

The Fool

The Chambers Dictionary defines a fool as “Someone without common sense or intelligence, or alternatively someone whose behaviour makes them look ludicrous”. This means that what the person does is laughable and they are held in derision, or scoffed at, by those who observe their actions. It appears that in these times, at least in the UK, the USA and the so called “Developed Nations” the attitude as to who is a fool has changed, as far as a belief in God . Those who believe in God are now considered to be the fools and such a belief shows them to be ludicrous, or to be scoffed at, in the eyes of society. People love to laugh at others and yet the Bible gives the opposite view by stating that “The person who says in his heart (or believes in his heart) that there is no God, is the fool”.

This change in view has in some ways been fuelled by the media, who give opportunity for statements from evolutionists and scientists, who are horrified that anyone could be so stupid as still to believe in God. This is due to what scientists call the “evidence for evolution” and the discoveries of science in our modern world. Everything, we are told, has to be evidence based and scientists believe the evidence for evolution to be overwhelming and any idea that God created the world just not possible. Belief in God, of course, if the God believed in is truly a supreme being (how can it be otherwise if God is to be God), must involve a belief that God was involved in the creation of the world and existed before the creation of the world. It should also be stated that for God to be God, God must continue if the world came to an end. He must be greater than time and the limitations of the world in which we live. Health

The two views of creation, by a “supreme being”, and evolution by natural selection, are considered, probably rightly so, to be totally incompatible, and those who deny the existence of God become vehement in their desire to sideline those who do believe, asking how people can possibly believe in God against such overwhelming evidence. They want any belief in God to be removed from education and to stop religious education, considering those who put forward the concept of God creating anything, and even his existence, to be totally false deceivers. They laugh at those who still believe in God in the light of scientific evidence and take that mockery further in an attempt to eradicate faith from society ,wanting only, as they consider, a true scientific basis for all actions within our society. They want to throw off the “chains” and control of God and belief in God from everything. Secularism becomes more militant as days go by.

The principle of evolution involves natural selection, whereby those individuals that leave the most offspring, by virtue of certain characteristics, survive, evolving into superior forms. Thus it is assumed that organisms become more advanced in that things improve and develop over time; in other words, only those creatures which are tough and robust, due to their genetic makeup, survive and therefore evolve; the weaker things do not survive. There has to be the assumption that things improve over time. So the result is said to be that creatures evolve/ develop with the “higher beings”, mammals for example, coming much later in evolutionary history, or “Tree of life” as it is called, than the more primitive forms of life. But however much humans, seemingly the most advanced form of creature, are able to increase in knowledge and produce amazing technological developments, there seems to be no ability to evolve out of all the crises which exist in the world.

Evolution ultimately is a random process which means that things develop on the basis of chance over millions of years. Only those individuals with genetic traits that arise by chance, and are applicable for survival in that environment, will survive and those without the trait will just die out. So, for example, those creatures which evolve from a life in water to be able to survive on land must have in their evolution the coming together of genes which allow for the development of organs which can “breathe air”. This means that the traits must already have been in the genetic material and come together by chance, or there has been a mutation in the genetic material which provides the basis for the change in species allowing a creature to develop to live on the land. With new genes arising by mutation it means that a number would have to arise spontaneously at the same time for complex organs to form. It also means that other genetic traits must be present in the genes to allow further chance to bring them together so as to develop into other complicated organs and therefore complicated creatures, of which human beings probably are the highest form. Without the development of such a combination of genes, for example, survival in air is not possible. For complicated life forms to exist there must be many, many, of these chance combinations of genes to allow species to develop and evolve.

Creation, on the other hand, believes in a higher power that has put all the parts of nature and the universe together so that they function in order. In our example above, creatures are made with the capacity to “breathe air” and can therefore live on the land and breathe the air just as it is; they were made for the air and the air made for them.

Looking again at creation, of course all creatures, even the most primitive ones, have complicated internal functions, so the adaptation requires great precision to survive and evolve. Human beings, of course, not only need to breathe but have eyes to see, ears to hear, hands with sensory functions to touch, tongues to taste, organs which can digest food, excrete waste products, reproduce and so on. The process is very complicated and is why evolutionists say it has all taken billions of years to happen. If the changes come by mutation, the rates of mutation in cells and their DNA, observed by the scientists in laboratory conditions, means that the time scale has to be huge for all the changes to have been able to take place. The complexity and sophistication of a single cell calls into question even the time scale of billions of years, as that time may be too short for all the changes to have taken place by natural selection. There are 3.5 billion separate bits of “information” in each cell, which have to be exactly in the right order for that cell to function, and when a cell divides that information has to be passed on perfectly to the next cell.

The billions of cells in a human body all need to work together for the human being to live. Even the red blood cells need to be just the right shape and make-up to carry the oxygen to all the different organs so that they are provided with the energy they need. For the Christian who believes that God made the world, and all that is in the world, it is straightforward, believing that God made humans with lungs to breathe and red blood cells to take oxygen from the lungs to the cells. Is it chance over millions of years which has produced the red blood cell which scientists have discovered is just the perfect and best shape to carry the maximum amount of oxygen, or the God of creation who just happens to know what the ideal shape is and has made the red blood cell that shape?

Evolutionary theory is based on the research of Charles Darwin, and his book the “Origin of Species”, stating that all life on the earth comes from a single source and has evolved due to genetic changes over millions of years, with the continued development of species which have adapted to survive in

different environments. His comment on how a new species arises from the previous one is the “mystery of mysteries”, so even the man who started the whole concept was aware of things he believed but just could not explain, and in some ways his theory of evolution is just as much a thing of faith as it is absolute scientific fact.

Those professors who write books stating that Christians are deluded in their belief in God are yet unable to give an explanation of how evolution started. In direct questioning in interview, the answer is that “No one really knows”. The theory is that a kind of event comes from a self-replicating molecule, possibly in primitive bacteria, but our professors can give no explanation as to how it happened, and would state that no one knows how that happens or where the self-replicating molecule came from. The possibility of a higher intelligence somewhere in the universe, that itself evolved, is not totally ruled out; but it could not possibly be the God of the Bible. That seems to be the one thing the evolutionists are sure of, even though they cannot tell us when and where life actually started.

Even among evolutionists there are two schools of thought. One group of experts believe that all the elements are already there and can be seen, the other group that there is still a big gap in their knowledge of evolution. What this does, at least, is to show us, with all the scientific developments since Darwin, that science has not come up with evidence that is so certain that there can be no doubt about it at all. This means that the issue is still one of theory and views and not absolute fact. New discoveries continually change the scientists’ views of evolution, and other scientific facts too. Often in magazines or radio or TV we read or hear that “We used to believe this but since this discovery we don’t anymore”. The sands are constantly moving in the scientific world.

What is fact, for example, is that there is a gas we call oxygen, which is necessary to sustain human and other forms of life. It was discovered by a scientist called Lavoisier, and this gas is also necessary for plants to germinate and fires to burn. It just happens to be there in the right proportions to cope with the sensitive pressures to allow it to get eventually into the human blood stream.

Lavoisier did not create oxygen but found that it was already there; he was able to isolate it from the air. Evolutionists would no doubt say that animals, in fact almost all creatures, have developed and evolved to take advantage of this gas and therefore the potential to do so must have been there in the genetic profile of the original creatures. Or did God make it that way?

The Christian would say that not only does the Bible tell them that the glory of God can be seen in how wonderfully the whole creation works together, but from their own view of how amazingly the creation works together it can only have been made by a “Supreme Being”, and that the creation itself is ample evidence for the existence of God. Certainly this view by “Ockham’s razor” should not be dismissed.

Science wants evidence for everything. But there are things like conscience and consciousness, loyalty, morality, and even humour and sorrow, which exist but are not possible to measure on a scientific machine, and yet we all know that they exist. Yes, the brain’s reaction can be seen when laughter takes place or sorrow is present. It can be measured and it can be seen which part of the brain responds and reacts with such thoughts and feelings. But why do we have such things and

where do they come from? They are part of the human character and not definable in a scientific sense, but much more than a biological function. To say they are just a biological function surely diminishes such wonderful qualities of human beings to being nothing more than innate instinct.

Why if these things in human beings are nothing more than “Biological functions” are we all so concerned about our origins and trying to discover where we come from? Why do adopted children want to seek out their biological parents if we are just animals? Is there not something more in the human mind than biology? Why is it so important to know where we come from? Is that not why scientists try to find the answer, as in some way only when we know our true origins will true contentment come? An adopted child wants to resolve that indefinable need of conscience when not knowing where they came from. In the same way there seems to be that same indefinable need in human beings to know their origins. The Bible would say that man was cut off from God by his rebellion and there is still the need in conscience to resolve the dilemma of not knowing. The Christian would tell us once we come back to God through Jesus Christ, we again know our true origins and that peace comes, just like an adopted child meeting again with its biological parents

So let's move on with our search for the origin of life: Darwin called it the origin of species, but the real quest must be for the origin of life itself. So let's look at you. You are alive, and the fact that you can read this pamphlet means that your eyes are able to detect exactly the right spectrum of electromagnetic radiation, and interpret the signals focussed on your retina into communication with your brain. Beyond that, your brain has the ability to interpret the words and provide you with an intelligent understanding of what is being said and the ability to learn following instruction and to communicate that understanding to others. You are amazing with such capability, so how did it really come about?

So there are really only 2 possibilities: one is evolution and the other is creation. The latter has to believe that all the billions of factors which are necessary for the world as we know it to function were designed by a supreme being who declares how great it is by the very creation that it has made. The former states that all these billions of things, they have to be exactly the same numerically, have come into reality over billions of years, it has to be that long, by development of suitable genes in natural selection over that period of time based on the ability to survive in changing environments.

Let us look at a few of the billions of factors needed to make it all work and try and look at the most likely possibility. All of us would agree that in the world there is life everywhere. Even when a new island forms through volcanic activity, it soon starts to be populated with species of plants and so on.

Whether travel takes us to the depths of the sea or to the most barren desert, there is life which survives somehow. Scientists have been amazed that fish can survive at the depths of the ocean, but they do. They look a bit odd and have the most amazing hunting abilities, as there is not much prey down there, but they survive at depths where the pressure would crush human beings. Did they evolve at a shallower depth and then swim deeper or were they made to survive at that depth? Is there enough genetic material in the original primitive organism to enable this to take place and yet at the same time provide the genes, through evolution, to produce flying fish which almost do the opposite to our deep sea species, or were the different fish made to survive in their particular environment.

In barren deserts, seeds are found which can survive the harshest environment and then, when the rain or water comes, they just spring into life. Did these seeds evolve elsewhere and then get blown there waiting to germinate, or were they made to survive in such a place, ready to blossom when the water comes? When the seed germinates, it has within it the whole of the plant and is able to grow quickly within that environment, and reproduce and the species survives. Chance or design?

Some bird species migrate from one area of the world to another at times of the year so they can survive and reproduce. They have the ability to pinpoint as well as any "Satnav" the place where they were last year and so return to the same location. They pass places at the right time when there is provision of food at that time to sustain them, swarms of insects just in the right place at the right time. Gannets dive to catch their prey, closing their wings at exactly the right moment so they don't do any damage to their bodies and can get as deep as possible. Woodpeckers have special tissue in their heads to cushion the blows which would injure their brains, and with a beak length that when it hits the tree deflects the forces away from the brain. Recent pictures in the newspaper have shown exactly this phenomenon. Evolution or creation?

Did the gannet evolve finding food in another way and then suddenly discover it could fly and dive, or was it made that way? Does the swallow or swift suddenly realise it can navigate so many thousands of miles to find food in the winter in warmer climes and set off on its journey? If so, how did it survive before it could migrate? Or was it just made that way? What did the woodpecker eat before it could knock holes in trees?

There are so many, many questions; billions of them really to answer. It would take more than a lifetime. It has been calculated that it would take over 30 years non-stop to count to one billion. Scientists and explorers are still discovering unknown species so even all the different creatures are not known, let alone how they all function, so how many years will it take to resolve all the issues scientifically? There are billions of factors which have to fall into place, or evolve into place, for such a complicated biological system to work as it clearly does on the earth. We have looked at just a few things, the air we breathe, the light we see, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the plants which grow, and apart from that there is the gravity which keeps us on the ground and the sun which is just the right distance away, and so on. Did the big bang happen and everything fall into place or did a supreme being make it all? The Bible calls that being God, who always had been and always will be, as that being is so supreme as to be outside of time; the being never needed to be created and will never cease to be. The child's question as to who made God is so logical but implies that things have to be made, and yet if God is God, God could never be made as God must always have been. So for the evolutionist the ultimate thing is the Universe as there is nothing beyond that, for the Christian the ultimate thing, or person, is God.

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Quite unequivocal and needing no qualification as for the writer of Genesis, considered to be Moses, there was never any doubt. It also tells us that God made human beings in His likeness, implying that God has a personality and can communicate within Himself and with human beings. Such a statement puts man at the top of God's creation and unique in this ability, among many other things, to have a morality and communicate. King David said "I am fearfully and wonderfully made", so however you consider humans have come into being we are pretty impressive with the things we can do, but often, sadly, using what we can do for the most dreadful things. Because of the morality, we have

laws in our societies, which are fairly similar throughout the whole world, as all humans have a conscience and therefore a degree of morality and need a legal framework in which society can operate. So humans, the Bible tells us, are special, and it tells us that God has communicated with humans over the centuries.

Abraham who is the father of the Jewish race had a visitation, so we are told, and was informed that the message came from the "Maker of heaven and earth". In other words, "This message comes from the creator and that creator has blessed you". We are told that God spoke to Abraham and showed him all the stars which God had made and told him his people would be "As many as the stars in the heavens". Myth you may say, stories maybe, but at least such statements, if true, help us to narrow down our search for the "Supreme being" if there is one of course, as they further the claim that God made the heavens and the earth. Maybe you are still for evolution, but the claim for a creator is consistent through the whole Bible, not just the few opening words in Genesis, important though those are.

The Bible tells us of Jesus of Nazareth, that is what He was often called. It is clear from other historians at the time that this man really existed and caused a huge stir in Palestine about 30 AD. The Bible makes some amazing claims about this Jesus, some you may say are impossible to believe. Yes, the Bible talks of a virgin birth, a death, and a resurrection of this man. It also tells us, in the apostle John's famous gospel, "All things which were made were made by the Word", just another way of saying that God made everything through Jesus Christ. It tells us that Jesus was God made flesh, revealed to man on the earth. That is why God made humans in His own likeness, so that human flesh was able to be the dwelling place on earth for the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Crazy you think, astonishing, yes of course, but if God is God then nothing is impossible and maybe we need to let our minds expand a little. Human minds are so limited, and yet willing to accept that we evolved with so little evidence even the experts can't really tell us when and where it all started, and yet deny the possibilities of what a supreme being could do. Perhaps the most difficult thing to accept is the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ. We all die, all our famous people have died over the centuries. Books are written about them but still they have been and gone. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary in the UK of Charles Dickens; 2 years ago it was the composer Vaughan Williams: they have been and gone. They leave a legacy, of course they do, but they are dead. Jesus, His disciples said, was alive; they saw Him. Lots of research has been done into all the evidence for the resurrection and the accuracy of the testimony of those who say they saw Jesus alive days after his death, but this is not the place to go into it all. Those who saw Jesus were so convinced of who He was and His resurrection that they laid down their lives for Him. They wrote it all down too. (The authenticity of the Bible has been examined closely and it should be noted that there are vastly more early copies of the New Testament /Bible than any other early book). Many Christians over the past 2000 years, who say they have experienced Jesus Christ in their lives, have also laid down their lives because of the strength of their convictions; it still happens today. Many more will testify that Jesus has changed their lives. There are millions over the past 2000 years all over the world who all relate a similar experience. By this Jesus, it is said that all things were created. If He rose from the dead then maybe He is true and what He did is true, and so we find our creator. The Bible and many millions of Christians say just that.

really is the fool. Psalm 2 finishes it off for us and says “Kiss the Son” i.e. kiss the hand; accept the authority which God has set in the heavens and the earth. Trust Him and accept Him.

The final words in Psalm 2; “Blessed are those who put their trust in Him”.