

# Evolution: Why It Matters

# What is Neo-Darwinian Evolution?

- Says that life started when certain chemicals formed the first cell
- Over millions of years, offspring from that cell changed and grew in complexity, resulting in the great variety we see today
- In other words, all species originated from a common ancestor, advancing from one generation to the next.

Note: “Neo-Darwinian Evolution” is shortened to “Evolution” in the following slides.

# What is Neo-Darwinian Evolution?

- The process is said to be driven by natural selection acting on random mutations. In other words it is a mindless, undirected process.

# What is Theistic Evolution?

- The process of evolution was not random, but rather, guided by God's hand.
- The Biblical account of creation is not historical, but is either figurative or simply gives a general framework of how things came to be.



# What is Theistic Evolution?

- In one popular version of Theistic Evolution, Man evolved from an ape-like creature when God intervened. Furthermore, Original Sin resulted in spiritual death, but not physical death, since physical death and natural selection had long been a part of the process God used to “create” man.
- One goal of this presentation is to point out the theological problems of this view.

# Overview: If Evolution is True,

- The Authority of the Scripture is Undermined
- The Power of God is Minimized
- The Fall of Man is Denied
- The Need for Christ is Diminished
- Hope for the Resurrection is Reduced
- A Key Apologetic for the Problem of Evil is Lost

Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

# The Authority of the Scripture is Undermined

# The Authority of Scripture is Undermined

- “The authority of the Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s word in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”
- (from Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000, p. 73)

# The Creation of Man

- Genesis 2:7 “the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”
- The Hebrew for man (adam) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for ground (adamah) it is also the name Adam (see Gen. 2:20).

# Paul Affirmed the Special Creation of Woman as History

- In the Genesis account of the creation of Eve, the first woman, she is fashioned from Adam's rib.
- The Apostle Paul affirms the Genesis account, writing, "For man did not come from woman, but woman from man." (1 Cor. 11:8)

# The Creation of Man According to Theistic Evolution

- Man was “Created” from a chimpanzee or ape-like creature, not from the dust
- A man and a woman would have to be created the same way at about the same time
- This idea is very different from the Genesis narrative



# Jesus Understood the Creation of Man as Earliest Earth History

- Jesus said, “But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female” Mark 10:6
- If God created everything almost instantly as a special creation, the phrase “beginning of creation” means “beginning of time”. The parallel passage, Matt. 19:4, affirms this, “...He who created them *from the beginning* made them male and female.”
- If God used evolution to create over millions of years, Jesus’ statement doesn’t make sense.



# Peter Alludes to Special, Instantaneous Creation

- 2Peter3:5 “by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed”
- This verse gives the impression that God spoke and the heavens and earth appeared almost immediately
- If God used natural processes to create, this verse doesn't make sense. Yet this is God's word through Peter, a foremost apostle.

# Genesis Refers to the Creation Passage as History

- Genesis 2:4 (NKJV) “This is the history (towledah) of the heavens and the earth when they were created...”
- The Hebrew “Towledah” is also translated as “account” (NIV, NASV, NLT), or “generations” (KJV, RSV, ESV).
- All these imply an historical, not a figurative, passage.

# A Straightforward Reading Indicates a 6 Day Creation

## ■ Genesis 1:3-5

- God created light and darkness
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the first day”

## ■ Genesis 1:6-8

- God created the sky
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the second day”

# A Straightforward Reading Indicates a 6 Day Creation

## ■ Genesis 1:9-13

- God created dry ground and plants
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the third day”

## ■ Genesis 1:14-19

- God created the sun, moon and stars
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the forth day”

# A Straightforward Reading Indicates a 6 Day Creation

## ■ Genesis 1:20-23

- God created fish and birds
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the fifth day”

## ■ Genesis 1:24-31

- God created the animals and man
- “and there was a morning and an evening, the sixth day”

# Moses Wrote Genesis

- Moses wrote the first 5 books of the Bible, known as “The Law” or “The Book of Moses”; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. We know this:
  - From Duet. 31:24-26 – Moses writes and gives the law to the Levites to put into the ark of the covenant.
  - Since, in The New Testament, The Old Testament is often referred to as “Moses and the Prophets”.
  - From Jewish and Christian tradition.

# Moses Knew the Correct Interpretation of Genesis

- Moses is a very highly regarded figure in the Bible.
- He lead the people of Israel from captivity in Egypt.
- He is referenced over 800 times, 80 times in the New Testament.



# Moses Knew the Correct Interpretation of Genesis

- God Dictated The Old Testament Law to Moses
  - Exodus 19:3, “Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:”
  - Following Exodus 19:3 are 4 chapters of direct dictation from God at Mount Sinai!
- “Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.” Exodus 24:4a



# Moses Knew the Correct Interpretation of Genesis

- Moses met with God for days at a time.
  - Exodus 24:17-18, “To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”
  - Surely, much truth was revealed to Moses, including the details of the creation.

# Moses Believed in a 6 Day Creation

- Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. **Six days** you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ..

# Moses Believed in a 6 Day Creation

...For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

- This command would make no sense if Moses or the Israelites believed in millions of years of “Theistic Evolution”.

# The Genesis Creation Account Must be Literal History

- If Genesis is figurative, how do we know? What are the clues? How do we know moral teachings aren't figurative as well?
- If the Genesis account of creation is not true, at what point does the Bible start telling true history? How can we know?

# Non – Literal Interpretation of Genesis has led to:

- “Higher criticism”
- Liberal theology and mass exodus from churches
- Relativism, post modernism
- Marginalization of the Bible and Christ in our universities

Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

**The Power of God is Minimized**

# God's Power is shown through His Creation

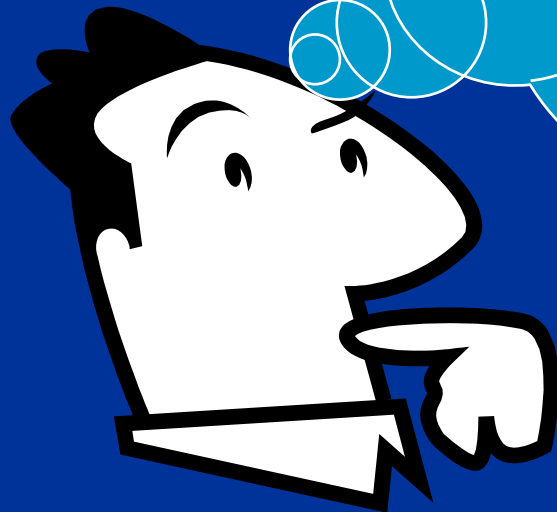
- Genesis
- Job 38-41
- Romans 1:20

# God's Awesome Power is Known Through the Creation

- Paul wrote of creation as evidence of His power, “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.” Rom. 1:20



*If God didn't make the Universe and all that is in them, maybe He's not that powerful. Why should I respect Him and do what He wants?*



Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

# The Fall of Man is Denied

Read Gen. 2

# The Fall of Man Explains...

- Shame & worry about what others think
- Fear of punishment
- Blame shifting
- Increased pain in childbirth
- Thorns, thistles, toilsome work
- ...

(See Genesis Chapter 3)

# The Fall of Man Explains...

- Death!

## The Fall of Man is Denied

- Evolution says:
  - Millions of years of death passed before the first man
- The Bible Says:
  - Death entered the world through Adam's sin

# Death entered the world through Adam's sin

- Rom. 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men...”

# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

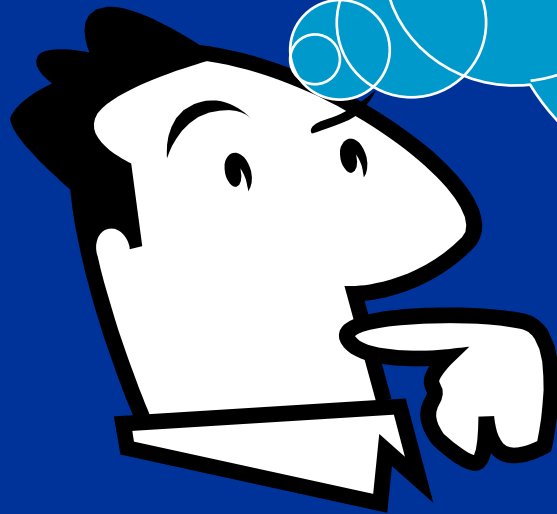
- All creation was cursed at the fall of man.
  - Rom. 8:20-21 “Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”
- Part of that curse was death.



# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

- All creation was cursed at the fall of man.
  - Rom. 8:20-21 “Against its will, **all creation** was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”  
NLT
- Part of that curse was death.
- All creatures were affected by the curse of death.

*But surely plants and  
micro organisms died  
before the Fall of  
Man...*



# Yes!

- In the language of Bible, creatures (nephesh chayyah) die and plants wither.
- The curse of death affected creatures. Plants, invertebrates and micro organisms were already dying before the fall.

# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

- All creation was cursed at the fall of man.
  - Rom. 8:20-21 “Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”
- Part of that curse was death.
- In the Bible, creatures die, plants wither.

# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

- All creation was cursed at the fall of man.
  - Rom. 8:20-21 “Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”  
NLT
- Part of that curse was death.
- In the Bible, creatures die, plants wither.
- The death was spiritual and physical.

# Spiritual Death

- Man was separated from God by his sin.

# Physical Death

## Physical Death vs. Resurrection:

1 Cor. 15:21-22 “For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

This passage makes it clear that the Fall of Man resulted in physical death, since it is contrasted with the physical resurrection.

# What Kind of Death Entered the World at the Fall of Man?

- All creation was cursed at the fall of man.
  - Rom. 8:20-21 “Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”
- Part of that curse was death.
- In the Bible, creatures die, plants wither.
- The death was spiritual and physical.



## The Fall of Man is Denied

- Evolution says:

- Millions of years of death passed before the first man

- The Bible Says:

- Death entered the world through Adam's sin

**If evolution is true, and we have the right understanding of death, the Fall of Man is not true!**

# The Fall of Man Explains...

- Shame & worry about what others think
- Fear of punishment
- Blame shifting
- Increased pain in childbirth
- Thorns, thistles, toilsome work
- ...

(See Genesis Chapter 3)

# The Fall of Man Explains...

- Death
- The need for Christ!

# Where there is sin, God requires death.

- Adam's sin brought death
- Sin committed under the Law of Moses required the death of an animal
- Jesus died in our place to atone for our sins

# Sin – Death Requirement under the Law

Lev. 4:32-33 "If he brings a lamb as his sin offering, he is to bring a female without defect. He is to lay his hand on its head and slaughter it..."

**Jesus Christ is known as the Lamb of God!**

# Christ Came to...

- Bring us back to relationship with God by paying the price for our sins
- Conquer death (spiritual and physical)
- ...

# Christ Redeemed us from the Fall

Rom. 5:19 “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

# Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

If evolution is true, the Fall of Man is not true.

If man did not fall, then Christ is not needed!



Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

Hope for the Resurrection is Lost

# The Centrality of the Resurrection

1 Cor. 15:13-19 “If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But He did not raise Him if in fact the dead are not raised.”

# The Centrality of the Resurrection

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.”

# The Hope of the Resurrection is Linked to Adam

1 Cor. 15:21-22 “For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

# The Hope of the Resurrection is Linked to Adam

If death did not come through Adam, perhaps the resurrection won't come through Christ. Paul's theology of the resurrection is linked to the fact that death entered the world through one man, Adam. If death didn't come through one man, why should we expect that one man, Jesus, could redeem us and bring us life?

Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

**Evolution Removes an Important  
Apologetic for the Problem of Evil**

# Evolution Removes an Important Apologetic for the Problem of Evil

## ■ God's Plan

- Perfect Creation – no evil or suffering
- Fall of Man, introducing moral and natural evil
- Spiritual Restoration Through Christ
- Christ's Rule at 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
- Creation of New Heavens, New Earth
  - Removing moral and natural evil
  - Perfection Restored

# Moral Evil vs. Natural Evil

- Moral evil is caused by man choosing to inflict pain.
- Moral evil is often explained by the “free will” argument.
- Natural evil is suffering due to natural events and processes
- Natural evil can be explained by the fall of man.



# Evolution Removes an Important Apologetic for the Problem of Evil

- If God used evolution to create, then God always intended natural evil and suffering.
- This is in contrast to a good God which created a “good” paradise with no suffering.

## Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

The New Atheists are trying to use evolution to marginalize religious faith. See PZ Myers at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So2k9QkDAdU>

# Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

“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 [sic]. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing!”

G. Richard Bozarth, “The Meaning of Evolution,” *The American Atheist*, Vol. 20, No. 2, February 1978, p. 30.

# Since Evolution undermines the following truths...

- History given in the Bible can be trusted
- The Creation is a display of God's awesome power
- The Fall of Man brought spiritual and physical death and Natural Evil into the world
- Through Christ we have a sure hope for the resurrection and release from physical death

...it matters greatly !

Evolution: It Matters  
Greatly !