

GENESIS

FROM THE DUST

SESSION 6

Read Genesis 1:20-25

(Finishing up from last week)

1 A hallmark of Darwin's theory of evolution is Natural Selection or Survival of the Fittest. Through this mechanism, Darwin thought that evolution can not only ensure the survival of a particular species but can also have a building effect so powerful that it can begin with a bacterial cell and gradually craft its descendants over billions of years to produce such wonders as trees, flowers, ants, birds, and humans. However, is Natural Selection really all that Darwin claimed it to be?

➤ In Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, he couldn't offer any concrete examples of natural selection in nature and so he used as analogy what breeders do to improve domesticated plants and animals. By breeding only from the wooliest sheep or the most fertile chickens or the sweetest corn, breeders have been spectacularly successful in altering almost every imaginable characteristic and genetic expression in domesticated animals and plants. But Darwin's analogy is misleading. Plant and animal breeders use intelligence and specialized knowledge and artificial environmental factors. Human breeders produce variations in animals and plants for reasons that have no purpose in nature, sometimes for the sheer purpose of causing delight to see how much variation can be achieved (e.g., the Pug). The process of human-selection that brings about variation in dogs or chickens for the purposes of creating interesting pets or lots of eggs to eat would not benefit animals in the wild nor would it help them survive. This is why domesticated animals typically don't last long in the wild or revert back to a more primitive form (e.g., the wild hog in Texas). If anything, natural selection seems to keep species the same more than it encourages deviation or change. This is why coyotes always produce coyotes, unless the breed with a different dog species.

➤ Evolution makes the claim that the most effective natural selection is that which comes about through mutation: randomly occurring genetic changes in an individual. If the mutation is advantageous, it can allow an individual to live longer and pass on that trait to more offspring, who themselves are more advantaged. But does mutation really work this way?

- Are there any examples of mutations that are ever advantageous?

- How are genes are passed from one generation to the next?

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- Like in the example of the peppered moth, it very hard for particular gene to be bred out of an entire population.

- Irreducible complexity:

- 2 How does Darwinian Evolution and Natural Selection as an explanation for the origin of all life undermine faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior?

ROMANS 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

Read Genesis 1:26-30

- 3 In analyzing the words of these verses, what is said about the creation of man that is distinctly different from all the other things that God made?
- 4 What might the "image" and "likeness" of God have looked like in Adam and Eve? How much of this image do we have today?
- 5 How does Genesis establish the place of mankind on the earth especially in regards to the following hot button issues of today:
 - *Environmentalism, animal rights --Today we have come to see ourselves either as masters of the universe (given the potential of our technological powers) or as the worst thing ever to happen to the universe (given our potential for ecological destructiveness).*
 - *Reproduction, overpopulation, fertility, family planning, abortion – God said to be “fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”*
 - *Gender dysphoria (transgenderism) and homosexuality—God made sexuality as a vital part of humanity. Male and female are not choices but the deliberate design of God.*
- 6 God commands that man (as male and female) be fruitful and multiply. How does the mystery of procreation and reproduction defy materialistic, evolutionary explanations and give testimony to God, Himself, as sustainer and enabler of all things?
- 7 What do we make of the fact that God originally intended for mankind to eat plants and says nothing about meat? Is vegetarianism a better way?