

Sunday, September 1, 2013—Mankind: Special Creation Made in the Image of God

### **Introduction**

- A few years ago I found out that my cousin who used to attend this assembly as well as Grace School of the Bible had made the faith choice to become an atheist.
- That might sound not sound like a correct statement but it is. But according to Psalm 14:1 the fool hath said in his heart there is no God.
- Romans 10:8-9—With the heart men believe unto righteousness.
- Any world view: Theism—God made all, Pantheism—God is all, or Atheism—No God at all (Religious Humanism) required faith to believe.
- The reality of the situation can be clearly seen in the topic I have given myself for today.
- The Evolution debate continues to rage in our country. The American Civil Liberties Union forbids any mention of God or creation in public schools across this country. The Theory of Darwinian Evolution has for far to long been blindly excepted as a scientific fact.
- In recent years there has been a growing movement called Intelligent Design that has been using science to point out the flaws in Darwin's Theory.
- While this movement is purposefully not turning to the pages of scripture for support they have made some interesting points of common sense that I would like to spend a few minutes talking about.

### **Intelligent Design**

- Most of us think of evolution as the invention of Charles Darwin in 1859, but it is really a very old view that has naturalistic philosophical roots.
- Charles Darwin provided a mechanism to make evolution work beginning with matter alone. He called it natural selection.
- Evolutionists also teach that life began as a result of chemical reactions in what Darwin called a “warm little pool.”
- From this view had emerged that life arose from nonliving matter.

- New life forms are said to have evolved through natural selection. As the conditions of the earth changed, animals adapted new characteristics to meet new challenges. Those who adapted survived and those that did not passed into extinction.
- The great variety of extinct animals found in fossils and their similarities to living species are used to confirm this thesis.

### **How Does Science Work**

- Science is based on causality, every event has a cause. Things don't happen willy-nilly. All science is based on finding causes using these two principles: causality and uniformity.
- When scientific principles were first being developed into the scientific method, scientists like Francis Bacon, Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton, and William Kelvin made a distinction between primary and secondary causes.
- A primary cause was a first cause that explained singularities—events that only happened once and had no natural explanation.
- Secondary causes were thought of a natural causes and laws that govern the way things normally operate.
- Operation science deals with the way things normally operate. It examines how the world normally works in the present. It studies things that happen over and over again in a regular and repeated way. Operation science seeks answers that are testable by repeating the experiment over and over, and falsifiable if the cause does not always yield the same effect. Its conclusions should allow one to predict what will happen in future experiments.
- Origin science studies past singularities, rather than present normalities. It looks at how things began not how they work. It studies things that only happened once and, by their nature, don't happen again.
- In C.S.I. the detectives try to find out what and/or who caused a past singularity (a person's death) by examining the effect and deciding what kind of thing could have caused that event. On C.S.I. the detectives need to determine if they are looking for a natural cause of death or a murder—an intelligent cause.

- Carl Sagan has said, “a single message from outer space would confirm his belief that there is extraterrestrial life.” In other words, some normal events, such as communication, require an intelligent cause.
- This type of order is known as specified complexity. It is obvious that whenever we see a clear and distinct message—a complex design with a specified function—it was caused by some form of intelligent intervention imposing limits on the natural matter it would not take by itself. It is valid science to look for intelligent primary causes to events that show signs of intelligence.
- Use example of Alphabets Cereal and Human DNA

<b>Natural Causes Produce</b>	<b>Intelligent Causes Produce</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Dunes</li> <li>• Waterfalls</li> <li>• Round Stones</li> <li>• Mt. McKinley</li> <li>• Clouds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sand Castles</li> <li>• Power Plants</li> <li>• Arrowheads</li> <li>• Mt. Rushmore</li> <li>• Skywriting</li> </ul>

- Microevolution—variation within a type does exist. Macroevolution—variation across types does not.
- Genesis 1:11-12, 21, 24-25

<b>Crucial Differences:</b>	<b>Artificial Selection</b>	<b>Natural Selection</b>
<i>Goal</i>	Aim (end) in view	No aim (end) in view
<i>Process</i>	Intelligently guided process	Blind process
<i>Choices</i>	Intelligent choice of breeds	No intelligent choice of breeds
Protection	Breeds guarded from destructive process	Breeds not guarded from destructive processes
Interruptions	Continued interruptions to reach desired goal	No continued interruptions to reach any goal

- What takes more faith to believe? That life arose from nonlife or that the complexities of the natural are the result of intelligent intervention?

**Mankind A Special Creation Made in the Image of God**

- Genesis 1:26-27—first notice how verse 26 changes pattern that has been previously established throughout the chapter.

- Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20—In all of these verses God is referred to in the singular. In verse 26 “God said let us make.” Who is God talking to in verse 26? The other members of the Godhead.
- So mankind was made in the image of a triune God. Therefore if man is made in God’s image and God exists as a trinity mankind is also a tricotomy.
- I Thessalonians 5:23—Establishes the tricotomous nature of mankind. Every human being possesses a body, soul, and spirit.
- Hebrews 4:12—The word of God is able to distinguish between all three parts of your person.
- Genesis 2:7—God breathed his life giving spirit into Adam and he became a living soul.
- The Bible affirms that mankind is unique from the rest of creation because mankind is the only part of the creation that God made in his own image. Pastor Stam suggests in “Man: His Nature and Destiny,” that Number 16:22, 27:16, Hebrews 12:9 that God is called the Father of spirits not of souls. Thus man, by the possession of a spirit is capable of having a relationship with God while animals are not.
- Moreover, this also explains why angels are called the sons of God while animals are not. Angels possess bodies and spirits but not souls. I Peter 3:19 the spirits in prison.
- Genesis 9:5-6—The reason that God institutes the death penalty for murder is because he made man in his own image.

### **Mankind in the Likeness of God**

- Genesis 1:26—Also states that God created mankind in his own likeness.
- Man was created in the image of God in that he was a tricotomy a body, soul, and spirit. Adam was like God in that he was without sin and enjoyed the very access to the presence of God.
- 1) God is an absolutely perfect being 2) An absolutely perfect Being cannot produce an imperfect creation, 3) Therefore, the original creation God made was perfect
- Genesis 3:8—God used to walk with Adam in the cool of the day before Adam sinned.
- Genesis 3:24--Once Adam sinned he was kicked out of Eden the Garden of God and boarded from having access to the tree of life.

- When Adam sinned he retained the image of God in that man is still a tricotomoy, however, his spirit died to the life of God. However, Adam and Eve lost the likeness of God.
- Genesis 5:1-4—When Adam has children they are born in his image and likeness.
- From that point on mankind is bared for direct access to the presence of God.
- In the Old Testament the glory of God dwelt between the Cherubim on the top of the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies. The high priest only entered the Holy of Holies once a year.
- Romans 3:25—Now the blood of Jesus Christ serves as the propitiation for our sin.  
Hebrews 10:19-20
- Romans 5:1—Now on the bases of the blood of Jesus Christ we have peace with God. And we have restored back to us the likeness of God that we lost when Adam fell.
- Romans 8:15-17—We have received the spirit of adoption into the family of God.
- II Corinthians 3:18, 4:4
- Colossians 3:10