

SPECIAL (yay) VS. GENERAL (boo) THEORY OF EVOLUTION
10/6/24

Why do so many people believe in evolution? Especially smart people? Because the origin of our existence is mysterious and miraculous. Enlightened people attempt to scientifically explain the miraculous. When Darwin published "Origin of the Species", he provided a natural explanation for our existence.

Before the 16th century "age of enlightenment" sorcery and witchcraft explained the mysterious. But now, science has brought reasoning and comfort to us by controlling our environment so that sickness, flying, weather forecasting, ocean going vessels, are safer than ever before. Now, if science could just overcome death and the consequences of ignoring the Creator....

A. There are two distinct theories of evolution. G.A.Kerkut, a strict evolutionist, has defined them.

1. Special theory of evolution- change from one to another (speciation/special horse+donkey=mule)
2. General theory: Origin of life and change into all kinds

Kerkut says: "It is not clear whether the changes that bring about speciation are of the same nature as those that brought about the development of new phyla.

Take, for instance, the evolution of the horse. Most are aware of the existence of the evidence of small horses called 'Eohippus' from the fossil records. In a discussion of the evolution of the horse, then, are we talking about:

- (1.) How 'Eohippus' came into being, or
- (2.) How 'Eohippus' changed into the modern horse of today? These are two very different questions:

Number one requires a discussion of origins, while number two just involves the changes within species, or speciation.

The General Theory addresses origins (boo). The special theory does not (yay). Any time the question of origins comes up and evolution is introduced as cause to the effect, we are talking about a belief or faith that all living things evolved slowly from a single source of life: Natural or blind chance creation.

On the opposite side of this theory is the theory of abrupt creation or Supernatural Creation: that is, belief or faith that all things were created in six days by intelligent acts of a creator.

Origins, from a scientific viewpoint, will always be a matter of faith. The scientist should be the last person to accept evolution as a fact. The events of creation fall outside the realm of science because they were not observed and cannot be repeated or tested by the scientific method.

Scientific method: Proving a theory means that all the alternative (theories) have been proven to be false. If the evidence can be interpreted another way and not everyone is convinced that evolution is a

fact, then theory remains just that. But evolutionists dismiss the alternative - miraculous creation as impossible and believers in it as unreasonable.

Unreasonable?

FACT 1: The universe exists

Possible explanations:

- a. Something came from nothing (how?)
- b. Something always existed (was it mind or matter?)

FACT 2: The universe shows signs of design and purpose

Possible explanations:

- a. Blind, random chance
- b. Divine planning

#Three Laws that govern everything:#

1st: Conservation of energy = quantitative stability (no perpetual motion, energy not created or destroyed – just becomes less usable) Who or what gave us the energy?

2nd: Orderliness is decreasing, all things get worse (less usable), Who or what wound it up?

3rd: Law of Biogenesis - life from life, where did life come from?
People used to believe in spontaneous generation. Louis Pasteur disproved it.

The purpose of this study is to show that it is reasonable to interpret the evidence in favor of a supernatural creation and because of this fact the general theory of evolution should be presented as just that; a theory.

Point: Evidence is not dug up (missing links with added ape hair) to support theories; theories are dug up to explain the available evidence (fossil record). The point is that evidence should always precede theories in the same way that passages of scripture must not support a man's belief. (no creeds) it's easier and quicker to make a theory or creed and then let all the evidence speak for itself.

It is similar to a court case where a person is accused of a crime but no one saw it take place. All of the factual evidence is presented to the jurors who then listen to the two theories of the defending and prosecuting attorneys as they interpret the evidence. Both interpretations may explain the evidence but a hung jury results if all jurors cannot agree.

Here is evidence from one field of science and presented with two different interpretations. You decide which is more reasonable. Remember, the evidence presented is just a bunch of facts that are observed to be true by both sides.

Facts or Evidence from comparative anatomy and physiology

1. The cat and the human have almost bone for bone similar skeletal systems.
2. The organ systems are very similar: digestion, excretion, reproduction, breathing, circulation of the blood, etc.

3. All living things are made up of living material (protoplasm) and are organized as cells. The structural materials of life are the same wherever life is found: the same 20 or so amino acids throughout the plant and animal kingdoms.

4. The blueprint material that directs the various life functions of the cell are nucleic acid bases. The evidence demonstrates conclusively the great similarity of structure and chemistry among living things.

It is a fact that the similarity exists. But how do we explain the similarity?

a. General Evolution: One theory points to common ancestry. Given enough time, all things evolved from prior life forms. One kind of life changed to another. Taxonomy is the naming of things – we now have 68 kinds of gender or sex – confusion is introduced. Evolutionists introduce confusion with about 9 “kinds or classes” of living things all assumed from a common ancestor. No limits to change from lower to higher class. (Is there a “theistic general evolutionist?”) YES

b. Abrupt creation theory: To the creationist it seems to point to common function (design). The different species had separate beginnings, kind produces after its kind. GEN 1:24 “Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, {each} according to its kind”; and it was so.” also Gen 6:20 “Two of every kind of bird and animal and crawling creature will come to you to be kept alive.” Gen 7:14 “they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.”

Bible “kind” is roughly equivalent to science's “phyla” where a dog and cat are separate kinds (phyla). There are no “dats and cogs”. There are horses and cows, but no “hows” or “corses” in the fossil record.

Since all life is related through the food chain, it seems logical to us that the amino and nucleic acids that are obtained from the food that we eat are the building blocks of all plant and animal life. Were it not so, God would have had to create independent food supplies for all life. The balance of nature is achieved through the food chain. From comparative anatomy and physiology, there is nothing unscientific about accepting an interpretation that is based on this reasoning! Even though this seems reasonable to us, we would not claim this to be proven as the reason for the similarity that exists among all living things. It is still a matter of faith.

D. There are many other fields of science, such as paleontology, genetics, anthropology, biology, botany, physics, zoology, geology, and others, each with a body of evidence that can be interpreted in different ways. There are standard arguments used in the discussion such as: Dating methods for the (apparent) age of the earth, (where are all) The missing links, the (dis)order of the fossil record, (steril)mutations, (lack of)vestigial organs, and others.

"The Theory of Evolution and Special Creation - Another Look at the Evidence" by John L. Clark and David A. Eakin.

Conclusion

Although most evolutionists deny the distinction between the general and the specific theory of evolution, genetic research has shown that there are limits to how much a species may change. G.A.Kerkut and others, although evolutionists, do make a distinction between the two theories, realizing that proving that there is limited change in species does not prove that there is potential for unlimited change. The evolutionist must assume that there are no barriers to the amount of change a

species can undergo. Just because a human can jump does not mean that he can fly!

Concepts that must be understood:

1. Natural creation vs. supernatural creation
2. Special theory (limited) vs. General theory (unlimited)
3. Species vs. phyla (kind)
4. Evidence vs. Interpretation of the evidence
5. Fact vs. Theory

"Evolution is a religion to escape the alternative."

"The proof for the general theory is not the extrapolation of the special theory." It is a fact that I can leave the ground for a short period of time, it is not a fact that I can fly.

Frog ----> Prince = Fairy Tale (if it happens abruptly)

Frog ----> Prince = Science (if it happens over 300 million years)

Theistic evolution: day=epoch but 3rd day plants and 5th day insects, no pollenization

Assignment: Read the creation account in Genesis 1