

# EVOLUTION

- I. The words "evolution" and "evolve" are not used in the English translations of the Bible.
- II. Defining the word "evolution."
  - A. Derived from two Latin words
    1. Prefix *e-* means "out"
    2. Latin word *volvere* means "to turn" or "to roll"
  - B. The basic meaning to the word "evolve" is therefore to describe "the way things turn out, or roll out."
- III. Differentiating terminology.
  - A. Creation - the active process whereby all that exists, other than the Creator, came into being from a self-existent divine source. The existent creation is distinct from the Creator, and does not partake of the same essence of the Creator, but is sustained by and contingent upon the Creator for its intended function.
  - B. Creationism - a system of thought associated with Christian fundamentalism with the presupposition of exclusive supernaturalism as the explanation of God's creating all things in six twenty-four hour days.
  - C. Evolution - the process whereby changes take place within the created order, and the explanation of how they thus "turned out, rolled out, or worked out. Those changes may be enacted by natural or supernatural processes, either in progressive development or punctuated by divine fiat.
  - D. Evolutionism - a system of thought that attributes all changes in the universe to progressively developed natural causes alone, allowing only for material and physical causes.
  - E. Science - derive from the Latin word *scientia*, meaning "knowledge" or "understanding," science is the disciplined efforts of man to know and understand all that exists around him.
  - F. Scientism - a system of thought that is an aberration of true science which isolates and absolutizes knowledge within exclusive naturalistic parameters, thus limiting evidence for knowledge to empirical observation by sensory perception.
- IV. Questions to be considered.
  - A. Is the process of evolution contradictory to a Biblical understanding of creation?
  - B. Does the Biblical record allow for the process of evolution to have functioned within the process of the formation of the created order?
- V. Hebrew words used in the Old Testament.
  - A. Several words used for formation of created order.
    1. *bara*
      - a. "to create; to shape"
      - b. Gen. 1:1,21,27; 2:3,4
      - c. Nothing inherent in the word to imply "create out of

nothing". Biblical understand is not necessarily *ex nihilo*, but rather *ek theos*, cf. Rom. 11:36; I Cor. 8:6.

2. *yatsar*
    - a. "to form; to fashion" (like a potter)
    - b. Gen. 2:7,8,19
  3. *asah*
    - a. "to make; to construct"
    - b. Gen. 1:7,16,25,26,31; 2:2,3,4
- B. Hebrew word for "day"
1. *yom*
    - a. Can indicate 24 hour day, or indefinite period of time.
    - b. Approximately 25% of usages are figurative.
    - c. Gen. 2:4; Ps. 118:24; Isa. 49:8 (II Cor. 6:2); Joel 2:31 (Acts 2:16-21); II Peter 3:8.
  2. Difference of understanding has created polarization.
    - a. Young-earth proponents
      - (1) Bishop Ussher (1581-1656) - from genealogies dated created at 3928 or 4004 B.C.
      - (2) Creationism, fundamentalism
      - (3) Henry Morris, Duane Gish, Institute for Creation Research.
    - b. Old-earth proponents
      - (1) Greek philosophers; early church fathers
      - (2) Contemporary science
        - (a) Geology - plate tectonics, continental drift
        - (b) Astrophysics - singularity of commencement, relativity, etc.

## VI. Evolution and Charles Darwin.

- A. Traveled on H.M.S. Beagle to Patagonia, Chile, Peru, etc.
- B. Wrote book, *On the Origin of Species*  
Last sentence: "There is grandeur in this view of life,...having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one; and from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved."
- C. Has Darwin been misrepresented? *Darwin's Forgotten Defenders*.
- D. Neo-Darwinian evolutionism - exclusive naturalism for explanation of origin and operation of universe, denying the Creator God and all supernaturalism.

## VII. The need for a balance.

- A. Unfortunate polarization of either/or thinking, especially between creationism and evolutionism/scientism.
- B. Increasing scientific evidence that comes to conclusions that correlate with creation.