

Apes, Evolution, Adam & Eve

Series: Where Science and Religion Meet

Recommended Reading: The Case for a Creator, by Lee Strobel

1. Where did humans come from?
 - a. 1859 – Darwin – Origin of the Species
 - 1) Darwin was a religious man; he even considered being a pastor
2. Primary Components to Evolution
 - a. Mutation - In biology, mutations are changes to the genetic material (usually DNA or RNA). Mutations create variation in the gene pool, and the less favorable mutations are removed from the gene pool by natural selection, while beneficial ones tend to accumulate.
 - b. Variation – this is when a mutation is manifested in life; variations can be +, -, or neutral.
 - c. Natural Selection - the process by which individual organisms with favorable variations are more likely to survive and reproduce than those with unfavorable traits.

NOTES:

3. The process of evolving bacteria, of mutation, variation, and natural selection can be applied to the formation of all life
4. Even before we get into the meat of the evolutionary argument, we already find space for God (where did the material for life come from?)
5. Good scientists who are *not* trying to be theologians would say, “We aren’t including God, and we aren’t excluding God. We are just trying to understand *how* life happened.”
6. 3 Reasons Why Some Christians are Upset About Evolution
 - a. Evolution Conflicts with a Literal Reading of Gen 1
 - 1) Response: science teaches us HOW & the Bible teaches us WHY & WHO

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- b. Evolution diminishes the role of human beings in the order of creation
 - 1) Response: Breathe a soul into a human being, and there you find the image of God- our uniqueness.

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- c. Evolution totally eliminates the role of God in the creation process
 - 1) Response: In its purest, scientific form, evolution does not eliminate the role of God because evolution is not talking about God one way or the other; rather, as science, evolution is simply offering an explanation as to how life exists, not who created it or why it was created. Furthermore, *if* our teachers of science or scientists themselves start making claims about God’s existence or lack-there of, then, simply put, they are no longer practicing science, they are now practicing and teaching religion.

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7. 3 possibilities Where Science & Religion Meet Concerning Evolution
 - a. Creation Science (they *don’t* meet)
 - 1) Regardless what science says, evolution is wrong & the universe & earth were created in 7 24 hour days
 - b. Intelligent Design Theory (leaning more towards religion)
 - 1) Life *never* self-organizes, so, any perceived evolution is, in reality, Intelligently designed & guided by God

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- c. “Evolutionary Design” Theory (leaning more towards natural selection)
 - 1) Evolution is indeed a natural process, however God created and sustains both the “materials” & the laws of physics that made the process possible; God set all the parts of evolution in place; and, God continues to work both within and outside of this dimension to see the entire process to its proper end.

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8. Other thoughts:
 - a. In your discovery of truth concerning controversial issues, remember that what is most important is how you treat the people who disagree with you (not the “truth” itself)
 - b. Study the options, and then, putting aside outside pressure from what other people think, decide on the “TRUTH” that helps your faith in God, through Jesus, to grow the most.