

WOW - Discovering Genesis Together

Session 2 - What is Life?

Key Points

- Many different theories have been suggested as explanations for how life started
- No one has witnessed creation or evolution, so we must look at today's evidence and try and arrive at a reasonable theory for life
- Natural laws, genetic evidence, and other data point to the divine origins of plants and animals
- Creationists and evolutionists agree that life throughout the planet is based on the same basic DNA
- Non-creation theories include deep-sea vents, primordial soup, and life transported to Earth from outer space
- The entire theory of evolution and a "universal common ancestor" assume that non-life (chemicals) can create life, but scientific experiments have never been able to create life from nonliving matter
- Evolution says life starts with chemicals randomly aligning, leading us to conclude that death is just another set of chemical reactions
- Creation says that the evidence points to God as the source of life, and the Bible tells us if we trust in Jesus, His Son, then we will have eternal life with God

Talk About It

1. Have 2 or 3 people each take one minute to describe the beginning of life on Earth in their own words.
2. What are some common theories about how life began?
3. What are some of the flaws of secular origins theories?
4. What does the Bible say about life? (Gen 2:7; Lev 17:11, Hosea 13:14, John 5:21&24, 8:12, 10:10; 11:25; Rom 5:10, 1 Pet 1:3)
5. What does it say about death? (Gen 2:17, Rom 5:12, 6:23, 14:8; Heb 9:27, 1 Cor 15:22, Rev 21:4)?

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Evolution vs Creation Perspectives

1. **Common Ancestry**

Evolution says: Evolutionary biologists say DNA indicates that we all have a "universal common ancestor" from which all organisms now living descended. Secular scientists don't all agree on what exactly that ancestor is, but many say that we're all biologically related to something like bacterium.

Creation says: There's still the question of how that first organism came to be. The entire theory of evolution and the last universal common ancestor depend on the assertion that non-life can create life. You need DNA to make proteins, you need DNA to make RNA, and you need RNA to make proteins. These are all interacting and interdependent on one another. Which one came first? Clearly, they all arose at the same time. Having a creator explains the intricacy of even the most basic cell and the complexity of the most basic functions of life and solves the problem of whether DNA, RNA or proteins came first. The evidence supports the Bible's record of how God made everything - plants, butterflies, humans - at the same time.

2. **Primordial Soup**

Evolution says: The entire theory that life evolved from a primordial soup assumes that non-life can create life - through random chance, nonliving chemical elements were able to spontaneously combine to form reproducing cells. Scientific experiments have never been able to create life from non-living matter.

Creation says: Experiments from Louis Pasteur's day demonstrated that life only comes from life. Living creatures have in their DNA the components needed to virtually duplicate themselves.

3. **Vertical Evolution**

Evolution says: Vertical evolution asserts that simpler life forms gave rise to more complex life forms over long spans of time by random chance and through mechanisms like adaptation, mutations, and natural selection.

Creation says: Those mechanisms are inadequate. One problem is that we only see adaptations occur in features that already exist. Mutations don't create new DNA- they only alter DNA that already exists. Mutations are also seldom beneficial and only harm. The 2nd law of Thermodynamics shows how living things tend to go from order to disorder.

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