APOLOGETICS 21 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 13
ADDRESSING EVOLUTION – PART 6

INTRODUCTION

Apologetics - ἀπολογία apologia

The definition of Christian Apologetics is "the information that enables a believer to provide a defense for why a doctrine is believed."

> 1 Peter 3:15 – But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

We are currently defending the creation account from Genesis 1-2, not only from a scriptural standpoint but also from a scientific standpoint. Evolution theory is in direct opposition to creation. Over the next few lessons, we will address evolution head-on and demonstrate that evolution is a faulty pseudo-science that is not only impossible but also that the evidence in nature affirms the biblical creation account.

Evidence for evolution according to the proponents of evolution:

- Anatomy - Species may share similar physical features because the feature was present in a common ancestor (homologous structures).
- Molecular biology - DNA and the genetic code reflect the shared ancestry of life. DNA comparisons can show how related species are.
- Biogeography - The global distribution of organisms and the unique features of island species reflect evolution and geological change.
- Fossils - Fossils document the existence of now-extinct past species that are related to present-day species.
- Direct observation - We can directly observe small-scale evolution in organisms with short lifecycles (e.g., pesticide-resistant insects).

Over the last few lessons, we have confronted the icons of evolution pertaining to Anatomy (Comparative Embryology and Homologous Structures) and Molecular Biology (DNA and life from a vat), Biogeography (Isolated animals), and Direct Observation (Adaptations), Pangea, Fossils (in General) and we directly refuted the evolution of man.

A FEW MORE POINTS ON EVOLUTION

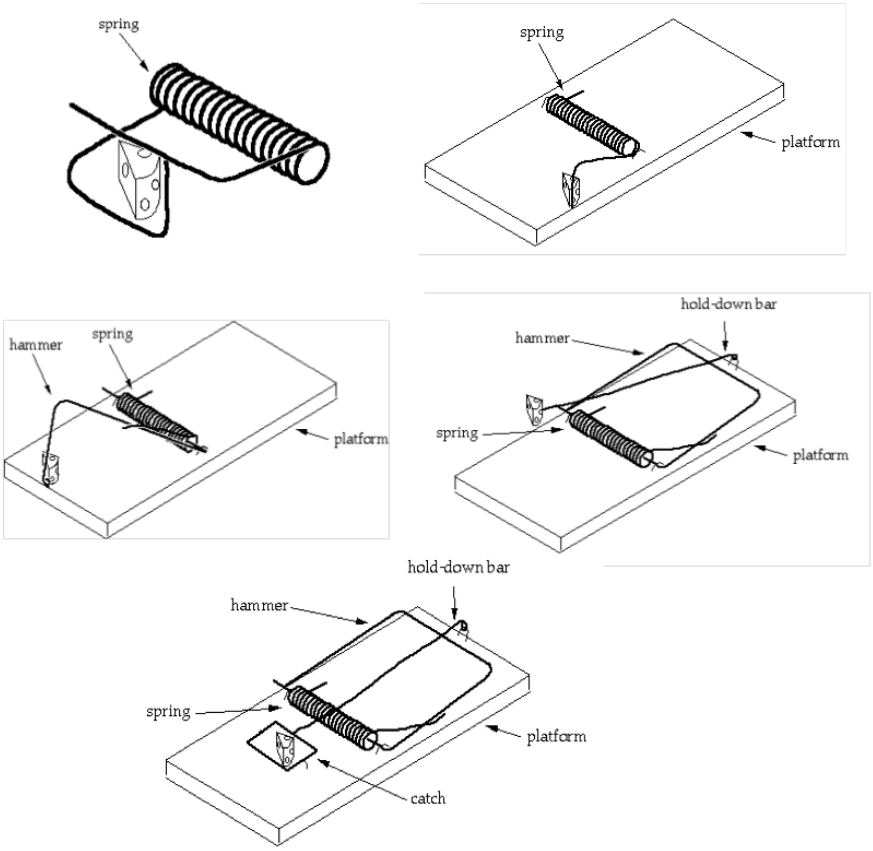
- Irreducible complex machine

Irreducible complexity is a term used to describe a characteristic of certain complex systems whereby they need all of their individual component parts in place to function. In other words, it is impossible to reduce the complexity of (or to simplify) an irreducibly complex system by removing any of its component parts and still have it maintain its functionality.

Darwin stated in his 1859 book *The Origin of Species*, "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."

Professor Michael Behe of Lehigh University coined the term in his seminal work, *Darwin's Black Box*, 1996. He popularized the concept by presenting the common mousetrap as an example of irreducible complexity. A typical mousetrap is made up of five integral parts: a catch, a spring, a hammer, a holding bar, and a foundation. According to Behe, the entire system will fail to function if any of these parts is removed without a comparable replacement (or at least a significant restructuring of the remaining parts).

Irreducible Complexity



There is moderate disagreement on the nature of human life and what are its most essential parts. We can say that at least we must have:

- Skin
- Brain
- Heart
- Lungs
- Digestion (Mouth, Stomach, Intestines)

The question that is often ignored is, how do all these systems develop at the same time?

This point defies Darwinian explanation as they cannot be developed gradually, piece by piece, through blind mechanisms without planning. The steps along the way would have no function, would often be harmful.

- Microscopic Complexity
- The Eye
- Symbiosis – Beneficial and Necessary Relationships

A serious obstacle to evolutionary theory is the interdependent relationships between living things, called *symbiosis,* in which completely different forms of life depend on each other to exist. Darwin admitted: "If it could be proved that any part of the structure of any one species had been formed for the exclusive good of another species, it would annihilate my theory, for such could not have been produced through natural selection" (*The Origin of Species,* 1859, Masterpieces of Science edition, 1958, p. 164).

Symbiotic relationships pose such a challenge to Darwin's theory since they have animals and plants of different species cooperating for the benefit of both. How can plants that need certain animals to survive have existed before those animals appeared in the first place? And how do animals that need other animals to survive arrive without their partners arriving at the exact same moment?

One example of beneficial symbiosis (called mutualism) is found between algae and the fungus of lichens. While fungi provide vital protection and moisture to algae, the algae nourish the fungi with photosynthetic nutrients that keep them alive. As a biology textbook puts it: "Neither population could exist without the other, and hence the size of each is determined by that of the other."

Consider next the relationship between bees and plants. While collecting the precious nectar that provides their hives with food, bees pollinate dozens of species of flowers and agricultural crops. Without this vital pollination, orchards could produce little if any fruit, and fruit trees would not survive for long. How can these plants exist without first being pollinated by bees? On the other hand, how could bees exist without first being provided with the necessary nectar as food?

Termites depend on the microbes in their gut or digestive tract to digest the complex sugars in wood into simpler molecules that they can use for food. Without these microbes, termites would not be able to eat wood. Plus, it is not just one microbe. A whole community of microorganisms is necessary.