

Should Christians
Embrace Evolution?

Where Will We Look?

👁️ Science

👁️ Philosophy

👁️ Scripture

Science

What do we mean when we say, "Evolution"?

- Micro Evolution – That things adapt to their environments while remaining in the same species. – Also called "adaptation"
- Macro Evolution – That things shift from one species to another through a series of tiny changes all based on the best chances of survival.

Is this good Science?

- There's no good answer for Origin

Lawrence Krauss

- Redefines nothing so that it's something. The universe can come from something, so we just need to make nothing into something.



Is this good Science?

- There's no good answer for Origin
- What should we see in the fossil record?

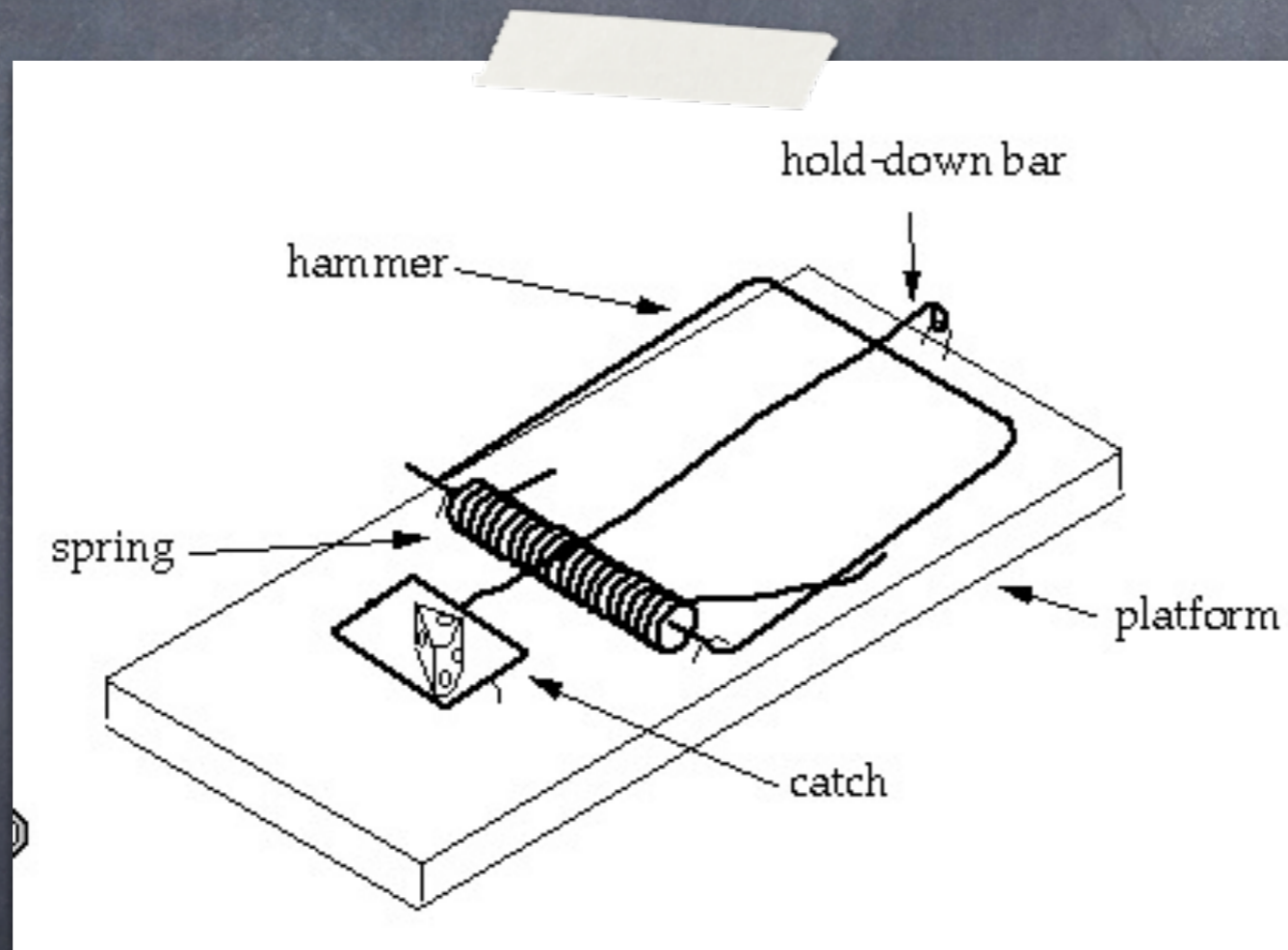
Fossil Record

- The known fossil record fails to document a single example of phyletic evolution accomplishing a major morphological transition and hence offers no evidence that the gradualistic model can be valid. – Steven M. Stanley “Macroevolution: Pattern and Process”
- ... there are gaps in the graveyard, places where there should be intermediate forms but where there is nothing whatsoever instead. – A. S. Romer “Vertebrate Paleontology”

Is this good Science?

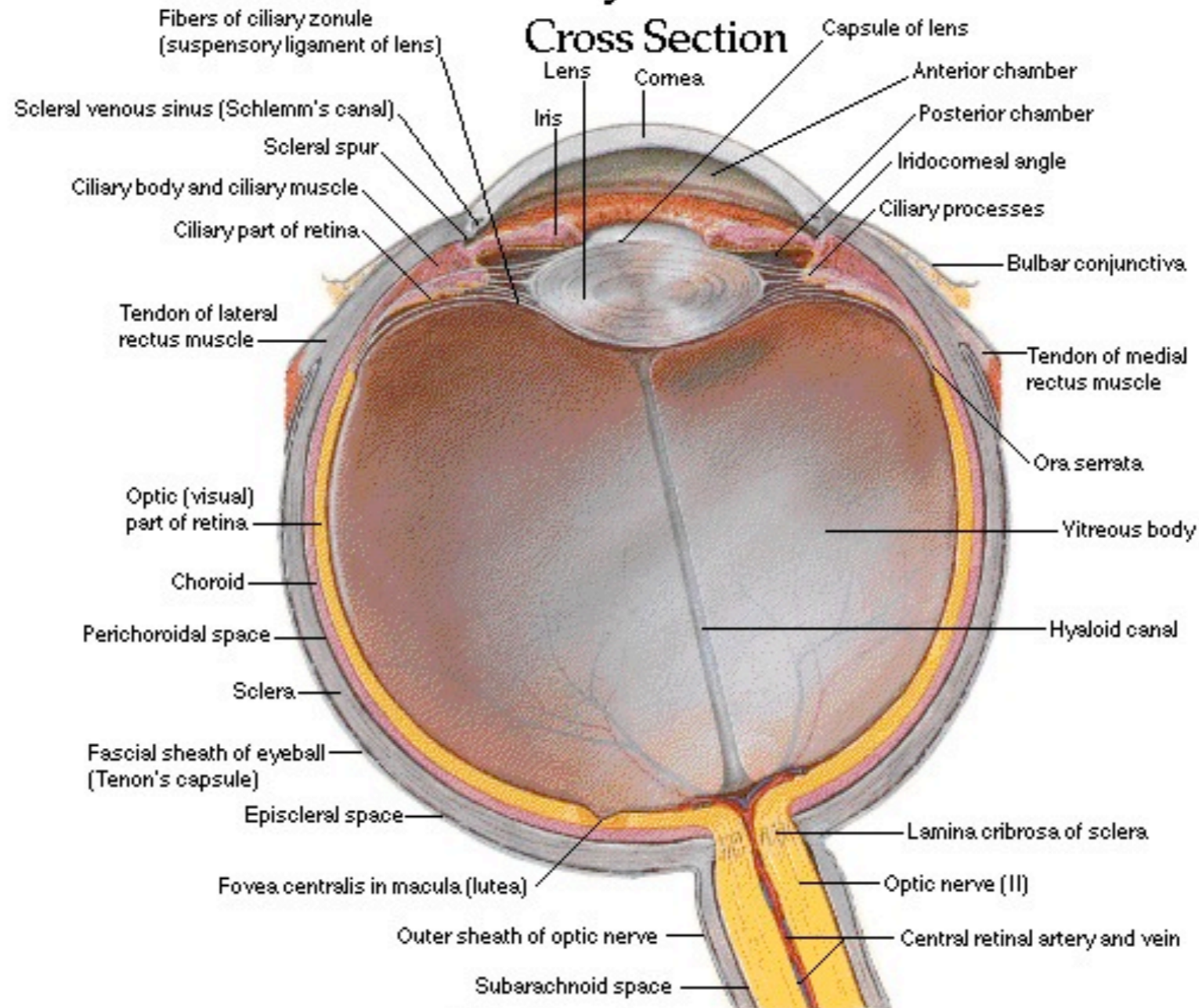
- Why is it not still going? And why are there still less complex species?
- What about the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics?
- Irreducible Complexity

Mousetrap



Eyeball

Cross Section



Horizontal section

Philosophy

Philosophy

- Everything is physical/material
- Everything came from nothing
- With time any/everything is possible (Like a marble table turning into a Ferrari). "Given infinite time, or infinite opportunities anything is possible" The Blind Watchmaker, 139

Philosophy

- Everyone agrees that the universe looks designed, but it's not. – The Anthropic Principle
- Too much is left to chance. If evolution were true it would have to be ordered. (Order and Origin)

Where the Conflict Really Lies – Alvin Plantinga

- Christianity and Science
- Naturalism and Science



Dr. William Provine

o 'Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear - and these are basically Darwin's views. There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That's the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.' Provine, W.B., *Origins Research* 16(1), p.9, 1994



Richard Dawkins

o`The universe we observe has ... no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. ... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music", River out of Eden, p. 133, 1995.



Richard Dawkins

oHowever improbable
the origin of life
might be, we know it
happened on Earth
because we are here”
The God Delusion
137



Stephen Hawking

- Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself out of nothing. "The Grand Design", p.180



What are the chances?

- We live on a planet where we are surrounded by perhaps ten million species, each one of which independently displays a powerful illusion of apparent design. – Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, 139
- The chances of even a simple protein coming to existence out of nothing is 20 to the 100th power to one

What are the chances?

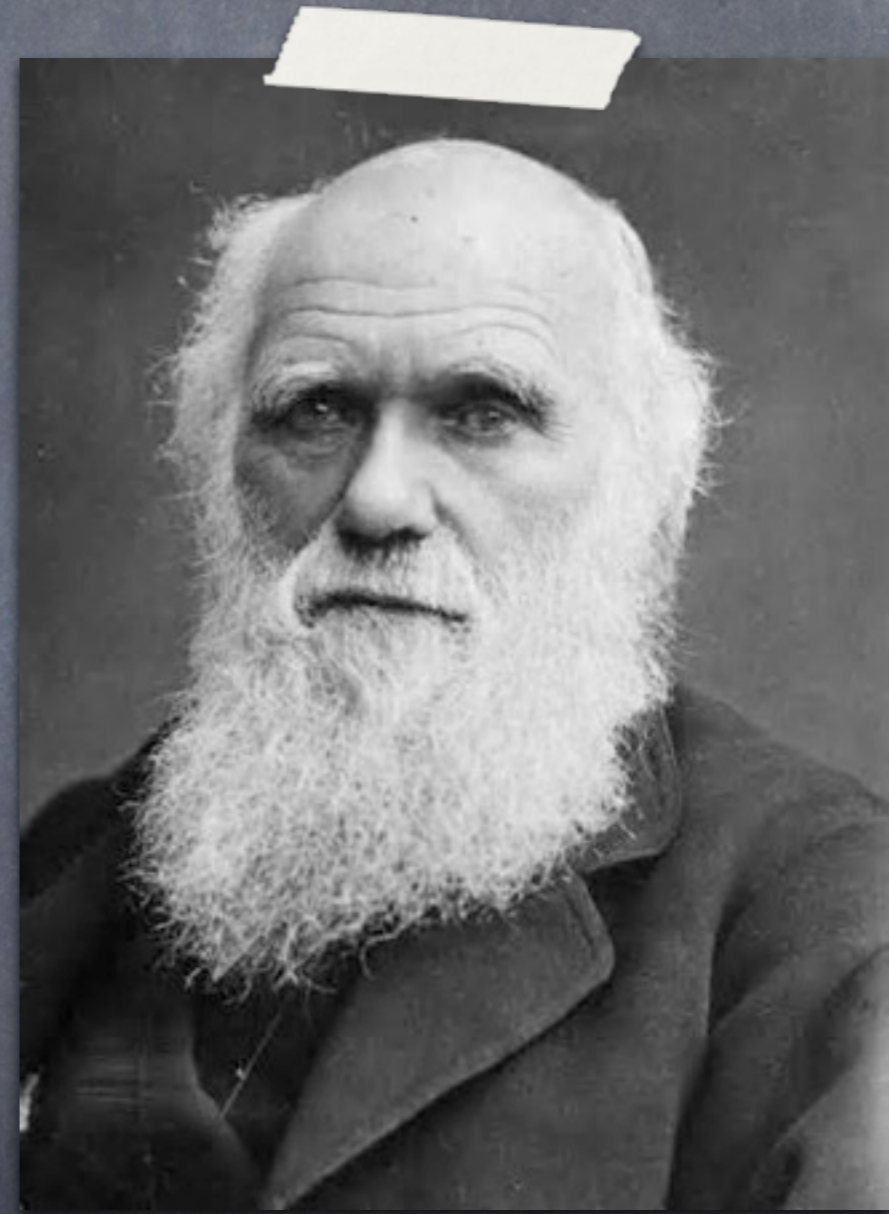
- The human genome is 3,200,000,000 letters long all in the correct sequence

NO ANSWERS

- Origin
- Anything immaterial (laws of nature, laws of logic, the human consciousness)
- Meaning, Purpose, Value
- Morality

Charles Darwin

Man, like every other animal, has no doubt advanced to his present high condition through a struggle for existence consequent on his rapid multiplication; and if he is to advance still higher he must remain subject to a severe struggle. Otherwise he would soon sink into indolence, and the more highly-gifted men would not be more successful in the battle of life than the less gifted. Hence our natural rate of increase, though leading to many and obvious evils, must not be greatly diminished by any means. There should be open competition for all men; and the most able should not be prevented by laws or customs from succeeding best and rearing the largest number of offspring. – The Descent of Man, 403



Scripture

How does it affect theology?

- The authority of Scripture

Hebrews 11:3 – By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Ex. 20:8-11 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Isn't Genesis 1-3 just allegorical?

- The genealogies in Gen 5, 1 Chron 1; and Luke 3 assume the historicity of Genesis 1-11
- The New Testament quotes Genesis 1-11: 107 times
- Jesus refers to Genesis 1-11: 25 times
- Paul mentions Eve being made from Adam, the first man (1 Cor 11:8-9; 15:45; 1 Tim 2:11-14)
- Jesus affirms God's special creation of Adam and Eve in the beginning

Matt. 19:4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

How does it affect theology?

- The authority of Scripture
- Adam and Eve as the first couple
- The atonement... the Gospel.

Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Rom. 5:15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in
Christ shall all be made alive.

Resources

- Should Christians Embrace Evolution? – Norman Nevin
- Where the Conflict Really Lies – Alvin Plantinga
- There is a God – Anthony Flew
- The Deniable Darwin – David Berlinski
- God's Undertakers – John Lennox