



CREATION^{IN} THE CROSSFIRE

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And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts....And the water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. Gen 1:31-2:1; 7:19

The Next Meeting: November 22, 2008 at 7 PM.

Douglas Hamp, an assistant pastor at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, will return to speak on "The Language of Creation." The Theory of Evolution has caused many Christians to reinterpret the meaning of the biblical text. Douglas Hamp's detailed analysis of the Hebrew will show that we can confidently assert that God created the earth in six solar days.

We will watch the second half of *Expelled* at 6 PM.

AfterTalk.Communication

October's Speaker: Dr. Thomas Kindell lectured on "Solving the Problem of Distant Stars and a Young Earth." His lecture was very helpful. He examined independent lines of evidence: quantized redshifts, the Pioneer space probe anomaly, and the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. A recap of his lecture deserves a full-length article in a future issue of our newsletter.

When Edwin Hubble first analyzed the redshifts of distant galaxies, he realized he was looking at evidence for an expanding universe. Since then, scientists have developed the big bang cosmology that the universe exploded out of an infinitesimal singularity, the cosmic egg.

Kindell took the same information Hubble had and reinterpreted it according to the creation narrative in Genesis. He gave convincing arguments why the earth is very near the center of the universe, and why the universe has an edge rather than the expanding balloon configuration preferred by big bang believers. Because the earth is not only at the physical center of the universe but also at the center of its gravitational mass, it experienced extreme time dilation.

Hubble didn't like the idea that the earth was at the center of the universe. He said,

"Such a condition [these red shifts] would imply that we occupy a unique

position in the universe...But the unwelcome supposition of a favored location must be avoided at all costs...Such a favored position, of course, is intolerable; moreover, it represents a discrepancy with the [big bang] theory because the theory postulates homogeneity."

"Therefore, in order to restore homogeneity, and to escape the horror of a unique position,...the recession factors, must be compensated by the second term representing the effects of spatial curvature."

E. Hubble, *The Observational Approach to Cosmology*, Clarendon, Oxford, pp 50-59 1937

Hubble didn't like the idea of a "favored location" because it might signify that God put the earth at the center of the universe. George Ellis, certainly as capable as Stephen Hawking, remarked:

"For instance, I can construct you a spherically symmetrical universe with Earth at its center, and you cannot disprove it based on observations. You can only exclude it on philosophical grounds. In my view there is absolutely nothing wrong in that. What I want to bring into the open is the fact that we are using philosophical criteria in choosing our models. A lot of cosmology tries to hide that."

Profile: George Ellis, *Scientific American*, October 1995

Dr. Kindell's presentation was illuminating. I hope we have him again soon.

Intelligent Design Isn't Going Away II

by Jon Covey, BA, CLS(ASCP)

edited by Anita Millen-Covey, MD, MPH, MA

Last month we presented much of Dr. Standish's discussion of the historical arguments against intelligent design. We saw that 2600 years ago the materialists had the same arguments as the evolutionary materialists today. The only difference between the two is that evolutionists insist they have overwhelming scientific evidence that evolution is a fact, belittling those who don't accept their evidence. Evolutionists have mercilessly attacked molecular biologist and Intelligent Design advocate Jonathan Wells ever since he published *Icons of Evolution*.

Jonathan Wells has earned two Ph.D.s, one in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California at Berkeley and one in Religious Studies from Yale University. He has worked as a postdoctoral research biologist at the University of California at Berkeley and as the supervisor of a medical laboratory in Fairfield, California. He has also taught biology at California State University in Hayward.

In the first chapter of his book *Icons of Evolution*, he describes the usual evidence for evolution.

"When asked to list the evidence for Darwinian evolution, most people—including most biologists—give the same set of examples, because all of them learned biology from the same few textbooks. The most common examples are:

- a laboratory flask containing a simulation of the Earth's primitive atmosphere, in which electric sparks produce the chemical building-blocks of living cells;
- the evolutionary tree of life, reconstructed from a large and growing body of fossil and molecular evidence;
- similar bone structures in a bat's wing, a porpoise's flipper, a horse's leg, and a human hand that indicate their evolutionary origin in a common ancestor;
- pictures of similarities in early embryos showing that amphibians, reptiles, birds and human beings are all descended from a fish-like animal;
- Archaeopteryx, a fossil bird with teeth in its jaws and claws on its wings, the missing link between ancient reptiles and modern birds;

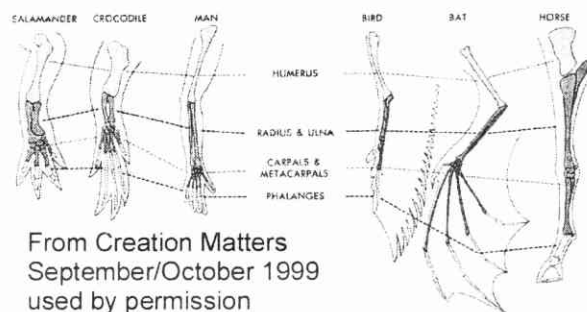
- peppered moths on tree trunks, showing how camouflage and predatory birds produced the most famous example of evolution by natural selection;
- Darwin's finches on the Galápagos Islands, thirteen separate species that diverged from one when natural selection produced differences in their beaks, and that inspired Darwin to formulate his theory of evolution;
- fruit flies with an extra pair of wings, showing that genetic mutations can provide the raw materials for evolution;
- a branching-tree pattern of horse fossils that refutes the old-fashioned idea that evolution was directed; and
- drawings of ape-like creatures evolving into humans, showing that we are just animals and that our existence is merely a by-product of purposeless natural causes.

"These examples are so frequently used as evidence for Darwin's theory that most of them have been called "icons" of evolution. Yet all of them, in one way or another, misrepresent the truth."

A short version of *Icons of Evolution* is an article by Wells published in *The American Spectator* for December 200/January 2001. This article, "Survival of the Fakest," is available free at www.discovery.org.

[The following is quoted from Wells]

They All Look Alike: Homology in Vertebrate Limbs



Most introductory biology textbooks carry drawings of vertebrate limbs showing similarities in their bone structures. Biologists before Darwin had noticed this sort of similarity and called it "homology," and they attributed it to construction on a common archetype or

design. In *The Origin of Species*, however, Darwin argued that the best explanation for homology is descent with modification, and he considered it evidence for his theory.

Darwin's followers rely on homologies to arrange fossils in branching trees that supposedly show ancestor-descendant relationships. In his 1990 book, *Evolution and the Myth of Creationism*, biologist Tim Berra compared the fossil record to a series of Corvette models: "If you compare a 1953 and a 1954 Corvette, side by side, then a 1954 and a 1955 model, and so on, the descent with modification is overwhelmingly obvious."

Berra forgot to consider a crucial, and obvious, point: Corvettes, so far as anyone has yet been able to determine, don't give birth to little Corvettes. They, like all automobiles, are designed by people working for auto companies. In other words, the changes were due to an outside intelligence. Although Berra believed he was supporting Darwinian evolution rather than the pre-Darwinian explanation, he unwittingly showed that the fossil evidence is compatible with either. Law professor (and critic of Darwinism) Phillip E. Johnson dubbed this "Berra's Blunder."

The lesson of Berra's Blunder is that we need to specify a natural mechanism before we can scientifically exclude designed construction as the cause of homology. Darwinian biologists have proposed two mechanisms: developmental pathways and genetic programs. According to the first, homologous features arise from similar cells and processes in the embryo; according to the second, homologous features are programmed by similar genes.

Biologists have known for a hundred years that homologous structures are often not produced by similar developmental pathways, and they have known for thirty years that they are often not produced by similar genes, either. There is no empirically demonstrated mechanism to establish that homologies are due to common ancestry rather than common design.

Without a mechanism, modern Darwinists have simply defined homology to mean similarity due to common ancestry. According to Ernst Mayr, one of the principal architects of modern neo-Darwinism: "After 1859 there has been only one definition of homologous that makes biological sense: Attributes of two organisms

are homologous when they are derived from an equivalent characteristic of the common ancestor."

This is a classic case of circular reasoning. Darwin saw evolution as a theory, and homology as its evidence. Darwin's followers assume evolution is independently established, and homology is its result, but you can't then use homology as evidence for evolution except by reasoning in a circle. Similarity due to common ancestry demonstrates common ancestry.

Philosophers of biology have been criticizing this approach for decades. As Ronald Brady wrote in 1985: "By making our explanation into the definition of the condition to be explained, we express not scientific hypothesis but belief. We are so convinced that our explanation is true that we no longer see any need to distinguish it from the situation we were trying to explain. Dogmatic endeavors of this kind must eventually leave the realm of science."

How do textbooks treat this controversy? Once again, they ignore it. In fact, they give students the impression that it makes sense to define homology in terms of common ancestry and then turn around and use it as evidence for common ancestry. And they call this "science." [Wells' quote ends here]

Berra made the kind of mistake other evolutionists do, improperly comparing engineering and design changes to evolution by natural selection.

Richard Dawkins and many fellow evolutionists thought his computer simulation of biomorphs was a valid example of how evolution works. See the video of how his program operated, by doing a search for "Richard Dawkins biomorphs" then click on the link for the video on YouTube.

His program produced random kaleidoscopic images of lines on the computer screen, which represented Dawkins' idea of mutations. Eventually the lines will resemble the outline of a jet plane or some other recognizable shape just as can be seen in some kaleidoscopes. The program obviously has constraints that a truly random environment wouldn't have. Dawkins claimed his program proved random mutations and natural selection works. This actually showed that the intelligent designer programmed restraints in his intelligently designed computer program to generate an image resembling a recognizable object. He erroneously declared the results to be tantamount to showing that random mutations and natural selection produce new species.