

GOD or Evolution?

WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE WILL WE STUDY? ^{Gen 1:1 got enough for some}

- 1. WE CANNOT PERFORM LABORATORY EXPERIMENTS. God is invisible and cannot be produced in a test-tube to prove He exists (1 John 4:12).
- 2. BUT THERE IS MUCH LOGICAL & HISTORICAL EVIDENCE.
 - a. A judge & jury do not physically observe a crime, but they reach a verdict by hearing witnesses.
 - b. A hunter may not see an animal, but he knows it exists and knows much about its nature from foot-prints and other signs.

So God also "left not himself without witness" (Acts 14:17). He has left His "fingerprints" on the universe. Let us call God's "witnesses" to testify, and YOU be the judge--consider the testimony honestly and reach your verdict. But remember that your eternal destiny depends on your decision!

WITNESS #1: THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE Ps 19:1

No one can deny the existence of the universe, including plants, animals, and man. The question is: what is the ORIGIN of the universe? Only two explanations are available: (1) there is an all-wise, all-powerful God who CREATED it, as the Bible says; or (2) matter is eternal and, beginning from an original simple life form(s), all living things developed gradually over millions of years by process of EVOLUTION. Consider which of these views best fits the evidence:

A. LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE.

This is one of the most firmly established laws of science. Every day, living things are produced from other living things. There is no scientific evidence that dead, non-living matter can spontaneously give life.

- 1. CREATION AGREES WITH THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE THAT LIFE COMES FROM LIFE--ACTS 17:24-28. Life came from the living Creator. (See also Acts 14:15.)
- 2. BUT EVOLUTION CONTRADICTS SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE BECAUSE IT DEMANDS THAT DEAD MATTER MUST HAVE COME TO LIFE, and from that original life came all present living things.

Which view best fits the evidence?

B. LIVING THINGS REPRODUCE AFTER THEIR OWN KIND.

- 1. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT GOD CREATED PLANTS AND ANIMALS TO REPRODUCE AFTER THEIR KIND--GEN. 1:11,21,24f. This agrees with evidence. Every year millions of living things reproduce, and the offspring is always the SAME KIND as the parent. The offspring of a dog is a dog, not a fish, a bird, or a man!
- 2. BUT EVOLUTION TEACHES THAT ALL THE PRESENT KINDS ARE THE OFFSPRING OF PREVIOUS DIFFERENT KINDS, all the way back to one original kind of life.
 - a. But there is no evidence this has ever happened. Living things do adapt to environment, but where is the proof that they produce totally DIFFERENT kinds of living things--fish to bird, etc.?

- b. If evolution is true, there should be many intermediate "links" between present kinds of living things preserved in the form of fossils. But no such fossils exist--the "links" are still missing!
- Which view best fits the evidence?

DESIGN MUST COME FROM A DESIGNER.

1. INTELLIGENT BEINGS CAN RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF ANOTHER INTELLIGENT BEING.

- a. When an intelligent being designs something to accomplish some purpose, that thing bears the marks of intelligence--it is intelligible. Other intelligent beings can examine it, see what purpose it accomplishes, how it works, etc. Even if we have never met the maker, we know he must exist, and we appreciate his DEGREE of intelligence.
- b. Take this test. Try to name one thing that has the following characteristics:
 - (1) It appeals to your intelligence--it "makes sense" as a logical, reasonable way to accomplish some purpose.
 - (2) But you KNOW it did NOT originate as the effort of some intelligent being! It "just happened" by blind chance.
 Can you name such a thing? (car? house? bridge?)

2. THE UNIVERSE BEARS COUNTLESS MARKS OF DESIGN.

- a. Cameras are designed by intelligent beings. But no camera can match the human eye. Where did the eye come from?
- b. Computers are made by intelligent beings. But no computer can match the human brain. Where the brain come from?
- c. Factories are made by intelligent beings to manufacture a product. But who made the human reproductive system?
- d. "Every house is builded by some man" (Heb. 3:4). But who built the "house" or body you live in? Consider then the design of all the organs of the human body, all the plants & animals, all the heavenly bodies, and all the complex laws of nature. Science is founded on the conviction that the universe is INTELLIGIBLE--it is orderly and systematic such that human intelligence can understand much about how it works. Where did this order come from?

3. EVERY EFFECT MUST HAVE AN ADEQUATE CAUSE.

- a. Evolution says life began by BLIND CHANCE. And from that original life, all other life forms have developed by BLIND CHANCE (random mutations, etc.). But where is the PROOF that chance can form such complex, intricate beings?
- b. The Bible says there is an all-wise, all-powerful, living God who intentionally planned & created the universe and the life in it.
 - (1) ROM. 1:20--By studying the things that have been made, what can we learn about God?
 - (2) PSA. 19:1--What do the heavens & firmament show us? Where did first "rock" come from?

Our first witness testifies that the only adequate explanation for the universe is that it was created by God as the Bible teaches. God exists and the Bible is true. Consider this evidence carefully as you reach your verdict.