in a 'master race'.²

In groping for answers to this and other tragedies, more and more people are expressing surprise and concern at the increasing glee with which many teenagers approach depictions of violence. However, this fixation with death is hardly surprising given that most public schools in Western nations now teach that violence and death are 'natural' evolutionary mechanisms that have operated with chance processes to produce man over millions of years.

Having been told since childhood that man is just an animal, that death and violence are a natural part of evolution and that 'only the fittest survive', it is no wonder that this generation of young people are wallowing in utter hopelessness. Even when they hear 'Jesus loves you', many either do not understand what this can possibly mean in a 'world of death and randomness', or it makes them more angry and bitter that such a beautiful possibility seems denied by the 'facts' of science. Many of these people are 'walking time-bombs', without fear of any judgment after death, and primed to explode in anger and hatred at any time.

How can we Christians help defuse these 'bombs'? Christ is indeed the answer, but in our 'evolutionized' society, reaching these young people requires that the church understands and utilizes the truth about our origins.

The true and accurate Genesis account of history enables

young and old to understand *why* this is a groaning and violence-filled world — that death, bloodshed, disease and suffering are a consequence of sin — but that God so loved the world that He provided His Son as a sacrifice for our sin. Our young people need to know that they are made in the image of God, are sinners separated from their Creator, but can be saved for eternity, and know purpose and meaning in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

References

1. *Denver Rocky Mountain News*, June 25, 1999, pp. 4A, 14A.
2. Bergman J., Darwinism and the Nazi race Holocaust, *CEN Technical Journal* 13(2):101–111, 1999.

This article can be found on the Internet at: http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/4183cen_d1999.asp

After Eden is a brand new cartoon by **AiG-USA** staff illustrator Dan Lietha! This new feature seeks to remind the Church to view this fallen world and the people that live in it, through Biblical 'glasses'. We begin with Adam & Eve, and go all the way up to our present time—everything "After Eden"! Look for this exciting new feature to be updated every Monday morning in the year 2000!



Revised Meeting Topics for the Calendar Year 2000

FEBRUARY 15: Genetic/Biochemical Evidence for Creation—Robert Harsh
MARCH 21: Cosmic Evidence for Creation (Design) and Catastrophism—William Stillman
APRIL 18: Living Things as Evidence for Creation—Dennis Wert
MAY 16: Geological Evidences for Creation and the Flood—Chuck Danley
JUNE 20: Evidence for a Young Earth—Jeff Lawther
JULY 18: Anthropological Evidence for Creation and the Flood—Reid Moon
AUGUST 15: Fossil Evidence for the Flood—Robert Ivey
SEPTEMBER 22: SPECIAL SATURDAY FIELD TRIP MEETING; Empirical Evidence for the Flood: Tour of the Carnegie Museum—hosted by Dr. Kurt Wise (Proposed)
OCTOBER 17: Mankind Evidence for being Made In God’s Image—Robert Walsh
NOVEMBER 21, 2000: Evidence for the Design of the Physical Man—Robert Harsh

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WINTER WEATHER SCHEDULE CHANGES:

If the monthly meeting will be cancelled - or still go on as scheduled – due to any weather related problem, please call the CSF phone number at **412-341-4908** after 12 noon on the day of the monthly meeting and there will be a message on our answering machine indicating any cancellation or a confirmation of the meeting as scheduled. If the weather looks bad and you have a question about the meeting, please call after 12 PM to confirm. Thanks.

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