

# Examining the Cosmos

## Session 6

### *How Life Began*

#### **Recommended Reading**

Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross, *The Origins of Life* (NAV PRESS, 2004)

Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box* (Free Press, 2006)

In Class Videos: *Unlocking the Mystery of Life*, *How life Began: Stromatolyes*

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LIFE
1. Began early in Earth's history
2. Began under hostile conditions
3. Began by divine intervention
4. Appeared in abundance, diversity, and for long eras for the specific benefit of humanity.
5. Began with optimal ecological relationships
6. Began with optimal design for environmental conditions
7. Reflects shared common designs
8. Progresses from simple to complex through a series of extinction and miraculous replacement, (speciation) events.
9. Started as physical only (most life-forms), then came soulish creatures, (many species), and finally, then came one spiritual species, an original pair of humans and all their descendants.

#### **EVOLUTION OR CREATION BY DESIGN:**

Secular scientists when confronted with "why evolution?" usually answer back that evolution may be called a theory however the "fact" of evolution is true. Their secular meaning of evolution is; In biology, the ongoing result of natural selection, which under certain circumstances causes groups of similar organisms, called species, to change over time so that their descendants differ significantly in structure and appearance: in general, any gradual change of an object into another form or state of development. Evolutionists would say that all changes, observed in the record of nature, including the origin and history of the universe, Earth and all life, can be attributed to strictly natural causes.

Until the 1970's evolutionists claimed that billions of years passed on the newly cooled Earth during which inorganic elements randomly coupled and broke apart until finally a self-replicating molecule formed that led to primitive life, this theory had to be discarded. They were **WRONG!**

Now to account for life's' immediate appearance, today's scientific theories require that life was planted on Earth from outer space or that an exotic property of molecular self-organization made the chemicals into self-replicating molecules via a YET-TO-BE-DISCOVERED process.

The word evolution means "change with respect to time"

The secular scientists would be more accurate in calling their belief "Macro Evolution".

As a Biblical, scientific, creationist I also believe in evolution-i.e.-change with respect to time. As Dr. Rana pointed out in his lecture, "Scientific Challenges to Evolution"

- Stars are born- live- and die
- Species do change over time, Micro- Changes

However as a Biblical creationist we understand that a Creator is responsible for bringing the universe and life into existence.

The RTB creation model is a good definition of what a Biblical, scientific creationist believes.

To the statement often made: "evolution is a fact", we can point to so many weaknesses in this argument.

- a. the immediate appearance of life, in concert with the same time liquid water first formed on earth
- b. irreducible complexity to each cell, the numerous components, which all must be present and interact precisely
- c. the cells molecular motors, biochemical machinery

All these features tell us that intelligent design comes from an intelligent source.

The most potent argument against biological evolution I believe is the now known fact that life began immediately 3.8 billion years ago, the same period in which liquid water first formed on Earth.

Also, approximately 550 million years ago when the oxygen levels reached about 20% of earth's atmosphere we had an explosion of life, The Cambrian era. This explosion of Multicellular life, when classes of animals developed within each phyla, but they always retained the basic body plan of their particular phylum.

After that time, none or few other phyla ever appeared.

New organisms, whether among plant groups or animals, make their first fossil appearance highly specialized and fully developed, lived their time, and disappear. The fossil record fails to give any hint at the basic anatomical levels that a change in morphology was in the offing.

An accurate description of macro-evolution as presented by the fossil record is that it usually takes place somewhere else and all we are left with is the punctuations.

Darwin realized this far better than his overly enthusiastic followers, on no less than seven occasions in the “Origin of Species” he implored his readers to ignore the evidence of the fossil record as a refutation of his concept of evolution or to use “imagination to fill in the gaps”.

In the, May 2, 2008 Wall Street Journal, an article states that pressure from “critics of evolution” are promoting “academic freedom”. This would encourage or require public school teachers to cast doubt on the theory of evolution. Teachers could critique evolution, and raise criticisms of evolution.

Unfortunately the ID group has the lead over Biblical creationist in getting the “academic freedom” bill moving forward. They will promote that life was created by an unknown designer, possibly divine.

The evolutionist, as always, with their head buried in the sand state that there are no credible scientific critiques of evolution, any more than there are credible alternatives to the theory of gravity. I guess this is what drives RTB forward. We have the answers, how do we get them to listen? Praise God for men and women involved in Reasons Institute!