
Evolution, Intelligent Design, and Creation

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In the mind of a reflecting human being one of the questions that arises almost automatically is that concerning the origin of the world. A special aspect of this question is the origin of life and the origin of biodiversity, i.e. of the amazing richness of the forms of life in our world. In our civilization for a long time the answer came from the Bible: the world was created by God, as it is revealed in the Bible; life came into being by a special creative act of God; and the different forms of life were created by him separately. This answer was found as satisfactory even when the science of nature has begun. The first scientists were people believing in God. They considered the world as created by God; and they considered as their task to study God's world. E.g. Carl von Linné (1707-1778), the father of botanical taxonomy, was firmly convinced that God created separately every kind of plants.

But later, in the 18th century, a significant turn followed. A new philosophy – that of the „enlightenment” (though a more apt name might be the „obscuration”) – was invented, and this new philosophy tried to interpret the world without its Creator. The fashion of *naturalism* appeared. That meant that one wanted to interpret every phenomenon of the world by the recently discovered and actually valid natural laws.

Concerning the question of the origin of life and biodiversity, the great turn followed in 1859. After certain generally non accepted experiments of giving a naturalistic interpretation of the origins – we can mention e.g. that of Jean-Baptiste Antoine de Lamarck

(1744-1829) – in that year was published Charles Darwin's (1809-1882) famous (or using a better word: ill-famed) book *The Origin of the Species*. The ideas expounded in that book very quickly received general acknowledgment. They represent the theory of *evolution*. According to *evolutionism* life came into being from the lifeless matter due to natural laws, and biodiversity came into being from the first living cell due to the laws of mutation and selection. That would mean that every living being is the descendant of the original one cell.

Evolutionism spread very quickly, at least in the scientific world, and the educational institutions, from the elementary schools to the universities. In the 20th century those who did not believe in evolutionism were considered as people of unscientific way of thinking, even as slaves of superstitions. Unfortunately, even the legislations and tribunals became the supporters of evolutionism, and this theory was made obligatory in the schools. But in spite of the big success of this theory, there were always scientists who could not accept evolutionism, because they were convinced that it is a scientifically unsatisfactory theory; and there were people faithful to the Bible who never gave up the original biblical vision.

The position that refutes evolutionism and believes in God the Creator is *creationism*. After a century of slumber, since the 1960s creationism became stronger and stronger. If we study the creationist literature, we find two main topics. The first is the refutation of evolutionism, and not only and not in the first row on the basis of the Bible, but on the basis of a scientific analysis. The second is the comparison of the biblical data and the facts observable in the nature. Creation science has shown that the biblical description of the events accords much more with the observable data than evolutionism.

In the last decades a new turn seems to appear. The criticism of evolutionism has collected grave arguments against this theory,

nevertheless the official science did not show the smallest inclination to deal with these arguments. But recently the situation has changed. Formerly the arguments of creationism were left out of consideration on the basis of statements that creationists are obscure fundamentalists. But facts are facts. In the last some years a new group of scientists appeared. These people haven't asserted at all that they have anything to do with the Bible. On the contrary, they asserted that they are not creationists, nevertheless studying the nature they arrived at the conclusion that they can understand it only by supposing the existence of an Intelligent Designer.

So concerning the opinions nowadays we can speak of three groups. To the first belong people faithful to the Bible; to the second, scientists who under the weight of arguments accept the existence of an Intelligent Designer (which, of course, is only another name for God); and finally, there are the atheists, who adhere to evolutionism because they have no doubt about the fact that if evolutionism falls, they have to accept God's existence. *Studying the history of science, we can plainly see that the motive for setting forth evolutionism was not founded on scientific facts, but on the desire of expelling God from the world.*

This threefold division above is entirely in accordance with the words of the Bible. Because of their extraordinary importance and perfection we quote the whole passage:

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from

what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desire of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also

*approve of those who practice them.
(Romans 1,18-32)*

What can we infer from these words? First of all, that though God revealed himself above all by his prophets, by his Son and by his Son's apostles, he revealed himself also by his creation. To recognize God's revelation is not possible without the special grace of God, but to recognize God in his creation is possible for everybody. So he who doesn't recognize God is really without excuse.

The evolutionist belongs to this group of humanity. Those who recognized the existence of the Intelligent Designer, have not (we hope, not yet) participated in the redemptive grace, nevertheless they can be called normal people. Some Christians say that those who confess an Intelligent Designer, are only half way between faith and atheism, and they compare them to the deists of the 18th century. They are in some respects right. Nevertheless, if we speak about a way, it is essential to investigate in which direction one moves on it. The deists of the 18th century moved from the faith towards atheism. It seems, people who are actually on the half way, move from atheism towards faith.

We know that the Bible is neither antique nor modern: it is eternal. Yes, if we read the words of the apostle Paul, we have the impression that he is writing about our world. We read about all the sins of our modern world. I don't want to repeat them, but from lesbianism to every kind of wickedness we find everything, and we find the main shame of our age: people who approve of all these monstrosities. And the

root of all these monstrosities is the fact that people are atheist, that they don't recognize God, who is visible in his creation.

We know that evolutionists often mock creationists that they are stupid. When we hear such words, we must never forget that they are the ones who "claim to be wise", but ultimately "they are fools"!

There is an opinion according to which it's true that nowadays evolution is a discredited theory, but when it was formed it was correct. But that opinion isn't true at all. Evolution is not and never has been a justified theory. Even we can assert that from the first minute of its proclamation one could see that it is not, even cannot be true. And if we read again the biblical section we quoted, we can discover that people who taught it were people who suppressed the truth by their wickedness. That is in accordance with the assertion that in the background of evolutionism there is the wicked intention of denying God. So again: evolutionists "are without excuse." We should remember such truths when we hear of evolution, intelligent design and creation.

Soli Deo Gloria

[To God alone be the glory].

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