

Life on Earth: Created by God or by Chance? – A Biblical and Scientific Apologetic.

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Abstract

Our solar system is filled with amazing planets, but none are perfect for life except the earth. The utter lifelessness of other planets in our solar system illustrates the fact that earth is unique and specially created for life. This article is aimed to analyze whether life on earth is created by God or formed from dead-chemical particles by chance. For this purpose, verses from the Holy Bible and the findings or thoughts of some scientists and philosophers were considered. The article begins with defining the term life scientific as well as Biblical point of view. Followed by an attempt is made to find evidence for life on Earth through science and Scripture. Arguments against creation of life by Darwin theory was analyzed and found that he proceeded to extrapolate his domestic breeding observations to include unlimited variation - in fact variations from the amoebae to man type. Similarly, arguments against creation of life by chance was also analyzed and found that dead matter cannot become living without coming under the influence of matter previously alive. This is because any living organisms do not develop in sterile nutrient media in the absence of air or in the presence of air from which all microorganisms have been removed. Hence it was concluded at the end that life on earth is certainly created by the God, the almighty, not from dead-chemical particles by chance.

Introduction

The origin of life is one of the great mysteries in the Universe and it is hard to define. To determine the origin of life, scientists are investigating the problem in several different ways. Some scientists are studying life on our own planet. Some scientists are seeking out life or fossil life on other planets or moons in our solar system. Thus far, the most fruitful approach has been to examine life on our own planet. Scientist believe that life began at least 3.5 billion years ago, because that is the age of the oldest rocks with fossil evidence of life on earth [1].

J.B.S. Haldane, the British naturalized Indian scientist, recipient of Darwin–Wallace Medal (2958), called "cleverest man" by others himself admitted that he can not answer the question "What is life?". He doubts whether it will ever be possible to give a full answer, because we know what it feels like to be alive, just as we know what redness, or pain, or effort are. So we cannot describe them in terms of anything else [2].

The most concise, unambiguous general definition of life that can be given at the present time is based on the genetic properties of living things. According to this view, the unique attribute of living matter from which all of its remarkable features derive is its capacity for self-duplication with mutation. Living organisms are systems that reproduce, mutate and then reproduce their mutations [3].

As biologist and philosopher Harold J. Morowitz says, "The only life we know for certain is cellular..." [4]. A definition of life based on the foregoing ideas was proposed by the American geneticist HJ. Muller and it is well expressed in the words of NH Horowitz in the United States

in 1966. The purpose of this study is to do some analysis on Bible and some of the published scientific articles to confirm that life on earth is certainly created by God not from dead-chemical particles by chance.

Life: Biblical point of view

The term 'life' according to the Bible appears to have certain parameters. They are: soul or consciousness, flesh or body, breathing or spirit, and blood. The Bible associates life and "soul" together in Genesis 2:7. The "soul", biblically speaking, provides an organism with the capacity to express desires and emotions. The entire biblical record must be studied to observe what possesses a "soul". In the Old Testament, "soul" is a translation of the Hebrew word *nepes*. This is the word that occurs in Genesis 2:7 describing what man became after God blew the breath of life into him. The second characteristic of life, as the Bible defines it, is the possession of "flesh". This is both a physical characteristic and an emotional one (Matthew 16:17 and Luke 24:39). The third necessary aspect is that of "spirit" or "breath". This term (and its usage) is broad, yet like the other two it functions with "life", so that which does not possess this aspect is not living (Genesis 2:7). Blood is the fourth biblical criterion for life and it is very important. The essence of sacrifice consisted in the fact that the life (the *nephesh*) resided in the blood; thus when blood was shed, life was lost (Deuteronomy 12:23; Leviticus 17:11). The Bible's doctrine of salvation has at its foundation that blood can atone for man's sin (Hebrews 9:22). There is no disagreement about the meaning of this term; it is the same thing that flows through human and animal bodies. The Bible clearly includes those life-forms that possess these parameters.

Life: Scientific point of view

Life has properties that clearly distinguish it from everything else. First, every living thing is cellular. In other words, it is either a single-celled creature or a creature composed of many cells. Every cell is bounded by its own outer membrane and contains a full set of instructions necessary for its operation and reproduction. Furthermore, every cell uses the same operating system: "DNA makes RNA makes protein." DNA is a long complex molecule that contains the cell's instructions. It is transcribed into RNA, another long complex molecule similar to DNA; and then the RNA transcript is translated into protein. There are hundreds of billions of different proteins used by living things, but all of them are made from the same twenty amino acids, the "building blocks of life." During the twentieth century several circumstances favored an intertwining between the research tools of the physicists and those of the biologists, often resulting in a gene-centered view of life [5]. The achievements associated with the Human Genome Project at the turn of the century were technological as well as scientific [5]. Blood is a vital part of animal and human life. Blood serves two major functions in any kind of life in which it exists. The first is the transport of food and waste products. The second one is to transport oxygen, called respiration [6].

Evidence for life on Earth : Scientific point of view

The earliest evidence for life on Earth comes from fossilized mats of cyanobacteria called stromatolites in Australia that are about 3.4 billion years old. But despite knowing approximately when life first appeared on Earth, scientists are still far from answering how it appeared [7]. "Many theories of the origin of life have been proposed, but since it's hard to prove or disprove them, no fully accepted theory exists," said Diana Northup, a cave biologist at the University of New Mexico [7].

Most scientists agree that life went through a period when RNA was the head-honcho molecule, guiding life through its nascent stages. According to this "RNA World" hypothesis, RNA was the crux molecule for primitive life and only took a backseat when DNA and proteins—which perform their jobs much more efficiently than RNA—developed. DNA, RNA is a complex molecule made of repeating units of thousands of smaller molecules called nucleotides that link together in very specific, patterned ways. But, David Deamer, a biochemist at the University of California, Santa Cruz said "A lot of the cleverest and most talented people in my field have accepted that the RNA World was not just possible, but probable" [7].

Evidence for life on Earth: Biblical point of view

According to Bible God is the author of life (Ps. 36:9). When God created this planet, He supplied it with light, soil, water, air, and seeds (Gen. 1:3-11). All seed is infused with potential for generation, growth, and reproduction; the Life-giver endowed organic matter with life. God is the sustainer and owner of life; God did not abandon His creation when He completed His creative work. Scripture teaches that He is an active sustainer of life (Ps. 104:29, 30). Through the laws of nature instituted at Creation and through humanity's stewardship over the earth, God sustains life indirectly. But the Bible underlines God's active and direct involvement, and the total dependence of living creatures on His activity. God makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall (Matt. 5:45); He gives food to the birds of heaven (Matt. 6:26) and water to the wild animals (Ps. 104:11); not even the death of a sparrow escapes His knowledge (Matt. 10:29), and even should people disrespect the laws of nature through neglect, destructive violence, or selfish manipulation, the Owner of life visits them with consequences and so calls them to responsibility. Because God sustains life, investing in its every breath and pulsation, life belongs to Him and is precious.

Life is set apart for a special purpose, and so it is precious. At the time of Creation God established a delicate and well-balanced bio system on earth. According to Genesis 1:29, 30, green plants grow from inorganic soil and serve as food for animals; fruits and seeds are given to humans for food. Not one organic living thing exists without reason or purpose, nor is any living thing independent of everything else. Yet life's value does not lie simply in mutual usefulness or interconnectedness. Rather, harmony and unity in nature serve as witnesses to the existence and nature of its Creator (Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 1:19, 20). Because of the divine purpose for their existence, the life in living things is precious. Respect for life means respect for the originally designated purpose for each category. To use plants, fruits, nuts, and animal life for their intended service often implies the taking of their life. Any use of the lower life (plant or animal) that trespasses the original intent and any use of humans as mere objects constitutes abuse and profanation of life [8].

Arguments against creation of life by Darwin Theory

Creationists dispute the underlying theories of natural selection not because of their religious beliefs, but because no scientific research or laboratory observations over the past 150 years have shown these individual sub-theories can possibly be. Once these individual sub-theories are shown to be false, the theory of evolution falls apart. Once the theory of evolutions is ruled out as being a possibility based on scientific facts observed, the only thing left that make any sense is creations [9].

Darwin observed very closely breeding experiments in domestic animals and noted that quite large change within species limits was possible and within relatively short time periods. He studied the various types of pigeons that pigeon fanciers produced. He observed horse and cattle breeders doing the same. But up to Darwin's time breeders had believed that there were strict limits set to the distance such change could go and that the limits were those of the species itself [10].

Darwin proceeded to extrapolate his domestic breeding observations to include unlimited variation - in fact variations from the amoebae to man type. He taught that, just as controlled selection in domestic breeding over short periods of time could bring about the observed changes within a species, so natural selection and the survival of the fittest over long periods could bring about unlimited evolutionary change from one species to another - in short, from amoebae to man [10].

It is just at this point - unlimited variation - which Darwin extrapolated too far [10]. For controlled breeding experiments and the accompanying selection certainly bring about species modification, that is, modification within a typological form. The horse could be modified from the Shetland Pony type to the shire horse by such selective breeding. But the product of this breeding work was always a horse. Pigeons could be modified from the wild wood pigeon type to exotic pouter types. Wild dogs can be similarly modified to the Pekingese, the terrier or the fox hound by variation and selective breeding. But they are all definitely dogs. No dog has ever been made to move into the cat family by selection, no horse has ever been modified towards the cow and no amphibian has ever been observed to tend towards becoming a reptile.

If a monkey were to move up to a man, it would require, to achieve this feat, an enormous amount of additional information to build for example the speech center and the specialized neural co-ordination between buccal cavity, lungs and vocal cords, so as to confer the ability of speech. This capacity of speech, grammatical speech, requires very extensive new information over that which the monkey possessed in his genetic code. Therefore, the transfer from monkey to man would require quite incredible amounts of new and specialized holistic information just to wire the neural apparatus behind speech [11].

Arguments against creation of life by chance

With the overthrow of the theory of the spontaneous generation of life, scientists found themselves in the situation of having to choose among three possibilities, one of which was particularly attractive to them. The alternatives were either that life was created in a supernatural manner by a divine act, that life had no beginning, or that the first living organism had evolved from inorganic (non-living) sources.

Many scientists were inclined to accept the somewhat frustrating view that life has always existed and that it was useless to consider how it originated. In 1868 the eminent German Chemist Justus von Liebig wrote: "We may only assume that life is just as old and just as eternal as matter itself, and the whole controversial point about the origin of life seems to be disposed of by this simple assumption." The same view was expressed by the distinguished German scientist, Physician, and philosopher H.L.F. von Helmholtz in 1874. So it seems "to be a fully correct procedure, if all our efforts fail to cause the production of organisms from non-living matter, to raise the question of whether life has ever arisen, whether it is not just as old as matter."

Arguments for and against the view that life could arise spontaneously continued among philosophers and experimenters until the early 1860's, when the idea was dealt its death blow by Louis Pasteur in France. Even at that time there were numerous skeptics, but as a result of his many careful experiments, Pasteur refuted one objection after another. He was thus able to establish, without a shadow of doubt, that living organisms do not develop in sterile nutrient media in the absence of air or in the presence of air from which all microorganisms have been removed. When exposed to ordinary air, however, the same media produced such organisms in large numbers. "Then is no circumstance known today," wrote Pasteur in 1862, "whereby one can affirm that microscopic beings have come into the world without germs, without parents resembling themselves." Soon afterward, this view became universally accepted among scientists- and the general feeling may be summed up in the words of the famous physicist William Thomson (Lord Kelvin) who, in his presidential address to the British Association in 1871 said: "Dead matter cannot become living without coming under the influence of "matter previously alive."

Life did not arise by physics and chemistry without intelligence. The intelligence needed to create life, even the simplest life, is far greater than that of humans; we are still scratching around trying to understand fully how the simplest life forms work. There is much yet to be learned of even the simplest bacterium. Indeed, as we learn more the 'problem' of the origin of life gets more difficult; a solution does not get nearer, it gets further away [12]. But the real problem is this: the origin of life screams at us that there is a super-intelligent Creator of life and that is just not acceptable to the secular mind of today.

Conclusion

We have methods to find the creation of world, but we don't have solid methods to find the creation of life. So we have to believe that the life on earth is certainly created by the God, the almighty, not from Dead-chemical Particles by chance. Human cannot evolve to become an angel even any amount of time as they are created by God slightly lower level than angels (Psalm 8:5). Explaining the origin of life by solely physical and chemical processes is proving to

be extremely difficult. Hence the answer to how did life begin on earth is simple, God created it. Let us sincerely search within our souls, and God will guide us to the true faith.

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