



FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

by

D. James Kennedy

A.B., M.Div., M.T., D.D., D.Sac.Lit., Ph.D., Litt.D.,
D.Sac.Theol., D.Humane Let.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

—Psalm 139:14

Today I would like to tell you about something I sincerely doubt that a handful of you have ever heard of before—something which is of enormous consequence and of great importance. It is a scientific discovery which indeed impacts strongly upon our faith. It has been described by scientists as one which is to be ranked with the greatest achievements in the history of science. The discovery rivals those of Newton and Einstein, Lavoisier and Schrödinger, Pasteur and Darwin. It is a discovery which is as momentous as the observation that the earth goes around the sun, or that disease is caused by bacteria, or that radiation is emitted in quanta (quantum physics). One of the astonishing things is that here is a discovery of such vast proportions, and yet almost none of you have heard of it before. That is a story in itself.

Three thousand years ago, King David declared that we were **“fearfully and wonderfully made . . . and that my soul knoweth right well” (Psalm 139:14)**. Today we would have to say that what he knew about it was very little. It is obvious even on the surface, as many have observed down through the centuries, that we are an extraordinarily wonderfully wrought creation, that the human body is, indeed, astonishing in many ways.

By the way, the founders of modern science were Christians. They believed such things as: Examining the creation would bring us closer to the Creator, or that in science, said the founder of astronomy, we were merely thinking God’s thoughts after Him. But something happened on the way to the twentieth century, and that is that the entire scientific enterprise was hijacked in the middle of the nineteenth. In the middle of this millennium, modern science began to develop.

Of course, I am referring to Darwin's theory of evolution. The leading scientist in Canada, who was chosen to write the Introduction to the centennial edition of *The Origin of Species*, said that the greatest evil Darwin has brought upon the world is to somehow divide science from God and, in fact, set them at each other's throat. So the whole scientific enterprise has been hijacked into a naturalistic or materialistic view of the world. Naturalism means that there is nothing in the universe but nature; there is nothing *supernatural*. Materialism believes that there is nothing in the world but matter.

You may recall the series on public television by Carl Sagan called *Cosmos*. By the way, Public television said they don't produce any programs that talk about Christianity because they would not want to be biased. They always present both sides of things. Well, this is one of the "unbiased" programs they repeated over and over again, which begins with this "unbiased" statement: "There is not and never has been," said Sagan, "anything in the universe but matter." Now, there's nothing biased about that, is there? It simply eliminates God, angels, spirit, soul, mind, and all such nonmaterial things, so this discovery impinges upon that hijacking. I think you will see as we proceed that it is truly a marvelous and wonderful discovery.

A bit of history first. Darwin wrote his book, *The Origin of Species*, in 1859. After about a hundred years, in 1950, the various scientific disciplines—paleontology, biology, astrophysics, astronomy, etc., had been going off in their own directions, and when they began to communicate with each other, they found that they had a lot of contradictory views. So, in 1950, leaders of the various fields organized a series of interdisciplinary meetings to try to get them all playing from the same score.

They realized there were a number of parts of Darwinism that just really didn't work, so they came up with a new theory. They are always coming up with new theories when the facts refute the old theory—they simply change it. So they came up with neo-Darwinism, or the modern Darwinistic synthesis, in the 1950s.

The meetings were all well attended, but one group of scientists weren't invited. They were the molecular biologists, the biochemists, the microbiologists. Why weren't they invited? They just hadn't been "born" yet.

Molecular Biology really dates its birth from the discovery of DNA by Watson and Crick in 1953. The molecular biologists have continued apace, thousands of them for the last 40 some years—sort of the uninvited guests that didn't make it to the party.

INCREDIBLE DISCOVERY

In the last few years their discoveries have been revealing, and astonishing: "As significant as the discovery of the orbit of the earth around the sun," "As the bacterial cause of disease," "As the various mechanisms of quantum physics," which probably are lesser known to most people. What is this incredible discovery? It is, and I quote from a marvelous book by Professor Dr. Michael Behe, a biochemist at Lehigh University: what was discovered is that, at its base, *life is composed of . . . machines*.

A rather astounding discovery. . . that at our foundational level (and he is talking about the level within the cell at the molecular level) we are made of machines. Not one or two or ten or a thousand or a million, but *trillions* of machines, and we have about a trillion machines in every one of our three trillion cells.

This discovery was made because of technological advances in microscopes. In Darwin's day the microscopes were pretty weak, and so he thought of a cell as something like a small ping-pong ball with a pea in it. In fact, it is interesting that the key to persuading people of evolution was the portrayal of cells as simple, because the whole thrust of evolution is movement from the simple to the complex. Therefore, it had to begin with what Darwin repeatedly called a simple single cell. That is what enabled him to convince the scientific world of the possibilities of evolution.

It is interesting that Ernst Haeckel, in Germany (no doubt Darwin's greatest booster on the continent) believed that a cell was a "simple little lump of albuminous combination of carbon." Someone, in describing his view, described a cell as little different from a piece of microscopic Jello—a little glob—with no internal organs in it at all. That is where evolution began, and what has been discovered is a horrendous, stupefying, Lilliputian world within every cell of your body that is complex beyond the farthest dreams of anyone.

It is as if we were to construct the largest factory ever built. Let's make it a mile long and a mile wide. There are four blocks over on this corner where they are making computers, and another two blocks over here where workers are making telephones, and six or eight blocks over here where they are producing fax machines and television sets and radios and automobiles and boats and all kinds of automated things.

You may remember the motion picture *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, where a man began to slowly shrink from six foot to three foot to one foot to six inches to two inches. When it ends, he is about an inch tall—I gather, still proceeding to ever smaller size.

Let us suppose that this factory begins to also shrink until it is now merely a square block instead of a square mile. Now it is only a square foot, and then a square inch, and it continues to get smaller and smaller until it is almost invisible. Then it is put on a slide under a light microscope, and it can be seen diminishing even more, though it can no longer be seen with the naked eye.

Then it is switched to an electron microscope. It is the invention of these new microscopes which has made this discovery possible. Soon it begins to disappear from that, so they put it under an X-ray crystallography microscope. It continues to shrink until it is put under a nuclear magnetic resonance microscope. Finally, it enters in to become the foundation of the cells of your body. That, dear friend, is what you are. There are more machines inside of you than in all the factories of the world combined. Yes, indeed, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Dr. Behe goes on to say that strangely, when these microbiologists finally made this discovery, you would think, with the magnitude of that victory made at such great costs and

countless millions of hours of drudgery in front of microscopes for several decades, that you would hear a combined shout of “Eureka, I found it!” You would expect there to be thousands of champagne bottles with their corks popping and much handclapping and high-fiving, and perhaps even an excuse to take the day off, with such an incredible discovery as this. However, no bottles have been uncorked; no hands have slapped. Instead, there is a curious embarrassed silence surrounding the stark complexity of the cell. Isn’t that amazing?

Why is that? Because what they found was not what they wanted to find. They wanted to find something simple, and they found the most complex thing on earth. There is, as he says, “eerie silence.” Now, in the last decade or so since this discovery was made, there have been thousands of articles, scientific papers, and books written about it to other scientists, describing this astonishing Lilliputian world of millions, trillions of machines.

IRREDUCIBLE

Behe made a computer search of all of the books, all of the reports, all of the scientific conventions, all of the various articles that have been written, to find something that at least attempted to explain where that mind-boggling complexity came from at the very rock-bottom level of our existence. He found there was a strange and eerie silence. Thousands of articles talking were about it—but not even one was attempting to explain it. It is beyond the ability of evolutionary science, because they are irreducibly complex.

Behe uses a very, very simple illustration of what is meant by irreducible. That means some kind of a machine that has a number of different interrelated parts where, if you remove any one of them, the machine ceases to work. That is what these machines are. He gives us as a simple illustration, a mousetrap, which is made up of about six or seven little pieces. We are all familiar with what they are. It is irreducible, because if you remove any one of them, you won’t simply catch fewer mice, you won’t catch any mice at all. That is what these machines are. There is no way they could have built up from something simple.

It is interesting that Darwin, in his book, (he knew the theory of gradual evolution by natural selection carried a heavy burden) said:

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. Behe says that this discovery of irreducible complexity at the very base of life meets that criterion, and thus completely destroys the theory of evolution which has taken the entire scientific enterprise hostage for 150 years. Not only the scientific enterprise, but it has spread to every academic discipline and every university in the world, and it is a naturalistic, materialistic view.

A lot of people naively suppose that you can sort of put the two of them together and it will work. Let me say this: Though there are some Christians who believe in evolution, the leaders of the whole evolutionary movement are today all atheists who believe in a completely materialistic world, like Sagan did. This discovery, equal to the discoveries, as Behe said, of Einstein and Newton and the others, strikes a blow right at the base of the tree which holds up evolution.

Isn't it interesting that practically none of you have ever heard of this before? I have shown a picture of one of those machines to a number of people and they have said, "It's, it's . . . why, it's part of the space shuttle." It looks like it could be. What it is, is one of the trillions of "machines" that are in you, but it is as complex as any machine you have ever seen. It looks astonishingly like the complex machines we build; yet it is all made not of metal or plastic, but it is made of living tissue—largely protein—in all different shapes and forms. It is a fascinating thing to see.

BY DESIGN

Though Dr. Behe never claims to be a creationist, he does, however, come to the conclusion that there is absolutely no other explanation but the fact that there was a great designer. He says: "The result of these cumulative efforts to investigate the cell—to investigate life at the molecular level—is a loud, clear, piercing cry of '*design!*'" However, evolution will not allow for any design. Evolution says that no one took nothing, and out of nowhere created everything. Is it any reason that people who are taught that come to believe there is no purpose for their lives?

Dr. Lynn Margulis, Distinguished University Professor of Biology at the University of Massachusetts says that history will ultimately judge neo-Darwinism as "a minor twentieth-century religious sect . . ." And that is what it is—the religion of the unbeliever—and it is because of theological and philosophical commitments that evolutionists are willing to ignore so much of the evidence that denies their views.

Of course, the media are in utter complicity with them. That is why this discovery has not made the headlines it should have made. In fact, as I say, probably few of you have ever read any article in any newspaper about this. There is an eerie silence. But Dr. Behe says that the search he made for books and articles and records and papers of every sort—going through vast computer storage to find them—had the same results: There has never been a meeting or a book or a paper on details of the evolution of complex biochemical systems. It is beyond their ability to explain. It is, indeed, the refutation of their view.

Why don't they want to see this? Behe gives an illustration I like, which says that detectives come to a large house with a large room, and they find a man who has been flattened like a pancake in the middle of the floor. I mean, he is as flat as a pancake! They begin to search for the person who has done this horrendous crime. They are crawling around on the floor, and it seems as if they don't notice that standing just a few feet from the man is a very, very large grey elephant. As they are crawling around on the floor examining with their magnifying glasses the poor "pancake" man there in the middle of the floor, they avoid bumping into the legs of the elephant and pretend he is not even there—and yet he is so obvious. Any child coming to the door would look at the scene and tell them, "Well, it's quite evident that the elephant stomped him into the ground."

But you see, evolutionists are afraid of the word "design." They are afraid that if they have the word design on the side of the elephant, and they acknowledge it, that just possibly, on the other side of the elephant, might be found the word "God," who is the Great Designer. As we reach the end of his book, Behe says we are left with no substantive defense against what feels to

be a strange conclusion—that life was designed by an intelligent “Agent,” and the simple-single cell that Darwin postulated and that modern science sought has proven to be a phantom instead, and in place of that, he says, are found systems of horrendous, irreducible complexity that inhabit the cell.

My friends, what this proves is that the kidnapers have been caught. Those who carried away the scientific movement created by Christians to draw us closer to God and who postulated a naturalistic, materialistic, atheistic world and indoctrinated hundreds of millions of students in it all over the world, have been at last found out for what they are—teachers of falsehoods. They have promulgated the “Great Lie.” It is all false. It could never, ever, even have gotten started at all.

People sometimes ask if God has a sense of humor. I think He does. I trust as this discovery begins to permeate society, as it inevitably will (you can’t censure it completely), and more and more people find out, there is going to be a revolution in thinking. Then evolution will come to be thought of as merely a small cult of the twentieth century—a sect.

However, I think when the kidnapping took place and people set out to prove there was no God and that life is the result of merely naturalistic and materialistic causes, God looked down at one of the three trillion cells in your body, each inhabited by a trillion complex machines, and He smiled and said, “Hah, wait until they get a look at this.”

PRAYER: Father, we thank Thee that Thou that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh at the ungodly who seek to remove You from the very world You created, and who, though, themselves, made by Your hand, deny their Maker and seek to bring others to disbelief.

We pray, O Lord, that this marvelous discovery will take its place in the list of vastly important discoveries of the past and the full spiritual and religious significance of it will begin to be understood. We pray people will see that the greatest scientific statement about origins that has ever been made is this: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” and we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” In Thy name. Amen.

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