

Is Evolution Contrary to Scripture? By Richard L. Overman M.S.

Introduction:

Many Christians believe that evolution is not contrary to scripture. Holding this belief they tend to consider the creation/evolution debate to be an interesting (or not so interesting) debate among scientists. The purpose of this article is to show how evolution contradicts scripture and why there is more at stake than just a scientific debate.

Evolutionary concepts:

To see how evolution contradicts scripture, it is first necessary to acknowledge and understand two concepts that are inherent to evolution. They are evolutionary progression through long periods of time and “survival of the fittest”.

In order for evolution to have enough time to work, it is necessary for the universe and earth to be billions of years old. This old earth concept is of paramount importance to evolution.

Synonymous with the word evolution is the concept of survival of the fittest. This means evolution advances as stronger species prevail over weaker species. The prevailing theories of evolution hold that the process of evolution is a slow gradual mutation process. As animals reproduce and die slight mutational changes advance the evolutionary process. Hence, the animals we see today are here because millions of animals have lived and died before them. Evolution says that millions of animals have died long before man evolved onto the scene.

Therefore, if evolution is not contrary to scripture, the concepts of evolutionary progression through long periods of time and “survival of the fittest” should be supported by scripture. If either is contrary to scripture, then the whole evolutionary philosophy is contrary to scripture.

The age of the earth:

Does scripture support the concept of an old earth? A straightforward reading of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 would indicate that the creation week was six solar days. In addition, the genealogies of Genesis 5:3-32; 9:29; 11:10-11; 11:12-26, 32 and 25:7, along with recorded history since Abraham seem to indicate that creation occurred approximately 6000 years ago. However, radiometric dating and some geologic features tend to indicate that the earth is much older than a few thousand years. There is, apparently, a contradiction between scripture and science. To attempt to resolve this apparent contradiction, theologians developed the Day Age theory and the Gap theory. These are both attempts to fit millions of years of earth history into the first two chapters of Genesis. It is interesting to note that these theories were developed decades before

radiometric dating. This does not, however, resolve the apparent contradiction. When God was writing His law to Moses, God wrote with his own hand, "Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gate: **For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day:** wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it" (Exodus 20:9-11). If the days of Genesis one and two were millions of years, God is lying to the Israelites by telling them that He did it in a normal workweek. The only other alternative is to claim that Genesis is not factual but is only a metaphor. If we accept that Genesis is a metaphor, how can we trust anything else in the Bible. In conclusion, old earth ideas are contrary to scripture. This being the case, the Christian must decide if the Bible or ever changing science is truth. By the way, due to recent discoveries with the Hubble telescope, astronomers are trying to figure out how the oldest star can be twice as old as the universe. The recent discoveries have cut the assumed age of the universe in half. What was "scientific fact" yesterday is "science fiction" today.

Death before man:

The Bible tells us that every animal was originally created a vegetarian (Gen. 1:30). Therefore, if God used evolution as the creation process, at some point, death had to enter into the picture or evolution cannot progress. Scripture tells us that point was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God warned them that if they ate from this tree they would surely die (Gen. 2:17). Often times this death is described as a spiritual death rather than Adam and Eve becoming mortal. But what does the context of the rest of scripture say. We see in Gen. 3:24 that God prevented Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life. Apparently so they would not live forever in their sin. More directly, Rom. 5:12 tells us that "by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin". Again it could be argued that this is spiritual death and not physical death, but 1Cor. 15:20-22 makes it very clear that death from sin includes physical death. These verses tell us "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." It is clear from scripture that physical death came into being when man sinned against God. If Adam's sin only caused spiritual death, it would not have been necessary for Christ to suffer and die on the cross. God would have only had to separate Christ from Him spiritually and restore him to atone for sin. We see then, that the evolutionary concept that death existed long before man evolved into existence is not only contrary to scripture, but it is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

The Christian must decide whether they believe the Word of God or the wisdom of man. Either God's word is truth and evolution is not or evolution is truth and God's word is

not. Evolution is contrary to scripture. I will close with two quotes from evolutionist who fully understand the ramifications of evolution.

Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the son of god. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing! G. Richard Bozarth, "The Meaning of Evolution," *American Atheist*, February 1978, pp 19,30

"Nature is being made anew, this time by human beings. We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of preexisting cosmic rules. It is our creation now. We make the rules. We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world. And because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces. We no longer have to justify our behavior, for we are the architects of the universe. We are responsible for nothing outside ourselves, for we are the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever" Jeremy Rifkin, *Algeny* (p. 244).

As previously stated, these men fully understand the ramifications of their belief. They know and revel in the knowledge that evolution contradicts scripture. Like these men, Christians need to understand that compromising God's Word with evolution is to compromise the philosophical foundation of their faith.