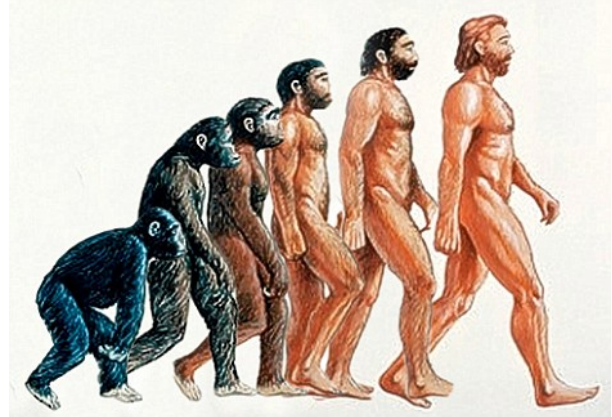


Ten Lies and Ten Truths
Chapter One
2013 Update
Parker Hudson and Matt Kelly



Lie: Evolution is a fact.

Truth: Both Evolution (Macroevolution/Speciation) and Intelligent Design are theories which must be accepted or rejected on the best available evidence, and on faith.

The focus here is not on original creation or the age of the earth, as important as those subjects are. Rather, this Truth/Lie pair has to do with the generally accepted statement that evolution is a scientifically proven fact.

And the topic is macroevolution, the emergence of new species from previous ones as the result, supposedly, of microevolution (changes within a species) happening over a long period of time.

Most writing on macroevolution tends to take the same format. There is a lot of scientific sounding information, primarily on microevolution, some reasonable sounding theories and analogies, and a closing statement about how robust, proven, and factual evolutionary thought is, implying anyone thinking otherwise is a dim-wit, or worse.

But buried somewhere in all of that is sometimes a small statement that just perhaps all is not really proven, but that fact is seen as of little consequence on the way to the robust conclusion.

Here are examples from Chris Colby's article, cited in the Resources below:

Evolution is the cornerstone of modern biology. It unites all the fields of biology under one theoretical umbrella.

We know from micro-evolutionary theory that natural selection should optimize the existing genetic variation in a population to maximize reproductive success...Macro-

evolutionary theory also helps explain many things about how living things work. Organisms are modified over time by cumulative natural selection.

Those quotes are from the beginning and the end of the paper. Buried in the middle is:

Speciation is the process of a single species becoming two or more species. Many biologists think speciation is key to understanding evolution.

Biologists know little about the genetic mechanisms of speciation.

Populations of organisms are very complicated. It is likely that there are many ways speciation can occur. Thus, all of the above ideas may be correct, each in different circumstances. Darwin's book was titled "The Origin of Species" despite the fact that he did not really address this question; over one hundred and fifty years later, how species originate is still largely a mystery.

Whoa! Likely? Many ways? A mystery? How can a proven factual process be a mystery. And Colby is still trying to figure out how it might really happen? It must have been hard for Colby to write those words, but I admire him for doing so.

In summary, based on what is known today, if macroevolution is a fact, then it had to have happened either much more rapidly than microevolution and the allowable time would allow, or it had to happen in “bursts”, which then are not explained by microevolution. Or the arrival of new species could be explained by a Creator. Perhaps the bursts are His!

Those of us who believe that “there must be more” have a new ally in Thomas Nagel, a secularist/atheist at New York University. In his 2012 book *Mind & Cosmos*, Professor Nagel destroys classical Darwinist theory as being almost nonsensical. Yet his alternative explanation for why we have consciousness and can reason may take more faith than simply believing in the Intelligent Designer. See my blog post on April 28, 2013 at www.parkerhudson.com for many more details on Nagel’s broadside.

The point is that no one can prove that either Macroevolution or a Creator is a scientific fact. Both take faith to explain. That is the truth.

RESOURCES

WEBSITES

www.Reasons.org

Reasons.org shows how Christian beliefs and science can live in harmony. Their research shows how science and Christianity can be integrated and united together in order to add another layer of understanding. This website contains numerous interviews, podcasts, and articles from top Christian scientists concerning the topic of evolution.

Listed below are several interesting pages within the reasons.org website.

<http://www.reasons.org/explore/topic/evolution>

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/evolution-as-mythology-part-4-of-5-the-myth-of-macroevolution>

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/evolution-as-mythology-part-5-of-5-conclusion>

<http://www.reasons.org/explore/topic/theology-bible>

www.discovery.org

Discovery Institute is an inter-disciplinary community of scholars and policy advocates dedicated to the reinvigoration of traditional Western principles and institutions, and the worldview from which they issued. Discovery Institute has a special concern for the role that science and technology play in our culture and how they can illuminate public policy and support the theistic foundations of the West.

<http://www.discovery.org/a/2640>

<http://www.evolutionnews.org/>

Evolution News provides current information regarding evolution. It contains daily updates with articles, podcasts, and different ways to subscribe and socially network with others. Check out the evolution and intelligent design tabs, which both contain relevant information and updated articles.

www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/on-faith/post/evolution-threatens-christianity/2011/08/24/g1QAuLVpbJ_blog.html

Evolution Threatens Christianity

Paula Kirby is a consultant for various secular organizations. Her article speaks to the lack of scientific data regarding creationism. She speaks to the conflict about teaching evolution vs. creationism in schools, and how children are being short changed by not learning about evolution and other scientific theories.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=9&article=1455>

National Geographic Shoots Itself in the Foot—Again!

By Bert Thompson, Ph.D and Brad Harrug, Ph.D.

An article filled with facts which decimates two earlier National Geographic photographic spreads on evolution.

<http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/>

During recent decades, new scientific evidence from many scientific disciplines such as cosmology, physics, biology, "artificial intelligence" research, and others have caused scientists to begin questioning Darwinism's central tenet of natural selection and studying the evidence supporting it in greater detail.

Yet public TV programs, educational policy statements, and science textbooks have asserted that Darwin's theory of evolution fully explains the complexity of living things. The public has been assured that all known evidence supports Darwinism and that virtually every scientist in the world believes the theory to be true.

The scientists on this list dispute the first claim and stand as living testimony in contradiction to the second

www.kenboa.org/text_resources/free_articles/5401

Dr. Kenneth Boa is the president of Reflections Ministries, an organization that encourages, teaches, and enables people to follow Christ, conform to his image, and help others to do the same. Dr. Boa has a PhD from New York University in theology as well as a PhD from the University of Oxford in England in philosophy. His most relevant book to the topic of Christianity and evolution is called *20 Compelling Evidences that God Exists*.

www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-christian-mans-evolution

The Christian Man's Evolution: How Darwinism and Faith Can Coexist.

A geneticist ordained as a Dominican priest, Francisco J. Ayala sees no conflict between Darwinism and faith

<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-intro-to-biology.html>

A long article by Chris Colby which seeks to explain macroevolution. But note the following paragraph from about two-thirds of the way through all of the complex information, and ask yourself whether this sounds like proven scientific fact, or a theory:

“Biologists know little about the genetic mechanisms of speciation. Some think a series of small changes in each subdivision gradually lead to speciation. The founder effect could set the stage for relatively rapid speciation, a genetic revolution in Ernst Mayr's terms. Alan Templeton hypothesized that a few key genes could change and confer reproductive isolation. He called this a genetic transience. Lynn Margulis thinks most speciation events are caused by changes in internal symbionts. Populations of organisms are very complicated. It is likely that there are many ways speciation can occur. **Thus, all of the above ideas may be correct, each in different circumstances. Darwin's book was titled "The Origin of Species" despite the fact that he did not really address this question; over one hundred and fifty years later, how species originate is still largely a mystery.**”

www.str.org

Stand To Reason provides resources to equip Christian to confront the issues that challenge faith and use the Bible as a reference for truth. The site contains various educational tools, resources for Christians thirsty for more challenging questions concerning topic of faith such as the origin of man. The purpose is not to hide from the challenging questions but to confront it armed with the Word of God.

http://www.str.org/quickthoughts/the-fossil-record-proves-evolution.-right#.UY7ysZHD_ro

THE WORD

Isaiah 40

Genesis 1-3

Psalm 19: 1-3

Acts 17: 24-28

Hebrews 11: 3

Colossians 1: 15-17

Romans 1: 20

John 18: 37

BOOKS and AUDIOBOOKS

Nagel, Thomas. *Mind & Cosmos*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Pernoff, James. *Tornado in a Junkyard: The Relentless Myth of Darwinism*. Arlington, MA.: Refuge Books, 1999.

Tornado in the Junkyard, an easy to read scientific account of man's origins, presents a scientific case against Darwinism. Many Christian books that counter evolutionary theory focus on faith vs. science. Pernoff goes beyond the normal debate, and reframes the argument from a scientific but Christian point of view.

Dissecting Evolution: Hugh Ross, Fazale Rana, Kenneth Samples Audiobook: <http://shop.reasons.org/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=C1201>

Questions about the theory of evolution abound. In this unique roundtable discussion, members of the Reasons To Believe scholar team carefully weigh the scientific evidence for biological evolution in comparison with evidence for supernatural creation. This practical series of discussions addresses issues of perennial concern for skeptics and Christians alike