

## Opening Words

### If evolution is true, why do we need God?

#### 223 06 TQ If Evolution is True, Why do we Need God?

Some people ask tough questions, but they are not sincere. They like to argue, or they like to show how smart they are, or they just want to cause trouble. They aren't really looking for answers, and there isn't much we can do for such people.

But some people do have sincere questions about Christianity that trouble them. I recently had lunch with a friend who was in my church in the late 70s and early 80s when I was first pastoring. He reminded me of his conversion story. Another man in our church was witnessing to him. He said, "John, if I answer all your questions about Jesus and the Bible, will it make a difference? Will you give your life to Jesus?" That surprised John. He wasn't so sure. That question haunted him for a year. Was he a sincere seeker or did he just enjoy arguing? I'm happy to say he became a sincere seeker of truth, and he gave his life to Jesus. I was honored to perform the wedding ceremony for him and his wife and today they continue strong in their faith with five lovely children.

Many have come to faith when their questions are answered. If you are one of those seeking for truth today we hope you will listen closely as we answer our third tough question. Here it is, "If evolution is true, why do we even need a God?"

Lee Strobel, in his book *A Case for Faith* quoted biologist Francisco Ayala who said that Charles Darwin's greatest accomplishment was to show that life was "the result of a natural process, natural selection, without any need to resort to a Creator." He also quoted from Michael Denton, an Australian molecular biologist who said that Darwinism "broke man's link with God" and set man "adrift in the cosmos without purpose."

Without purpose! That is crucial and Denton's statement shows the far ranging and catastrophic consequences of evolution, if it is indeed true. Let me share five implications. If Darwinism is true then:

1. There is no evidence for God
2. There is no life after death
3. There is no absolute foundation for right and wrong
4. There is no ultimate meaning for life
5. People don't have free will or meaningful choices

These five points are not my conclusions. These are not the conclusions of another pastor or theologian. These are the conclusions of William Provine of Cornell University who believes in evolution. He has been honest enough to state them. We appreciate his honesty about the implications of evolution.

Is evolution true? Well, in one sense, “yes.” We call this microevolution. We see different species of dogs, for example. Cows can be bred to produce more milk. Tomatoes can be engineered to produce meatier, juicier tomatoes. We see change, or evolution, within species all around us. This is microevolution.

But this is not what we, or Charles Darwin, or William Provine or Michael Denton are talking about. They are talking about macroevolution which is the belief that life rose from non-life, that from some primordial pond, chemical reactions took place that led to more complex life forms, that millions of years ago single celled creatures through mutations and natural selection gave way to the plant and animal life we see around us today. Increasingly, scientists, are saying this is not true nor is it even possible. Notice that I said “scientists.” I did not say “pastors and theologians” but scientists.

Let me give you some preliminary thoughts on this. First, we must look at the fossil evidence. If evolution is true, then the fossil evidence will show it to be true. This was a problem for Charles Darwin because in his day, what few fossils there were showed nothing of evolution. Darwin was not daunted by this because the science of paleontology was in its infancy. He predicted that over time, multitudes of fossils would be dug up that would establish his theory. What have we discovered in the past 150 years? Has it established Darwinism? Quite the contrary. In 1979 David Raup, the curator of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago said, “We now have a quarter of a million fossil species, but the situation hasn’t changed much.... We have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time.”

In addition, what the fossils show is plant and animal life suddenly appearing on earth fully formed! There are no transition forms! This points to a Creator rather than a long, drawn out process of macro evolution.

Second, I want to read a famous statement from Darwin himself: “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, then my theory would absolutely break down.” Well, guess what! Michael Behe in his book Darwin’s Black Box “showed how recent biochemical discoveries have found numerous examples of this thing that Darwin talked about. His theory has broken down!

One more example – we must talk about the origin of life. How did it start? Where did it come from? Can life arise from non-life? To answer this question, Lee Strobel interviewed Dr. Walter Bradley who received his doctorate from the University of Texas in materials science and then was professor of mechanical engineering at Texas A&M for 24 years. They talked about the mystery of the origin of life.

Strobel told the story of when he was in high school and one of his teachers excitedly told him about the experiments of Dr. Stanley Miller who recreated the atmosphere of primitive earth in a laboratory, shot electricity through it to simulate lightning and created amino acids. This experiment was hailed as scientific proof of how the building blocks of life could arise spontaneously through chemical reactions.

Bradley was aware of this experiment and what he said stunned Strobel and should stun the academic world. The deck was stacked in the experiment. Miller and his associate put in gases that do react chemically – ammonia, methane, and hydrogen – but NASA scientists in 1980 discovered that earth's earliest atmosphere did not have ammonia, methane, and hydrogen. Instead it had water, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen. Carbon dioxide and nitrogen don't react chemically! Further experiments have shown that when the gases that were present on earth are mixed and electricity is shot through them, nothing happens! Besides, did anyone else see a problem with Miller's experiment? Where did the lightning come from? How was it produced? Where did the gases come from?

The experiment was a failure and is like the old beliefs that maggots arise spontaneously on carcasses or that life arises in ponds. But observers came to see that it was flies laying eggs on carcasses and microorganisms in the air that generated life in ponds. Life was not arising from non-life and earth's early atmosphere was not conducive to the formation of life.

There is one other point we must mention in association with Darwin – the living cell. In his time Darwin had no idea of the complexity of a single, simple cell. Almost 25 years after his death, scientists were still describing it as a glob of plasma. But the truth is that the cell is more complicated than the supercomputers designed by man. Listen to this description of a cell. It is a

“high-tech factory, complete with artificial languages and decoding systems; central memory banks that store and retrieve impressive amounts of information; precision control systems that regulate the automatic assembly of components; proof-reading and quality control mechanisms that safeguard against errors; assembly systems that use principles of prefabrication and modular construction; and a complete replication system that allows the organism to duplicate itself at bewildering speeds.”

Please keep in mind that the human body has about 100 trillion cells – all operating in this way and coordinating with one another in our bodily systems to make us function. Francis Crick, the Nobel Prize winner who discovered DNA said, “The origin of life appears to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to be satisfied to get it going.”

Well said Dr. Crick. It is a miracle! I must bring in the Bible verse now from Psalm 139:14: “I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.”

Well, our soul knows it very well. But the souls of others will not admit it and despite the overwhelming evidence against life just happening and evolving into what we see today men still propose new theories to explain life without God.

First is the Random Chance Theory – that it all just happened by chance. But Dr. Bradley told Lee Strobel that the mathematical odds are so astronomical that few still believe this. Bradley said if you took all the carbon in the universe, put it on earth, caused it to react chemically at the most rapid rate for a billion years, the odds of creating one functional protein molecule would be  $1 \times 10^{60}$ .

Some have proposed the Chemical Affinity Theory and others the Self-Ordering Tendency Theory but these have also been shown to be inadequate explanations for the origin of life. A newer theory that has been proposed has coincided with the discovery of vents in the ocean floor and ocean life that flourishes by these vents. Some have proposed that life began there. The only problem is that the ocean waters circulate around the world through these vents and if life evolved by chance around those vents that life would have died as they circulated through the intense heat in the vents.

My favorite theory that has been proposed to explain life without God is the Seeding from Space theory – that spores from outer space came to earth and life started evolving here. Some even have proposed advanced civilizations sent them here – in other words “space men”! Come on! Really? Do some scientists really believe this? Yes, but of course, they never tell us where the space men came from or where the spores from space came from.

Friends have you been duped into thinking that life just happened by some so-called authorities? Don't be duped. Today, science is overwhelmingly showing that life could not have arisen without a designer. When we see a book with meaningful words in it we know someone has written it. When archaeologists dig up city walls in the earth we know someone built them. When we look at the amazing design, complexity, and information stored in every cell of our body we must know that only a Creator could have done this. Books don't evolve by chance. City walls don't rise automatically. Life does not happen without God.

Do you know this God?