

HOUSE of CARDS



SACRED AND PROFANE

The worship of heathen gods such as Baal and Ra has largely gone out of fashion these days, though some people still consult the stars before facing the day, or have other superstitious habits. For most people the choice is either belief in one god or in no god. Prior to the Enlightenment, people in Christian countries accepted the God of the Bible, but especially after Darwin, this has been replaced by the idea that the world and everything in it is the product of natural causes.

Science and engineering have proved very successful in many fields, so we tend to also trust scientists when they speculate in areas beyond their powers to investigate. The instruments of science are incapable of researching the nature of God so scientists can only try to explain origins in terms of natural processes. The biblical accounts of Creation and the worldwide flood can't be verified, so are regarded as "unscientific".

IS GENESIS LITERALLY TRUE?

The seminaries where Christian clergy are trained are not usually dogmatic about the truth of the flood, the six day creation of all things, or the age calculated from Scripture for the Universe. Scientists deny this biblical history. At one such college in the south of England where I was invited to speak on creation, the member of staff giving the vote of thanks afterwards magnanimously proclaimed that although he disagreed with much of what I had said, he would defend to the death my right to say it! Another college would not let me use their campus and I had to speak in a student's digs. At a London seminary, several students argued vigorously that we should not take God's Word literally. Where the church minister does not believe the Scripture, the congregation will be unlikely to believe either. The last public lecture I gave in 2018, before canal lumbar stenosis stopped me in my tracks, was to a ladies' group in a church. After many questions, one woman said airily that she would not believe in a young Earth just because someone told her to. Yet she happily accepted billions of years just because scientists told her she should.

In England, the Minister for Education has dictated that creationism cannot be taught in science classes. The BBC and other media promote the secular view of origins, and scientific journals pour scorn on a biblical history of only thousands of years rather than billions.

The Bible claims infallibility for itself in no uncertain words. "Thus says the Lord" was a frequent claim of the prophets. In both Old and New Testaments we read that we must add nothing to the Scriptures, nor take anything from them (Deut. 4:2, Rev. 22:18,19). Psalm 119 devotes its entire 176 verses to extolling the value of God's written Word, and in particular verse 160 announces, "Thy Word is true from the beginning". The Lord Jesus Christ said that the Scriptures cannot be broken.

BUT CAN YOU ADAM AND EVE IT?

But which is more plausible: that everything was created by an all-powerful, all wise God, or that it came about by chance changes in nothing over tens of billions of years? It is argued that with almost infinite time, the impossible becomes possible, the possible becomes probable and the probable becomes inevitable.

An infinite number of monkeys with laptops would, over time, produce a Shakespearian sonnet. However, we learn from the laws of thermodynamics that matter and energy cannot be created from nothing. What's more, complex structures tend to become disordered over time. Shiny new cars eventually finish up in the scrap yard. Complexity does not increase with time. A house of cards becomes more liable to collapse with each card that is added.

COMPLEXITY ARGUES FOR DESIGN

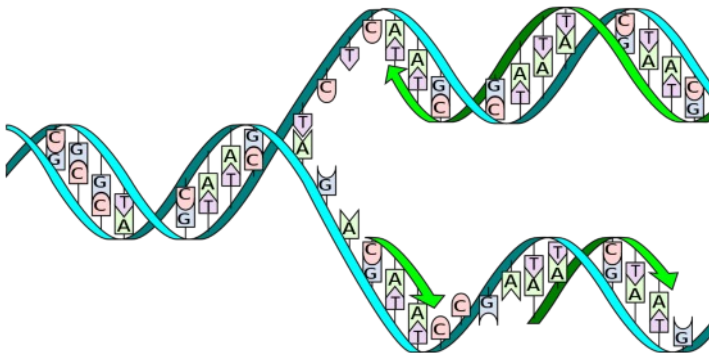
Perhaps the most complex thing in the natural world is the human brain. It was reported in *New Scientist* 14 June 2021 that surgeons who needed to remove a malfunctioning part of the brain of a woman with epilepsy, retained a tiny piece of healthy overlying tissue. They immersed this in a preservative, stained it with heavy metals to reveal its structure under an electron microscope and set it in resin. This was then cut into slivers about one thousandth of the width of a human hair.

The brain map produced using machine learning contained 50,000 cells in three dimensions joined by hundreds of millions of spidery tendrils, forming 130 million connections called synapses. **“The data set measures 1.4 petabytes [dogs behaving badly?] roughly 700 times the storage capacity of an average modern computer.”**

Mapping an entire human brain is said to need a data set comparable to the amount of digital content generated in a year by the planet Earth! Now, is it reasonable to imagine that our brains are the product of chance evolution of a protozoan over hundreds of millions of years? Would not such a house of cards collapse?

CODED INFORMATION ARGUES FOR DESIGN

While looking after CSM accounts I frequently receive encrypted e-mails from Stewardship, who look after some of our members' donations. Data protection is of military and commercial importance. To read the coded messages I need to use a password that I keep under my hat and just outside my comfort zone. Codes are not the result of chance changes, and mistakes in them can lose information. Both the making and breaking of the Enigma code during WWII required intelligent design.



DNA STRAND SHOWING GCAT CODING by Madprime CC S-A 3.0

The production of bio-molecules such as proteins is accomplished by coded information, and therefore did not arise by evolution. DNA in every cell codes for mRNA and tRNA, these then code for amino acids to make proteins. The sequence of amino acids must be precisely correct so that chemically active groups are where they can connect to other molecules and catalyse reactions. This sequence is ultimately dictated by the sequence of nucleotides in the DNA.

This should confirm indisputably that biological evolution - making new genes - is theoretically impossible. So it was surprising to find a headline in *New Scientist* for 21 August 2021, p.16 declaring **Stripped-back cell still evolves**. In 2016 CSM reported that the J Craig Ventner Institution had taken a parasitic bacterium *Mycoplasma micoides* that already gets some of its genes from the gut of cows, and snipped out all genes not necessary for survival. This left only 493 genes, and not all of their functions are yet known. Now some other researchers have taken the reduced bacterium and mixed it with the natural bacterium. They found that the reduced ones reproduced along with the complete parasites. They reported that fewer genes don't stop evolution going to work. However, it is well known that bacteria carry thin tubes on their surface that draw the bacteria together and transfer bacterial genes or parts of genes from one to the other. The tube is called a pilus. This reverses the Ventner experiment, but has nothing to do with Darwinian evolution. The public are being hoodwinked. Human DNA has three billion base pairs in precise sequences. Time and chance could never produce such a complex house of cards.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Why is it that we have such detailed history of the world for less than five thousand years, with nothing prior to that except the much-maligned early chapters of Genesis? And why is the idea of a world-wide flood discounted although so many different peoples have written records of it? (see Bill Cooper's *The Authenticity of the Book of Genesis*, CSM).

MILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF YEARS?

Geology The idea of millions of years was first derived by observing rock strata in cliff faces, canyons and canal excavations. It was assumed that each layer represented a season or a year, the effect being like a pile of carpets laid one upon another. Varves in ice cores are interpreted similarly. Yet erosion and deposition only act under high energy conditions such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. They are not slow processes. A town called Dunwich used to stand four miles from the Suffolk coast a thousand years ago. But intermittent erosion has eaten away the land and today the ruins of Dunwich lie under the North Sea. That equates to some 4,000 miles of erosion in a proposed million years.

Laboratory experiments by French sedimentologist Guy Berthault demonstrated that slurries of mixed sand and earth deposited layers sideways as they passed along an inclined tank, building up strata rapidly. Ice varves in Greenland and the poles would be due to successive frequent snow storms during the ice age that resulted from the flood. At many locations, hundreds of strata are bent and contorted by earth movements. If they really represented seasons they would have dried out with time. Then when pressures caused them to bend they would have crumbled. Clearly they were all laid down rapidly and bent as one layer while still wet and plastic.

The flood deposited its layers along with drowned creatures that subsequently became petrified. Their position in the fossil record reflects their pre-flood habitat – sea floor dwellers, then fish, shore-line amphibians, mammals and birds. Marine fossils atop mountains testify to the completeness of the inundation.

Astronomy The Australian Barry Setterfield has plotted the measured values of the speed of light since Roemer observed a transit of Jupiter by its moon Io in 1675. He found that the speed of this apparent constant diminished exponentially and could have been 10^{11} times its present value only 6,000 years in the past. This would make distant galaxies much closer and their light much more recent.

VARIATION WITHIN KINDS IS NOT EVOLUTION BETWEEN KINDS

One difficulty with the creation/evolution debate is that evolution in its Darwinian sense means development from protozoa to people, but to the public any change is seen as evolution. The canine kind embraces Afghan hounds and lap dogs, as well as a variety of wild dogs. But they are all one created kind.

In 1997 we were in Glasgow to debate with Professor Roger Downie of the department of Environmental and Evolutionary Biology. I pointed out that we do not see creatures evolving today. He countered that in his laboratory he had witnessed something evolving, and quoted some double Latin name. When I enquired further he said it was a sort of grass. The audience broke into a chuckle and he lost his cool and told us we did not understand these things. I explained that the DNA has many alleles, genes that can do the same job with slightly different results, and that this capacity for variation enables organisms to cope with changing environments. Also the epigenome (formerly known as 'junk' DNA) contains switches to turn genes on and off as required. This did not amount to Darwinian ape to man evolution. Subsequently, *New Scientist* reported that this professor was dismayed that many students entering his classes were creationists. He determined to rectify this by starting the year with a special course on evidence for evolution. However, at the end of his course he found

that the number of creationists had increased, some coming down off the fence on the side of intelligent design. Darwinian evolution would require new genetic information to be generated, which is not possible. Information results from intelligence.

BY THEIR FRUITS

If Almighty God did not create time, space, matter and energy in the beginning, then where do we get our concepts of right and wrong from? What is the origin of our conscience? Is human life sacrosanct? Should self interest be of paramount importance? Have some ethnic groups come down from the trees more recently?

On one occasion at St Andrews University we were packing away the literature table after the lecture when we were approached diffidently by two African students. They asked me if it was true that black and white people were all of "one blood", as Paul had preached on Mars Hill. I explained that some people groups had more genes for making melanin, the darkening agent in skin. Englishmen had only a little melanin and had to be careful going out in the midday sun. We are all descended from Eve, the mother of us all, who was created by God. But we are not only the sons of God by creation. We can be also through faith in Jesus Christ who died for our sin, and adopts us into His family. 'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God... Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.' (1 John 3:1,2) Conformed to the image of His Son!

Those two African students fairly skipped out of the lecture room, their faces all smiles.

Pamphlet 426 November 2021 by Dr David Rosevear



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