

# APOLOGETICS 18 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 10

## ADDRESSING EVOLUTION - PART 3

### **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. The evolution theory is in direct opposition to creation. Over the next few lessons, we will address evolution head-on and demonstrate that not only is evolution a faulty pseudo-science that is impossible but also the evidence in nature affirms the biblical creation account.

Evidence for evolution according to the proponents of the theory:

- 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 species are related.
- 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).

### **ADDRESSING EVOLUTION**

Biogeography

Atheistic naturalists claim that biogeography (the geographical distribution of species) can help us reconstruct evolutionary histories.

The geographic distribution of organisms on Earth follows patterns that are best explained by evolution, in combination with the movement of tectonic plates over geological time. For example, broad groupings of organisms that had already evolved before the breakup of the supercontinent Pangaea (about a million years ago) tend to be distributed worldwide. In contrast, broad groupings that evolved after the breakup tend to appear uniquely in smaller regions

# APOLOGETICS 18 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 10

## ADDRESSING EVOLUTION - PART 3

of Earth. For instance, there are unique groups of plants and animals on northern and southern continents that can be traced to the split of Pangaea into two supercontinents.

The evolution of unique species on islands is another example of how evolution and geography intersect. For instance, most of the mammal species in Australia are marsupials (carry young in a pouch), while most mammal species elsewhere in the world are placental (nourish young through a placenta). Australia's marsupial species are very diverse and fill a wide range of ecological roles. Because Australia was isolated by water for millions of years, these species were able to evolve without competition from (or exchange with) mammal species elsewhere in the world.

The marsupials of Australia, Darwin's finches in the Galápagos, and many species on the Hawaiian Islands are unique to their island settings, but have distant relationships to ancestral species on mainlands. This combination of features reflects the processes by which island species evolve. They often arise from mainland ancestors – for example, when a landmass breaks off or a few individuals are blown off course during a storm – and diverge (become increasingly different) as they adapt in isolation to the island environment.

Once again, we are faced with the same error that we have seen before. Atheistic Naturalists always conflate their interpretation with the facts. It is a fact that we see different animals exist or thrive in various places on the earth and not others.

We have different examples: Madagascar, the Galapagos Islands, and the Hawaiian Islands, but the most used example is that of Australia.

The platypus and echidna – egg-laying mammals

Unique marsupials – kangaroos, koalas, wombats

Large flightless birds – emu, cassowary

Smallest penguin – fairy penguin

Tasmanian devil

The biblical model states that all terrestrial animals came off the ark and repopulated the world. Also, every **kind** of animal can only procreate the same kind of animal. Therefore, each unique kind of animal in Australia can trace its origin to the ark of Noah, about 4,500 years ago.

Why don't we find Australian animal fossils on a trail from Mesopotamia to Australia? Fossils are not produced every time something dies; specific conditions have to be met for a fossil to form from animal tissue and bone.

# APOLOGETICS 18 – DEFENDING CREATION – PART 10

## ADDRESSING EVOLUTION - PART 3

Post-flood Asian marsupial fossils have been found in the Eocene, Oligocene, and Miocene strata of Asia. But we have discovered fossilized remains of marsupials in Kazakhstan (1992), Thailand (1992), and China (1996, 2004). A marsupial tooth was discovered in Pakistan (2001). In 2004, other marsupial remains were discovered in India.

How did animals get from Mesopotamia to Australia? According to the biblical model, they walked.

During this time the water levels in the oceans were probably much lower than they are now as the results of the flood started the “ice age” 4,400 years ago. Every major island group would be connected to the mainland through natural bridges if the water level was down just 500 feet.

Most marsupials are less aggressive than other animals and would have been continually driven to the fringe of the “migration wave” as the animals spread out from the ark. They ended up being trapped in Australia as the ice melt raised the oceans covering the land bridges. Predators either did not make it there or they died off.

Both the evolutionary model and the biblical model are inconclusive as to how and why we have unique animals in various locations. But the biblical model is what is consistent with what we have observed. We have observed how vulnerable animals migrate to safer locations away from predators. We have never observed large-scale changes in animals from one kind to another.

Direct observation – They claim we can directly observe small-scale evolution in organisms (adaptation).

The primary evidence for large-scale evolution is adaptation, in other words, variety in the same kind of animal. The most recognizable example of this is the variety of finches on the Galapagos Islands. It has been taught that finches from the mainland arrived in the Galápagos and, through natural selection and mutations, became different species of different sizes with different beak sizes.

It is interesting that there is far more variation in dog species and breeds than we see in these finches, and no one uses different dog breeds (the result of manipulated adaptation) to claim this is evidence of evolution.

What is observable in adaptation/variation is:

1. There are limits (size, resistances).
2. The variations are still within the same kind.
3. The DNA/gene information is already present.
4. Currently, the gene pool has less flexibility than before.
5. Adaptation indicates a loss in genetic information, not a gain.
6. Evolution (change in kind) would require an increase in genetic information; this has never been observed.