

Science by Design

Portion 2: Biology and the Bible part 1

A note on the Post Modern Dilemma and "Why are we talking about all this Stuff?"

There is a Latin phrase of interest: *Mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur*

"The world wants to be deceived, so let it be deceived". This is a reality in a post-modern world.

Atheists, and even many professing to be 'religious', will attempt to go to great lengths to twist the truth in order to avoid some basic principles, such as the sovereignty of Christ. This is why we should be at least conversant in the ideals of the day, ground in the truth of eternal wisdom.

But in the end, as C.S. Lewis stated in *The Great Divorce*:

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done."

The four main components of the DNA 'double helix' structure are commonly referred to by the letters G, A, T, and C. These are the 'steps' of the ladder and are referred to as 'nucleotides'. The letters stand for cytosine (C), guanine (G), adenine (A), or thymine (T). What is to note is that adenine always pairs with thymine and cytosine always pairs with guanine, and the pair together is called a nucleobase. (see what kind of names you can make with the letters...like the 1997 movie GATTACA. Not that I saw it...)

There are about 3 billion such nucleobases (or just 'bases') in the human genome (the combination of DNA genes). These 'bases' are used in combination to create necessary components such as proteins, a basic component which conduct a vast array of functions within a living organism.

How hard would it be to combine these bases together to make a protein?

"If a particular amino acid sequence was selected by chance, how rare an event would this be. Suppose the chain is about two hundred amino acids long; this is, if anything rather less than the average length of proteins of all types. Since we have just twenty possibilities at each place, the number of possibilities is twenty multiplied by itself some two hundred times... 10^{260} , that is, a one followed by 260 zeros. Moreover, we have only considered a polypeptide chain of rather modest length. Had we considered longer ones as well, the figure would have been even more immense. The great majority of sequences can never have been synthesized at all, at any time." (Francis Crick, *Life Itself*, pages 51-52)

(Keep the above in mind, as it will play more into what we talk about next week...)

Atheists have a harder time than they let on, trying to prove the initial stages of life, the early complexity of life (more next week), and to try to mesh these into an internally consistent, meaningful explanation of the origin, meaning, morality, and destiny of life. Challenge them on these precepts, and remember that Christianity has those answers, that we can meet them on 'their' ground and in a consistent, clear manner. Doing this in a factual, loving manner (Eph 4:15) should be our goal.

Science and faith are not in conflict. However, the human interpretation of each may be, depending upon one's understanding and perspective and willingness to explore the truth behind the rhetoric.

Science is not the totality of knowledge.

Science: "Knowledge about or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation" (Merriam Webster, m-w.com)

Religion is not the totality of 'how things work'

What does "BIBLE" stand for? Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth. Guidebook, not textbook.

Religion: "An organized system of beliefs, ceremonies, and rules used to worship a god or a group of gods" (..or The God...). (Merriam Webster, m-w.com... "The God" added by presenter)

It is an attempt by we frail, committed but imperfect humans to decipher and explain what we humans need to do in this world to worship and live in fellowship with our God.

Both are **human** attempts to explain the mysteries of life, some of the most basic human desires.

1Cor13:12 – Now I look through a glass darkly...

Further Resources

Hugh Ross's website **Reason to Believe** is a great resource on a number of these topics...

<http://www.reasons.org/Search?q=fine+tuning+of+physical+life>

<http://www.reasons.org/Search?q=origin+of+life>

<http://www.reasons.org/rtb-101/originoflife>

For further insight into genes, genetics beyond a simple (but useful) Wikipedia search

<http://genetics.thetech.org/about-genetics/what-gene>

Michael Behe's works "Darwin's Black Box" and "The Edge of Evolution"

I think it is also a good idea to read the counter perspective and better grasp of the opposition's stance and to see the inherent weaknesses (...from the library, to avoid royalties, perhaps)

Richard Dawkins "The God Delusion" and "The Selfish Gene"

...and its counter

David Berlinski's "The Devil's Delusion"