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Class Notes

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Preparing for the War of Ideas

Debunking Evolution, Week 2

I. God's Two Books of Knowledge

God has given his people two great books of truth, of knowledge: Creation and Scripture. These books are not equally clear... scripture is far clearer. But both are communication of truth from God to the human race.

These two books, rightly understood, should never contradict each other.

Clear example of the two books is in Psalm 19:

Psalm 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. ³ There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

AND...

Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Job 38-39: God delights in his creation as clear proof of his greatness. He boasts openly to Job about the works of his creative power...

First, inanimate creation... the physical universe: the foundations of the earth, the limitations of the raging sea, the control of the clouds, the rhythm of sunrise and sunset, the subterranean regions of the earth, the different types of precipitation (snow, hail, rain, dew), the power of lightning, the distant stars with their physical laws, etc.

Then, animals... ten of them: the lioness when it hunts, the raven when it scavenges, the mountain goats and deer when they give birth, the wild donkeys when they run free, the wild ox when it resists man's yoke, the

ostrich when she treats her young harshly but also runs like the wind, the horse when it fearlessly rushes into battle, the hawk and eagle when they soar on the thermals and ride on the wind

Man's wisdom cannot DO any of these things or even come close to fully understanding them. And NATURALISTIC EVOLUTION cannot explain them!

II. Worldview Prep

A. Three Basic Questions of Worldview

1. **Creation: Where did everything come from?**
2. **Fall: What went wrong? What is the source of evil and suffering?**
3. **Redemption: What can we do about it? How can the world be set right again?**

B. The Question of Origins is ESSENTIAL to Worldview

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

III. The Pervasive Threat of Evolution

A. Foundational to our Secular World: Naturalistic Materialism

The scientific materialist believes matter/energy is all there ever has been, is, or will be and reduces everything to scientific laws and random chance

Thus, since nature is everything, super-nature doesn't exist! And God is "supernatural", so he doesn't exist.

B. Evolution Defined

"Evolution is a deduction from [naturalism], and it is essentially the idea that **things made themselves**. It includes these unproven ideas: nothing gave rise to something at an alleged 'big bang,' non-living matter gave rise to life, single-celled organisms gave rise to many-celled organisms, invertebrates gave rise to vertebrates, ape-like creatures gave rise to man, non-intelligent and amoral matter gave rise to intelligence and morality, man's yearnings gave rise to religions, etc." [Jonathan Sarfati]

C. The Basic Mechanism of Evolution

"Neo-Darwinism" is basic Darwinism (evolution) with GENETICS as the root cause of the changes

Random occurrences, beneficial genetic mutations, randomly/chaotically assemble themselves into ever-greater complexity, producing attributes/behaviors that increase the survival in the population.

Random beneficial mutations + survival of the fittest = Evolution

IV. Unbelieving Scientists Suppress the Truth of God in Creation

Scripture tells us that human beings have a natural hatred for God the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. Thus they will “suppress the truth in their wickedness” ... that means they will constantly fight the evidence:

Romans 1:18-21 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Examples of “suppressing the truth”:

“Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.” Richard Dawkins, an "arch-Darwinian"

“Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.” Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA

V. Three Great Scientific Problems with Evolution

Problem #1: The Origin of Life: “Where did the first living cell come from?”

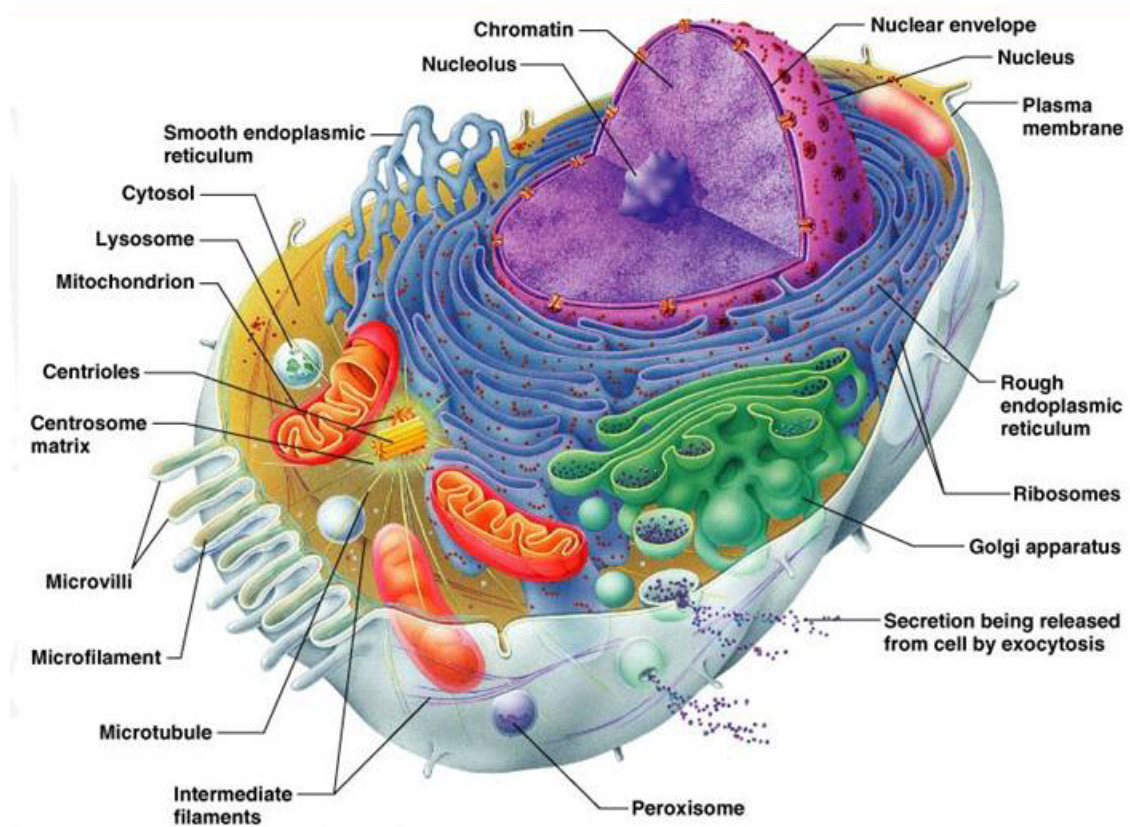
Problem #2: The Fossil Record: “Why doesn’t the fossil record show continuous evolution of species?”

Problem #3: Irreducible Complexity and the Origin of Information: “What good is half a wing?” Where does the information for flight come from?

A. Problem #1: The Origin of Life: “Where did the first living cell come from?”

1. This is the weakest link in the entire evolutionary theory
2. Evolution asserts that, at some point, life came from non-life
3. The word for that is “**abiogenesis**”

4. Darwin understood this as a challenge, but thought the living cell was far simpler than it actually is
5. But modern research has shown that the living cell is almost infinitely complex



6. Every passing year makes the problem GREATER, not less... as the research done by cell biologists adds impossibly complex details to cell functions
7. How can evolution explain how, one moment, there is not a single living cell on earth, and the next moment, there is a living cell...
8. WHAT IS LIFE? **“Origin of Life Prize”** \$1.35 million prize set for a plausible scenario whereby the first living cell appeared from non-living chemicals/substances. They had to define “life” when it comes to a cell, and came up with the following criteria:

1. Cell Wall... 2. Information for Reproduction... 3. From Information to Chemicals... 4. Eat... 5. Reproduce... 6. Heal... 7. Grow... 8. Deal with Environment... 9. Be Stable Yet Adaptable

Amazingly, evolution teaches that all that complexity INSTANTLY appeared on Earth! One moment, there were no living cells anywhere on earth; the next moment, a single living cell appeared and lived long enough to reproduce, passing on its recipe for life to its daughter cell before it died.

That seems like MAGIC... but it's what the evolutionists believe!

9. James Tour, Rice University Professor, named 2013 "Top Scientist of the Year" by R & D magazine:

"[Abiogenesis] cannot ever happen... they're fudging it. But I know they're fudging it and most people and even most scientists don't know enough to argue with them. But I do! And I'm calling them out on it. I'm fed up! We should defund all further research in this direction because we're looking for a pot of gold at the end of each rainbow. It's demonstrably a fool's errand, and now it's a gigantic waste of money that could be put to better use." [Metaxas, 100]

10. WHY? The ABSURD level of COMPLEXITY of what they are trying to achieve. Dr. Tour says a single yeast cell has three thousand different proteins interacting with each other:

"... the protein interactions alone that take place in a yeast cell are impossible to comprehend. Words really cannot do justice to the astronomical odds... the combination of those protein interactions in a single yeast cell is 10 to the 79 billionth power. That's a 1 with 79 billion zeroes after it."

So... the chance that a living cell self-organized with this level of complexity is 1 over $10^{79,000,000,000}$

Statistically... LIFE DID NOT COME from non-life!!!

CASE CLOSED for evolution!!

B. Problem #2: The Fossil Record: Why doesn't the fossil record show continuous evolution of species?

1. Fossils: the physical remains of dead creatures locked into rock so their structure can be studied
2. The study of fossils is called paleontology
3. When Darwin published his *On the Origin of the Species* in 1859, he was vigorously opposed by Charles Lyell, the leading geologist of his day
4. Why? Because the fossil record did not show the continuous development of species

5. Darwin himself acknowledged the problem:

“Why, if species have descended from other species by insensibly fine gradations, do we not everywhere see **innumerable transitional forms**? Why is not nature in all confusion instead of the species being, as we see them, well-defined?”

“I do not pretend that I should have ever suspected how **poor a record** of the mutations of life, the best-preserved geological section presented, had not the difficulty of our **not discovering innumerable transitional links** between the species which appeared at the commencement and close of each formation, pressed so hardly on my theory.”

6. Since that time, the problem has only gotten WORSE! Many, many more fossils have been discovered, closing all the eras of the ages of the earth, covering them all with literally millions of fossils

7. YET... a stunning lack of transitional forms!

Douglas Futuyma (ardent evolutionist): “It is considered likely that all the animal phyla became distinct before or during the Cambrian (period), for they all appear fully formed, **without intermediates connecting one form to another.**”

a. not one transitional form from **multi-celled creatures to marine invertebrates** (sea creatures with no backbone or skeleton... sponges, worms, jellyfish, snails, crabs, lobsters)

Trilobites (extinct marine invertebrates) entered the fossil record totally formed... with all kinds of complexities; but there's not a single transitional form leading up to a trilobite

b. not one transitional form from **marine invertebrates to marine vertebrates** (vertebrates = creatures that have a backbone and skeleton)

Evolutionists tell us that this evolution took 100 million years. Yet there's not one single transitional form from invertebrate to marine vertebrate! There should be millions of forms, supported by billions of dead things. NOT ONE! This is a great embarrassment to Evolutionists.

c. from **fish to amphibian**, there are some so-called transitional figures... but they are all questionable

For example, the *coelacanth* (pronounced “see-la-kanth”) was thought by paleontologists to have been an immediate ancestor of the amphibians, and was assumed to have been extinct for 70 million years. But in 1938 one was found in the Indian Ocean, and carefully examined. Sadly for

evolutionists, its internal organs showed no signs whatsoever of being adapted to life on land. [from Philip Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*, p. 76]

d. from **amphibian to reptile**, no satisfactory candidates

Admittedly difficult to document this in the fossil record since the skeletal structure is so similar. Johnson points out problems with this transition, in that amphibians lay soft-shelled eggs in water, whereas reptiles lay hard-shelled eggs on land

8. KEY: Stephen Jay Gould's White Flag on the Fossil Record: "Punctuated Equilibrium"

Definition: "Punctuated equilibrium is a theory that proposes that once a species appears in the fossil record, the population will become stable, showing little evolutionary change for most of its geological history."

IN OTHER WORDS... the fossil record does not support the theory of evolution

- a. Gould was one of the leading paleontologists in the world, Harvard University
- b. Looking honestly at the terrible fossil record, he revived an old theory that species popped up fully formed in between the "snapshots" of the fossil record

C. Problem #3: Irreducible Complexity and the Origin of Information: What good is half a wing? Where does the recipe for flight come from?

1. Darwin's assertion:

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

2. Irreducible complexity

A system which meets Darwin's criterion is one which exhibits irreducible complexity. By irreducible complexity I mean a single system which is composed of several interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, and where the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning." -Michael J. Behe, "Molecular Machines: Experimental Support for the Design Inference"

Illus. The simple mousetrap



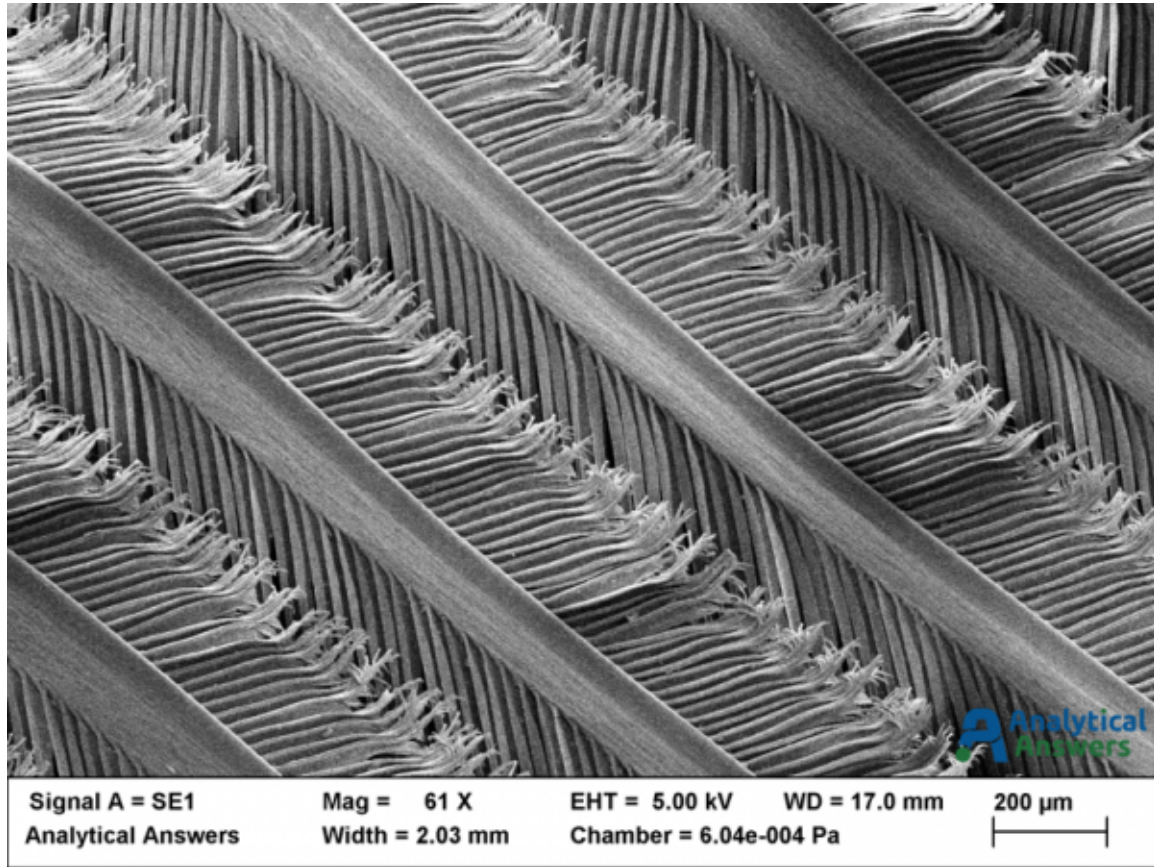
The idea is this... Without all the elements of the mousetrap, it **cannot work!**

Michael Behe: "You cannot start with the wooden base and catch a few mice... then add the spring and catch a few more mice, then add the hammer and catch even more mice. No, all the parts have to be assembled at once, or you don't catch any mice at all. You cannot get gradual improvements in function by adding the pieces incrementally, one at a time. Instead, the entire system has to be in place from the beginning in order for it to perform at all."

So it is with complex organs, like the eyeball... until everything is in place, sight is impossible.

3. Example: Flight

- a. Evolutionists: there was a time on Earth when no species could fly; now, some species can fly
- b. The capacity for flight must have evolved
- c. But... how?
- d. Let's talk about birds... to fly, they need wings with feathers
- e. Feathers are STUNNINGLY complex



- f. Each feather consists of a central shaft carrying a series of barbs which are positioned at right angles to the shaft to form the vane.
 - g. The barbs which make up the vane are held together by rows of barbules
 - h. From the anterior barbules, hooks project downward which interlock with ridges on the posterior barbules
 - i. So, altogether, in the flight feather of a large bird, about a million barbules interlock and cooperate to form an amazing and impervious vane
 - j. This vane allows LIFT in the air which is essential to flight
 - k. Flight feathers are remarkably LIGHT and STRONG, with many aerodynamic principles built in which cooperate with the bird's skeletal, muscular, respiratory, and neurological systems to enable flight
 - l. How could that possibly EVOLVE incrementally?
4. Question: How do these random genetic mutations STACK UP over 100 million years to evolve into something as complex as FLIGHT?
- a. Why would they “stack up”?

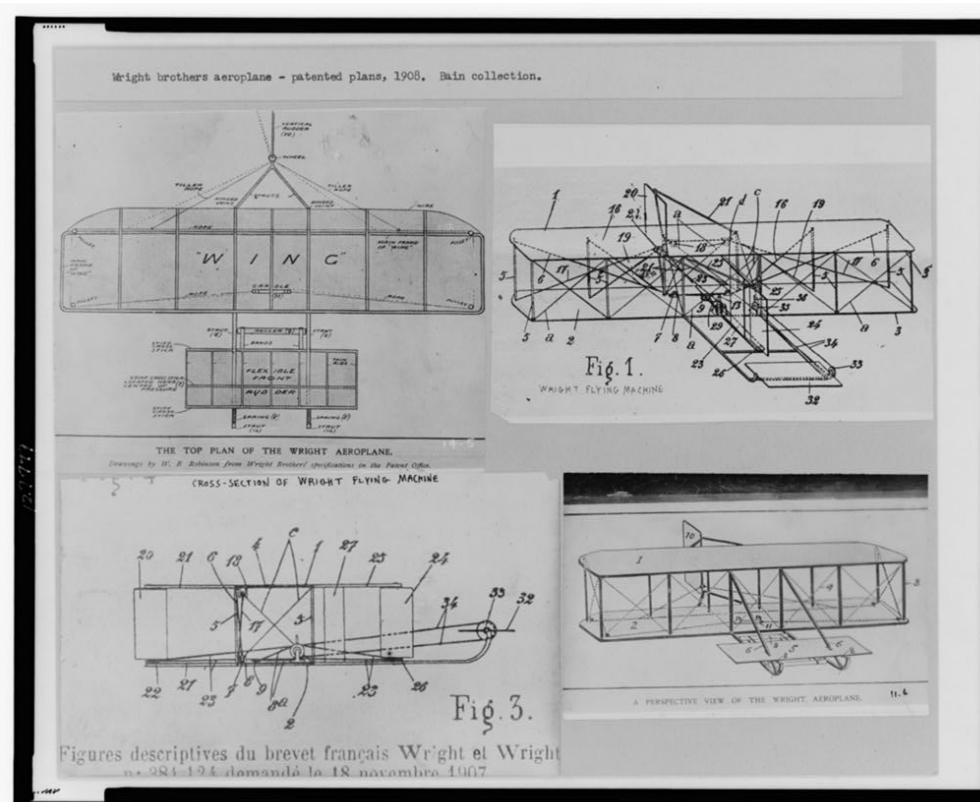
- b. Let's say you're 50 million years into the journey... some of the genetic mutations have happened and some haven't
 - c. Why would they be passed on to the progeny if the species CAN'T FLY YET?
 - d. How would they help the species to SURVIVE?
 - e. And given that there is no GUIDANCE, no PLAN, no BLUEPRINT, why would the species keep going in that DIRECTION?
 - f. Thus the entire mechanism of evolution breaks down... random beneficial mutations ALL HAVE TO PROVE INSTANTLY BENEFICIAL, or they would not help that species to survive
5. AND where does the INFORMATION for flight, and sight, and digestion, and all the stunningly complex functions of life come from?
 6. What generated that information in an atheistic, materialistic universe??
 7. Information is essential... the issue with everything!
 - a. Like a blueprint or a recipe or Orville and Wilbur Wright's scientific notebook with the sketches/measurements for how to make a Wright Flyer
 - b. The origin of information is the essential question!
 - c. Where does the information come from?

D. Cool Story: Orville and Wilbur Wright

1. They were mechanical geniuses, owning a bicycle shop by which they honed their technical, hand-on engineering skills
2. Systematically, carefully studied the problem of flight; researched glider design, engines, and especially wing shape
3. In studying birds, they realized the real issue was dealing with AIR CURRENTS... everything was balance, like riding a bicycle
4. So, they pioneered wind tunnels to study wing shape and had extensive data leading to various attempts at wing design
5. Finally, on December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills in Kitty Hawk, NC, they achieved the first heavier than air flight... it lasted 12 seconds
6. Over the next few years, they perfected every aspect of flight, including takeoffs and landings, at their test ground near Dayton, OH, Huffman Prairie

7. In 1908, Wilbur packed up their Wright Flyer in shipping crates and took a steam ship to France, to compete at LeMans (125 miles SW of Paris) and win a substantial financial award
8. He also wanted to address the poisonous and cynical doubt on the part of the watching world, especially the French, who seriously doubted that two American local yokels had solved the problem of heavier than air flight
9. So he sailed for France to win their money and their esteem
10. However, the careless French custom officials effectively destroyed his plane in their inspection... twelve of the structural ribs were broken, one wing was completely ruined, the cloth torn in countless places, the radiator was smashed, propeller axles broken, and many essential wires, nuts and bolts were completely gone.
11. But Wilbur Wright didn't panic... because he had built all the Wright Flyers up to this point, and had the design burned into his mind
12. He procured all the necessary parts in France and set to building a new flyer by the recipe he and Orville had developed so painstakingly
13. Finally, on August 8, 1908, Wilbur positioned his remade Wright flyer on the field, harnessed it to the derrick counter-weight launching system he had invented in America, and calmly announced to the crowd, "I'm going to fly."
14. The weight dropped down, the flyer was catapulted forward and the plane soared into the air
15. Wilbur flew towards a row of tall poplars, banked left, turned in a graceful curve, and flew back to the grandstand where all the people were cheering like crazy; Wilbur flew over their heads in a full circle before gently and softly landing about 50 feet from where he'd taken off
16. All because Wilbur Wright had worked out the design for flight and built the next flyer from that recipe

17. Here are the blueprint and the photographic record of that flight:

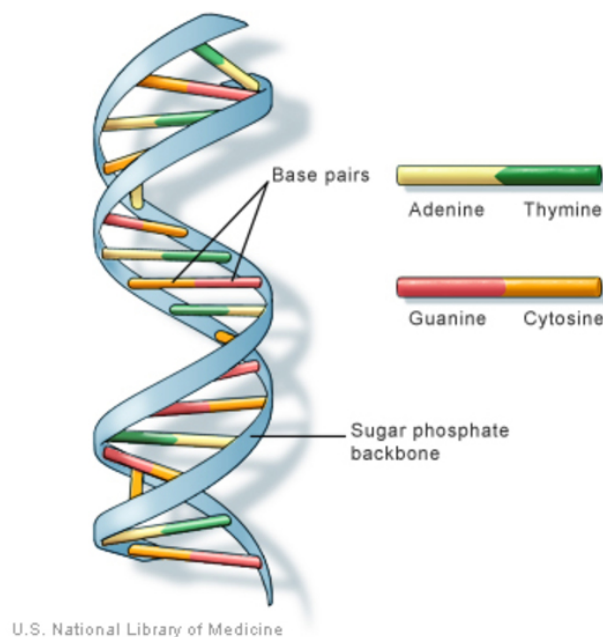


E. God Designed Flight for Birds... and Built the Recipe into their DNA

1. The INFORMATION for bird flight was coded into the cells of the birds
2. How their wings were shaped, how their bones and tendons and muscles and lungs were all perfectly designed for their capacity to soar through the air
3. Where does that INFORMATION come from?
4. Evolution says it happened by random genetic mutations that enable the bird to survive... natural selection
5. BUT in the millions of years it took for those genetic mutations to stack up, the species that preceded the final product would not have been able to fly
6. Why would their mutations be passed on to their progeny? The mutations HAVE TO BE BENEFICIAL at every step of the journey
7. AND why would “the journey” even be made anyway? Who was controlling that “journey”? It’s all based on design, INFORMATION...

F. Who Wrote the DNA Code?

1. The DNA is in the shape of a double-helix
2. It contains a sequence of four bases that serve as chemical “letters”—adenine (A), thymine (T), cytosine (C), and guanine (G)



3. These chemical letters combine in various sequences to spell out a message, and those chemical messages contain all the information for life in every living cell
4. Question: How did we get that highly specified, complex, biological information?

Nancy Pearcey: "In ordinary life, when we find a message, we don't have any doubt where it came from. We *know* that natural causes do not produce messages." If you're walking through the woods and see carved into a tree, 'Bob Loves Amy', your mind easily distinguished the natural lines of the tree bark from the message carved into the tree trunk.

"If we have an infinite number of monkeys sitting at typewriters, and an infinite amount of time, will they eventually type out the works of Shakespeare? So goes the theory, at least. But researchers in England recently put the theory to the test. They placed a computer in a cage with six monkeys to see what would happen. The monkeys main response was to bang on the computer with stones; for some reason many of them found it appealing as an outhouse. When they finally got around to pressing the keys, the result was a lot of s's, along with about four other letters. After a month, the monkeys had not written anything even close to a word of human language. Shakespeare? Not a chance." [Pearcey, 193]

5. So it is with the DNA code... the sequence is everything!
6. The genome sequence for a bird is about 1 billion base pairs... all of them have to line up in the exact right order for the bird to exist and take its particular shape, color, beak size, wing geometry

Review: Three Great Problems for Evolution:

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