Atheist Seth Andrews Speaks

A local atheist invited me to hear Seth Andrews speak. Seth was a Christian broadcaster who turned to atheism. After hearing about his family life, I could understand why he turned away from his roots. During the Q & A/Comments time, I spoke. The picture he had painted of turning from the church was exactly the picture I would paint when I turned to Christ. Where his life was a mess when he left the

Genetic Clocks & More

Two items in genetics research have surfaced. The research being done continues to falsify evolution. Here’s the skinny:

Mitochondria are small (.5 to 1 micrometer in diameter) organelles in the cell where ATP is produced. ATP is the energy of the cell. Sugars are converted to ATP so chemical reactions can

Science News to Learn By...

Human Fossils

Atheists prefer to ignore DNA evidence and look to fossils to prove human evolution. The problem is that interpreting fossils assumes evolution and builds on that assumption, rather than using the scientific method. An example of why that is not science was just published.

A paper published in Science reports that a set of 5 crania (the part of the skull enclosing the brain) were found together in Georgia (near the Black Sea, not the USA). Those 5 crania showed more variation than supposed transitional fossils in the supposed humanoid lineage. As a result, several supposed different “species” of humanoids now have to be considered all the same species. Fossil stories are figments of the imagination of evolutionists. CRM

Fish Fin Evolution

We are told that fish fins that have a bone arrangement similar to a foot evolved from fins into feet. Research in the area has now been done. It has to do with Hox genes and activating coding in DNA during development. Evolutionists expect the coding that results in bony fins would become the coding that form digits (such as fingers) in tetrapods, the creatures that supposedly first crawled out of the water to live on land. The authors of the study conclude: We conclude that although fish have the Hox regulatory toolkit to produce digits, this potential is not utilized as it is in tetrapods, and as a result we propose that fin radials—the bony elements of fins—are not homologous to tetrapod digits. This is falsification of yet another part of the evolutionary myth. Link to the journal article on our web home page.

Christianity: Good or Bad?

Atheists such as Richard Dawkins like to deride Christianity. It is not enough to simply not believe the Bible, they feel a need to combat Christian influence everywhere and at all times. They claim that the world would be a better place if Christians were gone and rational atheists ran the show. We would suggest that people who lived under atheists such as Stalin in the Soviet Union or Mao Tse-tung in China would vehemently disagree. In fact, it was just reported that Christianity is growing so fast in China that in 15 years there will be more Christians in China than the USA. Funny, our country is moving towards atheism and those who
church, my life was going great when I joined the church. Having always been a philosophical kind of guy, I was overwhelmed by Paul’s philosophical logic in the Biblical book of Romans.

Seth’s presentation was mostly an irrational rant of stereotyping of Christians, but again, I understand why. When I had expressed my thought, Seth asked me several questions to make sure he understood that I was truly Bible-believing. Satisfied, I am, he asked me, “So, you believe that a donkey talked to a man?” (See Numbers 22:28 in the Bible) I responded, “Yes.” Of course he asked the question as a way of trying to show me as a fool. He needed that to help his psyche so I don’t object.

I am not real fast on my feet so I did not have a good response for him other than the one I gave, but it got me thinking. I had recently encountered an atheist who told me that in a closed container, all the air could move to one side and leave the other side a vacuum. That is a violation of the 2nd law of thermodynamics. You can calculate a probability, but as we mentioned in the recent past, laws are not subject to probabilities, they are yes or no. Yet, he thinks given enough time, the air could separate in the container. Google Maxwell’s Demon for more detail of the argument.

As a Christian, my worldview has no problems with miracles. We are made in God’s image and God is a creator, and so are we. I have created a model railroad. There is only one commandment on my railroad and all rules derive from that commandment. The commandment is that every move of every locomotive will always be moving freight or passengers from point A to point B. When my friends join me in operating the railroad, they can’t just run a train for fun because it violates the law. But, I am not restricted by my creation or the laws of my creation. Sometimes I run a train around the layout just for fun. In a similar way, God can override His established laws of nature and perform a miracle; God can violate laws of physics and chemistry, perform a miracle. But, time cannot over-rule laws of science, no matter how much time you have.

But, for the moment, let’s drop God from the picture. Let us assume atheism/materialism/naturalism. According to atheists, all that has ever happened or will happen can be explained in terms of matter, energy and laws of science. Any other explanation is super-natural, beyond natural. A miracle.

So, let’s go back to my talking donkey and explain his talking in terms of naturalism. Of course, Seth brought this up to show that I am not thinking rationally and, of course, atheists are always rational. After all, is it possible that a donkey could ever talk? Of course not. Not according to rational thought.

A donkey has a respiratory system that allows it to make sounds. The donkey has intelligence enough to decide what sounds he will make and when. But he doesn’t have the intelligence to construct and speak a couple of coherent sentences. There are birds of like intelligence that speak words that are coherent, but that is just imitation. A donkey has heard humans talking for years so maybe he could parrot human words and by accident they happen to make sense. The probability is low and everyone knows it. In fact the probability is low enough that it is impossible. I agree, it would have to be a miracle performed by an intelligent agent who was creator of the universe.

On the other hand, atheists such as Seth believe that life can come from non-life and then evolve into a donkey. This evolution from particles of rock to a donkey involves billions of events far less likely than a donkey speaking. After all, at least the donkey already has the physical systems required. All he needs is a little more intelligence.

But consider a cell. When we think of cell division, we tend to think only of the replication of the DNA in the nucleus. But that is just one part of the process of cell division/replication. All of the machinery that keeps a cell functioning also has to be duplicated for the new cell: tens of thousands of roadways, motors, protein constructing factories, gears, levers, clutches, the cell wall, the nuclear wall, robots, the list is almost endless. Why do all these things have to be duplicated?

Simple. To build and repair the cell the DNA controls factories and all the other devices, but cannot construct them unless the items and factories are already present. The cell cannot construct the needed mechanical systems from scratch because they have to be built in factories that are built by the products of the factories. The cell is irreducible. You must have all the factories, robots, motors, etc from the start so they can be used to build more of the same.

The atheist has to believe that natural laws are violated millions of times along with billions of extremely low probability events occurring virtually simultaneously. If you think about it in a rational manner, a talking donkey seems like a high probability event, at least compared to life coming from non-life.

The evolution of that cell into a donkey also violates Shannon laws on information transmission and requires millions of highly improbable events. One note on Shannon’s law. Shannon showed that there will always be a loss of information when that information is transmitted across an information system from a sender that encodes a message to a receiver that decodes the information. Evolution requires a gain of information via evolution. Shannon’s law forbids it.

Back to the atheist and his materialism. He believes that everything must be explained in terms of matter, energy and natural laws of science, yet he also believes in life from non-life and evolution, both of which violate natural laws. In other words, the atheist must believe something and at the same time not believe the exact same thing. Teachers of logic would state it this way: the atheist believes in P and NOT P. But a rule of logic (i.e. rational thought) is that P cannot equal NOT P.

The atheist is irrational to the point that he cannot even detect that he is irrational. It appears “free thinking” means “irrational thinking.” On the other hand, Christianity is the most logical, rational, scientifically sound worldview there is.

God, in the person of Jesus, is the creator of all the laws of science, rational thought, the universe, you and me. CRM
Mitochondria are unique among organelles in a cell because they contain DNA (called mtDNA). We are all familiar with DNA in the nucleus of a cell as that DNA controls the development of a creature and operation of every cell in the creature. The mtDNA in mitochondria is the code for proteins and other chemicals needed by the mitochondria.

Like nuclear DNA, mitochondria DNA mutates. The charts to the right are based on data from studies published in scientific journals: Evolution and American Journal of Human Genetics. See links on our web home page for more details.

Human mtDNA mutation rates have been known for about 15 years. Fruit fly, roundworm and water flea research is more recent.

There are two ways to deal with the research. One way is the scientific method. Mutation rates have been found by multiple observations, taking measurements and recording data. The number of mutations that have occurred are counted multiple times. This is accomplished by looking at many specimens from many locations and doing an analysis of the mutations. The scientific method gives us the results seen in the far right vertical green bar in each chart. These are the results that, after peer review, have been published in the journals.

What is not printed in the journals is the obvious mathematical conclusion one can draw from the data. The middle blue vertical bar of each chart shows the number of mutations one would predict to have occurred in 10,000 years based on the scientific method-based calculation of the mutation rate. Notice, that the heights of the blue and green vertical graphs are almost exactly the same.

The red vertical bar of each chart shows the number of mutations one would predict to have occurred assuming the evolutionary based age of the creatures.

Based on supposed age of fossils. Using those ages, the scientific method-based calculation of the mutation rate is used to calculate the total number of expected mutations.

Notice that the red vertical bars are off by a factor of 3 to 7. These bars are off by a factor based on supposed age of fossils. Using those ages, the scientific method-based calculation of the mutation rate is used to calculate the total number of expected mutations.

The scientific method shows that all four of the creatures analyzed are about 10,000 years old. We would say, they are more likely about 6000 years old.

Item 2: Fossil Chromosomes

The rock that housed a Royal Fern is supposedly 180,000,000 years old. The Royal Fern was preserved with physical detail and preservation of chromosomes never seen before in a plant. Notice, this is not a mineral fossil, this is preserved tissue with zero degradation.

The appearance of the preserved Royal Fern is exactly as a presently living Royal Ferns looks... No differences.

An analysis of the chromosomes of the preserved fern shows no change with ferns of the present. The comparison of the chromosomes and appearance are both based on the scientific method. The problem is that everything mutates. Mutation rates are so high that even if the fittest fern came about 180 million years ago, there would still be millions of mutations resulting in differences in appearance and chromosomes.

Conclusion

In both cases above, the studies consist of repeatable, measurable and falsifiable data. The data is fact. As young earth creationists, we can simply say, “Forget assumptions, here is the data and it shows that these life-forms came into existence in the very recent past, as in a few thousand years ago. The scientific method leaves no other conclusion possible.

But, in the eye of the atheist, the scientific method and mathematical conclusions are irrelevant. What counts is evolution. Evolution is assumed at the expense of the scientific method.

The study of genetics has been the downfall of evolution. Here are the facts: Every study similar to the two we give above give the same results. The scientific method shows that life is recent. Every study into the effects of evolution has shown that EVERY mutation that appears to have a benefit for a critter is actually a loss of a function, many times because the amazing information in the DNA “knew” to make a specific change in its own DNA to ensure survival. (Note also that all supposed “good” mutations are in single-cell critters.) There are ZERO exceptions to these facts.

6,000 years ago, God, in the person of Jesus, created all life and the universe. And recently, you and me. CRM
moving toward Christianity.

A study reported by ABC Science confirms the one thing we think Dawkins has correct, though not for the correct reason. He believes that our selfish genes cause us to be born self-centered because we want to spread our genes. We are born self-centered, though the Bible states it is because of our sin nature. ABC Science reports on a study that confirms that we are born focused on ourselves. Of course, anyone who has had children knows we are born self-centered. Dawkins and we agree that parents have a duty to discipline their children so they reduce their self-centeredness. This flies in the face of new age philosophy and modern psychology theory which states we are born good and society corrupts us. As we discussed last issue, how can good people create a society that corrupts? The one thing Dawkins gets right nobody wants to hear. It means parents actually have to put forth the effort of being parents.

Next is a report in Secular News Daily. The University of Finland decided to see how atheists react to being asked to dare God to do something. The atheists got all sweaty, like anyone asked to do something that makes them very uncomfortable (or immoral). The scientists gave several possible reasons for that reaction. The Secular News folks thought the best reason was that atheists implicitly believe in God. Implicit belief indicates indirect belief, whatever that is when it comes to God. I don’t think they were thinking of the definition of implicit which means “absolutely,” though we think that is closer. Romans 1:19-20 explains why. ...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 people are without excuse.

The Daily Mail in England reports on a study at the university of Manchester. Church-goers are less likely to commit crimes such as shoplifting, illegal drug use, music piracy and even littering. Environmentalists: want your kids to be more responsible regarding the environment, start taking them to church! The researchers state: this is because religion not only teaches people about ‘moral and behavioural norms’, but also spending time with like-minded people makes it less likely they’ll get mixed up with the ‘wrong crowd’.

Note that “Church-goers” does not mean they are Christians, but just being around Christians (the right crowd) once a week helps them live more wholesome lives.

Finally, the Daily Mail reports on a study by German psychologists at Searland University and the University of Mannheim. It found that talking to God boosts self-control and emotional stability. A sidebar to that article reports on a University of Massachusetts study that shows that high levels of belief in God results in double the effectiveness of treatment for depression.

So, we turn back to the original question, Is Christianity Good or Bad for Us? Based on the above and many other studies, Christianity leads to the “Good Life” in every respect you can imagine. From doing good to feeling good, the answer is to accept the obvious knowledge God has planted in you, get to church to fellowship with other Christians. Come on, join us in the Good Life in Jesus, the Creator God of the universe. CRM