

THEISTIC EVOLUTION — NO WAY!

Should a Christian ever say that he accepts the Bible and believes in God and at the same time say that God created the world over the course of millions of years through a process of evolution? Dr David Kaufmann, of the University of Florida, holds three science degrees from secular universities and was also trained in Lutheran theology. In an article in *Affirm* (Oct. 1994) he said, “No way!

There are two chief reasons why a bona fide Lutheran cannot accept theistic evolution:

- 1) the scientific evidence “proving” evolution is weak and sometimes doesn’t even exist, and
- 2) evolution contradicts the essential meanings of the words of Holy Scripture and even destroys the Gospel message of the New Testament.”

“Space does not permit a detailed scientific refutation of the doctrine of evolution, but allow me to quote a few non-Christian, non-creationist scientists who have concluded that the scientific case for evolution is found wanting. Dr David Kitts stated, ‘Evolution, at least in the sense that Darwin speaks of it, cannot be detected within the lifetime of a single observer.’ (*Evolution*. Sept. 1974, 28:466). Dr Colin Patterson, Senior Palaeontologist at the British Museum of Natural History, asserted, ‘No one has ever produced a species by mechanisms of natural selection. No one has gotten near it... (“Cladistics”, Interview BBC March 4 1982). With regard to fossil evidence, Dr Steven Stanley stated in his textbook: ‘The known fossil record fails to document a single example of phyletic evolution accomplishing a major morphologic transition.’ (*Macroevolution: Pattern and Process: Freeman and Co.*, p.39). And lastly) Dr Wolfgang Smith correctly labels evolution for what it really is: ‘The *point*, however, is that the doctrine of evolution has swept the world, not on the strength of its scientific merits, but precisely in its capacity as a Gnostic myth. It affirms, in effect, that living beings created themselves, which is, in essence, a metaphysical claim. Thus, in the final analysis, evolutionism is in truth a metaphysical doctrine decked out in scientific garb (*Teilhardism and the New Religion: Tan Books*. 1988. p.242.)

‘Smith correctly points out that the doctrine of evolution, which is presented as established scientific theory by the scientific “brotherhood” and the media is actually “metaphysical myth.’

‘Just what effect does this unscientific metaphysical belief system have on Biblical doctrine and the Gospel message? The following are quotes from evolutionary champions that indicate the faith-destroying power of compromising in any way with evolutionism. Dr Julian Huxley stated: “In the evolutionary pattern of thought there is no longer need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created; it evolved. So did all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body. So did religion.” (*Rationalist Annual*. 1947) p.70...”

He quotes more scientists who say that evolution contradicts literal interpretations of scriptural legends of creation, salvation by grace alone, the existence of a personal God, life after death, unalterable moral laws, and ultimate meaning in life. Furthermore, if death preceded man, and was not a result of Adam’s sin, then sin is a fiction. No Son of God is needed, and His death has no meaning. Then he continues:

“The Gospel proclamation is absolutely dependent on a literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis. Why any Lutheran would want to believe in a hybrid, compromised view of two diametrically opposed world-views really blows the mind! Any form of theistic evolution is actually “theological bigamy.” It is being married to two different theological spouses. Theistic evolution is clearly “theo-illogical.” The very nature of evolution undermines scriptural authority and reliability by interpreting it in the light of man-devised, materialistic science, rather than interpreting science with respect to the clear words of Scripture. In reality evolution elevates human fallible science above the infallible Word of God. “So long...*Sola Scriptura!*”

“In my University there are over 2000 faculty members, the great majority are pro-evolution or even avowed evolutionists. A small minority might timidly admit they lean towards creationism, but few would dare to speak out for the truth of Biblical creationism. Is this because the evidence for evolution is great and voluminous, and they are compelled to believe it? Not so! In fact, as it has been pointed out, the evidence and logic for evolution is weak and even questioned by a growing number of objective scientists. The problem is that people, and especially scientists, don’t want to submit themselves to a higher authority — the Triune God of the Bible. They don’t want a revealed Supreme Being telling them what is right and wrong. They want to decide “the truth” for themselves; they want to be their own “gods”. The shocking truth is that the real reason why most scientists are evolutionists is spiritual, not scientific. It has very little to do with evidence — the truth of creation is what is recorded in the Bible, what we see around us. Sadly, some Lutherans listen to the “metaphysical ideas” of secular scientists and try to blend these ideas into biblical Lutheran theology. They practice “theological bigamy.” This shows that they have the same problem as the unbelieving scientist; they don’t want to submit to

God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions. If Lutherans submitted themselves to the Word of God (*Sola Scriptura*), they would never hold to such positions as "theistic evolution", "progressive creation", or "God used the Big Bang to do it."

'Theistic evolution is actually a belief system of "conceptual contradictions." Trying to believe in theistic evolution is like trying to be a "meat-eating vegetarian" or a "Lutheran-Calvinist." Sound Lutheran theology and evolutionary metaphysics are not only mutually exclusive, but are totally antithetical. One opposes and destroys the other. Faith is not strengthened by trying to blend non-biblical, secular ideas into our Biblical Lutheran doctrines. One cannot hold to evolutionary assumptions and conclusions and still hold to Biblical assumptions and conclusions. Lutherans should, indeed, be theo-logical and not theo-illogical.

"Can a genuine Lutheran believe, teach, and confess theistic evolution? I say, "No way! No way!"