

Lesson 5 / Part 2 Outline - Science: What is True?

I. Introduction

- A. Psalm 19:1-4 – "The heavens declare the Glory of God" – General Revelation
- B. Romans 1:18-20 – "God has made it plain to them ..."
- C. Only two possibilities: the cosmos has always existed or the cosmos had a beginning – either one poses a serious problem for those who deny a Creator

II. Design vs. Randomness

- A. Earliest scientists were convinced that the universe bore evidence of design
- B. Scrabble Example – Where does the organized information in the genetic code come from?
- C. Wald- "Time is the hero of the plot ...the impossible becomes possible."

III. Examining Darwin's Theory

- A. Hypothesis, theory, law – data must confirm investigation of truth claims
- B. Darwinian Evolution taught as "Fact" – Does his theory match reality?
- C. Paley's Argument – Anyone who looks at a pocket watch understands that it was designed with intelligent purpose
- D. Ignoring the obvious – Francis Crick: You've got to keep in mind that all of this was not designed

IV. Testing Carl Sagan's Statement – "Evolution is a fact amply demonstrated by the fossil record and contemporary molecular biology."

- A. Contemporary Molecular Biology – testing Darwin's statement that his theory would absolutely break down if it could be demonstrated that a complex organism could not come into existence without numerous, successive slight modifications
 - 1. In the 19th century, the cell was viewed as a simple glob of plasma, a black box; today, micro technology reveals a cell filled with exquisite machinery
 - 2. Irreducible complexity – The cell cannot exist if one component of the machinery is missing – Examples: mouse trap and the flagellum motor
 - 3. It is in the realm of molecular genetics where we see the most compelling evidence of design on earth – evolution fails Darwin's test
- B. The fossil record – testing Darwin's statement that if one can't find all of the fine, graduated evolutionary steps in the fossil record, then one can rightly reject the theory
 - 1. If speciation requires many thousands of morphological changes, there should be some fossil evidence of those changes – Darwin agreed they weren't there, but only because we hadn't dug up enough fossils
 - 2. 120 years after Darwin's time we have a lot more fossil evidence than he did, but we have even less support for his evolutionary theories
 - 3. Theory of punctuated equilibrium – offered by evolutionist Gould because of the lack of evidence in the fossil record; purports immediate speciation to account for the missing links
 - 4. Icons of Evolution – used for years as "proof" of evolution – all are inaccurate and outdated
 - 5. Theory of directed panspermia – purports that the first living cell was sent to earth from another planet – offered by Crick because evidence was overwhelmingly against spontaneous generation
 - 6. Evolution again fails Darwin's own test

V. Conclusion

- A. Lovtrup: "I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science"
- B. This is a worldview battle – a battle that is much deeper than a scientific theory - Evolution destroys any foundation for a standard of ethics or morality – man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie (evolution) so that he may be free to follow his inner desires

Lesson Guide for Tour 5

Introduction



In this, our fifth worldview tour, we will head northwest, enter the cavern of nature, gaze upon the jewels of creation, and establish yet another important pillar in the Temple of Truth: *Science*. In the process, we will discover that whereas "the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1) so that the Creator's "invisible attributes are plainly seen" (Romans 1:20), mankind has nevertheless chosen to ignore the obvious truth, twisting scientific investigation into a vehicle for propagating a godless philosophy of human independence and self-determination.

Themes

Having completed our brief and cursory discussion of the nature and character of God, we turn now to consider a very different question: what does "the stuff in the box" really tell us when we honestly look at it? Dr. Tackett argues that *scientific investigation* – "the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment" – is also a valid way of ascertaining *truth*. For when we open the box, we find that it is filled with voices that speak to us loudly about the majesty and power of the One who has created the physical universe. Everywhere we look – whether up at the grandeur of the stars and galaxies or deep into the tiny and elegantly designed inner workings of a living cell – there is evidence that the cosmos is the handiwork of an intelligent, rational mind. In the contemplation of nature, we come face to face with the truth that *God exists* and that *He has revealed Himself to us*, not only through His written Word (*special revelation*) but also through the works of His hands (*general revelation*).

Our natural reaction to this experience should be like that of a child: wonder, marvel, and praise for the Creator. But because of the effects of the fall and the polarizing influence of the *Cosmic Battle*, man shows a tendency to deny what is plain to the senses and to "exchange the truth of God for a lie" (Romans 1:25). Driven by this impulse, he transforms straightforward scientific inquiry, which properly concerns itself with *particulars*, into an all-embracing *philosophy*, which claims to establish *universals* on the basis of the "stuff in the box." The result is the propagation of a *worldview* that "scientifically" excludes the Creator, thus "freeing" mankind from accountability to a higher authority.

Central to this philosophy are the assertions of Darwinian evolutionary theory. By keeping the details of creation's story completely inside "the box," evolution effectively rules out the existence of God. Herein lies the *heart* of the debate over "Intelligent Design." Atheist C. Richard Bozarth actually goes so far as to claim that "evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary." It is exactly this kind of *philosophical* assumption that inspires the visceral antagonism of evolutionists toward anyone who dares question the validity of their theory. This is why Darwinists so fervently assert that "evolution is no longer merely a theory, but an established *fact*." But the truth of the matter, as Dr. Tackett and his guest experts demonstrate in great detail, is that the theory is *not* supported by the evidence. Many inside the scientific community are beginning to recognize this. But they dare not acknowledge it publicly because of the worldview issues at stake. As Dr. David Berlinski says, "The consequences are serious."

Points to Watch for

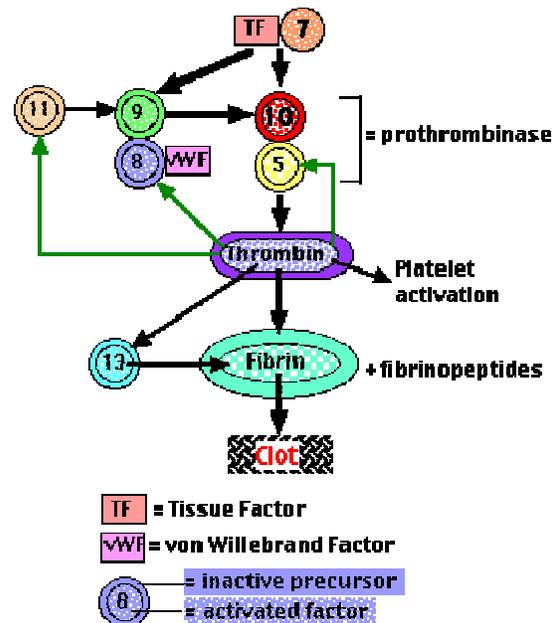
The essence of Dr. Tackett's message may be summed up as follows: fallen man ignores the plain evidence of objective scientific inquiry and promotes the atheistic *philosophy* of evolutionary theory primarily because he is determined to do as he pleases without answering to a higher authority. This charge may make some group participants uncomfortable precisely because it hits so close to home. Dr. Tackett also illustrates the point that *ideas have consequences* by drawing a historical connection between Darwinian Theory and the horrors of Nazi Germany. Some students may feel inclined to debate his assertions in this regard.

The Truth Project Lesson 5 / Part 2 - Science

Everywhere we look we see order, complexity, harmony...associated with design, with a designer.

Blood clotting – How did it develop if not designed?

- Why does blood clot naturally at a cut but not in your circulatory system?
- How could man have survived while the evolutionary process took place?



Carl Sagan

“**Evolution is a fact** amply demonstrated by the **fossil record** and by **contemporary molecular biology**.”

Darwin's criteria for his theory's acceptance

“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by **numerous, successive, slight modifications**, my theory would absolutely break down.”

Dr. Stephen Meyer

“In the 19th century, biologists thought that cells were made of simple homogeneous globules of plasma. Now with that kind of understanding of life it is easy to imagine how life might have arisen out of a few simple chemical reactions...the origin of life is no big problem. Post 1953 with the discovery of the structure of DNA and also the information bearing properties of DNA we can no longer look at the cell in the same way. And what we are now discovering is that the cell is chalk full of exquisite miniature machines, little turbines, little rotary engines, little walking robots that cart material from one end of the cell to the other. Now in our experience all of those kinds of entities are produced by one cause and only one cause and it is intelligence. And that again challenges materialism because the materialistic worldview of the 19th century said there are two fundamental realities: matter and energy. What we are now discovering is that there is a third fundamental reality and that is information and everything we know about information is that it must come from an intelligent cause. The presence of information in living systems suggests an intelligence that pre-exists us that is responsible for all that exquisite nano-technology information.”

From “Unlocking the Mysteries of Life” – Dr. Dean Kenyon, co-author of the Theory of Chemical Evolution

“This is absolutely mind boggling to perceive at this scale of size, such a finely tuned apparatus, a device that bears the marks of intelligent design and manufacture...And we have the details of an immensely complex molecular realm of genetic information processing and it is exactly this new realm of molecular genetics where we see the most compelling evidence of design on the earth...”

His statement is based upon observing the complexity of the cell...the evidence.

Francis Crick – “Life itself: Its Origin and Nature”

“An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us could now state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions are which would have had to have been satisfied to get it wrong.”

- Man does not always accept what God has made “plain”
- An amoeba - information found to provide all DNA structure would equal 1000 sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica

Francis Crick – Directed Panspermia:

Theory that the first living cell must have been transported to earth from some other planet outside our solar system.

- Problem: What is the source of this “first cell”?
- Why turn to a theory like this? Trying to gain time.

George Wald – “The Origin of Life”

“Most modern biologists, having reviewed with satisfaction the downfall of the spontaneous generation hypothesis, yet unwilling to accept the alternative belief in special creation, are left with nothing. I think a scientist **has no choice** but to approach the origin of life through a hypothesis of spontaneous generation.”

- Spontaneous Generation Hypothesis – Life sprung from non-life.
- Wald is basically saying...if the evidence points outside the box we won't go there.

“One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are, as a result, I believe in spontaneous generation.”

- Why? He does not want to acknowledge a creator
- He is stuck on his pre-supposition that there can be no creation.
- “Exchanging the truth for a lie”

Charles Darwin

“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, **my theory would absolutely break down.**”

Darwin “Breaking Down” – Dr. Michael Behe

“To Darwin, the cell was a “black box” – its inner workings were utterly mysterious to him. Now, the black box has been opened up and we know how it works. Applying Darwin's test to the ultra-complex world of molecular machinery and cellular systems that have been discovered over the past 40 years, we can say that Darwin's theory has “**absolutely broken down.**”

Dr. Behe - Irreducible Complexity:

A complex system that could not function if it were any simpler, and therefore could not possibly have been formed by successive additions to a precursor system with the same functionality. An analogy often given in support of irreducible complexity is the mousetrap.

Flagellum demonstrating the complex machinery within bacteria cells:

So what does the co-option hypothesis predict? That prior to the existence of the flagellum, these 30 gene products (or their duplicates) all existed doing something else. Then, they just happened to all fit together by chance to create a flagellum. And afterwards, the other 30 or so hypothetical functions of these original gene products disappeared... For it is chance that determines whether the 30-or-so gene products just happen to come together to form a functioning flagellum, as selection was pruning these gene products in accord with 30-or-so different functions. Thus, the co-option explanation is really a return to using chance as an explanation for apparent design, and just as it was not convincing in pre-Darwinian days, it is not convincing today.

Dr. Chandra Wickramasinge

“**The speculations of The Origin of Species turned out to be wrong...** it is ironic that the scientific facts thrown Darwin out, but leave William Paley, a figure of fun to the scientific world for more than a century, still in the tournament with a chance of being the ultimate winner.”

- If Darwin is “out”, why is it taught as fact?

Carl Sagan

“**Evolution is a fact** amply demonstrated by the **fossil record** and by **contemporary molecular biology.**”
And now, **the fossil record...**

Charles Darwin

“...The number of intermediate varieties, which have formerly existed on the earth, [must] be truly enormous. Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graded organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.”

- We have been taught that the fossil record “proves” evolution yet Darwin saw issues with the evidence.

Dr. David Berlinski – Speaking on long, gradual evolutionary changes necessary to move from one species to another...

“The question to be raised, and it should be raised whenever an evolutionary sequence is mentioned...what are exactly the predicted properties one would expect to find as one passes from a land dwelling creature to a sea dwelling creature? Specifically, how many changes are required to go from a creature such as _____ which seems to have been land dwelling creature to some, to a creature that spends the entire portion of its life in the ocean? Curiously enough, this is not a question that evolutionary biologists ask a whole lot. I did some back-of-the-envelope calculations myself and the most modest estimate I could come up with is that an organism requires roughly 50.0K morphological changes to adapt itself to the open ocean. And as soon as we introduce a quantitative estimate, however weak, however flabby, however spontaneous, then a great deal of puzzlement starts to intrude into an otherwise sunny picture. 50,000 changes and we’ve got two members of the sequence? Where are the other 49,999 members of that sequence if Darwinian changes are incremental and are small?”

We are not talking about changes that are arbitrary. A creature must have these changes if it is going to survive in the open ocean. And any attempt to put a quantitative number should induce a profound sense of perplexity because of the number of changes are so much greater than anything we see in the transitional record. Now, what is the proper explanation for this? Please understand, I don’t have it...but neither do the other guys. Neither do the other guys. And in my opinion, they refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the question...that is a fundamental question in paleontology...how many changes are required? Can those changes be compared to the fossil record? And if they are compared to the fossil record, why do we see such deficiencies in the record as compared to the necessary changes? A very important issue...”

If a change from one species to another requires 50,000 changes there ought to be some evidence of that in the fossil record.

Charles Darwin - On the origin of the species by means of natural selection

The geological record is **extremely imperfect** and this fact will to a large extent explain why we do not find intermediate varieties, connecting together all the extinct and existing forms of life by the finest graduated steps. He who rejects these views on the nature of the geological record, will **rightly reject my whole theory.**”

- We have not found enough fossils to make the connection, but if we don’t find them the theory should be rejected.

Colin Patterson – Of Pandas & People

“I will lay it on the line – there is not one such [transitional] fossil for which one could make a watertight argument.”

- You can’t say the fossil record supports gradual change from one species to another.

David Raup

“We are now about 120 years after Darwin and the knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded. We now have a quarter of a million fossil species but the situation hasn’t changed much. The record of evolution is still surprisingly jerky and, ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time.”

- Since Darwin...more fossils found with less evidence to support the theory.

Stephen Jay Gould

“The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of the fossils.

- Gould – No evidence of slow gradual change expected. Therefore, rather than look to reject evolution, proposes his own theory...

Gould’s Response – Punctuated Equilibrium:

A theory in evolutionary biology that says the appearance of new species occurs suddenly and without continuous slow variations; species will show little or no evolutionary change throughout history.

- The theory is supported by the **lack** of evidence in the fossil record

Darwin's Finches

Studied on the Galapagos Islands – Ecuador



Film – “Icons of Evolution”

Finches represent “the best and most detailed demonstration to date of the power of Darwin’s process...” Points to the fact that changes in the beak are due to natural selection.

Dr. Jonathan Wells - UC-Berkeley

“What books fail to mention is that as soon as the rains came back the average beak size returned to normal, there was no net evolution. What we are really seeing is just one species oscillating back and forth with no real evolutionary change so the evidence is exaggerated to make it appear to support Darwin’s theory in a way that it really doesn’t”

S. Lovtrup – “Darwinism: The Refutation of a Myth”

“I believe that one day the Darwinian myth will be ranked the greatest deceit in the history of science. When this happens many people will pose the question: How did this ever happen?”

- We are not just dealing with science and a scientific truth claim...
- A philosophic worldview battle
- The consequences of rejecting the theory puts them face to face with a creator

Carl Sagan

“**Evolution is a fact** amply demonstrated by the **fossil record** and by **contemporary molecular biology**.”

Richard Dawkins – Challenging Darwin’s Myths

“It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is **ignorant**, **stupid** or **insane** (or **wicked**, but I’d rather not consider that).”

G. Richard Bozarth – American Atheist

“Evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus’ earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of God...and if Jesus was not the redeemer who dies for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then **Christianity is nothing**.”

- What is at stake here? The cosmic battle!

Key Terms Lesson 5

Charles Darwin (1809-1882): British naturalist who proposed the theory of evolution through natural selection in his book *The Origin of Species* (1859). This book, and Darwin's theories, has had massive ideological and philosophical effects on our world and humanity.

Darwinian Evolution/Darwinism: A specific area of evolutionary biology involving natural selection proposed by Charles Darwin.

Directed Panspermia: Theory that suggests that highly-evolved life forms sent microorganisms or biochemical compounds from outer space to earth. Francis Crick developed this hypothesis to explain life on earth.

Fossil Record: The fossilized remains of plants and animals that provide the evidential means to understand when those organisms were alive, where they lived, and what they looked like.

Francis Crick (1916-2004): Co-discoverer of DNA who rejected the evidence of design. During the 1960s he became concerned with the origins of the genetic code and in the early 1970s proposed the theory of Directed Panspermia.

Great Cosmological Question: Where did the cosmos come from? The cosmos either had a beginning or has always existed.

Hypothesis: Very early assumption made on the basis of limited evidence used as a starting point for further investigation.

Intelligent Design: Scientific theory that nature and complex biological structures were intelligently designed and, as such, are not the result of chance. Proponents of intelligent design argue that there is empirical evidence that is subject to scientific investigation that complex biological systems and the information bearing properties of DNA could not have been created by natural selection.

Irreducible Complexity: A complex system that could not function if it were any simpler, and therefore could not possibly have been formed by successive additions to a precursor system with the same functionality. An analogy often given in support of irreducible complexity is the mousetrap.

Jonathan Wells: Biologist, senior fellow of the Discovery Institute, and author of *Icons of Evolution*. A prominent spokesperson for the intelligent design movement, Wells' book proves that many of the most commonly accepted arguments for evolution are invalid.

Law: A statement of scientific fact that a particular natural or scientific phenomenon is invariable under given circumstances

Michael Behe: American biochemist, senior fellow of the Discovery Institute's Center for Science and Culture, and author of *Darwin's Black Box*. Behe is a leading advocate and spokesperson for the intelligent design movement who is most well known for articulating the concept of irreducible complexity.

Molecular Biology: The branch of biology that deals with the formation, structure, and function of macromolecules essential to life; in particular the interactions between the various systems of a cell, including the interrelationship of DNA, RNA and protein synthesis and learning how these interactions are regulated

Paley's argument for design: Named after William Paley (1743-1805), this is sometimes referred to as the watchmaker analogy: it is plain to see that the parts in a watch are designed and placed in relationship with each other for a purpose and that the watch therefore must have a maker. In the same way, our universe bears evidence of design and purpose and, therefore, must have a maker.

Punctuated equilibrium: A theory in evolutionary biology that says the appearance of new species occurs suddenly and without continuous slow variations; species will show little or no evolutionary change throughout history

Science: The systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. Science and philosophy are both attempting to develop truth claims about reality; philosophy in the realm of universals, science in the realm of particulars.

Stephen Jay Gould (1941-2002): American paleontologist and evolutionary biologist who taught at Harvard University and worked at the American Museum of Natural History. He was an influential and widely read author that developed the theory of punctuated equilibrium (see glossary entry) due to the lack of evidence in the fossil record for gradual Darwinianism.

Theory: Idea or belief about something formed by speculation, conjecture, or deduction from certain facts within certain parameters