

APOLOGETICS 16 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 8

ADDRESSING EVOLUTION - PART 1

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 not possible, but that the evidence in nature affirms the biblical creation account.

ADDRESSING EVOLUTION

What do proponents of evolution say?

When Charles Darwin introduced the theory of evolution through natural selection 158 years ago, the scientists of the day argued over it fiercely, but the amassing evidence from paleontology, genetics, zoology, molecular biology, and other fields gradually established evolution's truth beyond reasonable doubt.

The fossil record and abundant other evidence testify that organisms have evolved through time. Although no one observed those transformations, the indirect evidence is clear, unambiguous and compelling.

Microevolution looks at changes within species over time—changes that may be preludes to speciation, the origin of new species. Macroevolution studies how taxonomic groups above the level of species change. Its evidence draws frequently from the fossil record and DNA comparisons to reconstruct how various organisms may be related.

The origin of life remains very much a mystery, but biochemists have learned about how primitive nucleic acids, amino acids and other building blocks of life could have formed and organized themselves into self-replicating, self-sustaining units, laying the foundation for cellular biochemistry.

~ Scientific American

Summary of Darwin's Theory of Evolution ~ PBS.org

- A species is a population of organisms that interbreed and have fertile offspring.
- Living organisms have descended with modifications from species that lived before them.
- Natural selection explains how this evolution has happened:
 - ◇ More organisms are produced than can survive because of limited resources.
 - ◇ Organisms struggle for the necessities of life; there is competition for resources.

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- ◇ Individuals within a population vary in their traits; some of these traits are heritable -- passed on to offspring.
- ◇ Some variants are better adapted to survive and reproduce under local conditions than others.
- ◇ Better-adapted individuals (the "fit enough") are more likely to survive and reproduce, thereby passing on copies of their genes to the next generation.
- ◇ Species whose individuals are best adapted survive; others become extinct.

What is their evidence?

This is produced by the Khan Academy and reposted by the University of Cincinnati.

- 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).

This seems to be the consistent evidence that is presented. Palomar.edu presents four primary sources:

1. the fossil record of change in earlier species
2. the chemical and anatomical similarities of related life forms
3. the geographic distribution of related species
4. the recorded genetic changes in living organisms over many generations

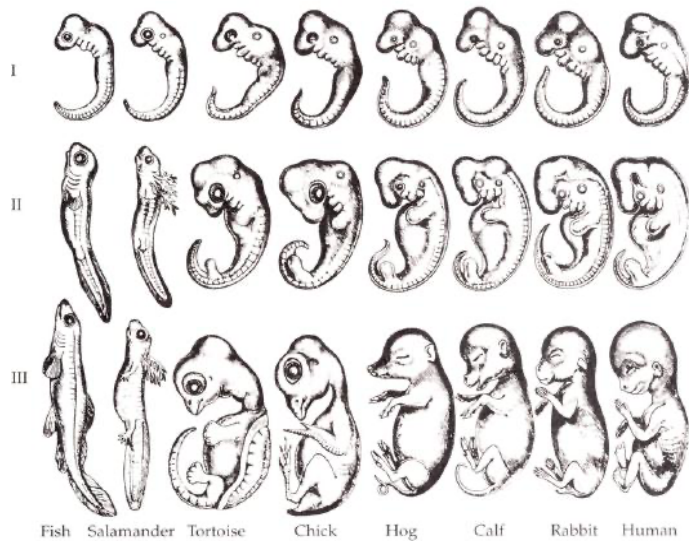
The one difference is that the latter does not use "small-scale evolution" as evidence in this particular academic work.

In each of these categories, there are repeated examples that are used that they believe are the best evidence for their theory. We will look at their major evidence and evaluate them based on the scientific process.

The first one is something that I cannot believe is still being used today, even though it has been demonstrated as fabrication. The following image was captured this week on bio.libretexts.org

Comparative embryology is the study of the similarities and differences in the embryos of different species. Similarities in embryos are likely to be evidence of common ancestry. All vertebrate embryos, for example, have gill slits and tails. All of the embryos in [the following] figure, except for fish, lose their gill slits by adulthood, and some of them also lose their tail. In humans, the tail is reduced to the tailbone. Thus, similarities organisms share as embryos may no longer be present by adulthood.

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If someone were to be presented with this “evidence,” it would be hard to refute; the similarities are striking, and one may conclude that this may be the best evidence that all animal life (including human life) had a common ancestor. In fact, Darwin considered this the best evidence for his evolutionary theory. Jonathan Wells sums this up perfectly.

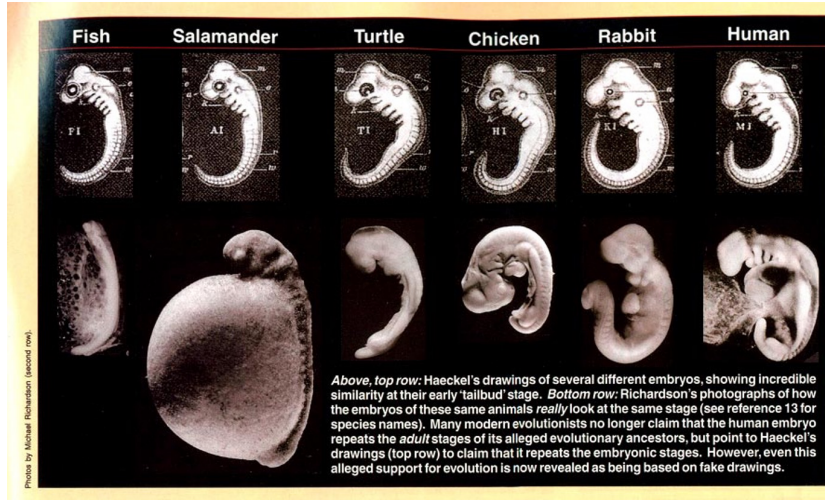
“It seems to me,” Darwin wrote in *The Origin of Species*, “the leading facts in embryology, which are second to none in importance, are explained on the principle of variations in the many descendants from some one ancient progenitor.” And those leading facts, according to him, were that “the embryos of the most distinct species belonging to the same class are closely similar, but become, when fully developed, widely dissimilar.” Reasoning that “community in embryonic structure reveals community of descent,” Darwin concluded that early embryos “show us, more or less completely, the condition of the progenitor of the whole group in its adult state.” In other words, similarities in early embryos not only demonstrate that they are descended from a common ancestor, but also reveal what that ancestor looked like. Darwin considered this “by far the strongest single class of facts in favor of” his theory.

The first thing we notice is that they are using drawings. Why use drawings from 1874? Why not use actual pictures of embryos? This is because the drawings do not depict reality.

In 1875, in a university trial, Haeckel confessed, “A small percent of my embryonic drawings are forgeries; those, namely, for which the observed material is so incomplete or insufficient as to fill in and reconstruct the missing links by hypothesis and comparative synthesis. I should feel utterly condemned...were it not that hundreds of the best observers and biologists lie under the same charge.”

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Most biologists have rejected evidence of evolution from comparative embryology.

“Moreover, the biogenetic law has become so deeply rooted in biological thought that it cannot be weeded out in spite of its having been demonstrated to be wrong by numerous subsequent scholars.” ~ Walter Bock (Dept. of Biological Science, Columbia University)

Yet it remains in textbooks and educational websites. Why? The main reason is that it is still seen as the most compelling evidence from biology and anatomy. Why? Gill slits. They claim that the folds in the embryo are gill slits that go away as the human develops. Evolutionists consider fish gills, fish jaws, reptilian jaws, and mammalian earbones to be similar in structure and therefore sequential evolutionary developments that demonstrate the common evolutionary ancestry of fish, reptiles, and mammals. But these slits have nothing to do with breathing.

