

20 August 2012

“Brace for Impact” – The Year of Darwin, and the Damage from Evolution

by Michael S. Shelton

“Brace for Impact” is the now-famous phrase coolly commanded by US Airways Capt. Chesley Sullenberger III on January 15, 2009 just seconds before he and his copilot skillfully ditched their Airbus A320 jetliner and all 155 passengers and crew into the Hudson River. It’s the “miracle on the Hudson” that made “Sully” an instant hero with his unique and very marketable name.

It’s too bad that the world didn’t have someone call out “brace for impact” when Charles Darwin’s book “Origin of Species” hit the scene over 150 years ago in November 1859. Since then, the ideology of Darwinian Evolution (it’s not science, as I will show later) has had a disastrous effect on world society. Subtle at first, but just as the frog in the kettle cooks to death as the temperature of the burner is slowly increased to maximum, so has much of the human race slowly turned brain dead to the dangers of Evolution.

For most readers, you may wonder what Darwin and Evolution have to do with you and your daily lives. For those of you who have kids in public schools, colleges, and universities, it matters.

Darwin was born February 12, 1809. Same day as Abraham Lincoln. The contrasts of these two men are considerable. Lincoln went on to be a great President who led the nation in a difficult time of war. He leveraged off the greatness and success of William Wilberforce’s abolition of slavery in England, and proclaimed the black man and slaves free at the end of the Civil War. On the other hand, Darwin, who started out to study for the clergy, was forever changed when he embarked as the ship’s official Naturalist for his epic and life-changing five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle to explore the natural world. From that voyage, he pondered and studied further the data he collected, and in 1859, released the now infamous “*On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life.*” Yes, that’s the full title, and the reader should not gloss over the “*Favoured Races*” part of that full title. Check out his “*Descent of Man*” for more evolutionary dogma.

Darwin’s legacy is Evolution. In 2009, evolutionists celebrated his 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of his book. Less known are the adverse parts that have followed the release of his book. These items are either denied by his followers or kept from public knowledge. More in a moment.

The term “evolution” has many definitions, but the word has become synonymous with the idea that all biological life (plants, bacteria, germs, and animals) came from an original one-celled “something” that was fortuitously started by some type of energy application to organic matter (composed of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, perhaps ammonia, and who knows what else) some millions or hundreds of millions of years ago. This seems very implausible, hard to grasp.

The secular humanists, the naturalists, say that our creator was not an all-knowing and loving God, but a combination of chance events and impersonal natural laws. Just pure, dumb, luck. What is more, they claim that evolutionary science has proven this to be the case. They say it has all been settled. If the naturalists were right, then Christian theists would deserve their marginalized status in the academic world. But the naturalists are not right. They are very, very, very wrong. And if we learn to think clearly from God’s Word, we can show it (II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; I Peter 3:14-17).

In the preface to his excellent 1996 book “Darwin’s Black Box,” Dr. Michael Behe states:

“*Evolution* is a flexible word. It can be used by one person to mean something as simple as change over time, or by another person to mean the descent of all life forms from a common ancestor, leaving the mechanism of change unspecified. In its full-throated, biological sense, however, *evolution* (emphasis in the original) means a process whereby life arose from non-living matter and subsequently developed by entirely natural means. That is the sense that Darwin gave to the word, and the meaning it holds in the scientific community. And that is the sense in which I use the word *evolution* (emphasis in the original) throughout this book.” (all emphasis in the original)

Now, why does this matter to the ordinary man and woman on the street? Ideas have consequences. Ideas become thought becomes actions become habit becomes consequences. What people believe about their origins and the purpose and the meaning of life affects their entire worldview. Your worldview is the set of lenses through which you see and judge things, how you base decisions. It molds how you view yourself and others. Evolution postulates a “molecules-to-man” development of all life. Your original human ancestors were not Adam and Eve, but some forgotten one-celled animal in some forgotten pond of the ancient primeval Earth. In Darwin’s house (now a Museum) in England, an exhibit proclaims: “. . . every living creature looked the way it did because God designed it that way. Darwin’s theory made nonsense of all this.” Zoologist Dr. Richard Dawkins, one of the world’s leading atheists and anti-Christian scientists, said in his book “The Blind Watchmaker”:

“An atheist before Darwin could have said, following Hume: ‘I have no explanation for complex biological design. All I know is that God isn’t a good explanation, so we must wait and hope that somebody comes up with a better one.’ I can’t help feeling that such a position, though logically sound, would have left one feeling pretty unsatisfied, and that although atheism might have been *logically* tenable before Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.” (emphasis in the original)

So, each of us is merely an accidental biological bag of chemicals walking around, mingling with other bags of chemicals, some which bark, some which gallop, some which moo, some which chirp, and some which swim in the Potomac River. We’re all kin. It’s survival of the fittest. Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, and others like them, had one thing in common – they were fans and followers of good old Charles Darwin, and did as THEY SAW FIT. When Virginia Tech gunman and student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on campus in April 2007, it was merely one bag of chemicals seeing fit that 32 other bags of chemicals should cease biological functioning. Game over. No big deal. After all, it was intellectual fulfillment.

To shift to the more technical aspects of Darwinism, I will show that the “Science” of Darwinian and neo-Darwinian evolution is a smoke-and-mirrors game, a charade’s skin of high-science-sounding terminology wrapped around a religious core. A wonderful and instructive movie (available on DVD) that everyone should see is “*Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*,” featuring Ben Stein. A careful viewing of the movie shows the proponents of Intelligent Design earnestly seeking dialogue and answers to questions about evolution. On the other hand, one sees the advocates of Evolution commonly berating anyone who does not believe in the “established fact” of Evolution. Lots of ad hominem. But nothing on the merits. No proof is offered.

During debates with Evolutionists, including opponents well-degreed beyond my education, I quickly get to one of my central and most-important questions: provide me with one, JUST one fact, that proves evolution to be true:

e.g., that all biological life has its roots in the miraculous, random, strictly material formation from organic compounds into the first living cell. From that cell, chance mutations occurred numerous times over the past hundreds and hundreds of millions of years to arrive at the wide range and diversity of life we see today. This is commonly referred to as the “molecules to man” (or “fish to philosopher”) argument.

With only one exception, to date, I've received no answer. In all cases, my opponent has either changed the subject and slithered off, not to be seen again, or resorts to the Darwinists' best tactic – the ad hominem (attack the man) approach. In other words, I'm too stupid and dense to understand the "well-accepted and established" scientific arguments that "prove" evolution to be true.

The exception is a gentleman who has made the effort, but in reality he has repeated the talking points of the status quo. He has been unable to provide the analysis rigor that shows that random material-only processes can explain the rich diversity of biological life. Amazingly, as an atheist, he displays FAITH in his position. My point to him is that I don't have enough faith to be an atheist.

Evolution is the official story of origins from an atheistic, secular humanist worldview. In the light of secular humanism, where God is either non-existent or, at best, completely irrelevant, Evolution is the ONLY explanation for the beginning of the Universe and the beginning of Life. Thus, Evolution is really a religious story. It takes faith. But the scientists say that science proves evolution. Who is correct?

Let's use science. For the moment, let's leave "religion" and the God of Christianity, the Allah of Islam, the god of Mormonism, the Buddha, the Brahma of Hinduism, the New Age of Hare Krishna, and the Darwin of Evolution out of it. Go straight science. Look at the math.

If the reader will look in the phone book or online, he will see that the phone number to the Public Library in the City of Nampa, Idaho, is 208-468-5805. I don't suggest you call that number unless you need to, but if you do, I am confident that you will not reach the Department of Biology at San Diego State University (unless it is forwarded). Why? Because the number "208-468-5805" has a high level of specificity – it is specific, it is precise, and it is ordered. The order of the digits is important. There are ten digits (it could be seven or 10 or 14). We select from the Base10 number system of 0 to 9 to make our example. The digits are precisely specific. Theoretically, we can have up to ten billion phone numbers in the U.S. and Canada using this number convention. Add just one more required digit to the system, and we have 100 billion possible phone numbers. The order, the level of specificity, is important. Not just any phone number will do.

The same goes for the building blocks of life. Each of us has a unique and complex molecule called DNA. This molecule contains the information that specifies the color of eyes, body shape, height, skin color, hair color, degree of baldness in men (from zero to 100%), and so forth. DNA also controls the process of making RNA variants, which are the tools used to take amino acids and precisely assemble them in the correct sequence into proteins.

Just like a phone number. If the sequence is incorrect, then the protein is something else or is a meaningless blob of amino compounds that will quickly break apart. Additionally, energy is required to join the peptide bonds for each amino acid joined. Ever wonder why you need to eat?

Take insulin, for example, one of our body's most important proteins. The simplest insulin protein has 51 amino acids, made of 17 of the 20 (out of over one hundred that exist) amino acids needed for life. Gish has shown that the probability of self-assembling the peptide bonds of the 51 amino acids of an insulin protein in the precise sequence is extremely low. My calculations show a probability in the area of 10 to the minus 51. That's a decimal followed by 50 zeros and the numeral 1. Think of a small number like the clearance of a main bearing of an engine's crankshaft, about five ten-thousandths. Now, think of a number that is yet again about 11 times smaller than that. That's the probability that even one of our most simple life proteins could self-assemble in a pure, random fashion.

Creation, like evolution, is a matter of faith. Again, laying aside the religious stuff, with a strict science application, let's arbitrarily select a 320-unit protein chain. Of the over 100 known amino acids, only 20 are used in biological life. Our arbitrary 320-unit protein example uses 13 of those 20 amino acids. Using straightforward permutation statistics, at the most optimistic, we arrive at a probability of about 10 to the minus 64 (a decimal followed by 64 zeros and the numeral 1) that our protein, through a purposeless and natural process, self-assembled itself in the correct sequence. Biological science rests on the foundation of Information Theory to be properly understood. No rational process which has resulted in the automatic, spontaneous development of information in matter has EVER been observed. Never. The Evolutionist stands his ground that this was all a matter of blind chance. But there are too many coincidences. Too many just-right things. Too many just-so stories for this all to be an accident. Luck. Just sheer, dumb luck.

It's worldview against worldview.

For the Evolutionist, Truth and Science have nothing to do with it. It is about power and privilege. In case the reader disagrees, I challenge him to get an openly-Creationist scientist / mathematician, biologist, or astronomer hired at almost any secular university in the country today.

The science can be distilled into a fundamental tenet, and that is the Second Law of Thermodynamics (e.g., entropy). The silver bullet between the eyes of Darwinian Evolution is the Second Law. Quoting George P. Stravropoulos, ("The Frontiers and Limits of Science," *American Scientist*, vol. 65, November-December 1977, p. 674):

“ under ordinary conditions, no complex organic molecule can ever form spontaneously, but will rather disintegrate, in agreement with the second law. Indeed, the more complex it is, the more unstable it will be, and the more assured, sooner or later, its disintegration.”

End quote.

In his column in the Feb. 14, 2009 World Magazine, Marvin Olasky makes this point:

“If ‘irreducible complexity’ is proven, Darwinian materialism is dead. If it's not proven, materialists still have to find some way to account for the existence of human life and a universe congenial to it. They mutter about the role of chance mutations, but mutations are rarely advantageous, and it takes far greater faith to believe that you or I could arise by chance via millions of mutations than it does to believe in the Bible.

“Let's admit that the Darwinists are right about one thing: We're in a predicament. We don't ask to be born, but here we are. We normally don't want to die, but we do. Not knowing why we're here, we look for hope. Christians hope in God saving sinners, but evolutionists must have faith in other things unseen to be saved from a sense of meaninglessness.

“Let's have compassion for Darwinists as they develop desperate theories positing the existence of an infinite number of universes. Many cloak themselves as objectively scientific, but that can't dodge even what secularists like novelist Kurt Vonnegut acknowledge: ‘My body and your body are miracles of design. Scientists are pretending they have the answer as to how we got this way when natural selection couldn't possibly have produced such machines.’”

End quote. The late Kurt Vonnegut, author of classics such as “*Slaughterhouse Five*” and “*Breakfast of Champions*,” was known for his humanist beliefs (atheism). He was a former

honorary president of the American Humanist Association, an atheist organization. Even he acknowledged the absurd complexity of any chance design of life.

It's all in the math – it's the Second Law of Thermodynamics. For the Creationist, it's one of the dirty little secrets that Evolutionists don't want you to know. And if you by chance discover it and do your homework and prepare to state your case, then suddenly it's beneath them to discuss or debate it with you because, obviously, you're too stupid to understand. High school graduates who will go on to college, be prepared to be bombarded by withering attacks against the Christian faith.

It's not about Truth or the Science. It's about Power, it's about the Nature of Fallen Man.

Send me your comments, pro or con, to tomcatdriver@comcast.net.