

The Humanist's Approach to Origins

by Mark Legendre

Over the past 150 years, especially since the writing of the book "The Origin Of The Species" by Charles Darwin, we as Christians have been deceived into thinking that most of the logical thinkers of this world were men of science. These were men who were all supposedly convinced of the rationality of the theories of evolution including its ideas concerning the origins of the universe as well as mankind. Such, however, is simply not the case. Dr. Paul Amos Moddy, a leading evolutionist, wrote a book entitled "Introduction To Evolution," which is probably used as a textbook in more colleges and universities than any other book. In his book, he responds to the question of origins in this way: "The answer is that we do not know and probably never will. The origin of life occurred more than three billion years ago and was not the type of happening to leave a clear indication of its course of events in the fossil record. Why, then, do we discuss the question at all? The best we can do is to point out what might have happened." Sir Oliver Lodge made the following comments in regards to the subject of origins: "Science has not yet witnessed the origin of the smallest trace of life from dead matter: All life, so far as has been watched, proceeds from antecedent life. But ultimate origins are inscrutable. Let us admit, as scientific men, that of real origin, even of the smallest thing, we know nothing; not even of a pebble." There are many other quotations that I could give but these two should suffice to show that it is pure evolutionary propaganda that states that the most logical minds of the scientific community are fully convinced of the explanation of origins as given in the doctrines of Evolution.

In the book "Humanist Manifesto I," the following statements are made which help us to understand the humanist's view regarding origins. First, "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created." And second, "Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process." Furthermore, in the book "A Secular Humanist Declaration," the following statements are made: "Today the theory of evolution is again under heavy attack by religious fundamentalists. Although the theory of evolution cannot be said to have reached its final formulation, or to be an infallible principle of science, it is nonetheless supported impressively by the findings of many sciences. There may be some significant differences among scientists concerning the mechanics of evolution; yet the evolution of the species is supported so strongly by the weight of evidence that it is difficult to reject it. Accordingly, we deplore the efforts by fundamentalists to invade the science classrooms, requiring that the creationist theory be taught to

students and requiring that it be included in biology textbooks. Moreover, we do not deny the value of examining theories of creation in educational courses on religion and the history of ideas; but it is a sham to mask an article of religious faith as a scientific truth and to inflict that doctrine on the scientific curriculum." Humanism, which declares itself to be a religion, has as one of its tenets the theories of evolution. Is it not then a sham to mask an article of religious faith as a scientific truth and to inflict that doctrine on the scientific curriculum? This is exactly what is being done in the science classrooms of our children here in America!

Where is all of this "strong evidence" that makes evolution so difficult to reject? Where can we observe this "continuous process of nature" from which mankind has supposedly arisen? Dr. L. L. Woodruff, while Professor of Biology at Yale, made the following statement: "Biologists are at the present time absolutely unable, and probably will be for all time unable to obtain empirical evidence of any of the crucial questions relating to the origin of life on the earth." Ernest Haeckel said, "The process of creation as the coming into existence of matter is completely beyond human comprehension and can therefore never become a subject of scientific inquiry." Thus, it appears that the explanations offered by evolution in regards to origins and which are held to humanists are not as "difficult to reject" as we have been led to believe.

Where then do we find satisfactory answers to the questions of "origins?" They certainly cannot be found in evolution and Humanism. We are given some interesting insight by Dr. W. F. Albright, the dean of American archeologist, who speaks very highly of the Biblical account of origins when he says, "The account of creation which we find is unique in ancient literature. It undoubtedly reflects an advanced monotheistic point of view, with a sequence of creative phases which is so rational that modern science cannot improve on it, given the same language and the same range of ideas in which to state its conclusions. In fact, modern scientific cosmogonies show such a disconcerting tendency to be short-lived that it may be seriously doubted whether science has yet caught up with the Biblical story." The truly "logical thinker" cannot deny the overwhelming evidence that God has built within this universe. The Bible says in Hebrews 3:4, "For every house is built by some man, but he that built all things is God." The Psalmist said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." (Ps. 19:1-4) Rather than the universe being "self-existent," the supreme intelligence of the "eternal God" is clearly manifested within the universe that He created. In Psalms 90:2 we read, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or

ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." In Genesis 1:27 we read, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." The evidence of "design" within the human anatomy is so marvelous that there surely must have been a "great designer." That "great designer" is God. The Psalmist said in Psalms 139:14, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The apostle Paul proclaimed that man is "without excuse" for not having faith in the "eternal God" who brought all things into being. (Rom. 1:18-20) It is interesting to note that if you carefully read Romans 1:18-25, you will see the basic tenets of Humanism being fully exposed. Humanists "profess themselves to be wise" when in reality "they have become fools." They have "changed the truth of God into a lie" and have begun to "worship and serve the creature more than the Creator." Listen to these statements taken from "Humanist Manifesto II" and see if this is not so. "As non-theists, we begin with humans, not God, nature not deity. We can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves." On the other hand, the Bible declares plainly that "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." (Ps. 14:1)

Evolution, like Humanism, also appears to be spoken of in the scriptures. The apostle Paul in writing to Timothy gives the following admonition: "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so-called: which some professing have erred concerning the faith." Evolution is falsely called a "science" when in reality it is merely the foolish reasoning of men apart from God. If one gives heed to the doctrines of evolution, he will surely "err from the faith."

In closing, I would like to read to you a statement made by Dr. Arthur H. Compton, a Nobel Prize Winner in Physics. He says, "For myself, faith begins with the realization that a supreme intelligence brought the universe into being and created man. It is not difficult for me to have this faith, for it is incontrovertible that where there is a plan there is intelligence--an orderly, unfolding universe testifies to the truth of the most majestic statement ever uttered--In the beginning God!"

QUESTIONS

1. How have Christians been deceived over the past 150 years regarding evolution?
2. What has "true science" not yet witnessed?
3. What do humanists believe in regard to the origin of the universe and man?
4. What is happening in the science classrooms of our children here in America?
5. What scripture in the Bible seems to be speaking about humanism, at least to a degree? What scripture in the Bible talks about evolution and why?

The quotations in this article were taken from the following resources:

1. "I Believe Because", by Batsell Barrett Baxter, Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506.
2. "Humanist Manifestos I and II", by Paul Kurtz, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, New York 14215.
3. "A Secular Humanist Declaration", by Paul Kurtz, FREE INQUIRY Magazine, Vol. 1, #1, Winter 1980.