

The Armored Virus

In Darwin's day, everyone thought that single-celled microbes were simply bags filled with some kind of jelly. Today, of course, we know that even a single-celled creature is a complex living system that contains miniaturized organs to carry on all the business of life. A new discovery now shows us that some viruses are even more elegantly complex than we thought.

Viruses that infect bacteria, called bacteriophages, inject their DNA into bacterial cells with something that looks like a syringe. Some bacteriophages have been found to have a unique outer shell. Bacteriophages form their outer shells, called capsids, by making hundreds of copies of the same protein. This is not a simple process. A bacteriophage known as HK97 goes through a multi-step process in which it assembles five or six proteins into a ring. These are then interlocked, like chain mail, resulting in an outer shell that, like a gemstone, has 72 faces. This structure results in a strong outer armor. But it requires that the protein be folded and assembled and then changed into this interlocking pattern. As one scientist put it, "People don't know how to make proteins, let alone fold, assemble, and then transform them into something like this."

Contrary to what Darwin's followers still believe, there is no simple form of life. That's because there is a Creator, and He will provide all who follow Him with salvation and then He will give us spiritual armor to protect us from our spiritual enemies.

Ephesians 6:11

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Prayer: Father, I thank You for the beauty and love that You give to us. Amen.

Ref: "Protein Chain mail offers armor for viruses," Science News.