

Series: DON'T CHECK YOUR BRAIN...! April 30, 2006

**DARWIN ON TRIAL
Psalm 8**

I. INTRO

- A. I'll never forget the conversation my older brother and I had the day he helped me install a cassette deck in my 1967 Ford Falcon. He said to me, "You ought to be installing an 8-track deck in your car! Cassettes won't last--they can **never** compare to the sound quality of an 8-track tape." I remind him of that every chance I get.
-Ever made a dumb statement? Well, so have some **really** smart people. Listen to some of these:

1. Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, said in 1943, "I think there is a world market for maybe 5 computers."
2. The magazine, **Popular Mechanics**, stated in 1949, "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons!"
3. An engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM said in 1968 about the microchip, "But what...is it good for?"
4. Ken Olson, the president, chairman, and founder of Digital Equipment Corp. said, in 1977, "There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home."
5. Get this, in 1981, Bill Gates said, "640KB of memory ought to be enough for anybody!"
6. One more; Charles Duell, the Commissioner for the U.S. Office of Patents said in 1899, "Everything that can be invented has been invented."
7. Let me give you one more statement that I believe will ultimately go down in history in the same class as the statements above. It was made by Richard Dawkins, an Oxford Zoologist in his book, **The Blind Watchmaker**, "It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).
-Ironically, Dawkins then goes on to say that what he particularly despises about people who believe in creation is that they are **intolerant**.

- B. Every child usually asks the question at some point in life, "Where did I come from?" A little boy was probing his mother on her beliefs about this. He said to her, "Mom, is it true that we come from dust and when we die we return to dust?"

-His mother said, "Yes, that's what I believe."

-The little boy said, "Well, then there's somebody under my bed, but I don't know if he's coming or going!"

-Any thinking person on this planet **ultimately** has to ask him or herself that same question: "How did I get here?" Down through history, you find some very interesting answers.

1. I believe that the best, most thoughtful, and most logical answer is found in Psalm 8.
O LORD, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens. You have taught children and nursing infants to give you praise. They silence your enemies who were seeking revenge. When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers--the moon and the stars you have set in place--what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor. You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things-- the sheep and the cattle, and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents. O LORD, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth (Psalm 8 NLT)!
2. The question of where we came from ultimately boils down to one of two answers. Some say we were created. Others say, "We just **happened**. We **evolved**." At this point in history, evolution is the majority opinion in the scientific community.
3. So, who's right? Some scientists talk about the **fact** of evolution? Is it fact? Is that really where all the evidence points? Or is it pretty much a matter of **belief**.
4. Let me say right at the top of this talk that neither evolution or creation is completely provable. No one was there! The question is: Where does the **evidence** point? So, I'm going to ask you to use your minds today. To **think** carefully and not check your brain at the door!

II. WHAT DOES EVOLUTION TEACH?

- A. Let me define my terms at the very beginning. In evolutionary terms, there is both **micro-evolution** and **macro-evolution**. Micro-evolution is a living creature makes small changes within its species. For example—that fact that we have all kinds of breeds of dogs is an example of this. Micro evolution is a fact of nature. This is what Darwin saw among finches in the Galapagos Islands—with beaks that adapted to the kind of food that was available.
-Macro-evolution is very different. It's where one species, over time, makes tiny adaptations until it becomes a totally different species. For example, where a fishes scales, over time, mutate and become feathers, and the fish becomes a bird.

-I think the Bible is referring to micro-evolution when it says: **Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: Livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind (Genesis 1:24 NIV)**. We now use the word **species** in the place of the word **kind**. People who believe in creation have no argument with micro-evolution—adaptation within species.

1. Darwin was the first scientist to make the leap to **macro-evolution**. In other words, he theorized that species didn't just make changes within themselves; they jumped over the borders through natural mutations and created other species. He took it even further—that all life could be explained by natural means. Look at any high school biology book, and you'll see some very imaginative, artistic descriptions of just how this happened. You've seen the charts and how evolution moves from one-celled organisms to fish to mammals to apes to humans.
- B. When Darwin did this, he had to figure out exactly where life came from in the first place. The starting point was that **there was no creative design involved**; life came from **non-life**. Now, this is a very critical part of evolutionary theory, and to make it as simple as possible, the theory **speculates** that when the earth was young and still in the process of formation, the oceans then were a kind of mineral rich, pre-biotic soup. Now, remember, this is **pure speculation**. Scientists and physicists admit that there is there is absolutely **no evidence** for this.

-Well, evolutionary theory states that because of some electrical changes, perhaps due to a strike of lightning, a single living cell was formed. Over millions of years, that single cell has now gradually evolved into intelligent, self-conscious human beings.

- C. The word **evolution** actually just means **orderly change**. Listen to how it has been carefully defined in the scientific community to exclude intelligent design: ***The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an unsupervised, impersonal, unpredictable and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, chance, historical contingencies, and changing environments.***

-A simpler definition would be, the **random, unguided, gradual process by which non-living matter evolves into life as directed by natural laws.**

1. Look at the passage in Psalms 8. It says in vs. 4, "**What are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us (Psalm 8:4 NLT)?**
Even though we humans are these extremely small specks in a vast universe, God **cares** about us!
-Evolution says that there's no **intelligent reason** why man is on earth. It is an **unguided** process. According to this theory, what the Bible says about God creating us in his image is myth. We just cling to the stories of our origin in the Bible to make ourselves feel better about the meaninglessness and randomness of life.
2. Vs. 5 says, "**For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5 NLT).** This verse speaks about the dignity that man has in God's sight. That somehow we are important to God

-Evolution says that man wasn't really made for anything; that sheer chance and development over millions of years gave him his position. Any glory and honor is only imaginary, because what happened is a **gradual** process, not a special creation for a purpose.

3. Vss. 6-8 say, " **You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things-- the sheep and the cattle, and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents (Psalm 8:6-8 NLT).**

This passage is saying that God has given man responsibility—and the reasoning capacity to assume it. All the things of this planet have been placed in his hands--and God expects men to be good stewards of it.

-Evolution says that everything we see was a **natural** process. We really are no better than fish, frogs, pigs and monkeys because they are our ancestors. We just happen to share the planet with them.

4. In a recent article in *Time*, called "**What Does Science Tell Us About God**" the author says, "One intriguing observation that has bubbled up from physics is that the universe seems calibrated for life's existence." Some of the new discoveries in astro-physics point to the fact that the whole universe seems strangely calibrated to sustain life on this little planet--Earth--and no other.

-Darwinists consistently ridicule the idea seen here in Psalm 8--that a God would create a vast universe to support human life because He is **mindful** of them; that He **cares** for them.

-And yet, from what we know about the God of the Bible, **this is no big deal!** He can create multiple universes without even breaking a sweat! And **now** cosmologists know that it is the entire universe existing as it does that makes life possible on this planet!

III. WHERE DOES THE EVIDENCE POINT?

- A. One thing is very clear in all the research I've done: Darwin's theory of evolution is under intense attack these days. And this criticism is coming from some of the most brilliant minds within scientific community—not just those who believe in Creation. There are a number of things that just don't add up.

- One of the **huge** problems evolution faces is the inherent difficulties in the **random, unguided process** it insists took place.

1. For now, let's ignore the issue of how the earth got here in the first place, and where this "pre-biotic soup" came from—even though there's no evidence it ever existed. What is the likelihood of a **chance** creation of a single living cell?

-Now I want you to think about something for just a minute. Think about what science was like back 1859 when Darwin did his research and published his book, **Origen of the Species**. Think about what kind of magnification equipment Charles Darwin had to observe what he described as a “simple one-celled organism.” It was a primitive microscope that only magnified things 200 or 300 times. Electron microscopes can now magnify an object up to **2 million** times.

-Michael Behe wrote a book that shook up the whole scientific community called **Darwin’s Black Box**. His point is we now know that what Darwin saw as a **black box** through his primitive microscope—is actually a very complex, sophisticated factory. I recently saw some research on this—and the flagellum alone on one of these organisms is actually a machine with 40 parts in it. And that doesn’t even take into account the DNA molecule that is more complicated than most computer programs. The bottom line is that there is **no such thing as a “simple, one-celled organism.”** Michael Behe says that **Darwin was clearly wrong on this!**

2. Now, this is the point. Randomness—sheer chance--is an incredibly inefficient way to get things done. Let me illustrate how high the odds are on that happening.

- a. In this box are 26 Scrabble pieces. What do you think the odds are that I could randomly reach into this box, and draw out, in order, the letters to the word, **evolution**--a nine letter word? Picking one tile at a time, how long do you think it would take? Well, mathematicians have formulas for figuring these things out. By **blind chance**--at **random**--it would take 9,600,000 years if I drew a tile every 5 seconds. Guess how long it would take to draw out the letters to the word "construction"--a 12 letter word? A **billion** years!
- b. To form a single molecule of protein, a whole bunch of amino acids have to line up **exactly right**. The mathematical probability that **just one** molecule could form by some chance arrangement of the proper sequence of amino acids is less than 1 in 10 with 450 zeros after it.

-Let me tell you how big of a number that is. If you were to measure the **visible** universe in inches, it the number would be a 10 with 28 zeros after it. And it takes 239 protein molecules of various kinds to come together of the right type and in the right order--to form a single living cell. Do you understand the sheer magnitude of the improbability of that happening on a planet universally recognized to be 4.5 billion years old?

- c. Dr. George Wald, Nobel Prize winning micro-biologist and professor emeritus at Harvard University concluded that it's not only unlikely or improbable that life could emerge **by chance**. He said that it's outright **impossible**.

-Sir Frederick Hoyle, a British expert on the origin of the universe, said that to say life formed by chance is the equivalent of saying that a tornado could sweep through a junk yard and assemble a fully functioning Boeing 747.

- d. Darwin may have been sincere, but he was wrong. His theory fails the test dismally on the origins of life. The intricacy we see points to an intelligent Designer. A creator.
- B. There's another test that the theory of evolution has to pass. It's the fossil test. What's there?
1. See, Darwin theorized that not only did fish adapt and evolve to fit their changing environment--something Creationists believe. His theory was that at some point they climbed out onto land as amphibians, and then evolved into reptiles and eventually into mammals.
Now, think about this for a minute. He's saying that this happened one tiny mutation at a time where, then, a process of natural selection--the survival of the fittest--took over. It took **millions of years for each tiny transition**.
 2. Now, if this process took that long, it would be carefully preserved in the fossil record of all living things, right? Darwin admitted that the fossil evidence available at that time didn't support his theory
But he speculated that future paleontology would uncover fossils of these missing pieces. So, geologists and paleontologists have had 140 years to find these links. What have they found? Listen to what some of the experts say:
 - a. Dr. Stephen J. Gould, a leading evolutionist and professor of biology and geology at Harvard University said this almost 20 years ago about a trade secret among fossil experts:
120 years of fossil research after Darwin, it has become abundantly clear that the fossil record WILL NOT CONFIRM this part of Darwin's predictions. A species does not arise gradually by the gradual transformation of its ancestors.
 - b. Listen to another astounding quote, this time from a guy named Niles Eldridge of the American Museum of Natural History: **We paleontologists (fossil experts) have said that the history of life supports the story of gradual adaptive change, all the while knowing that it does not.**
-If you doubt me, go to the library and look for yourself. There is not a **single transitional fossil that has been found** that shows how animals without backbones turned into animals with backbones.

-Some scientists, because of this lack of evidence, have abandoned Darwin altogether--and then, amazingly enough, come up with weird new theories, for example, that space travelers planted life here.
 - c. Know what the fossil records **do** show? They point to all of the species suddenly showing up, fully formed, in the Cambrian fossils, assumed to be dated at about 570 million years--with **no** transitions--unchanged to the present. **That's** what the evidence shows.

3. Now, you tell me. Which way would an intelligent, reasonable person say that the evidence points--to evolution--a natural, random, unguided process, or to creation--the design of an all-powerful, intelligent being?

C. There's another fascinating challenge for Darwinists presented by Michael Behe a book I already mentioned: ***Darwin's Black Box***. He calls it the principle of ***irreducible complexity***. What he's basically saying is that some things are so complex that there is no way they could have evolved in incremental stages. The example he gives is that of a mouse trap. There are 5 basic parts to a mouse-trap—and if any one of them are missing, it won't work. There is no way it could evolve piece by piece—because none of the individual pieces can trap a mouse.

1. One of the things that Darwin taught--and that evolutionists have taught ever since--is that animals developed different bodily systems out of need. For example, that when it became necessary to fly to get more food and survive, reptiles developed wings. But wings are very sophisticated. If this happened gradually, over millions of years, the mutations would've had to have served some ***immediate*** advantage. What would a reptile do with something part wing and part claw? See what he's saying?
2. Michael Behe has demonstrated that there are several systems in the body so complex they couldn't ***possibly*** have evolved one step at a time.
-Now, listen for a minute to Darwin's own words: ***If it could be demonstrated that any complex organism existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive slight modifications, then MY THEORY WOULD ABSOLUTELY BREAK DOWN.***
3. Behe says that systems like blood clotting and eyesight in animals and humans fit that exact description--they are ***irreducibly complex***. You can't simplify them to the point where they would evolve in tiny steps.
So, how do evolutionary scientists explain this? Behe searched the annals of scientific research, and not a single scientist has ever explained how this and other complicated bio-chemical systems could evolve. ***Not once!***
4. My thought is that evolution fails the test that Darwin laid out for it; they are things so complex in living organisms that they can't be reduced to increments.

D. Let me mention one other component of design that evolution really has no good answers for. DNA. Darwin knew ***nothing*** about it. It's inside every ***single*** cell in this universe. And DNA is a language--a chemical language; kind of like computer software in the body. Your DNA contains the precise instructions for putting your body together, piece by piece--from your 600 different muscles to your 2 million optic nerve fibers to your 100 billion nerve cells.

1. If the genetic information in a single strand of human DNA could be translated into words, it would fill a library of 4000 books--the size of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

DNA is so small that you could put the DNA instructions for every known form of life in this universe in a single teaspoon and have a lot of space left!

2. Dr. Robert Shapiro, bio-chemist and world-class expert on DNA has a one-word response to the idea that DNA could've ever been formed by a random process. **Nonsense!** Entropy, one of the laws of thermo-dynamics, says that things do not gradually become more ordered, they gradually become more chaotic. Just look at your house. Look at your **body!** Have you ever in your life seen a **single thing** that gradually moves from the chaos to orderliness? Why would anybody believe a theory that presupposes something so blatantly false?

-That's why a careful scientist like Michael Denton, a medical doctor, molecular biologist and genetics researcher would write a 368 page systematic dismantling of Darwinism and conclude with these words: "Ultimately, the Darwinism theory of evolution is no more nor less than the great cosmogonic myth of the 20th century."

-The question I would ask is this: If Darwin had known then what we know now, would he have been a Darwinian. I seriously doubt it—based on his own words.

IV. SO, HOW DO WE LIVE?

- A. I think what you believe about evolution has **huge** implications for the way you live--for how you see yourself--and so I just want to talk about that in closing for a few minutes.

First of all--what does it mean to be a **creationist**? What are the **non-negotiables**?

1. In Canada, We pride ourselves on being a diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural city. Some people like grits; some like caviar. There are huge differences in political beliefs, recreation, music preferences, clothing styles. Are we all Canadians? Yes.
 - a. And there is room for a huge variety of Creationist. Yes, some people believe that the earth was created in six 24 hour days, and that the biblical flood accounts for the aging and fossil evidence we see in the earth. Is there room for that and evidence for that? Certainly—in a universe created by an unlimited, infinite, all-powerful eternal Being. God.
 - b. Others believe that in the creation account, there are places where there could have been huge gaps of time, or that when the creation account uses the word **days**, it's speaking of ages. Can the Bible be interpreted that way? It sure can.
 3. Now, I could go on--but these are the essentials: 1) That there was an intelligent designer who made everything; 2) that we were created in His image—and because of that, we recognize Him; and 3) that we are ultimately accountable to Him **because** He made us. Folks, there is nothing out there in the evidence--fossil or otherwise--that this doesn't cover. And I believe the evidence shows this explanation to be much more rational and believable than any other.
- B. Something else that is extremely important to understand. There is **extreme** devotion to Darwin out there. Darwinism has evolved into a religion.

1. Remember the Nobel Prize-winning scientist I quoted by the name of Dr. George Wald—who said he was absolutely convinced that it is **impossible** for life to have been spontaneously created from non-life? Listen to the rest of the quote; ***That leads us only to one other conclusion, that of supernatural creation. But we cannot accept that on philosophical grounds. Therefore, we choose to believe the impossible, that life arose spontaneously by chance.***
 -Do you see what he's saying? The **evidence** points to supernatural creation, but for **philosophical** reasons, he would rather believe the impossible. I'm sorry, but I don't have enough faith to believe in evolution.

2. There is **huge** prejudice toward any notion of an intelligent design or a Creator. The quote I gave at the beginning by Richard Dawkins in ***The Blind Watchmaker*** makes this very clear; **"It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid, or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).**

3. Colin Patterson, senior paleontologist at the British Natural History Museum and author of the museum's text on evolution made this amazing statement in a speech to an audience of experts:
Can you tell me anything you know about evolution, any one thing...that is true?
I tried that question on the geology staff at the Field Museum of Natural History and the only answer I got was silence. I tried it on the members of the Evolutionary Morphology seminar in the University of Chicago, a very prestigious body of evolutionists, and all I got was silence for a long time and eventually one person said "I do know one thing--it ought not to be taught in high school."
 -Patterson later denied he'd said this. Know why? Same thing adolescents struggle with in high school—called **peer pressure**. He would've been put out of the scientific community. Folks, the prejudice is **huge**! When a scientist believes in creation, all of a sudden grant money for research disappears, there are reasons not to promote them. Talk to scientists. Ask them what happens to the careers of people who say they believe in Intelligent Design.

 -I thought science was the objective investigation of the facts—wherever they lead?

4. Darwinism has become the "god of the gaps" for scientists. It's an article of faith--and it now takes more faith to believe in evolution than to believe in God.
 -Intelligent scientists are now **grasping** for ideas. Know what one prominent scientist, Stephen Gould, has come to believe in the place of the evolution of non-life to life? That aliens from outer space came and spread life-forms on the planet as an experiment that they are now watching from afar. See, he's just moved the question "Where'd we come from" to another planet. Pretty tricky, eh?

-Scientists who do that remind me of a cartoon of two hand-puppets. The one puppet says to the other, "You know, sometimes I don't believe that there actually is a hand."

5. Let me repeat something I said last week. You and I need to remember that prominent scientists who write textbooks and have several Ph.D.s after their names are just like us; fragile little people with prejudices, hang-ups, problems, and limited time and energy.

Most of them have read lots of books and earned their multiple degrees in tiny focused areas of research. They'll admit that. Tell me, do you think a distinguished professor who has taught evolution in university classrooms for 30 years and faces losing his career--his bread and butter--is going to say, "Oops! I was wrong about evolution!" ***I don't think so!*** And the God who has left his fingerprints all over this universe ***loves them anyway!***

6. You know what you need to be secure in? Who ***you*** are! Created by God for a specific purpose in this world—and, because of Jesus, person who can live forever in the presence of God. That's what the evidence points to. Enjoy it! Live it out every day.

V. **CLOSING**

In closing, I want you think for a minute about the implications of evolution.

*If we evolved, it means that we have no soul.

*If we evolved, then nothing the Bible says is true and Jesus was wrong--because both presuppose the fact that we have a soul and that we are created in the image of God.

*If we evolved, then there really is no such thing as right and wrong. Right and wrong become a matter of selfish convenience. Anything is right if it serves your self-interest--and if you're either big enough or smart enough to get away with it. Child-molestation, rape, murder, torture, stealing, infanticide, genocide--it's all relative. If you can get away with it--it's no different than pruning a tree or eating pork.

*If we evolved, then there is absolutely no purpose or meaning in life--any more than there is purpose in the life of a germ, a fly, a mosquito, or a dandelion.

-Is that what you believe? I don't believe that either.

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!...when I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?