

Creation Versus Evolution

By Kenneth Mathis

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INTRODUCTION

Evolution has now been taught in our schools for many years and, in our day, it is widely accepted by many as fact. The news media, knowing little about the issues involved and believing evolution, are quick to televise or to print any development that supposedly supports evolution and very reluctant to televise or print any contrary information. In recent months, the intensity of evolution promotion has increased. With space exploration and cloning in the headlines, every Christian should arm themselves with the knowledge necessary to successfully defend and witness the truth as presented in the Bible.

Our youth are being inundated with evolutionary teaching in our schools and universities as well as by programs on television. The next generation will be lost if we do not address this issue now. You cannot take the position that "I believe it and that settles it;" you must know what you are talking about.

In the following columns, I will discuss the so-called proofs of evolution, define life, discuss some of the current theories of the origin of life and our universe, the claims of creating life in a test tube, review the cell and its makeup including information on chromosomes, DNA molecules, genes, amino acids, proteins, cell and human reproduction. I will also discuss claims of life in a lethal atmosphere, the latest genetic research including test-tube babies, sex determination of the baby, and cloning. This information is meant to be a brief summary of the many issues involved and to allow Christians to understand the claims being made

and how they relate to the Bible.

PHILOSOPHIES OF CREATION

Two philosophies exist to explain the origin of all things. The philosophies are divided by whether one believes in or does not believe in God. Both claim to accept and analyze the facts and relationships of nature in the world but the interpretation of the observed facts is dependent upon one's original belief. One philosophy assumes something existed and evolved into all that we now see. This philosophy states that all orderly systems in the universe, whether atoms, molecules, plants, animals, stars, galaxies or men have developed by the properties and processes of eternal matter and energy from primeval chaotic randomness into their present state of organized complexity and order. It assumes that these same properties and processes are still functioning. The individual who believes this philosophy will seek any explanation possible through natural phenomena. He will reject or ignore evidence that contradicts this belief and will practice the use of selective evidence to try to prove his assumption. Unfortunately, most scientific textbooks present evolution as if it were a proven fact rather than an unproved and constantly changing theory of origins.

GOD AS CREATOR

The belief that God created all things states that He brought nuclear particles, atoms, molecules, cells, matter, energy, stars, planets, plants, animals, man and all else into existence by special creation and that this process is no longer occurring. It looks back and acknowledges the necessity of origin (God) but that present day phenomena and processes cannot in themselves create anything. In this belief, we acknowledge that God has a purpose in this universe and that He is the creator and sustainer of all things (including the natural laws that govern all things) and that He is Lord over all things. God is the first cause and origin for this belief. The other belief does not explain origins but assumes inert matter is eternal and the laws that govern it.

It is essential that Christians today have, at least a basic understanding of the issues that separate the evolutionist

and the creationist. The textbooks in our schools and many of the teachers are presenting evolution as a fact and not an unproved and constantly changing theory of men who do not believe in God. The child is taught that God is not real but rather an imaginary invention of uneducated religionists and that evolution is their true creator. The impact of this teaching is seen everywhere by the violence, moral decay and despair in our society. The evolutionist has unsolvable problems with the origin of life, the evolution of life into its present state and the understanding of our universe. His theories are legend and constantly changing.

In the July 20, 1997 issue of the **Arkansas Democrat-Gazette**, a full-size page appeared with the title "The Search for Life." This is an article on the Pathfinder mission on Mars and contains the latest speculation of these scientists on the origin of life. The article states that the energy required to produce the strings of molecules that form amino acids, the basic building blocks of DNA, proteins, etc. may have been provided in this lethal environment.

In this statement, one of the many unsolvable problems of evolutionists is evident. In a chaotic environment lethal to life, where did the free energy come from that is necessary to produce life from non-living systems and how did that life survive? In this article, we will try to give a brief summary of the many issues involved in creation by God versus naturalistic evolution.

LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS

Two universal scientific laws that are essential to the discussion of origins is the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics. The First Law states, in effect, that nothing is now being created or destroyed and the

Second Law states that every system left to itself becomes more disordered as time goes on. These two laws strongly support the Bible account of creation and the subsequent fall of man and the catastrophic impact of this fall on the creation.

Matter is fundamentally a form of energy and every thing that happens in the universe is basically a conversion of energy from one form to another, accomplishing work in the process. The First Law of Thermodynamics is the Law of Conservation of Energy. It says that energy can be transformed from one kind into another, but it can neither be created nor destroyed (Their sum is a closed system — Einstein predicted this and it is confirmed today by nuclear physics). This confirms the creationist belief that creation is not now taking place at all and is therefore a completed event of the past. Processes today are all conservation processes and could never create anything as evolutionists theorize.

Today, the world, as we observe it, remains essentially stable. Changes that occur do so within the natural laws decreed by God. Man, today, has greatly increased his knowledge of these laws and much experimentation is taking place. But the planets still remain in their orbits, the earth's rotation remains constant, dogs beget dogs, people beget people, etc. The changes that do occur are normally in the direction of decay. Everything tends to run down, to wear out and to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created or destroyed (First Law), the conversions occurring in our universe result in energy decreasing (converted to non-useable heat energy) in its availability for further work. Left alone, all systems proceed naturally from order to disorder. This is a universal law and any seemingly local exceptions are temporary and ultimately obey this law of disintegration. Thus, this principal of decay (result of the fall) can be seen in the natural world. God created the world and then, as a result of man's sin, imposed the disintegrative principal that we see covered by the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

CREATION, FALL AND THE FLOOD, GEOLOGICAL TIME COLUMN

In discussing origins, three major events, as described in the Bible, provide a historical framework for understanding creation. First, in the beginning God created this world and all that is in it including all scientific laws that govern it. Second, as a result of the fall of man, God imposed a fundamental principle of decay and disintegration within the structure of conservation. Third, God judged this world with a cata-

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strophic flood that was global in extent which produced a temporary drastic acceleration of many geophysical processes and produced vast changes in the superficial aspects of the earth's atmosphere and related systems.

As discussed above, the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics strongly support the Biblical account of the first two major events. The third major event gives the answer to the so-called proofs of evolution which states, in essence, that present geological processes, acting essentially as at present, are sufficient to explain the past history of the cosmos, including its assumed evolutionary development from its original chaos into its present form. The evolutionist believes that these processes which can be observed in action at present, such as erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, volcanism, etc., are operating in essentially the same fashion (and at the same rate as observed today) and can be used to explain the origin and formation of all the earth's geologic deposits. It is also assumed that, at any given period in the past history of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true, that only one kind or type of organism was on the earth and that these organisms found as fossils in the rock stratum actually date that stratum. It is believed that, through evolution, these creatures, plants, etc. became progressively more developed and specialized in the course of the ages and therefore the fossils contained in the strata are the only reliable way to date the strata (We will discuss radioactive minerals and geologic dating later).

Based on this, evolutionists have worked up a geologic timetable which they claim shows a gradual progression of life from the simple to the complex, from lower to higher, and thus implies organic evolution.

This geological column is not actually found in the earth's crust but various partial columns are put together from different locations of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true. It is difficult or impossible to correlate strata in different localities by this principle of superposition. Fossils must then be resorted to and the fossil sequence is assumed to be in accordance with the principle of evolution.

Thus, the succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain. This type of reasoning starts with their reluctance to believe in God. They ignore or try to explain away the many contradictions where fossils are found in reverse order from that demanded by evolutionary theory or where fossils from supposedly different ages are found in the same strata. They try to explain the contradic-

tions by the assumption that the strata has been folded or faulted out of their original sequence. Yet, in spite of this type of reasoning (the dating of strata by the fossils they contain and the wrong assumption that the fossils evolved from primitive times to more modern times), modern biologists consider the geologic record as the cornerstone of their hypotheses of organic evolution and although they do not agree on how it occurred in the past and cannot provide examples of it occurring now (we will discuss mutations later), they believe that the geologic record provides proof that it did happen.

Now the creationist does not take issue with the observed data and genuine facts of geology but in the interpretation of those facts. He believes that the uniform operation of present geological processes could never, regardless of the billions of years, hypothesized by evolutionists, produce the phenomenon of the geological column as actually observed in the earth's crust. The flood, as described in Genesis was catastrophic to this world and geological processes were greatly accelerated and changed by this flood. The very existence of vast numbers of fossils all over the world is, in reality, evidence not of evolution but of a sudden and catastrophic happening. Fossils are not being formed today and they speak of sudden death and destruction (often extinction) of species on a vast scale. The flood resulted in great masses of sediment being eroded from other places and being deposited with the raising and lowering waters. Fossils are the result of species being rapidly buried and fossilized or they would not have been preserved at all.

CONDITIONS BEFORE THE FLOOD

When God created this world, He created a world in perfect harmony and balance. Death did not exist before the fall of man and fossils speak of death. With the fall of man, the world was subject to vanity, death, deterioration, and decay (Gen. 3:17-19); Rom. 8:22; Second Law of Thermodynamics). In the days between the fall of man and the flood of Genesis 6, the climate of the earth was vastly different than it is now. A great vapor canopy (Gen. 1:6-8) surrounded the earth such that the earth had a uniform warm temperate climate. Rainfall did not occur before the flood and storms were unknown. The extremes of hot and cold weather did not occur and weather fronts, as we know them today, did not exist. Volcanic activity and earthquakes were unknown and the polar caps did not exist.

The earth's surface and the ratio of land to water also was different. The flood changed all this including

climate changes and changes in related systems that produced the ice age. The flood was a supernatural judgment of God and was caused not just by the first rainfall from the heavens but by the upheaval of the ocean floors and the beginning of volcanic action as well as earthquakes (Gen. 7:11).

The tremendous erosion and resulting sedimentation from the flood can only be imagined. Consider local floods today as they rip out trees, wash homes and buildings, erode streams and sometimes plot new courses for streams and rivers. The power of a local flood is as nothing when compared to the Genesis flood.

It is not hard to understand how things, such as the Grand Canyon occurred. It did not take millions or billions of years to form the Grand Canyon when you consider the power of the Genesis flood coupled with events causing this flood. Fossils are a direct consequence of this flood. The various species buried in strata have a direct correlation to the kinds of species and their mobility as they tried to escape the flood. Living creatures, as well as plants, were buried by huge moving masses of sediment and under conditions unique for fossilization. Conditions like these have never before or after existed to allow the formation of world-wide beds of fossils.

FOSSILS AS EVIDENCE

To use the so-called Geological Column (or Time Table) and fossils contained in the strata as proof of evolution is ridiculous. The fossil record should have, if evolution is true, billions of transition fossils, fossils showing the evolution of one kind to another (missing links), but these transition fossils are nonexistent. Not one fossil exists showing the evolution of invertebrates (w\exoskeleton and life systems inside the skeleton) to vertebrates (Endoskeleton and life systems outside the skeleton); not one fossil showing, for instance, the evolution of limbs into wings or serpents into mammals or birds. Yet, in the fossil record is an abundance of most all modern families of plants and animals as well as extinct creations. Also, some large fossil beds have species of both plants and animals that are from entirely different habitats and even from areas of different climates. The fossil record speaks not of the evolution of all things but rather of the sudden and catastrophic judgment of God upon this world through the flood.

When God created living things, He decreed that they reproduce after their kind so that dogs begat dogs, cats begat cats and man reproduces man. The basic kinds or forms of living plants and animals were

placed on the earth by direct action of God and the changes observed are the adaptational and genetic variations with the limits of kinds or forms of plants. A dog-kind, horse-kind, bird-kind and man-kind exist; a moss-kind, fern-kind and flowering plant-kind exist. The attempt to show evolution by, for instance, the so-called series of horses of different sizes and with different number of toes, really only shows variational changes with in a kind, the horse. when God created the horse, He placed within its genetic code the information for all the varieties of horses that would ever develop. Many variations have occurred but there is no living or fossil records of a horse changing into another kind.

It is true that, due to isolation, a species may develop certain characteristics that dominate (races may have developed this way after God confounded their languages). But all of the characteristics possible exist within the original DNA or genetic code of the first pair or group isolated. Adaptational changes may or may not occur but any changes that do occur are within a kind and no evolution from one kind to another occurs. Also, the comparison of limbs or other structural parts of living species does not prove evolution but rather a common creator, God. The statement that the extinction of certain species prove evolution only reflects the unscientific bias of the writer. Extinction speaks of death and not evolution.

MUTATIONS

Not only does the evolutionist have problems with the fossil record, he also has problems finding some means, or mechanism that would produce the changes in plants and animals necessary for evolution to be true. Although many theories have been presented, the only one seriously considered today is the accumulation of successive random mutations. A mutation is a change in some characteristic of an organism that can be inherited. A mutation can be caused by damage to the chromosomes in one form or the other or more often by mutation of a gene within the DNA molecule. Mutations are a genetic mistake and usually harmful and often fatal. Of mutations that can be documented, only one or two can be said to be beneficial. Even the so-called beneficial mutations are random and must appear when conditions are right for their survival.

Mutations do not produce new traits but only degenerative or variational characteristics of already existing traits (per DNA molecule). For an accumulation of a succession of these mutations (the few assumed beneficial) to change one animal kind to another would

require time infinitely greater than even the evolutionist's estimated age of the earth. The rate of mutation can be speeded up by chemicals or by powerful radiation but the consequences are always harmful or lethal. No one in their right mind would willingly expose themselves to radiation today because we know that, normally, radiation is very harmful. The truth is mutations reflect the Second Law of Thermodynamics. No mutations exist showing the change from one class of organisms into a more complex type of another organism. Rather, these changes have been observed to be harmful and often involve the loss of some physical trait. To believe that amoebas, through mutation, have changed to man requires greater faith than believing that God created all things.

DATING METHODS

Because of his theories on the way all things evolved, the evolutionist must have billions of years for his belief to be reasonable. Therefore, he again uses selective methods for determining the age of the universe, earth and organisms on the earth. Among the many methods for dating the earth as we see it today, he selects a few and rejects all others that do not agree with his theory of evolution. He ignores or explains away the contradictions with the methods he does select and, as a result of his preconceived approach, rejects all others as unreliable. The most common methods used are based on calculations of radioactive decay of certain minerals (the element is transmuted into one or more simpler elements). The most common dating methods are carbon 14, potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium and uranium-lead methods. Note that these are all decay processes. The original elements decay radioactivity into the simpler elements and the time required for half of the element to change has been determined (called the half-life of the element).

The accuracy of these methods is dependent upon several factors. One, that the radioactive decay of the element has always been true and that the rate of decay has always been the same. Also, that the quantity of the transmuted element was not in the sample to begin with and that no contamination from sources outside of the sample has occurred changing the element ratio. All of these assumptions are made by the evolutionist in using these methods for dating. He ignores the billions of years difference in dates that are given by these methods at times and he definitely rejects the results when they reveal young ages. When radiocarbon dating methods are used and indicate, as they do at times, that supposedly ancient coal and oil

deposits are fairly young, the evolutionist explains away the results. Any honest scientist would look at the results and recognize that these dating methods are questionable. The carbon 14 (C-14) dating method assumes that the C-14 content in the atmosphere is constant and in balance. Thus, the content of C-14 per normal carbon content in dead specimens is determined and the radioactive decay rate is used to determine age. But we know, today, that C-14 in the atmosphere is not in balance and the rate of decay of C-14 is increasing in the atmosphere, and as a consequence, accuracy of dating of specimens decreases as one goes to older specimens. Also, the vapor canopy that existed before the flood shielded the earth from neutrons that produce C-14 and probably reduced the rate of production before the flood. When these factors are considered, this dating method may well yield a young earth. Also, many geophysical processes, which are at least as reliable, indicate that the earth is quite young. One example would be that the influx of chemicals into the atmosphere and hydrosphere indicate a very young age for the earth.

UNIVERSE AND MATTER NOT ETERNAL

The origin of life cannot be explained by the evolutionist. Some assume that the universe is eternal and that life sprung from non-living matter in the universe. That the universe obviously had a beginning is evident when you consider the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law states that everything tends to run down, wear out and to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created nor destroyed, the conversions occurring within our universe result in energy decreasing in its availability for further useful work. Our sun and the other stars are giving off energy all the time. They would have lost their heat long ago if they had existed eternally. Scientists today sometimes speak of an ultimate heat death of our sun. Similarly, if the universe and matter are eternal, the decay of all radioactive elements would have been completed long ago. The fact that this process is still going on indicates the universe had a beginning. Thus the universe was created and had a beginning by means not going on today.

CAUSE AND EFFECT AND THE BIG BANG THEORY

The law of cause and effect states that each phenomenon must have a cause adequate to produce it and that no effect can be greater than its cause. But the evolutionist assumes that effects (the universe)

are of a higher order and complexity than the cause. An effect cannot produce itself and the universe could not have been its own cause. One scientist, on Public Educational Television recently stated that, using the laws of physics, the search for origins is like running a movie backwards until you reach that first spark of energy that started the process of creation of the universe. At this point, science does not have a hypothesis to explain where that first speck of energy came from and how or why it produced that first gas, etc. The Big Bang theory which says that the universe is explosively expanding from an original state of high density assumes the eternal existence of the universe.

Some religionists try to correlate what they believe with the Big Bang theory. They consider the Big Bang as an act of God. This evolves man upwards by evolution and eliminates the fall of man (due to sin) and is contrary to the Bible and to all truly scientific evidence. If this is true, then Christ died in vain and the Bible is worthless. But creationists believe, as the Bible teaches, that God is the First Cause and that He did not evolve His creation but spoke it into existence including all life in the universe.

LIFE PRODUCES LIFE

One of the basic truths of science is that life produces life. Life has never been created by science without life, in some form, being present. In the past, some scientists claimed that life sprung from non-living matter by spontaneous generation. But Louis Pasteur demonstrated, with his experiments, that this was not true. He was bitterly opposed by so-called scholars of his day. But the doctors and surgeons of our day, as well as the food industry, know that Pasteur spoke the truth.

But, scientists today are again advocating spontaneous generation. They are now approaching it from the stand point of molecular and chemical evolution of life. Over the years, reports have been published claiming the creation of life in the test tube. But these reports fail to mention the presence of life in some form, such as enzymes or genes or virus, etc., and that no semblance of life, as we define life, has ever truly occurred.

The theory that life evolved from the first simple cells produced in our universe by random or blind chance is statistically unbelievable. Several men have calculated the time required for the formation of the first DNA (information) molecule and even with the billions of years estimated as the age of our universe

by evolutionists, the universe is much too young.

Let me briefly review the so-called simple cell and show you what the evolutionist is really saying about the origin of life. You will need greater faith to believe his hypothesis than to believe that God created it all.

THE CELL, SIMPLE OR COMPLEX

The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some plants and animals consist of only a single cell but others are composed of many billions of cells. The simple cell is not simple at all. It is an incredibly complex and powerful unit. Within the nucleus of every cell is DNA molecules which are present in the form of structures called chromosomes. These DNA molecules are the material of genetics and contain the code by which proteins are assembled in the cells. Development and function of the whole organism is controlled by this code. The gene is a functional section of a DNA molecule which produces a certain characteristic in the individual. The characteristics of an individual is determined by the arrangements of a series of subsections of the DNA molecule which may be very short or very long. The information is read and transferred to other molecules by RNA molecules and the energy to perform the necessary chemical reactions comes from food we eat reacting with the oxygen we breath.

Now, one other very important element is necessary for the function of the cell and that is the presence of enzyme molecules who harness the energy and direct its actions. Otherwise the cell would self-destruct. Since these enzymes act on only one structure or substance and perform a very specific reaction, there are many, many different enzymes in each cell. For every reaction that occurs in a cell, there is a different enzyme. Now these enzymes are found in the structure of cells of all living creatures, plant, animal or human and they enable the cells to carry on the various processes that are chemically essential to the continuance of life of the cells. They have incredible power and continue to act as a catalyst over and over again, without loss of power, as long as they are supplied the conditions and the substance they are designed to catalyze.

AMINO ACIDS

Now one of the building blocks of cells (and all living organisms) is proteins (also nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids or fats). Proteins are very large complex molecules that are made up of long chains of

chemical units called amino acids. Biochemists know the complete structure of very few. Slightly more than twenty amino acids contribute to the formation of protein molecules. Each type is structurally and chemically different from all the others. There are many, many different kinds of protein molecules (perhaps billions). The arrangement of amino acids in a protein molecule is not random; the sequence is precise, forming the primary structure of the molecule as dictated by the cell's genetic system. Each individual within a species usually is very distinctive in regard to certain proteins. This becomes obvious when doctors try to transplant tissues from one individual to another during surgery. Except for twins, skin grafts, etc. rarely take. Thousands of years before science discovered any of this, the Bible said in 1 Corinthians 15:39 that "All flesh is not the same flesh." It is very apparent from all of this that living cells are very complicated and involved in some very complicated and interrelated processes. For more information on cell reproduction, see the section on test tube babies, cloning and genetics below.

LIFE IN A LETHAL ATMOSPHERE

Now the evolutionist would have you to believe that all of this happened by random chance or accident. Can such complex cells, the molecular systems that make up the cells, the atomic systems that make up the molecules etc. be produced by the process of random collisions? The evolutionist would have you to think so. When you consider the make up of the protein molecule the spontaneous or even progressive formation of this molecule is as likely as throwing the parts of a computer into a box and waiting for the accidental assembly of the computer. The question we ask is how, when no life existed, did substances (such as enzymes) come into being which are absolutely essential to living systems, yet which can only be formed by those systems. Where did the free energy come from that allowed those systems to evolve from non-living to living systems.

The evolutionist has many theories but the one found in most biology books is that of Oparin, a Russian biochemist. He speculated that the early atmosphere was composed of four gases: methane, ammonia, hydrogen and water vapor. Supposedly, lightning caused the gases to break up and form molecules of amino acids which, in the ocean, formed proteins and eventually living matter. One biology textbook stated that Oparin's theory is not speculation because Miller and later Fox confirmed it in the laboratory. This is not true. What Miller and Fox did was to demonstrate that

they could synthesize amino acids in a carefully controlled laboratory experiment. They did not produce life but tried to synthesize living materials. They merely proved that man, as his knowledge increases, is able to apply the natural laws of God and do all sorts of things.

Now based on this theory, the evolutionist will tell you that the early earth was very hot (again assuming it all began with the Big Bang) and that as it cooled, oxygen and water were formed. The next step was the formation of protein molecules and ultimately cells. He hypothesized that the energy required to produce those molecules came from ultraviolet radiation (one theory of many) and that after a period of creation of new molecules, a layer of ozone then developed (how convenient) in the upper atmosphere and stopped the creation of new molecules. The problem with all this is that ultraviolet light, without the ozone layer, is lethal to the cell. Life, in any form, would not have evolved and survived without the ozone layer. And if the ozone layer evolved first, oxygen is toxic to cells without enzymes. The enzymes would not have evolved before the cell (its very purpose is to catalyze cell reactions). Today, you are hearing much about the danger of depleting the ozone layer that shields our earth. It is common knowledge that life could not exist without this layer. But the evolutionist has life, or the components of life, evolving in a very hostile or lethal primitive atmosphere.

WHAT THE EVOLUTIONIST IS SAYING

Now consider carefully what the evolutionist is saying. He has no explanation for original creation; he assumes something existed, whether energy or matter and that, that something suddenly acted. He doesn't really know how, to start his supposedly evolutionary process that led to first, the creation of the universe, then the creation of the earth, and ultimately to the creation of life from non-living matter; all over billions and billions of years. He claims to be using the laws of physics to trace backwards to the original Big Bang or, as some say, the first spark of energy. Yet, he is actually in conflict with the most basic and universal laws of physics, the laws of Thermodynamics and he has order and complexity arising out of the chaos of his concept of the original atmosphere. But he does believe that in that first spark (or whatever) that produced that first electron, proton and ultimately that first hydrogen gas, is the highly complex information code for every living thing including all plants, organisms, animals and humans. This is not science but the preconceived bias of men out of touch with reality

and in a land of fantasy. These men were raised and taught that evolution is a fact by our schools and universities. Every biology book taught it as the only scientific explanation of origins and creation. These men have entered professions where it would be professional and financial suicide to dare challenge the unsoundness of evolutionary theory. Pasteur was subject to ridicule in his day and today with modern mass communication, few men have the courage to admit that the whole hypotheses starts with a flat rejection of a belief in God.

WHAT IS LIFE

Now what is life? Billions of dollars are being spent (some by NASA) in the search for other life in our universe and for the origin of life. Scientists claim, today, that all life uses the same basic chemicals; amino acids, the same type of DNA codes, the same proteins (though different arrangements of amino acids) etc. According to this concept of life, everything, including you and me, evolved from the same set of chemicals. Assuming this is true, it in no way proves evolution. Rather, it does prove that we had a common creator, God. But the evolutionist has reduced us to a sort of complex molecular structure that differs from other species or plants only by virtue of having a little different arrangement of our genes in the DNA molecules.

The question then arises, if scientists could figure out all the complex atoms, molecules and cells that make up a human being and then figure out how to put them together, would you have life or merely a bundle of molecules and body cells? The answer, we believe, is no. Life comes from God and is far more complex than man realizes. In the first place, man has not, and I believe never will, figure out the unbelievable complexity of the systems that make up man. There are thousands of reactions going on in the cell that greatly exceed the usual qualities of the atoms and molecules that make up these cells. Enzyme molecules, not to mention DNA molecules and a host of others, exhibit powers beyond any honest man's calculations. Even when complex molecules are synthesized, simple molecular building blocks will not spontaneously form the highly complex cells of living things. The truth is that it takes life to produce life.

TEST TUBE BABIES, CLONING AND GENETICS

Man, today, has done some amazing things as his

understanding and knowledge of genetics has increased. He is beginning to understand that genetic defects in certain genes may produce certain diseases. Conception of babies can now be done in a test tube and some claim to have cloned certain animals. Also, I have read news reports that claim that the sex of the baby can now be controlled by genetic manipulation. Some knowledge of cell reproduction and human reproduction by conception are necessary to understand the issues involved in all of this.

The process of cell reproduction is amazing. Man, in recent years, has gained much knowledge of this process but much concerning the actual mechanism of this process is still a mystery. When a cell divides, the original cell gives rise to two daughter cells, each with a complete compliment of genetic material (DNA) identical to that in the original cell (46 chromosomes or 23 pairs). But when reproduction takes place in humans, the reproduction cell (which ultimately produces sperm and egg cells) divides and produces cells which possess 23 chromosomes (half of the 46 chromosomes of the original cell). When conception takes place the fertilized egg then has the 46 chromosomes necessary for the human species to be perpetuated from generation to generation. Otherwise, the new individual would have 92 chromosomes (46 from each parent) and reproduction would result in drastic changes. But God decreed in Genesis 1:11-28 that each species would reproduce after their kind. The new individual now has a new DNA code that is a result of the 23 chromosomes from each parent (totaling 46). Also, even though every cell in a human embryo carries the same set of genetic information, the cells become different types of cells such as nerve cells, muscle cells and various other kinds of cells. To do this, some genetic information must be suppressed. This mechanism, not clearly understood, is the source of much research today. Cells are truly amazing.

Consider now the process involved in test-tube babies. Both true science and the Bible recognizes that life produces life. Today, medical professionals can take the sperm from a man and the egg from a woman and, in the test-tube, conceive a baby. But note carefully that it takes human life, the sperm and the egg, and a woman to carry that fertilized egg to term to produce that baby. God has permitted this but man, as his genetic knowledge increases, is going further and further. I'm not sure where God will draw the line.

Now consider the controlling of the sex of the baby. Again, genetic research has revealed that the male determines the sex of the baby. In the division of the reproduction cell, the male produces a pair of cells

that are different. If we call one cell of that pair X and the other cell Y, we can give a simple illustration of the process. The female also produces a pair of cells and we might call each one of these cells X. These cells originate from the division of the reproduction cell and have only 23 chromosomes each. When the male X cell combines, through conception, with one of the female X cells, the result is ultimately a girl. When the male Y cell combines, through conception, with the female X cell, the result is ultimately a boy. Thus, if it can be done or has ever been done, it will be through this genetic manipulation of the male cells. In this process, man is changing the basic identity of that individual. The question is how much will God permit?

The final item mentioned above is that of cloning. News reports claim that scientists have now cloned several animals. Although our government, fearing the consequences of this research, has stopped federal funds from being used in this research of human cloning, I'm sure private research will continue.

An article appeared in the Hot Springs **Sentinel Record** on Friday, August 8, 1997 that stated that scientists have now cloned several calves. This follows a previous report of the cloning of a sheep. The sheep, according to the article, was cloned from an udder cell but the cell used to clone the calf came from a 30 day-old fetus. The scientists state "We can make an unlimited number of cells, freeze them for any amount of time, then thaw them and make identical animals." The mechanics of this cloning process is not described but assuming that it is true in the full sense of the word, it would seem to indicate the reproduction of a species having the same DNA code as the original animal. This would involve the by-passing of the reproduction process described above. It would be a sexless, laboratory manipulation of living genetic material. Man has always sought means to eternally perpetuate himself and although the original subject would still die, theoretically, he would be able to reproduce the human body with the same DNA code. That individual would be different based on those factors that mold individuals after birth such as experience, education, etc.

Now the question is, if man successfully accomplishes this, what will he have? The advocates of cloning are again assuming that humans are nothing more than molecules and cells and life, nothing more than biological reactions of these components. But the Bible teaches that man is a triune being (thus differing from animals) having a body, soul and spirit. Man has an immortal soul. Will God permit such a process to produce a man with an immortal soul or will this process merely create an unfeeling monster? I am well

aware that God created the whole human race in the first man, Adam. I am also aware that reproduction is according to the natural laws decreed by God. But this process of cloning is by-passing God's laws of reproduction.

Assuming God permits immortal souls (the evolutionist doesn't believe man has an immortal soul) to come into existence by this process, it would be possible to reproduce many bodies with essentially the same DNA code; all from the same original individual. In this process, man is again tampering with the basic identity of the individual and, in essence, playing God. The Bible teaches that Satan is the god of this world and I have little doubt that, unless God intervenes, man will attempt this process. As Nimrod (a type of the Antichrist) tried to build a tower to heaven, so, I believe, will man attempt to create a genetically perfect human being. But remember this, God intervened at the tower of Babel and I believe He will intervene in this attempt.

This research is telling us that the return of Christ is near. God's intervention may well be the return of Christ for His people. At that time, the Holy Spirit, who resists Satan, will be removed from this world. I have little doubt that the Antichrist will continue this research.

SUMMARY

The Bible teaches that God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). He created all things including space, time, energy, matter and all the laws that govern these things. He placed an order in this creation such that atoms act within their sphere according to laws that govern them; molecules in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; cells in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; and on and on. He is the upholder and sustainer of all things.

The evolutionist claims to use the laws of physics to trace the evolution of the universe backwards to its origin but he cannot explain why these laws exist. He explains one law with another law and never reaches the first cause (which is God). The evolutionist well knows that all the components of this universe act according to their own laws within their own sphere but he seeks a unification theory to tie it all together and explain how it all began. Einstein spent the last 30 years of his life seeking such a theory and today hundreds of scientists, of all disciplines, are spending billions of dollars (in manpower and equipment) in searching for the origin of life and for other life in our universe.

The Bible gives an eloquent and simple explanation: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Sanity will not permit any other explanation. The Bible does not explain or defend the existence of God and every man has within him the knowledge that there is a God. He may repress this knowledge as a consequence of unsound education and peer pressure, but that knowledge still exists. Many men, who have denied the existence of God all of their lives, have reached the end of their lives with fear of standing before that God after death. Evolution is a secular religion built around an unproved theory of men who do not want to submit to an omnipotent God. They, nevertheless, will die (this is a reality that none can escape) and stand before God and answer for every individual that they have influenced to believe this lie. If you are an evolutionist, recognize that there is a God and that you, as all men, are a sinner, and put your trust in Christ as your Savior before it is eternally too late.

HEBREWS 9:27-28

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

JOHN 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved.” 