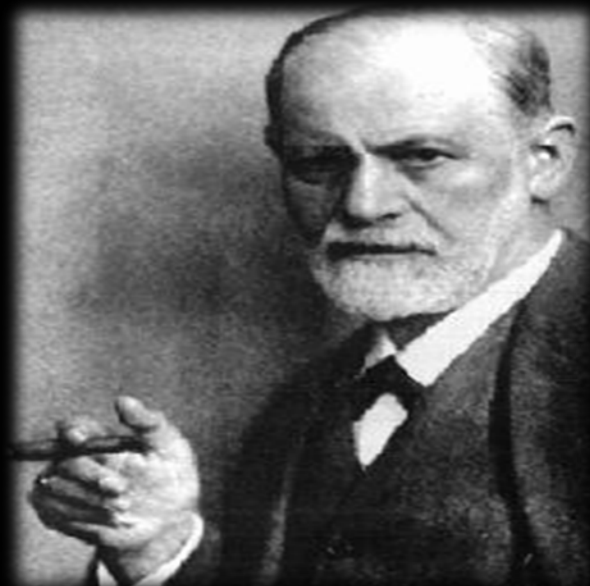
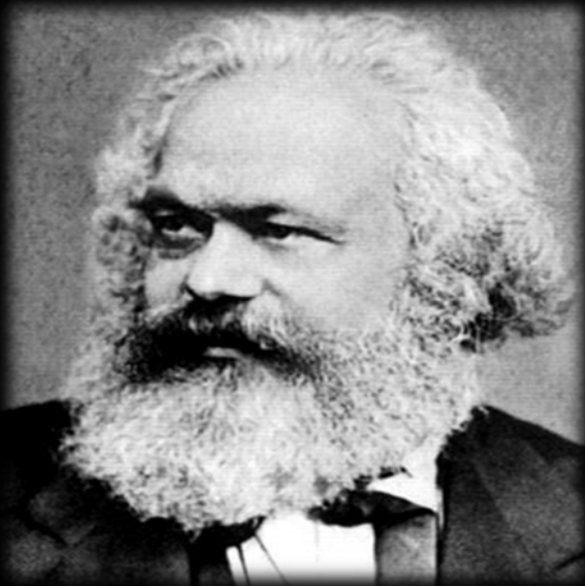
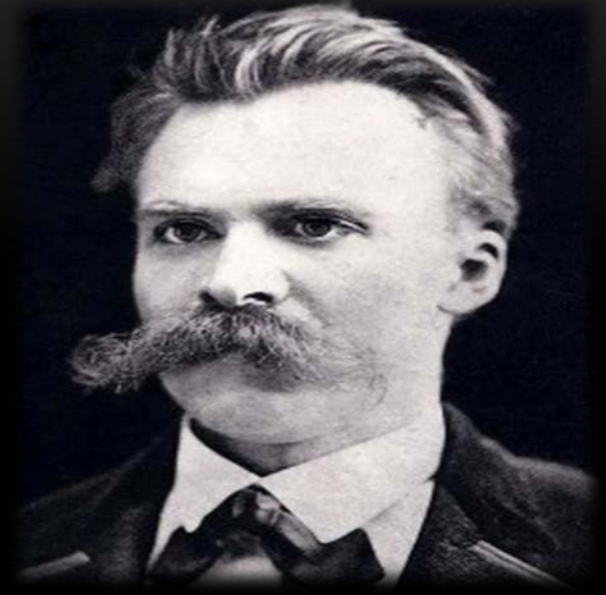
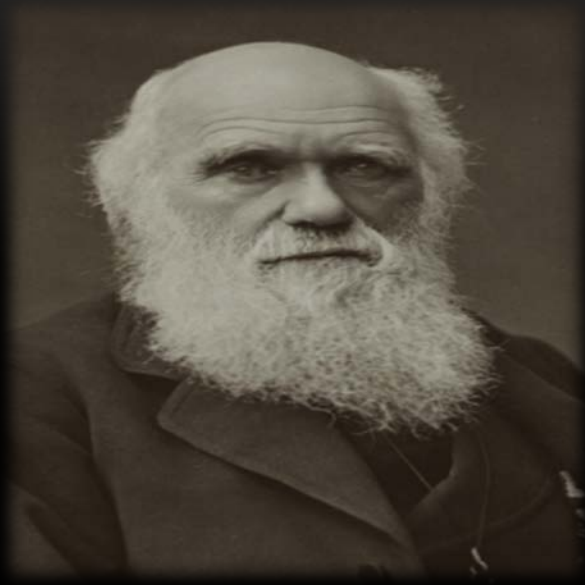


The Truth Behind the Theory of Evolution

Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States
Evangelism & Apologetics Conference

© Copyright by George Bassilios, 2014

PROPONENTS OF DARWINIAN EVOLUTION



IMPACT ON IDEOLOGY

Evolution is at the foundation of Communism, Materialism, Atheism, Relativism, Pluralism, Humanism, Naturalism and Postmodernism"

Historical Background

SECULAR HUMANISM

- At the time of Michelangelo and DaVinci a philosophic movement arose called *humanism*.
- Humanism came in the late 1500's as a reaction against medieval theology.

SECULAR HUMANISM

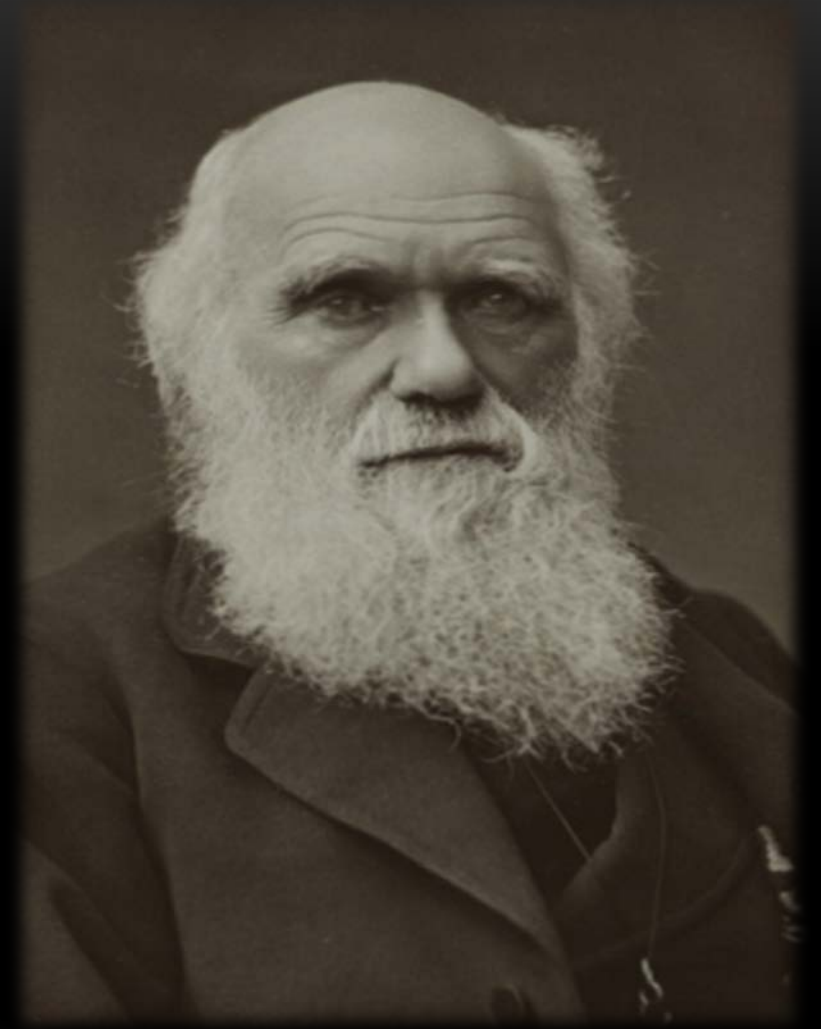
- Humanism emphasized man's attempt to exert mastery over nature.
- The effect of Humanism was to help man break free from religious knowledge.



Darwinian Evolution in Brief

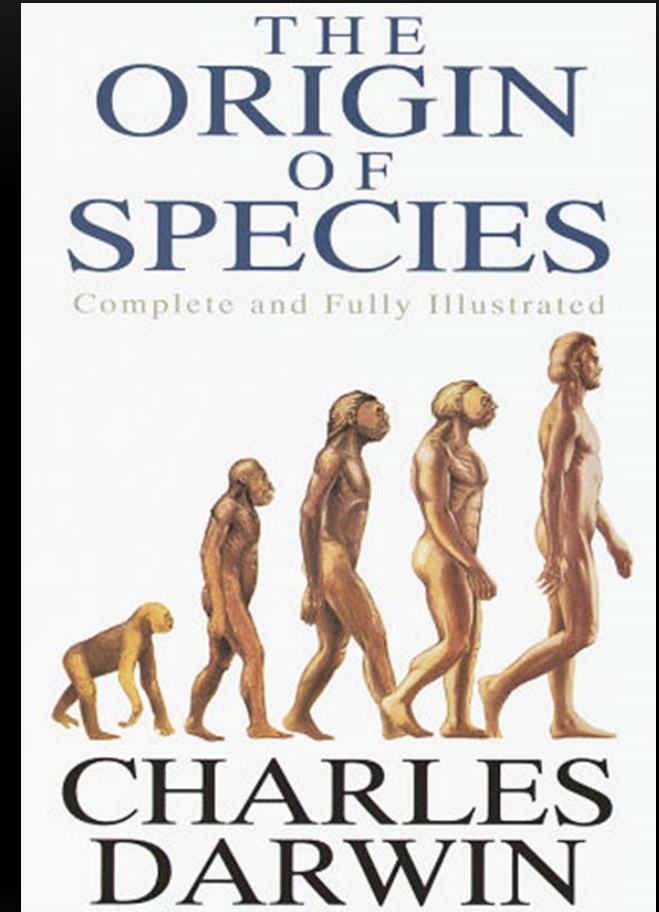
CHARLES DARWIN (1809-1882)

- Born in England.
- Spent 5 years (1831-1836) on a ship, commissioned to survey the coast of South America.
- His experience led him to formulate the theory of evolution (he called it "descent with modification")



2 MAIN COMPONENTS OF DARWIN'S THEORY:

1. All forms of life, including human beings, descended from a common ancestor by gradual modifications.
2. The mechanism of this gradual modification is "Natural Selection"



Micro vs. Macro Evolution

Micro

- Minor changes within a living organism allowing it to adapt to its environment

Macro

- Living species are related to one another by common descent (*descent with modification*)

Basic Assumptions of Evolution Theory

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS OF EVOLUTION THEORY

1. Non-living things gave rise to living things
 2. No presence of an external agent
 3. The universe evolves from particles to people
-

Origin of the Universe → Origin of Earth → Pre-Biotic Synthesis
("primordial soup")

Bacteria ← First Cells ← DNA / Protein World ← RNA World

Primitive Animals → Fish → Amphibians → Reptiles* → Mammals

Humans ← Hominids ← Early Apes ← Monkeys ← Lower Primates

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

Challenges # 1

Evolution does not
explain the origin of the
universe

Natural Selection may help
explain the *survival* of
species but not the *arrival*
of species.

TWO OPTIONS FOR ORIGIN:

1. No one created the world out of nothing (*atheists*)
2. Someone creates the world out of nothing (*theists*)



Which view is more reasonable?

Challenges # 2

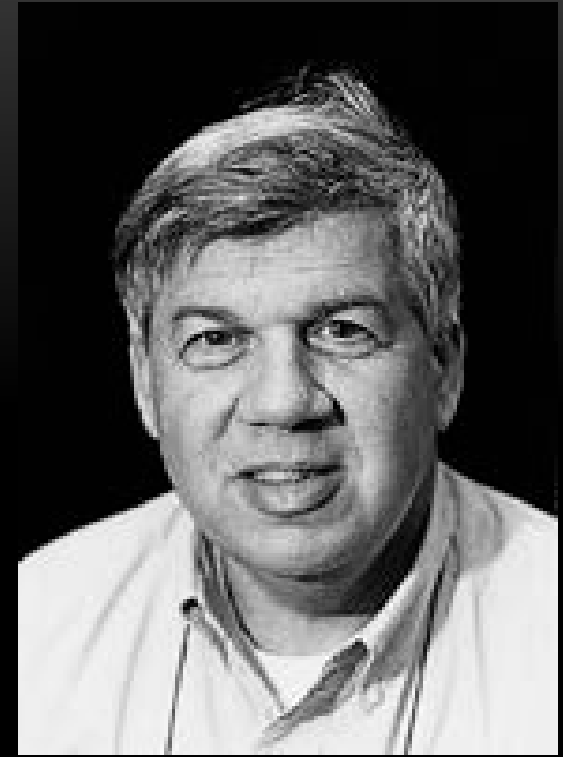
No Transitional Fossils
Found

NO TRANSITIONAL FOSSILS

- The fossil record must demonstrate a sequence of fully functional intermediate forms.
- For example: Transitional body parts (half feathers, animals that are half reptile/half mammal)
- **NONE exists!**

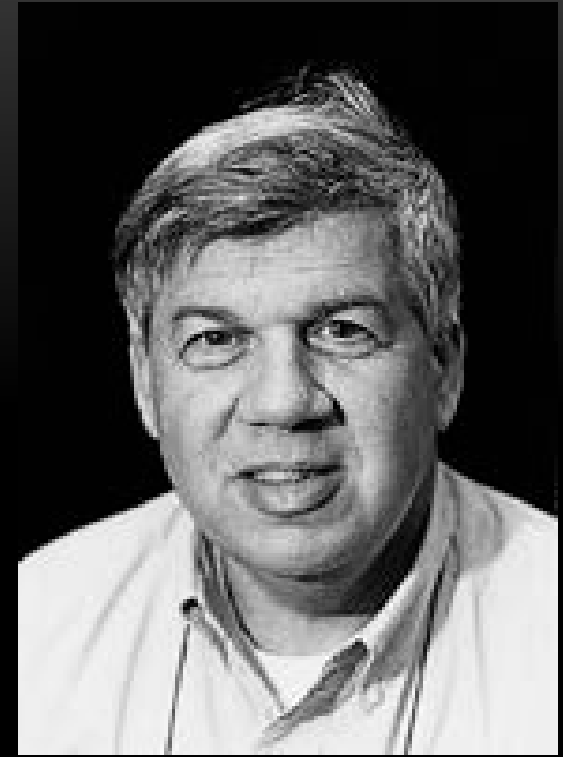


"The extreme rareness of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; **the rest is inference**, however reasonable not the evidence of fossils"



Stephen J. Gould (1941-2002)
Prof. Harvard University
American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist,
and historian of science.
He is one of the most influential writers
of popular science of his generation

"New life forms appear in the fossil record looking much like the same as when they disappear....a species does not gradually appear by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once "fully formed."



Stephen J. Gould (1941-2002)
Prof. Harvard University
American paleontologist, evolutionary biologist,
and historian of science.
He is one of the most influential writers
of popular science of his generation

"We are now one hundred and twenty years after Darwin and the knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded. We now have a quarter of a million fossil species, but the situation hasn't changed much....we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin's time."



David M. Raup
University of Chicago paleontologist.
He studied the fossil record and the
diversity of life on Earth.

Challenges # 3

Non-Life Cannot
Produce Life

LIFE FROM NON-LIFE?

- Spontaneous generation (chemical evolution) has never been observed or shown to be possible
 - **Law of biogenesis** (living things come only from other living things) has never been falsified.
 - Irreducible Complexity: Certain biological systems are too complex to have evolved from simpler, or “less complete” predecessors, through natural selection
-

Challenges # 4

Evolution does not
Explain the Source of
Objective Morality

OBJECTIVE MORALITY

- Objective morals laws do exist
- Existing of moral laws imply the existence of a Moral Law-Giver
- Morality that is defined by nature/man can also be dismissed by nature/man



Challenges # 5

Evolution cannot
explain Intelligence
from Non-Intelligence

If intelligent breeding
meets genetic limits . . .

how can *non-intelligence*
exceed them?



Challenges # 6

Evolution cannot
explain the purpose
and meaning of life

EVOLUTIONISTS ON MEANING

- "It is meaningless that we are born; it is meaningless that we die"

Jean Paul Sartre



- "Life is a disease and the only difference between one man and another is the stage of the disease at which he lives."

George Bernard Shaw



- Humans have always wondered about the meaning of life...life has no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA...life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference

Richard Dawkins



IN SUMMARY

1. Evolution does not explain origin of the universe
 2. There are NO credible transitional fossils
 3. Life can not originate from non-life by chance
 4. Evolution cannot explain Objective Morality
 5. Evolution cannot explain Intelligence
 6. Evolution cannot give us meaning in life
-

"Someone once said that if you sat a million monkeys at a million typewriters for a million years, one of them would eventually type all of Hamlet by chance. But when we find the text of Hamlet, we don't wonder whether it came from chance. Why then does the atheist use that incredibly improbable explanation for the universe? Clearly, because it is his only chance of remaining an atheist. At this point we need a psychological explanation of the atheist rather than a logical explanation of the universe. We have a logical explanation of the universe, but the atheist does not like it. It's called God." – Peter Kreeft





Once upon a time there was a family of mice who had lived all their lives in a large piano. Every day in their piano world they heard the beautiful music of the instrument, filling all the dark spaces with pleasant sound and harmony. At first the mice were impressed by it. They drew comfort and wonder from the thought that there was Someone who played the music – invisible to them – yet close to them. They loved to think of the Great Player whom they could not see. Then one day a daring young mouse named Charlie climbed up part of the piano and returned thinking he had discovered how the music was made. Tightly stretched wires were the secret! He wrote a book about his discovery and called it "The Origin of Music."

At first, Charlie's theory was met with resistance. But eventually, it became the predominate view of where the music was coming from. The mice had to revise all their old, outdated beliefs. None but the most conservative mice could any longer believe in the "Great Pianist". The really cool mice designed "Charlie" stickers and wore them with pride to show the rest of the mice that they were not narrow-minded. The Player came to be thought of as a myth.

All the while, the Pianist continues to play

Glory be to God forever

SUGGESTED READINGS

