

Why Do People Believe In Evolution?

Introduction. As we make our way through life, on occasion we stop to reflect upon the nature and meaning of our existence, because this intrigues us. Nowhere is this more evident than in regard to our ultimate origin. Few there must be who do not pause, at some point in their earthly sojourn, to ponder topics like the origin of the universe, the origin of our planet, the origin of various life forms on earth, and even our own origin and destiny.

Essentially, there are two diametrically opposed explanations for these phenomena. One of these views, known as creation, postulates that the universe is here as the result of the purposeful, deliberate acts of a supernatural Creator who, with wisdom, planning, design, and forethought, created the Universe. An alternate and opposing view, known as evolution, suggests that the universe and all its animate and inanimate systems are here as the result of random, nonpurposeful, naturalistic forces operating by chance over eons of time.

One of the biggest mysteries for those who do not believe in evolution is trying to understand those who do. Many who believe in creation do so because they have seen the evidence which argues for God. To be able to teach someone who believes in evolution, one must first understand why the person believes the way they do.

I. ***Many People Believe In Evolution Because It Is What They Have Been Taught***

- A. For the past century, evolution has been in the limelight. For the past quarter century, it has been taught as a scientific fact in many elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, as well as in most colleges and universities.
 1. Adolf Hitler once said, "If you tell a lie loud enough, often enough, and long enough, people will believe it."
 2. Evolution is taken for granted today and is uncritically accepted by scientists and the general public.
- B. Israel and Judah's kings followed their father's example: Solomon, from his father David (1 Kings 9:4); Jehoshaphat, from Asa (2 Chronicles 20:32); Uzziah, from Amaziah (2 Chronicles 26:4); and Jotham, from Uzziah (2 Chronicles 27:2).
- C. Parents need to be reviewing what their children learn at school every day and correct the false views they are being taught in public education. Our children's faith in God and their fidelity to the gospel will depend upon their ability to scrutinize error.
 1. Evolution violates the Law of Biogenesis. This scientific law states that life comes only from pre-existing life. The theory of evolution

- argues against this established law, and states that life sprang forth from non-living matter.
2. Evolution violates the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law states that as energy is transformed from one form into another, less of the total energy is available to be utilized in further transformations. In other words, left alone, all natural processes lead to a less ordered, less organized state.
 3. Evolution is a mathematical impossibility. Did you know that the probability of the chance development of a very simple system composed of only 200 integrated parts is 1 out of 10,375? Mathematicians generally consider any event with a probability of less than one chance in 1,050 as having a zero possibility, i.e., it is impossible.
 4. Evolution is not supported by the fossil record. Fossils provide a kind of "written" record of events that have occurred throughout the history of this planet. If evolution occurred, then we should find evidence of this process in the fossil record.

II. ***Many People Believe In Evolution Because Of Intellectual Pride***

- A. Who does not want to present at least the appearance of being smart and well-educated? Over the last century, we have been told that if we wish to be considered intelligent, then we should believe in evolution, because all intelligent people believe in evolution.
- B. Consider the hypothetical example of two college students discussing their professor. Jack asks his friend Ralph, "Hey, Ralph, do you believe in evolution? My professor says all smart people do." Honestly, what is Ralph supposed to say? If he denies believing in evolution, he has admitted being outside the sphere of "smart people."
- C. All the time people are presenting "loaded questions" like these to Christians. But we should not falter just because intellectual pride is more of a motivator than reason. God's wisdom is far superior to man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-21), and He hates those who are full of pride (Job 37:24; Proverbs 8:13; 16:5).
- D. The Corinthians were being persuaded by intellectuals with rhetoric, while God presented a simple message. Because of the complexities of evolution, creation appears to be a plan only to be believed by simpletons. That is the wisdom of the age talking! God promises to be with the humble (Matthew 5:3 23:12).

III. ***Many People Believe In Evolution Because It Has Been Given A "Stamp Of Approval"***

- A. Evolution has been championed by people from politics, the humanities, the arts, and science. Science has visible and well-publicized suc-

cesses that have given scientists great credibility. When scientists champion a cause, people take notice. After all, they eradicated small pox, put men on the Moon, prevented polio, and lengthened life spans.

- B. Stephen Jay Gould said, "The fact of evolution is as well established as anything in science (as secure as the revolution of the earth around the sun), though absolute certainty has no place in our lexicon." The message is, "All scientists believe it; so should you."
- C. The problem with this assumption is that truth is not determined by a popular opinion. Something often is true even when accepted by the minority. Believing something based on the assumption that "everyone else" also believes it can often lead to disaster.
- D. What if the Lord had to take public opinion polls to determine the truth of His message (John 6:66)? Could Noah have determined the truth based on the number of people with him in the ark (Genesis 7:7)? Was the truth any less of the truth even though there was a 450 to 1 ratio on Mount Carmel or a 400 to 1 ratio between Micaiah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-24; 22:7)? Do not be a sheep!

IV. *Many People Believe In Evolution Because They Have Rejected God*

- A. For those who refuse to believe in the Creator, evolution becomes their only escape. Henry Morris said, "Evolution is the natural way to explain the origin of things for those who do not know and acknowledge the true God of creation. In fact, some kind of evolution is absolutely necessary for those who would reject God."
- B. Sir Arthur Keith said, "Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable." These kinds of statements leave little to the imagination, and make it clear that those who say such things believe in evolution not because of any evidence, but instead because they have made up their minds that they are not going to believe in God (Isaiah 65:12).
- C. God will allow a person to believe falsehood because they do not love the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:11; cf. 1 Kings 13:18). God does not and will not directly impose in life's affairs to change that situation. He withdraws restraint and allows people to believe what is not true, to manifest that they have no desire to be saved.

V. *Many People Believe In Evolution Because Of Suffering In The World*

- A. No rational, well-informed person can deny the widespread and unmistakable occurrence of "bad" events, often engulfing those who seem undeserving of such tragic events. Evolution provides what appears to be a perfectly logical explanation for suffering.

1. According to evolutionary theory, throughout history various species (including man) have been engaged in a struggle for survival and advancement. Everything in the Universe exists because of fortuitous occurrences that resulted from chance happenings. To survive, the justification of "might makes right" is offered as an explanation.
 2. In a world where evolution is considered as true, and "survival of the fittest" is touted as nature's way of weeding out the weak, it should be no surprise that evil and suffering exist. Although this seems rather harsh at first, to the evolutionist it is consistent.
- B. However the scriptures attribute suffering to Satan (Luke 13:16; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9). Do you think God would send sickness, disease, blindness, deafness, etc., only to have Jesus come and undo what God had done? Did Jesus heal those in opposition to God's will? No! Satan takes great pleasure in ruining God's creation and causing misery and suffering (1 John 5:19).
- C. The conditions that exist; the suffering which must be endured; and the death that comes to all is a result of man being out of order with God's law (Galatians 6:7). God does not change the natural order or law because a saint must suffer in consequence of the violation of law. Suffering, therefore, is not sent from God; nor is it punishment from God for sins done by the individual. It is the inevitable consequence that comes from violated law.

VI. ***Many People Believe In Evolution To Legitimize Their Conduct***

- A. People believe in evolution because it allows them to avoid any objective moral standard of behavior. It keeps them "out of reach" of God. It provides a subjective climate of situation ethics where all behavior, no matter how absurd or perverse, is acceptable. It establishes a "do your own thing" attitude that precludes rules and regulations, in a vain attempt to detour the guilt that inevitably comes from doing wrong.
- B. In the evolutionary scenario, humans are merely the last in a long line of amoebas, crocodiles, and orangutans resulting from fortuitous cosmic accidents. When you view the world in this fashion, it is futile to speak of "personal responsibility." In the grand scheme, no reason exists as to why one ought or ought not to act a certain way. Guy Woods said, "Convince a man that he came from a monkey and he will act like one!"
- C. Simply to believe in evolution to avoid personal accountability to one's Creator is a feeble excuse. God stated that we were created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). Having been created in that image, we are to live up to that image. Peter said that we should live holy lives because God is holy (1 Peter 1:16).

D. God will hold each one of us accountable for what we do (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2 Corinthians 5:10). This applies to Christians and those who are not Christians. Subjective belief cannot alter objective truth. If God and the Bible are real, then we had better be finding out what it says so that we will be acceptable.

Conclusion. The evidence favors God creating the heavens and the earth in the beginning of time (Genesis 1:1-2). If you believe that portion of the scriptures, then you need to further your investigation and find out what God requires of you. You need to become a child of God if you are not one. Examine and study this book. Let it reveal to you the words by which you may be saved.