

Honest Questions for an Honest Atheist

Geologists have found that the Siberian and North American Arctic are covered with a layer of organic muck which is in places thousands of feet deep and filled with trees, bones, and even undecayed flesh. It is this muck that produces the frequent finds of entire Mammoth, Rinoceri, and Bison, quickly frozen with fresh summer vegetation in their stomach.

"Drilling down through the 1000 feet of frozen earth can produce some surprises. One of our wells brought up an 18 inch long chunk of tree trunk from almost 1000 feet below the surface. It wasn't petrified, just frozen." **E. M. Benson, V.P. of ARCO, Pursuit, 2:68-69, Oct. 1969.**

"... usually bones, both sometimes almost complete skeletons, and occasionally bones or skeletons with with skin and flesh adhering occur throughout the muck... The occurrence of most of these remains indicates that they have been washed, or slid, into their present location... Organic material is so abundant in the muck that the odor from its decay is noticeable half a mile or more from the open-cuts." **Ralph Tuck, Geological Society of America, Bulletin, 51:1295-1310; 1940**

"Still more amazing is the fact that the islands in the Arctic Ocean north of Siberia are equally full of the tusks and bones of elephants and rhinoceroses; and on the shores of these islands in the Polar Sea the tusks of elephants can be seen sticking up like trunks of trees from the frozen sand!" **Current Opinion, 61:330, 1916**

What great catastrophe could have swept the animals and vegetation from two opposing continents, on opposite ends of the world, into a muddy mass grave. Only a global tidal wave could have provided the Arctic muck!

And what of the ancestral animal populations of North America. Evolutionary theory shows North America as the place where horses, camels, and many other animals evolved and then became extinct. And the mechanism proposed for that extinction? The ice ages! But we have to ask, how did continental glaciers in Canada and the Midwest wipe out horses and camels once found in Florida... or Mexico? And how did these animals migrate to the Mid-East. The traditional explanation is that they migrated across the Bering Land bridge to Asia, but this land bridge existed only during the Ice Ages... Do you really believe that animals wiped out by cold would cross the glaciers of Alaska into frigid Siberia? And that those same animals would not have migrated south into Central and South America??? Most horses I have known were far more intelligent!

So what killed off these animals and why are their historical origins in the Mid-East? A global flood with a wall of water sweeping to the poles would have killed off all flesh... and an ark which contained them, according to the Bible, would have landed the survivors on Mount Ararat in modern Turkey!

So you are convinced that God does not exist, that the bible is nothing but a bunch of made up stories, and that the person who just gave you this tract is a brain dead fool. Then what do you have to lose by reading it? We know that there is nothing we can say to change your mind, but are you honest enough to test your assumptions about the Bible and Christianity? Are you honest enough to examine the evidence and render a verdict as to the truth of the scriptures and the existence of God?

1. Would you give your life for something that you knew was a lie? Or would you abandon your home, your job, your security to travel the world in poverty proclaiming that lie? Yet, this is what the first century Christian apostles did. These men abandoned everything and eventually lost their life proclaiming the risen Jesus to the world. **These men not only knew Jesus personally, but they were witnesses to his resurrection**, and that resurrection is one of the principle points of Christianity:

"And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And was seen of Cephas (Peter) then of the twelve; After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some have fallen asleep. After that he was seen by James; then of all the apostles." **1 Cor. 15:4-7**

With all of these witnesses to the resurrected Jesus, **not one ever came forward to call the resurrection a hoax**, and almost all of these witnesses died a martyr's death: James was killed with a sword, Peter was crucified upside down, Stephen was stoned, Paul was beheaded. Yet no where in the scriptures or in the secular histories is there any record that even one recanted their testimony of Jesus resurrection. **These were eyewitnesses to an event that changed their lives!**

2. Did you know that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies that were written between 1500 and 450 years before his birth? In fact many of these prophecies were fulfilled in one day... the day he was crucified by the Romans. While it could be argued that Jesus had read the scriptures and set out to fulfill them himself, on that day it was not Jesus who was in control, but the Roman government who had neither read nor cared about the Jewish scriptures! Let's look into a few of those prophecies:

A: "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well being fell upon Him. and by His scourging we are healed." **Isaiah 53:3**

"... they pierced my hands and feet." **Psalms 22:16**

And where was this fulfilled:

"... but Jesus he scourged and delivered over to be crucified." **Matthew 27:26**

B: "... Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors ..." **Isaiah 53:12**

"At that time two robbers were crucified with Him ..." **Matthew 27:38**

C: "They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." **Psalms 22:18**

"The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. They said 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be ...'" **John 19:23-24**

D: "... They will look on Me whom they have pierced ..." **Zechariah 12:10**

"... But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear ..." **John 19:34**

These are but a few of the many prophecies that Jesus fulfilled **even though they were beyond his ability to control**. All of these prophecies were given at least 600 years before Jesus was born and all of them were fulfilled before eyewitnesses who went to their death without denying the Jesus was the promised Messiah of whom these prophecies spoke.

3. Has science successfully proven that the Bible is wrong? Perhaps you feel that evolution is a proven fact, but the scientific method requires that for any theory to be proven, it must first be demonstrated true by direct observation and measurement. Evolution has not met this challenge successfully.

Before continuing this argument let me first inform you that the writer of this tract is a degreed geologist with over 15 years of experience in petroleum and mineral exploration and is very well versed in both paleoenvironmental systems and invertebrate paleontology.

Before we can discern if the theory of evolution has been demonstrated as truth by direct observation and measurement, we must first discuss the definition of evolution. Evolution as defined originally by Darwin, and subsequently developed by over one hundred years by biologist and paleontologists, consists of several principle hypotheses:

Natural Selection determines which traits will survive and reproduce and thus establish themselves in the majority of a population.

Mutation, the creation of new traits which may be filtered by **Natural Selection**, is a random event.

Over time, and typically through isolation or environmental stress **Speciation** occurs. Speciation is a result of enough **Mutations** being **Naturally Selected** that a population is no longer able to mate with it's descendants. The result: **A New Species**.

Over time, species which are not able to adapt to environmental stress or competition from other species become **Extinct**. **Natural Selection** may then select traits in other species to fill the ecological niche left by the **Extinct** species.

I challenge you to test this definition of Evolution with any high school or college Biology teacher or any textbook on Biology. In our discussion of Evolution I want to concentrate on the last two hypotheses. It is a natural conclusion that if environmental and competitive pressures produce extinction then natural selection will encourage the remaining species in the ecosystem to develop the many of the same traits of extinct species. Thus creating a new diversification of species.

While this may sound complex it is exactly what has been theorized for the end of the Cretaceous and the extinction of the Dinosaurs. **After the demise of the Dinosaurs, a lot of new birds and mammals appeared** ... what paleoecologists would call a speciation event.

The main problem with this theory is the present ecosystem. Man is the most toxic event that has occurred on earth since the extinction of the Dinosaurs. Species are disappearing from the earth at an alarming rate. Whole ecosystems are being devastated, whole communities wiped out. Yet, in the face of mass extinctions and tremendous environmental stress (which is a primary motivation for Natural Selection), we have no new species developed.

While there are some scientist who will argue that evolution is such a slow process that it can not be observed in any man's lifespan, recorded history has spanned at least 3500 years and nowhere in this history is there any evidence of the development of any new species. Yet during this same period there has been ample evidence of extinction. Over this same period, and probably for much longer, man has developed the science of husbandry to a fine art. While improving our domesticated animals, he has yet to produce a new species of animal. Furthermore, in the last 200 years the science of genetics itself has produced no new species. It seems that no amount of effort or time will prove this important premise of evolution.

Is your faith (your belief system) in an unproven theory?

4. Was there a global flood? Even though the record of a catastrophic, nearly global flood is recorded in almost every ancient mythology, science dogmatically denies the flood. But is this dogma grounded in fact? Let us look first at the geologic evidence of a global catastrophe...