

The Top 10 Myths About Evolution #2

Introduction. Because God loves truth, any disagreement over truth, especially that He revealed, is important. But it is equally clear that the reason for disagreement among Christians is their imperfect understanding, due to faulty, intellectual consistency (including assumptions about the past). That should drive us all to the only infallible source of truth, the Bible.

Christ said explicitly that the truth would set us free (John 8:32), implying that a lack of truth would carry a corresponding lack of freedom. Scholars have documented that the issue of the age of the earth was a turning point in the world history of religion. Surrender and compromise quickly led to the fruits of the faulty ideas of evolution. No one can look back on the last two centuries of Western culture or the church and see victory. We see instead a steady cultural decay, and its ideological reasons are typically traced back to the false philosophies of the Enlightenment.

I. **Myth 5: Bad Design**

- A. If we look around us (and even in our own bodies), there are many structures that seem to show less-than-optimal design.
 1. The “inverted” arrangement of the vertebrate retina, in which light has to pass through several inner layers of its neural apparatus before reaching the photoreceptors, has long been derided by evolutionists who claim that it is inefficient, and therefore evidence against design.
 2. The panda’s “odd” forelimb arrangement has an enlarged wristbone “digit” commonly called the panda’s “thumb.” Evolutionists have argued that this arrangement is bad design, and so the panda would not have been created but must have evolved.
- B. What this means to some evolutionists is that this proves there is no Creator. After all, a Creator as intelligent as God would not have made imperfect designs.
- C. Debunking this myth requires very little effort.
 1. How can humans judge what is optimal design? Some designs require a balance of efficiency and effectiveness, as we find in the human eye (a structure perfectly suited for human life).
 2. We would hardly expect a universe that has been cursed with degeneration for over 6,000 years to maintain optimal design. The fact that we continue to survive, however, is evidence of the quality of the original design.
 3. The broadening field of biomimetics (copying design from nature) shows us that God’s creation (even in its less than perfect state) offers a wealth of design potential -- and good design at that (Psalm 111:2-4; Nehemiah 9:5-6).

II. **Myth 4: Vestigial Organs**

- A. While evolution does its dirty work, it leaves behind vestiges of its work, or so the argument goes. Evolutionists claim that humans and other animals have leftover organs and DNA that prove the power of mutations and natural selection. In fact, this is often touted as a powerful rebuttal to creationists.
- B. But the myth stops here. If an organ loses function, this proves only that the organ has lost function. Often, however, reports of this kind are premature and based on evolutionary expectations. The appendix, for example, was once considered a vestigial organ, but now we know its function. One must wonder, in fact, how much evolutionary thought has set back science by claiming that parts and processes of the body, such as goose bumps, the tailbone, and wisdom teeth, are no longer needed (Psalm 139:14).
- C. In the end, the loss of function (after all other possibilities have been eliminated) is better evidence for a world that is in decay, which is exactly what the Bible says about the Universe we inhabit (Genesis 1:31; cf. Isaiah 51:6; Mark 13:31). Creationists understand that there has been degeneration and mutation since the Fall. We also expect that there would be a significant loss of information for many genes. The loss of genes for organs that do not significantly impact survival in a negative way could be quite prevalent. Thus, for the creationist, there should be no problem with an organ or structure in man that has lost some functionality.

III. **Myth 3: Antibiotic Resistance**

- A. The development and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (and pesticide-resistant plants and insects) is shouted from the rooftops as proof of evolution happening "right now." Selection pressures push these organisms to evolve -- at least, this is how evolutionists explain it.
- B. Do bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics? Yes, this is documented science. Does this prove Darwinian evolution? No, not even close. Once again, evolutionists take the observations and pass them through their worldview filter. The problem (for evolutionists) is that the mutations that cause bacteria (and other organisms) to overcome environmental pressures are not the information-gaining mutations required for Darwin's idea. In fact, these mutations often come at a steep price to the organism -- a price that does not show up until the environmental pressure is removed -- and it often means the inability to compete with non-mutant bacteria.
- C. Think about it this way: if I give someone a copy of a book they already own, then they do not have any new information, just a copy

of information they already had. If I subsequently take a marker and mark out some of the letters or words in the copy of the book I gave them, they still do not have any new information -- just a messed up copy of one of the books.

- D. Bacteria, in fact, show the amazing creativity of God in that they can swap DNA with other bacteria. This amazing feature reveals the provisions God made for them to survive in a fallen world and rapidly changing environments (Ecclesiastes 11:5). However, they do not and cannot evolve into anything else. They have been and will always be bacteria.

IV. **Myth 2: Natural Selection Is Evolution In Action**

- A. Natural selection is the driving force behind evolution. This mantra has been repeated so often that people often combine the two ideas. But are they the same?
- B. The short answer is that this is one of the most oft-repeated myths. Natural selection is an observable process that was certainly not first discovered by Charles Darwin. Species with certain characteristics survive better in a given environment. However, natural selection is nondirectional and does not lead anywhere. That is, if the environment changes, members of a species that were previously better adapted may no longer be. Evolution, on the other hand, is an unobservable process that requires direction (dinosaurs to birds, e.g.).
- C. Natural selection can only act upon the information that already exists. When certain characteristics are selected, the overall genetic information decreases. Mutations have not been shown to reverse this process. This loss of information may make members of the same created kind unable to reproduce with each other, but this merely emphasizes how much loss can occur. Many evolutionists would like to give natural selection powers that it does not have. Do not let them swindle you.

V. **Myth 1: All Scientists Agree**

- A. When all is said and done, the ultimate "proof" of evolution is an appeal to human authority (Proverbs 20:24; 1 Corinthians 1:18-20; 2 Corinthians 3:5). We are often reminded by anti-creationists that almost all "real" scientists agree with evolution.
- B. When examining this myth, one must keep in mind that those who make this claim often rely on the belief that the only real scientists are those who accept evolution. The argument, then, essentially boils down to this: evolutionists agree that evolution happened. This, of course, is an absurd argument, and we could just as easily say that creationists agree that creation happened.

- C. The main problem, however, is that even if every single person accepted an idea, that does not make the idea correct. The history of science (and humanity) is filled with majority views being incorrect. Evolution is another such idea. Secondly, many scientists accept evolution because the only alternative is design, which is against their naturalistic beliefs. They have a prior commitment to keeping any miraculous interaction out of their worldviews, and they accept evolution by default.
- D. Finally, there are a growing number of scientists, creationist and not, who do not find the supposed evidence for evolution to be valid or acceptable. The truth of the matter is that while some evolutionists would like creationists like us not to exist, we do, and it is past time for the myths of evolution -- and the myth of evolution itself -- to be dismissed once and for all.

Conclusion. Does God's word speak with clarity and authority about earth's history? Many today say no, but a textual study of Genesis says otherwise. The young-earth view was held as truth from the apostles to the Enlightenment.

Now geologists follow 200 years of Christian academics in attempting to "remain relevant" to secular natural history via unorthodox interpretations of Genesis -- Gap, Day-Age, Framework, and local flood. None can withstand critical analysis (2 Samuel 7:28).

Christians who are raised believing that the plain words of Genesis are not reliable have no reason to accept any others in the Bible, giving them a wonderful excuse for sin and apostasy. The world is always going to present obstacles to faith. Do we accept the "obvious" evidence that man is no more special than plants or animals?