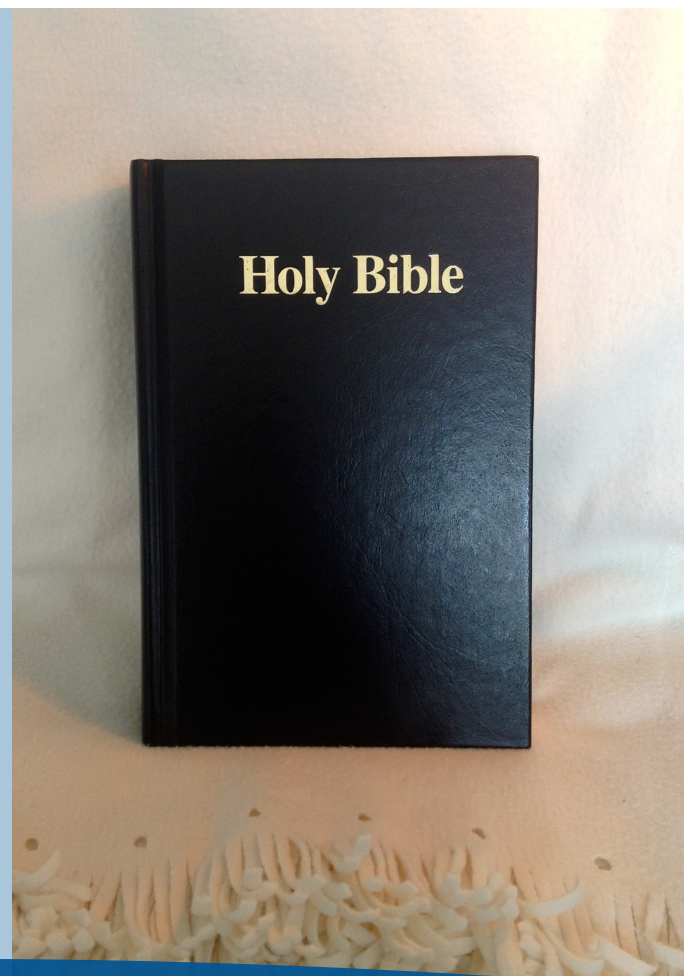


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Learn to Read the Bible More Effectively

EVOLUTION
AND THE
BIBLE: ARE
THEY
COMPATIBLE?



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History of evolutionary thought

Evolutionary thought, the conception that species change over time, has roots in antiquity, in the ideas of the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Chinese as well as in medieval Islamic science. With the beginnings of biological taxonomy in the late 17th century, Western biological thinking was influenced by two opposed ideas. One was essentialism, the belief that every species has essential characteristics that are unalterable, a concept which had developed from medieval Aristotelian metaphysics, and that fit well with natural theology. The other one was the development of the new anti-Aristotelian approach to modern science: as the Enlightenment progressed, evolutionary cosmology and the mechanical philosophy spread from the physical sciences to natural history. Naturalists began to focus on the variability of species; the emergence of paleontology with the concept of extinction further undermined the static view of nature. In the early 19th century, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck proposed his theory of the transmutation of species, the first fully formed theory of evolution. Wikipedia

So, long before Darwin, earlier philosophers had been developing Evolutionary ideas. It maybe that Darwin was influenced by these. So let's take a brief look at some of the Ancient Greek Philosophers & there speculations.

Anaximander c 610 – 546 BC

"Anaximander (Greek Ἀναξίμανδρος) was a **pre-Socratic** Greek philosopher who lived in Miletus, a city of Ionia; Milet in modern Turkey. He belonged to the Milesian school and learned the teachings of his master Thales. He succeeded Thales and became the second master of that school where he counted Anaximenes and arguably, Pythagoras amongst his pupils. " (Wikipedia)

(**Pre-Socratic** Philosophy was a science of the natural world, rather than moral questions)

Anaximander is considered by some to be the first scientist.

"Anaximander speculated about the beginnings and origin of animal life. Taking into account the existence of fossils, he claimed that animals sprang out of the sea long ago.....Even though he had no theory of natural selection, some people consider him as evolution's most ancient proponent. (The theory of an aquatic descent of man was re-conceived centuries later as the aquatic ape hypothesis.)..."

Anaxagoras c 500 - 428 BC

"Anaxagoras Ἀναξαγόρας, "lord of the assembly"; c. 500 – 428 BC) was a Pre-Socratic Greek philosopher. Born in Clazomenae in Asia Minor, Anaxagoras was the first philosopher to bring philosophy from Ionia to Athens." Wikipedia

Anaxagoras.....stated that plants are alive and feel sensations . He expanded on Anaximander's theory of animal evolution and generation.

D. S. Hutchinson Professor of Ancient Philosophy
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Empedocles c490-430 BC

“Empedocles (Ἐμπεδοκλῆς) was a Greek pre-Socratic philosopher and a citizen of Agrigentum, a Greek city in Sicily. Empedocles' philosophy is best known for being the originator of the cosmogenic theory of the four Classical elements.... These physical speculations were part of a history of the universe which also dealt with the origin and development of life...Some of his work survives, more than in the case of any other Presocratic philosopher... “ Wikipedia

Empedocles conceived of a fanciful version of the theory of evolution which included the idea of survival of the fittest. He stated that in prehistoric times strange creatures had populated the world of which only certain forms had survived. THE BIG VIEW.COM

Ancient Greek philosophy

Ancient Greek scholars invented the concept of philosophy, or "love of wisdom." It was a practice of discussion and reflection in the endeavour to seek the truth of the world through knowledge, instead of relying on the beliefs of traditional mythology. Philosophy was at first an oral tradition. Tutors and students would gather together outdoors in symposia, or discussion groups, and delve into a variety of topics relating to the processes of the natural world. Philosophy began as a branch of science and sought to explain physical changes of the earth.

The Apostle Paul would have been aware of the science and philosophy of the Greeks, of which he says:

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

1Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of **science falsely so called**:

1Corinthians 3:19 For **the wisdom of this world** is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God **the world by wisdom knew not God**, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Greek wisdom, including Evolutionary ideas, had failed to find the only true God-the God of the bible. The preaching of Christ and the Apostles is how the knowledge of God was spread abroad. Since then, knowledge of God, as contained in the bible, has been circulated amongst the nations for centuries, but latterly the world's philosophy of Evolution has been revived and embraced by this secular world. In the last fifty years Evolution has gained inroads into many Christian circles. So, by contrast, let's consider what the Bible Says about the creation of Man.

Genesis 1:

27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

We see immediately that Evolution clashes head on with bible teaching, but theistic-evolutionists take the bible account of creation to be just an allegory-not literal. But man being literally in the image or physical similitude of God, is an essential doctrine that runs right through the bible, and impacts on other essential doctrines. We also note that being in the image of God places man at the head of creation:-

Genesis 1:

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

The two statements we noted in verse 27 that:

(1) **“God created man in his own image”**

(2) **“male and female created he them.”**

point (1) is made by the Apostle Paul in the new testament:

1Corinthians 11:

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as **he is the image** and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

Paul adds two other points from the Genesis account (Gen 2:18-22) of creation :

1Corinthians 11:

8 “For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.”

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

point (2) is made by Jesus when he refers to Gen.1:27 in:

Mark 10:

6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them **male and female**.

So Paul and Jesus teach the Genesis account of creation as being literal- actually true.

The Formation of Man

The heavenly Father prepared this present creation through the agency of His angels; and he addresses them thus in Gen 1:26

Gen 1:

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image [Heb. ZELEM], after our likeness: [Heb.DEMUT] and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image[Heb.ZELEM], in the image [Heb.ZELEM] of God created he him; male and female created he them.

From what we have read we have seen that man being in the image and likeness of God, is referring literally to physical shape, the original words here DEMUT and ZELEM also bear this out

DEMUT

in the KJV is rendered: likeness 19, similitude 2, like 2, manner 1, fashion 1; 25

Meanings:-

likeness, similitude, adv 2) in the likeness of, like as

ZELEM signifies and is generally translated “Image”

For example, we get DEMUT & ZELEM in:

Gen 5

:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness [Heb.DEMUT] of God made he him;

:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, Heb.DEMUT] after his image [Heb.ZELEM]; and called his name Seth:

So we see that just as Adam’s son reflected the “likeness”,[Heb.DEMUT] and “image” [Heb.ZELEM]; of his father Adam(v3), so Adam reflected “the likeness [Heb.DEMUT] of God” (v1) who was the only Father Adam had. Or as we read in the New Testament of Christ’s genealogy:

Luke 3

:38 Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God

It is being created in the physical similitude of the heavenly Father, that sets man apart from the animals, so that:

Genesis 9:

6 Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: **for in the image of God** made he man.

but of the animals God says in verses 2,3:

2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

3 Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

Over the last 50 years we have noticed the change from belief in Creation to belief in Evolution amongst many in Christian circles, but it only occurs in those who have lost or missed the Bible doctrine of the Person of God- that God is a bodily Person who has honoured man in bestowing upon him, His image. “Theistic-Evolution” is blind to this doctrine, and therefore other essential truths of the bible are lost, such as the **Fall of Man**, and so also the nature and Sacrifice of Christ. Lets briefly look at these doctrines:

Genesis 1:

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God created everything in a “very good” state, but Adam and Eve changed all this by bringing a curse upon themselves and creation. The serpent provoked disobedience in Adam and Eve, and so it was downgraded biologically-and thus genetically:-

Genesis 3:

14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Fall of Man

Genesis 3:

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

So the bible is saying that through this curse, Mortality and all its ill effects become part of man’s genetic make up. From then on, human nature as we know it (in the fallen state) came into existence- at that time and in that way. Deliverance from this doomed state of mankind would now require religion, a saviour, a way of reconciliation to the grace of God, as Paul taught:

1 Corinthians 15:

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Though we are not in anyway accountable for Adam's transgression, yet being produced "after his kind" we inherit the lower nature that he (our first father) was cursed with. So we are under the curse of mortality because Adam, in effect **represented** (as federal head), the human race when he was cursed. In Christ we are offered a new federal head, who was blessed with life eternal.

It was the federal principle that brought death to us all:-

Romans 5:

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Or as the last clause is better rendered:

Jubilee Bible 2000 (JUB)

12 “Therefore, in the manner which sin entered into the world by one man, and because of sin, death; and **so death passed upon all men in the one in whom all sinned.**”

By federal we mean many together under, and connected with, a central head, so that the head acts for, and represents, the whole. This principle is explained more in:-

Romans 5:

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

Rotherham literal translation renders verse 18 more clearly :

ROTHERHAM

18 Hence then, as through one fault, the sentence was unto all men unto condemnation, so, also, through **one recovery of righteousness**, the decree of favour is unto all men for righteous acquittal unto life;

Now in this, Adam was not a substitute but a **representative** of mankind. So also with the last Adam-Christ(1 Cor.15:45). Just as essential Bible teaching shows that which Adam did -and what God did to his body-affects all those in Adams family (ie. all the race) so likewise, that which Christ did-and what God did to his body-affects all those in Christ's family (ie. who put on Christ) Evolution destroys this plan of salvation.(not compatible)

Paul continues:

ROMANS 5:

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

ROTHERHAM

19 “For, just as, through the disobedience of the one man, sinners, the many were **constituted**, so, also, through the obedience of the one, righteous the many shall be **constituted**”

So through Adam, we inherit the mortal constitution of the first sinner (after he was so cursed), so In Christ we are promised the righteous constitution of his divine nature (after resurrection)

Paul continues:

ROMANS 5:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROTHERHAM

21 In order that—just as sin reigned **in** death, so, also, favour, might reign through righteousness unto life age-abiding, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We inherit the cursed constitution of the first sinner, and being thus physically **constituted**, Sin reigns victorious **in** the **death** of every man!

All mankind inherited what became, the genetic curse upon Adams DNA, and so Paul says (using himself as an example):

ROMANS 7:

21” I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin which is in my members.**

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

So (v23) “**the law of sin**” is in effect how Paul defines **human nature**, and he is including mortality in this state, by the term v24“**the body of this death**”.

If it was in order for God to curse all mankind through the fall of one representative man, it would be in order for God to deliver from the curse many, through the deliverance of one representative; Jesus Christ.

Reconciliation through the sacrifice of Christ

ROMANS 8:

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Christ did no sin, so it was physical Sin that God’s **righteousness** condemned in the crucifixion; In this way atonement was made for the source & effects of sin. Once the righteousness of God was enacted and declared in this way, He could then extend Grace to those who believe and fellowship these principles. Concerning Christ’s sacrifice Paul says;-

ROMANS 3:

25 “Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.”

So the fall of man in Adam, and the reconciliation in Christ, are incompatible with Evolution; we cannot have faith in Evolution and also in Christ crucified for:-

EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE ARE NOT COMPATIBLE