
Creation Answers

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Who does this newsletter?

This newsletter is produced by Wayne Spencer of Creation Education Materials on a Quarterly basis. Its purpose is to bring creationary research within the reach of Christian families and provide up-to-date reliable information on the creation issue. Wayne Spencer is a creation researcher and former teacher who has presented papers at the International Conference on Creationism and contributed to radio programs for the Institute for Creation Research.

This newsletter is meant to help people plug into creation resources and get informed about creation and evolution. It is provided free of charge on request. It is provided as an Adobe Acrobat file, a Microsoft Word 97 document, or a plain text e-mail. The Adobe Acrobat Reader, available for download on the internet, is the best way to view the newsletter. There are no restrictions in copying this newsletter or passing it on to others. To request to be placed on the e-mail list, send a request to Wayne at w.spencer@attglobal.net.

More information on Wayne Spencer's education and publications can be found on the **DFW Creation Net** web site. You'll also find a variety of articles, teaching aids, and how to contact creation organizations. <http://pws.prsev.net/creation/creation.htm>

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A Personal Note from Wayne Spencer

I'd like to welcome new readers to Creation Answers. In this newsletter I try to glean information from the best research I know of on origins issues and make it understandable for Christians and their families.

Be sure to read about the Creation 2001 conference sponsored by Answers in Genesis taking place Labor Day weekend. This is an exceptional opportunity to become informed on the creation issue and meet some of the best speakers available. I plan to attend; I am not going as a speaker.

On September 20, 2001 I will be speaking at a creation meeting in Oklahoma City. This will be for a new creation organization, The Creation Science Fellowship of Oklahoma. You can contact Scott Mahathey at (405) 946-7042 or csfok@prodigy.net. I will also be speaking at a creation meeting on Saturday afternoon July 7th at The Colony Church of Christ in The Colony, Texas, just north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. To get details contact Randy Herzog at (972) 335-0244 or by e-mail at randyherzog@home.com.

Being in an automobile accident recently has made me thankful for God's mercy and protection. Though my car was totaled, I did not incur serious injuries. I was struck from behind while stopped on the highway. God is in control when we are not!

Wayne Spencer, M.S., Physics

Introduction to Creation Biology, Part 4

Wayne Spencer

This series on Creation Biology has looked at important issues about biological change, biological similarities, and other issues. No discussion of creationist biology would be complete without discussing what is called “chemical evolution.” This is the issue of how the first living cells could have allegedly evolved from simple chemicals about 3.5 to 4 billion years ago. I think this is the subject in which the concept of evolution has the most serious problems. The evidence in this topic is overwhelmingly in favor of supernatural divine creation, rather than relying on natural processes alone and chance to create the first life. Modern science has greatly increased our knowledge of complexity of life at the molecular level. Even the “simplest” cell is so complex that only supernatural divine creation can explain how life could first arise on Earth.

In the evolutionary view of Earth history, after the Earth formed there were many impacts from space for a period of time. This heavy bombardment from space is believed to have ended a little under 4 billion years ago. This bombardment had to end before life could evolve. At that time the Earth, according to the evolutionary scenario, had a very different atmosphere than it does today. Many laboratory experiments have been done by scientists attempting to simulate the conditions of this early Earth atmosphere. It is not that there is solid evidence for Earth’s atmosphere being different than it is now, it’s just that it would have had to be or life could not have evolved by natural chemical processes. The important thing evolutionists believe about the early Earth is that there was little or no oxygen in the atmosphere, unlike today, when there is nearly 20% oxygen. If oxygen were present when the first biological molecules were forming it would have stopped the process and other unwanted unimportant

chemicals would have formed instead. So, evolutionists have suggested various types of atmospheres for the early earth. The famous scientist Stanley Miller, who did electrical discharge experiments on the origin of life used chemicals like carbon dioxide, methane, hydrogen, ammonia, nitrogen, and water vapor. Today, scientists are considering ammonia as less important, but the basic idea has not changed much.

The idea is that simple gases such as the above would combine into organic “building blocks” such as amino acids, proteins, and enzymes. Most evolutionists believe this took place in water, which is often called an “organic soup.” Living cells are made up of many very large complex organic molecules. For scientists to form such molecules in a laboratory takes significant effort and special procedures. Many of these biomolecules do not form easily though scientists have formed some of them in origin of life experiments. Molecules like proteins, which make up much of our body tissues, are long chain molecules often called biopolymers. They are made up of many smaller units connected together in some sort of chain or other three dimensional arrangement. The smaller units that make up proteins are amino acids. Amino acids are small molecules. Proteins in living things are made up of 20 different amino acids. Organic molecules can combine into different three dimensional shapes or arrangements often. The three dimensional shape of the molecules makes all the difference in the world in a living cell. If amino acids combined in the wrong sequence or you had the wrong type of amino acids, it could change the shape of the whole molecule and then the protein forming from that sequence may not function properly inside the cell. Also, even if the sequence of molecules is correct, many other molecules must be present for it all to work in the cell. Living cells have all types of complex “machinery” that has to be coordinated to work together properly.

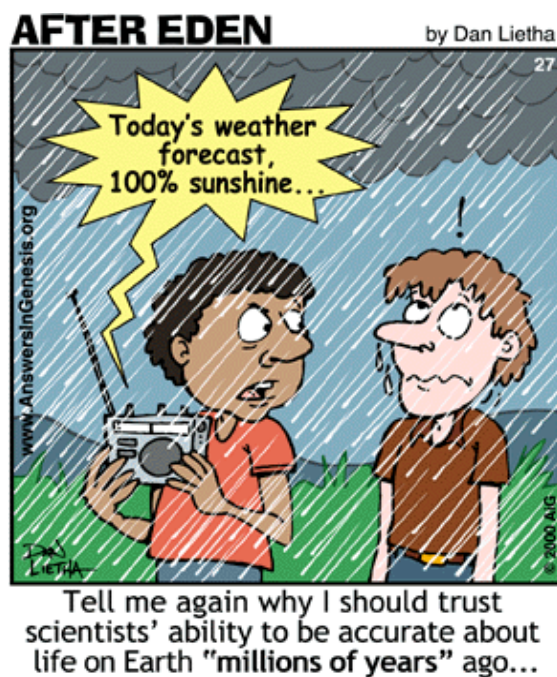
Natural chemical and physical processes alone are totally inadequate for explaining how such complex processes could come about.

What are some of the problems with the first living cell forming by chance from simple chemicals? Much has been written about this, but here I will only mention a few points. First, in the so-called “origin of life” experiments, the important sought-after chemicals are generally removed from the reaction so that they won’t be destroyed. In the early Earth there would be nothing to remove them or concentrate them adequately. There would always be other chemicals present in a “natural” organic soup that cause unwanted reactions that would prevent the formation of the important large biomolecules such as proteins or RNA. (These unwanted chemical reactions are known as “side reactions.”) When experimenters remove amino acids from their origin of life experiment, they are actually interfering with the natural process and this means the experiment is not really simulating real conditions like evolutionists say existed in the early Earth.

Other problems with the formation of the first cells from chemicals include ultraviolet light breaking down the biomolecules, natural energy sources are often of the wrong kind (destroying the biomolecules), and natural processes do not explain how the information content of biomolecules could come about. This last problem is perhaps the most important one. Life is tremendously organized, even in the “simplest” one-celled organism.

Complex molecules like RNA and DNA in living cells are I think somewhat analogous to a computer program that has been stored on some storage device, like a hard drive or a computer floppy disk. Even if you can make the device, like the floppy, it won’t do anything without information on it. The information is coded onto the floppy device by a certain “language.” The cell, which uses the RNA and DNA, reads the data or information on the DNA molecule. The cell also has the

necessary machinery to build the materials specified by the information code. Our Creator designed both the information code and the cellular machinery to use it. Recent research has just completed mapping the complete sequence of the human genome. This does not mean that scientists know what everything in the sequence means, it just means we now have a more complete record of what the sequence is. This research on the human genome will lead to many medical benefits for us. But it also underscores that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” by a Creator who put in the sophisticated information. No natural processes operating by chance in an undirected way could explain the origin of the complexity inside living cells.



Trusting Scientists

The cartoon above is provided by the Answers in Genesis organization. It makes fun of the fact that scientists can't always accurately predict the weather. If they can't accurately predict the weather a few days in

advance, why should we trust what they say about events that supposedly happened millions of years ago? In fact, no scientists were there millions of years ago to record what happened, so how do they know? No human beings were there making a video of what happened or recording scientific data.

It's important to realize that when scientists study origins they are doing something very different than when they do science in the present. Meteorologists and weather experts really do earn their pay and we all need them doing their job. Meteorologists collect very large amounts of data from many locations and feed it into computers. They use many different types of scientific knowledge to make sense of their experimental data and predict the weather for just a few days in advance. This is very complex, and so it is not surprising that they miss on some forecasts. But in origins theories, which are about the past, all we have is what data we can find in the present. So, there is never any way of knowing for sure that a scientific theory really matched the way the real world was in the past. You can't check it by experiment or real-time measurements. Weather scientists are constantly working to get the most up-to-date measurements they can get for quantities like air temperature, wind speed, and so on. Scientists can't do this when they study events that occurred only once in the distant past. So there is a limit to how "certain" science can be in questions about origins.

This doesn't mean we can't learn anything about origins or that science is always wrong. You don't always have to totally PROVE something in order to have plenty of reason to believe it. When we consider a Biblical creation view of origins, we are basing part of it on the word of the God who was there and who has spoken to us and told us certain things about what happened in the past. But He didn't give us all the details. He has left it up to us to figure out the rest. We should approach the study of origins with humility and realize what science can and cannot do. We don't have to believe

everything we hear from evolution-based science. There are often other alternatives to the evolutionary view that make at least as much sense. So, we don't have to always trust scientists about evolution, but this doesn't mean that the science we depend on day to day is all wrong either.

Creation 2001 Conference

August 30 through September 3, 2001 there will be an extraordinary conference in the Cincinnati area. I felt it was important to mention this. I plan to attend, but I am not going as a speaker. This conference is special because of the wonderful list of 10 well known creationist speakers. Some of the speakers would rarely be available, let alone together in the same conference. Dr. John Whitcomb, Professor at Grace Theological Seminary will be present. He was coauthor with Dr. Henry Morris in 1961 of *The Genesis Flood*, which is the book that started the modern creation movement. Dr. John Baumgardner, research geophysicist at Los Alamos will be there speaking on how plate tectonics relates to Noah's Flood. Biblical Archeologist Bryant Wood, Anatomy Professor David Menton, Physicist Russell Humphreys, Meteorologist Michael Oard, and Ken Ham are also among the speakers. These are perhaps the more well known of the speakers. Dr. Humphreys is known for his research on the age of the Earth from study of its magnetic field and his research on cosmology and how light can reach us from distant stars in a young universe. Some lessor known people among the speakers include physicist Dr. Danny Faulkner, Chemist Jonathan Sarfati, and Information Scientist, Dr. Werner Gitt.

I would highly recommend this conference to anyone who wants exposure to current thinking from creationist scientists. A tour of Answers in Genesis is included also. It runs from Thursday evening through Monday morning, Labor Day weekend. To register call AIG at (800) 350-3232.