

"According to its Kind"

Scripture: Genesis 1

Introduction:

Last time, we sought to lay the foundation for our "Creation vs. Evolution" study, by considering some of the fixed presuppositions that tightly surround both systems of faith. I call them both "systems of faith," because evolution is not based on "Observational Science," but rather, "Historical Science," which provides its own interpretation of the facts, that are with us today. Remember, evolution presumes both "naturalism" and "materialism," denying even the possibility of the supernatural (God) from the outset. In the system of evolution, God is not an option. However, creationism presumes "In the beginning God," and therefore, utilizes that key assumption in its interpretation of the observational data (such as fossils...etc) that exist today. When dealing with the topic of origins; where we came from and how, both creationism and evolution require a strong element of faith, when processing the available data. The fact of the matter is that no one (but God) was there to observe the origin of all things.

This morning, following the line of biology (the study of life) for the time being, we will move on to consider some of the key differences, which Creation and Evolution put forth in attempting to discover the path of life. How did we get all of these living things that surround us; birds and fish and lions and bacteria and snakes and crocodiles, and mankind...etc? What in the world are we doing here? What path of life has taken us here? What does the fossil evidence teach us about this life path, if anything? Are there any other clues that can explain the wide variety of fascinating creatures that exist today?

I. Creationism

Well, for creationists, the matter is actually quite simple, though the process itself is unfathomable to the human mind. In one word, "God." God created the animals and mankind, and in Genesis 1, which we ought to believe to be a literal, historical account of creation, we find

some significant clues, which would help us understand why we see what we see, including the great variety of living creatures, surrounding us today.

We begin by understanding that the God who created all things is actually quite amazing. What we see; and the fact that we are living, rational, intelligent beings, gathered here together this morning, would seem to be sufficient to prove this, but sin has a way of corrupting even the obvious. And so, the Scriptures; the Word of God, provides us with wonderful information concerning the path of life.

For one, we note that, we (along with all living things on earth) did not come from a common ancestor; a single-celled organism of some sort, but rather we all came from various created kinds. Indeed, God created different creatures on different days of the week (24 hour, literal days---"evenings and mornings"), and even on those different days, He created different kinds. If God's Word is true (and it is), then the whole concept of "molecules to man" evolution, and the billions of years it took to get us here, could not possibly be true. And observational Science ought to support this in various ways (and it does, as we will see throughout this study).

Day 1: God created light and He divided the light from the darkness. [Now some would question how light could be created before the sun, and my simple answer is, "He's God!" Or, I might quote Eccl. 11:5- "As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything"---brethren, we cannot hide from the truth or be ashamed of the greatness of God, as if believing in the divine power and sovereignty of God is "unscientific" in some sense. Science and natural law are God's gifts to us, brethren, so that we could behold the glory of His wisdom in logical design, while remaining baffled by what cannot be understood about these things, at the same time. There is enough logic and enough mystery to shatter our minds; to lead us to worship from every angle]

Day 2: God created the atmosphere and the sky, separating the waters above from the waters beneath.

Day 3: God caused dry land to appear, gathered together bodies of water, and created all of the plant life, giving these plants/trees the ability to yield additional plants according to their kind, by the use of seeds.

Day 4: God created the Sun, the moon and all of the stars.

Day 5: God created all of the fish and sea creatures, and all of the birds and air creatures, enabling them to procreate after their kinds.

Day 6: God created all of the land animals and reptiles...etc, and finally man, enabling each to procreate after their kind.

Summary Conclusion

And so, what we find here, is not all living things coming from one ancestor, but rather all living things coming from their created kinds ("baramins"- Hebrew bara=create, min=kind)[the orchard example vs. the tree of life]. Now, what does this entail?

1) There is no overlap between the created kinds. In other words, fish did not evolve into reptiles, and apes did not evolve into man, and dinosaurs did not evolve into birds...etc. God created multitudes of living creatures, individually, with the ability to reproduce according to their kinds.

2) However, created "kinds" assumes that many different animals could have come from one kind. In other words, each created kind contained the DNA for a variety of different animals that can be classified by that general kind. And so, lions and leopards and jaguars and the whole cat family, probably came from the same original kind (proto-kind, if you will). Many classes of birds, could have come from one kind. All of the different turtle species would have come from one kind...etc (different kinds of trout, thousands of frog species...etc), just like every race of human being came from Adam and Eve. This is extremely important to understand, brethren, and this will answer a lot of the questions, which evolution seeks to pose against creationism. While classifying every animal into their proper kind, can be complex at times, many classifications have been and can be identified. But again, a dinosaur never became a bird or an elephant never became a whale...etc. Sea creatures and birds were made uniquely, and on a different day than land animals, reptiles and man.

One of the ways of locating common ancestry is by interbreeding, but due to loss of DNA code (as the kinds separate outward, information is lost--also because of the fall), some species may belong to the same kind, without being able to confirm this by way of interbreeding. The key is to understand that all of the information for the various species, was within the original kinds. And so, creationists would never say that every animal is a unique template, but rather, each animal comes from a created kind, and there is absolutely no direct connection between the kinds, outside of the fact that they were all created by a common Designer. And this last statement, would attest to why we may find similarities, even fascinating ones (which evolution could never explain---such as the Octopus eyeball and its similarity to the eyeball of man) among the different kinds. We are dealing with a common Designer. And so, certain body parts and bone structures and means of procreation will look alike in various creatures, even of different kinds, but this merely attests to the common Designer, and not a common ancestor. Both, the striking similarities and the drastic differences attest to the greatness and glory of God, but again, evolution starts with the basic presupposition that God does not exist.

3) Human beings, while resembling some of the physical characteristics of some mammals (again, a common Designer), were created in the image of God.

II. Evolutionism

Presuming the non-existence of the supernatural, evolutionists look at the commonalities between living things, and draw the conclusion that every living thing ultimately came from one, single-celled ancestor, through the process of evolution, over millions and millions of years (we will delve deeper into this assumed process, next time, Lord willing).

Evolutionists use what are known as "phylogenetic trees" to map out the various possibilities of how every kind joins together, back to one ancestor. "Phylogeny" is the "study of the evolutionary relationships between all living organisms" (Patterson, Pg. 38). DNA, similar anatomy, similar development, fossil evidence...etc, are used to attempt to formulate these phylogenetic trees. When studying evolution, you have to realize that they are not making a direct connection between every living thing. Rather, beginning with a single celled-organism, bridges are drawn to various living creatures that may have evolved in different ways to get to

where we are today. So, one form of ape *Q* may have evolved into both Ape *X* and Ape *Y*, and Ape *X* may evolve in another direction, while Ape *Y* evolves in the direction that ultimately takes you to man. And so, while there is a common ancestry with both Ape *X* and *Y* to man, there is no *direct* connection from man to Ape *X*. They are related in so far as they both ultimately came from Ape *Q*. But, one way or another, the tree of life, ultimately brings every living thing together, and the greatest kicker of all, is that evolutionists ultimately have to account for the first "single-celled" living organism, don't they? And the only possible way to do this, when God is barred from the equation (which He is), is to assume that the single-celled organism came from non-living matter. Yes, somehow (and the explanations are beyond any scope of rational thinking), non-living gases evolved into a living cell.

Now brethren, that takes a lot of faith! If I told you that I could jump off of the Empire State Building 20 times without obtaining a scratch, while painting one side of the building on the way down each time, you would say that I am nuts. But, it is far, far, far more incomprehensible that life could ever come from non-life, let alone that we all came from a single-celled organism! It is just not possible. But that is where so-called, "rational thinking" will take you, when God is removed from the equation, from the outset, do you see that?

But somehow, under impossible conditions (which we will probably get to), non-life became life, and survived, and evolved (with the help of mutations and natural selection, getting new DNA information from no one knows where...which we will go over next time, Lord willing) bringing us to the place where we are today, having an intelligent conversation, the desire to live and a world full of living, colorful amazing creatures. Yup, believing in God is just too hard, isn't it?

Now, what makes all of this so convincing, brethren, again, is that God gave us natural laws; He left us created patterns, for our benefit, but which also ought to have led us back to Him. Do we see the power of sin, here, brethren? Do we comprehend even an inkling of the hardness of the human heart? Man will say anything, to deny God and His Holy nature. We have dared to use God's glorious design; to study His design, and to draw conclusions concerning our very origin and existence, while removing God out of the equation! And now, dinosaurs are the ancestors of modern birds, for crying out loud!

Now brethren, next time, Lord willing, we will start getting into the meat and potatoes of evolutionary thinking, considering the very important topics of "natural selection" and "mutations."

Conclusion

1 Corinthians 1-2 (1:10-31; 2:1-5) & 3 (18-23)

Colossians 1-2

[Explain the whole notion of the long sought after, "Missing Link"]

AMEN!!!