* Be sure to see the full ORIGINS PPT & the 7-Part 700-Slide Series if you want more info

The Big Questions of Life:

Origin, Purpose, Suffering, Destiny?



Evolution or Devolution I



Are things getting better or worse? How? Why?

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Two Opposite Ways

Our Creator's Way is

- the way of the cross -

sacrificing self for the needs of others, (even His enemies) setting captives free.

The way of evolution is

survival of the fittest -

sacrificing others for the desires of self, (predatory / parasitic) seeking false freedom.

Science Continuum: Direct ← to → Indirect

- 1. Direct = "Hard Sciences" (Physics, Chem, Bio)
 - a. Variables are tangible, controllable, measurable
 - b. Hypotheses are testable by experiment, lab test ...
 - c. Evidence in present / minimal assumptions needed
- 2. Indirect = "Soft Sciences" (Evolution, Psych., ...)
 - a. Variables: Intangible, uncontrollable, immeasurable (past historical events, emotions, thoughts, will, etc)
 - b. Hypotheses test & inferences are much less reliable.
 - c. Evidence from past / many assumption must be made, therefore less reliable conclusions

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"Evolution" simply means CHANGE

The key question is which direction

- "Micro-evolution" is a TRUE process (just adaptation)
 - ONLY downward (SELECTION) of existing genes
 - NOT vertical change into a NEW "Kind" of life
 - Biblical creationist scientists accept micro-evolution
- "Macro-evolution" is a FALSE hypothesis
 - Assumes vertical change into new "Kinds" of life
 - Molecules to microbes to man by MUTATIONS
 - Mutations DESTROY DNA over time (Entropy)
 - CAN'T create NEW DNA, parts, creatures over time

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Review of Views (Worldviews)



Death-After-Adam Creationists: The most biblical, best logical inference supported by the evidence

Death-Before-Adam Creationists: Less biblical (Old Earth "Progressive" Creationism, etc)

- Fails to explain suffering of animals and people Theistic Evolutionists: Unscientific, unbiblical
- Fails to explain suffering of animals and people
- Atheistic Evolutionists: Unscientific, unbiblical
- Fails to prove Atoms, Life, Genomes by CHANCE

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#1 Issue is Suffering & Death / When & Why

For consistent belief in a good God, this is crucial.

- Theistic evolutionists believe that God designed death as His way to evolve life upward into man.
 - They say only man's suffering/death is bad, not animals'
 - This still makes God a Monstrous author of pain and terror.
- Some Old-Earth creationists believe God created animals separately, yet purposefully to eat each other.
 - This belief has the same problems as theistic evolution.
- Other Old-Earth creationists believe fallen angels, **before** Adam existed, corrupted God's good creation.
 - This sounds better, but has little to no biblical evidence.

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Your worldview of Earth's Age,

(whether thousands vs. millions of years) affects the IMAGE of the Creator's Character: (Good Shepherd or Evil Monster)

- If fossil layers are really millions of years of evolutionary "survival of the fittest", dysfunction, disease, and death - BEFORE man existed,
- Then disease / death are the design of God, not separation from God due to "wages of [MAN'S] sin" (Rom 6:23) God is a Good Shepherd NOT a Predator
- Gospel → wrong, IF man did not cause death. Rom 5
- * Bible → untrustworthy, IF Genesis is false. John 3:12

<u>Creation</u> beliefs - connected to <u>Creator's</u> <u>Character</u>

- Atheistic Evolution If no God, then no source of truth, no good or evil, no law, no authority.
- Theistic Evolution If evolution is God's Way, then violent, selfish "survival of the fittest" is good.
- Homosexuality If no Adam and Eve, then Adam and Steve must be OK and kids with 2 Moms or 2 Dad's = "FAMILY" Medical studies show it's destructive. So warning is loving Promiscuity - If man is an evolved animal, then acting like one must be OK.
- Gospel If the first Adam did not cause death and suffering in creation, then the 2nd Adam, Jesus, died for nothing.
- Future If Eden is a myth, then God's promise to restore a New Earth where the lion will again lay down with the lamb is based on a lie.