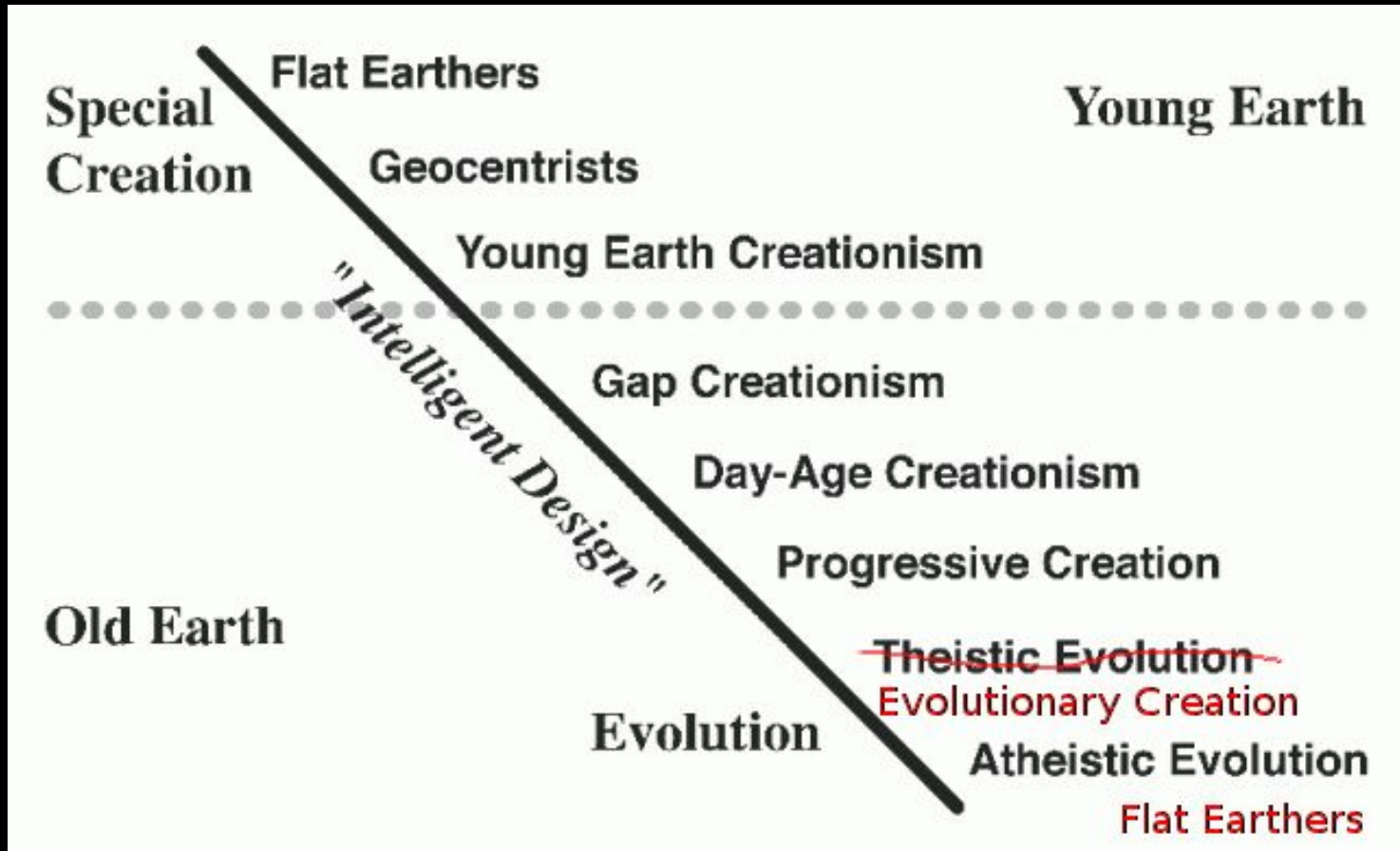


Evolutionary Creation (EC)



Evolutionary Creation (EC)



Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Who Am I?

- My name is Darren Enns
- I take my faith very seriously and approach controversial matters with open mind
- Have been interested in science my whole life (but Computer Science was my career)
- Have studied the 'Creation/Evolution' issue since school days
- My opinions have changed over time (this is OK!)

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

This Presentation

- I have my own biases but I will try to present this viewpoint fairly and honestly
- We only have time today for a very broad overview
- I learned a lot preparing for this, so I want to thank you for requesting it
- I can email you the link to this Google Slides presentation if you want to read it later
- I welcome any questions on this stuff anytime (really!)

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



The theory of evolution, like the theory of gravity, is a scientific fact.

— *Neil deGrasse Tyson* —

AZ QUOTES

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

What is 'Evolution'?

- Change over time = Life is different now than it was a long time ago
or
- Microevolution = Small differences in animal species (example: finch bird beak lengths)
or
- Universal Common Descent (UCD) = all life had common ancestor, billions of years ago, with slow and gradual change
or
- Neo-Darwinian Evolution (NDE) = Natural selection acting on random mutations (undirected)

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU

**IT IS OK FOR A CHRISTIAN
TO BELIEVE IN EVOLUTION?**

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



Francis Collins



Debora Haarmsa



Denis Lamoureux



Dennis Venema



Joshua Swamidass

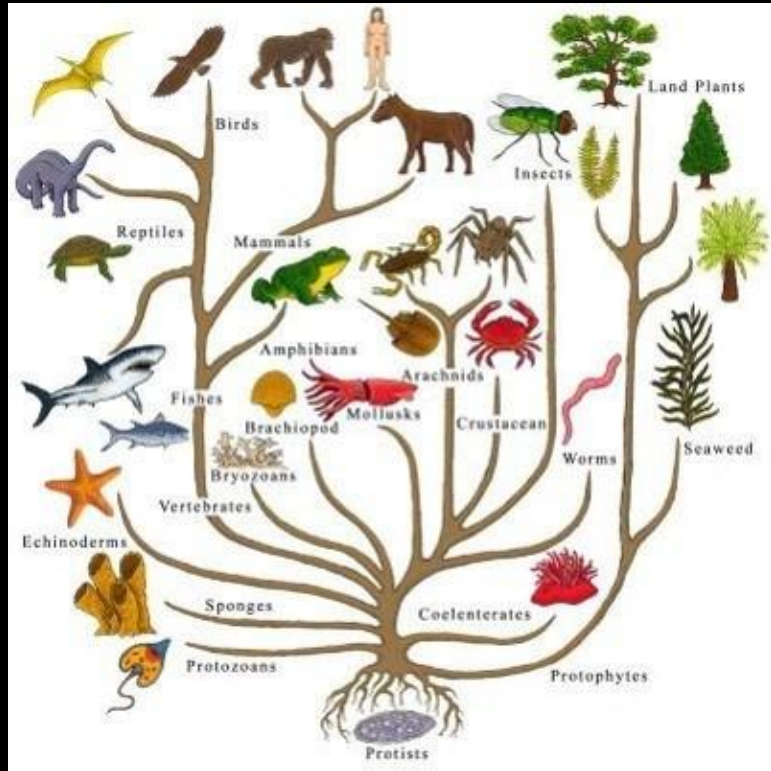
Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“We believe that God created and sustains all things. We believe that God acts purposefully in creation, just as he does in our lives, and that he continues to actively uphold and sustain creation. We believe in the Trinity, the full divinity and full humanity of Jesus Christ, and the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We believe that all humans are made in the image of God and all humans have a sinful nature. We believe in salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.” [BioLogos]

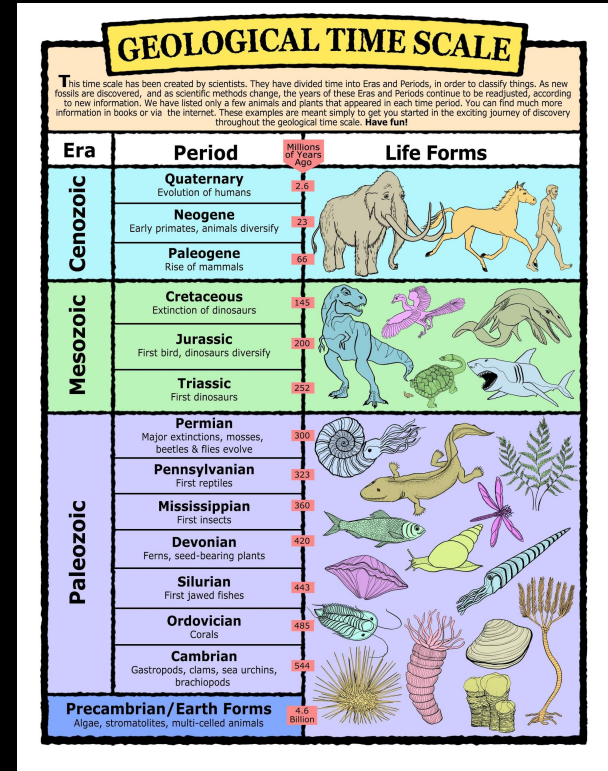
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Evolutionary Creation (EC)



Evolution 'Tree of Life'



Geological Time Scale

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“ECs accept evolution as the best scientific explanation we have for how life on Earth has changed over time. In biology, evolution refers to “descent with modification,” which includes the idea that all species are descended from a common ancestor over many generations. We therefore accept the scientific evidence that all life on Earth is related, including humans—which does not negate the image of God in us.” [BioLogos]

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Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“I firmly believe that every natural process discovered by evolutionary scientists was ordained by the Creator. I also believe that God sustained these processes during the billions of years of cosmological, geological, and biological evolution.” [Denis Lamoureux]

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Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Origin Theories: What are the Differences?

	Young Earth Creationism (YEC)	Old Earth Creationism (OEC)	Evolutionary Creationism (EC)	Atheism / Naturalism
God Created?	YES	YES	YES	NO
Big Bang Universe?	NO	YES	YES	YES
Evolution Life?	NO	NO	YES	YES

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” [Genesis 1:27 ESV]

“He (Jesus) answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?” [Matthew 19:4-5 ESV]

“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” [Romans 5:12 ESV]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“Some ECs believe Adam and Eve were a historical couple. Others see the story as a symbolic retelling of Israel’s story, or as a symbolic story about humanity as a whole. Many interpretations have been put forward and this remains an exciting area of scholarship.” [BioLogos]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

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Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“At BioLogos, we are persuaded by the scientific evidence that Homo sapiens evolved, arising about 200,000 years ago and sharing common ancestors with all other life on Earth. Furthermore, it increasingly appears that the genetic diversity among humans today could not have come from just two Homo sapiens individuals, but a population of thousands.” [BioLogos]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

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Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“We join all Christians in affirming that humans are made in the image of God, that humans have an elevated place in the created order, and that humans have a unique relationship with God...we disagree that it is essential to believe God used a miracle to create a first pair; we instead argue that God used the natural mechanisms of evolution to create the first group of humans” [Debora Haarsma]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

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Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Adam & Eve Origins: What are the Differences?

	YEC	Genealogical View ¹	EC1	OEC / Modern Traditional View	Ancient Traditional View	EC2
Time Period?	6-10 kya	6-10 kya	6-10 kya	50-200 kya	500-700 kya	n/a
Real Couple?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Genetic Parents of All?	Y	N	N	Y ²	Y	N
Special Creation by God?	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Strengths of EC

- Strong alignment with mainstream (naturalistic) science on life origin and development
- Faithful to essential Christian doctrines of God, salvation, etc.

This position is the one that will be the most agreeable in the secular scientific world

Weaknesses of EC

- Neo-Darwinian evolution theory is flawed and incomplete
- Non-traditional Christian theology regarding Adam & Eve, Image of God, sin, etc.

Many non-Christian biologists are now questioning neo-darwinian evolution, and looking for other explanations

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Conclusions

- Evolutionary Creationists (ECs) are Christians, even if they have non-traditional understandings of the Creation Story. All essential Christian doctrines are upheld, though some (like literal Adam & Eve) may not be.
- ECs fully accept the mainstream scientific/naturalistic explanation for the origin and development of life on Earth (Neo-Darwinian evolution) with no need for detectable supernatural intervention. All of God's creative design and action was packed into the supernatural Big Bang start of the Universe.

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Resources

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



biologos.org
(Pro EC)

Peaceful Science

peacefulscience.org
(Neutral)



evolutionnews.org
(ID / OEC)



reasons.org
(OEC)

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

- Dr Michael G Strauss: A Primer on Various Views About Origins
[\[https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2019/05/a-primer-on-various-views-about-origins.html\]](https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2019/05/a-primer-on-various-views-about-origins.html)
- Dr Michael G Strauss: Adam and Eve: Genetic Evidence
[\[https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/10/adam-and-eve-genetic-evidence.html\]](https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/10/adam-and-eve-genetic-evidence.html)
- Dr Michael G Strauss: Adam and Eve and the Cultural Big Bang
[\[https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/11/adam-and-eve-and-cultural-big-bang.html\]](https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/11/adam-and-eve-and-cultural-big-bang.html)
- Dr Michael G Strauss: Adam and Eve: Four Views
[\[https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/11/adam-and-eve-four-views.html\]](https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/11/adam-and-eve-four-views.html)
- Dr Michael G Strauss: Adam and Eve as Federal Representatives of Humanity
[\[https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/12/if-you-have-ever-competed-on-debate.html\]](https://www.michaelgstrauss.com/2018/12/if-you-have-ever-competed-on-debate.html)



Evolutionary Creation (EC)

The End

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Why was there no time for questions? Ask whatever questions you want!



Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Bonus Section

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



YEC	God sinks each pool ball perfectly with each shot until the table is clear
OEC	God sinks all the 'Universe' pool balls in one shot, and then the 'Life' pool balls individually (with the 'Humans' 8 ball last) until the table is clear
EC	God sinks all the pool balls perfectly with one shot

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

In The Genealogical Adam and Eve, S. Joshua Swamidass tests a scientific hypothesis: What if the traditional account is somehow true, with the origins of Adam and Eve taking place alongside evolution?



Joshua Swamidass

The screenshot shows the Amazon.ca product page for the book "The Genealogical Adam and Eve: The Surprising Science of Universal Ancestry" by S. Joshua Swamidass. The page is for the Kindle Edition, priced at CDN\$ 19.32. The book cover features a green and yellow design with a DNA double helix and a stylized figure. The page includes a "Look inside" button, a 6-star rating with 6 ratings, and options to buy the hardcover for CDN\$ 33.29. The author's name is listed as S. Joshua Swamidass, and there is a "Follow the Author" section with a "+ Follow" button. The page also shows the delivery location as Morden R6M 1J2 and the Kindle Store navigation menu.

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Look inside

S. JOSHUA SWAMIDASS
THE GENEALOGICAL ADAM & EVE
THE SURPRISING SCIENCE OF UNIVERSAL ANCESTRY

The Genealogical Adam and Eve: The Surprising Science of Universal Ancestry
Kindle Edition
by S. Joshua Swamidass (Author)

★★★★☆ 6 ratings

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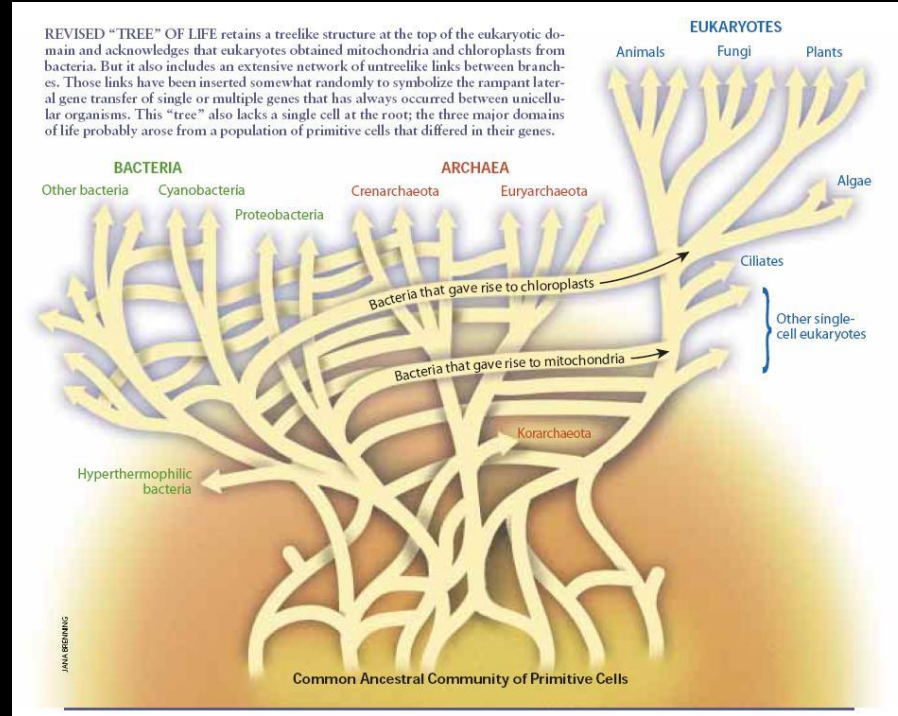
6 Used from CDN\$ 29.10
14 New from CDN\$ 29.10

Follow the Author

S. Joshua Swamidass + Follow

Evolutionary science teaches that humans arose as a population, sharing common ancestors with other animals. Most readers of the book of Genesis in the past understood all humans descended from Adam and Eve, a couple specially created by God. These two teachings seem contradictory, but is that necessarily so? In the fractured conversation of human origins, can new insight guide us to solid ground in both science and theology?

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



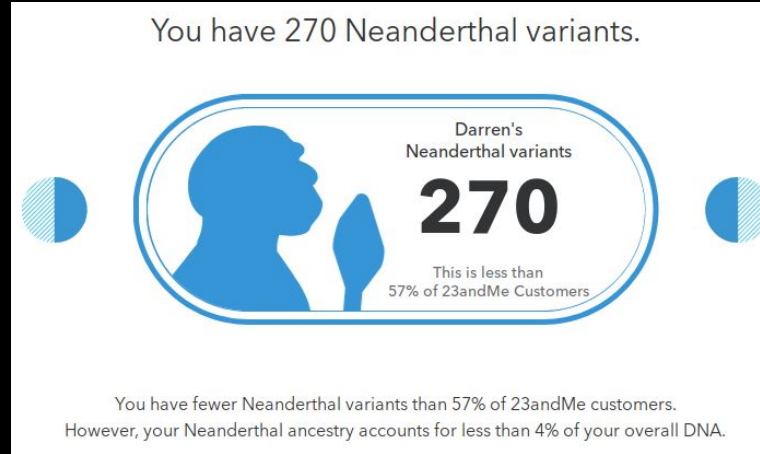
Evolution 'Web of Life'

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Tree(s) of Life & Design: What are the Options?

No Design Single Tree of Life	No Design Multiple Trees of Life
Design Single Tree of Life	Design Multiple Trees of Life

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



Neanderthals lived at the same time as Homo Sapiens, and sometimes mixed with each other. They eventually became extinct. They shared 99.7% of our DNA.

- Were they 'human'?
- Did they have the 'image of God'?
- Were they 'outside' of the Garden of Eden?

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“In addition to our commitment to the historic Christian faith and EC, at BioLogos we are committed to truth-seeking....Another commitment for us at BioLogos is humility and gracious dialogue...Finally, we aim for excellence in all areas. This includes recognizing that science is both powerful and limited.” [BioLogos]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Annoying Problems

- Overstating your scientific claims
- Misquoting other's claims
- Ignoring previous discussions with others
- Hiding errors in your past publications
- Not crediting others who corrected your wrong statements

Conclusion: Science (and Theology!) are *not* just hard facts. People are involved, with bias and flaws. Words matter -- make sure that they are being defined properly, stated accurately, and used honestly. Ask for the whole story -- not just the parts that promote a particular viewpoint. Research and verification is hard work!

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Extra Slides

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“So I’m not convinced that evolutionary creationism is true. It seems to me that so-called progressive creationism fits the evidence quite nicely. Progressive creationism suggests that God intervenes periodically to bring about miraculously new forms of life and then allows evolutionary change to take place with respect to those life forms. But as for grand evolutionary change, this would not take place by the mechanisms of natural selection and mutation undirected by God. Rather we would need miraculous interventions of God in the process of biological evolution to bring about broad evolutionary change. So instead of evolutionary creationism, we would have a kind of progressive creationism whereby God creates biological complexity over time.” [William Lane Craig]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“The Christian faith does not call for us to put our minds on the shelf, to fly in the face of common sense and history, or to make a leap of faith into the dark. The rational person, fully apprised of the evidence, can confidently believe.” [William Lane Craig]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“At BioLogos, our views on human origins are centered on essential biblical teachings about human identity and origins. We join all Christians in affirming that humans are made in the image of God, that humans have an elevated place in the created order, and that humans have a unique relationship with God...we disagree that it is essential to believe God used a miracle to create a first pair; we instead argue that God used the natural mechanisms of evolution to create the first group of humans” [Debora Haarsma]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“But evolution is, as far as we can tell, purposeless and unguided. There seems to be no direction, mutations are random, and we haven’t detected a teleological force or agent that pushes it in one direction. And it’s important to realize this: the great importance of Darwin’s theory of natural selection is that an unguided, purposeless process can nevertheless produce animals and plants that are exquisitely adapted to their environment. That’s why it’s called natural selection, not supernatural selection or simply selection.

Theistic evolution, then, is supernaturalism, and admitting its possibility denies everything we know about how evolution works. It waters down science with superstition. It should be no crime—in fact, it should be required—for teachers to tell student that natural selection is apparently a purposeless and unguided process (I use the word “apparently” because we’re not 100% sure, but really, do we need to tell physics students that the decay of an atom is “apparently” purposeless?).” [Jerry Coyne]

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

“The only Christian perspective on origins that fully accepts mainstream science is the Evolutionary Creation...This view accepts that humans share ancestry with all other forms of life, and that our species arose as a population, not through a single primal pair...The science (human population genetics) is clear that our species arose as a population” [Dennis Venema]

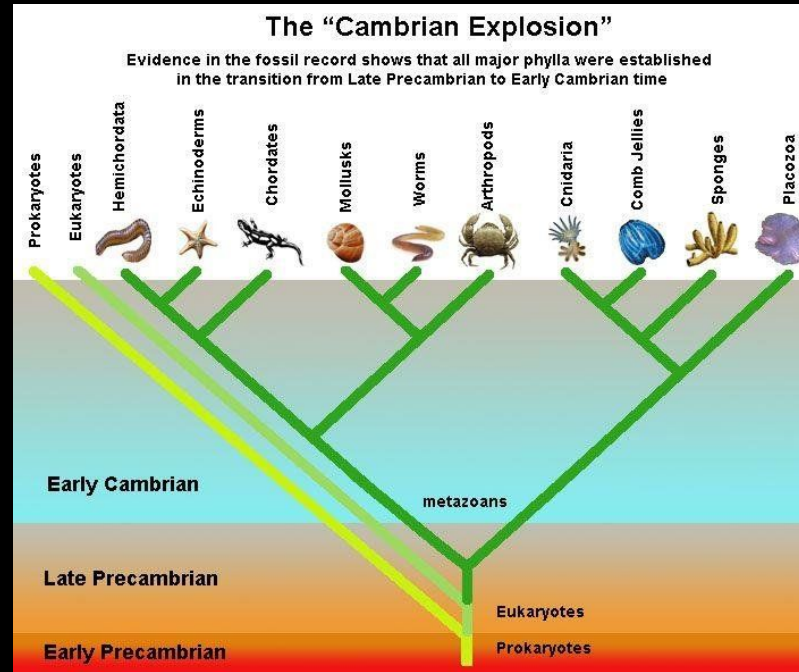
Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Top Ten Problems with Darwinian Evolution

- Lack of a viable mechanism for producing high levels of complex and specified information. Related to this are problems with the Darwinian mechanism producing irreducibly complex features, and the problems of non-functional or deleterious intermediate stages.
- The failure of the fossil record to provide support for Darwinian evolution.
- The failure of molecular biology to provide evidence for a grand “tree of life.”
- Natural selection is an extremely inefficient method of spreading traits in populations unless a trait has an extremely high selection coefficient;
- The problem that convergent evolution appears rampant — at both the genetic and morphological levels, even though under Darwinian theory this is highly unlikely.
- The failure of chemistry to explain the origin of the genetic code.
- The failure of developmental biology to explain why vertebrate embryos diverge from the beginning of development.
- The failure of neo-Darwinian evolution to explain the biogeographical distribution of many species.
- A long history of inaccurate predictions inspired by neo-Darwinism regarding vestigial organs or so-called “junk” DNA.
- Humans show many behavioral and cognitive traits and abilities that offer no apparent survival advantage (e.g. music, art, religion, ability to ponder the nature of the universe).

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Cambrian Explosion: 'Big Bang' of Life (540-520 MYA)



Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Is Neo-Darwinian evolution true?

- No scientific explanation for the start of life on Earth
- No scientific explanation for Cambrian Explosion (450-440 million years ago)
- No scientific explanation for the genetic code or how it changes

Many non-Christian biologists are now questioning neo-darwinian evolution, and looking for other explanations

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Apple iPhone Evolved Naturally Over Billions Of Years, Experts Now Believe

July 20th, 2017



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SHARE

WORLD—The consensus is in: scientists from around the globe have confirmed that the Apple iPhone was not designed, but rather evolved naturally over billions of years.

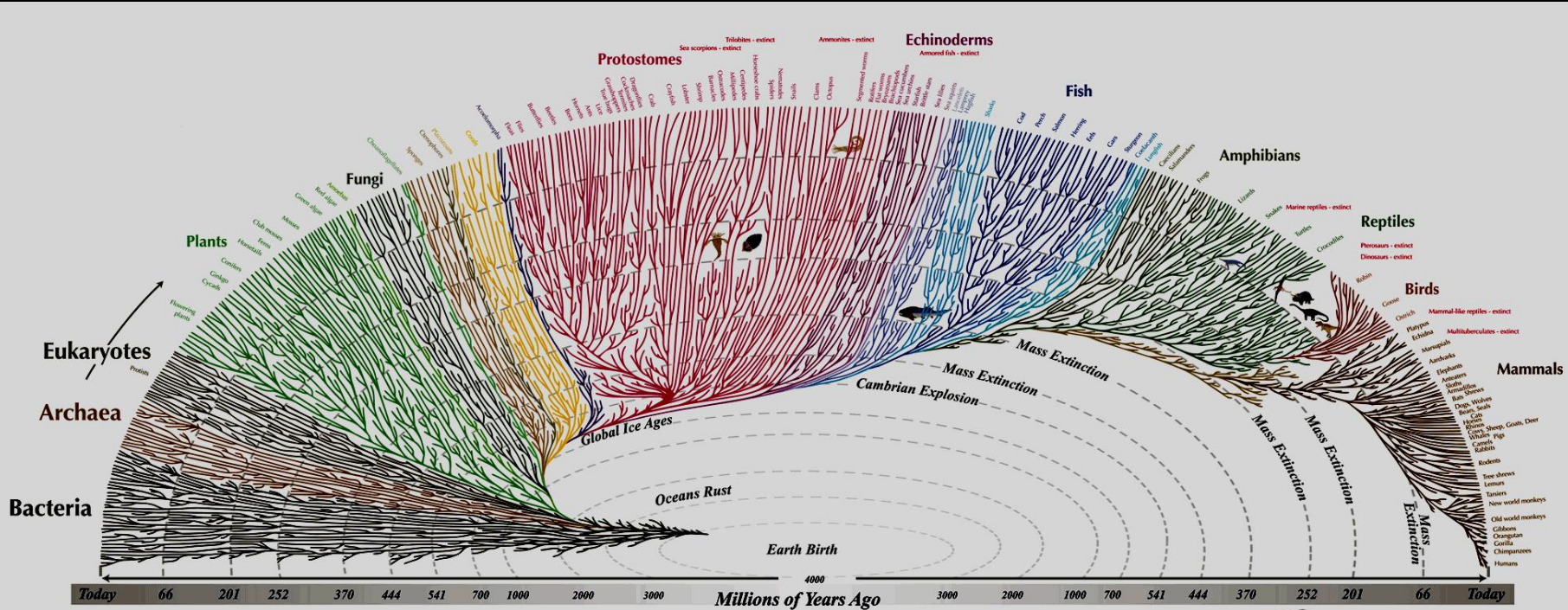
The origins of the complex device have been the subject of scientific debate for many years, but Thursday's announcement puts to bed any doubt that the early ancestors of the iPhone spontaneously generated in a swamp some 4.6 billion years ago.

"The current theory is that a small, single-cell pager device was formed from electronic parts floating in the ocean," Dr. Rashad Shami of Harvard University told reporters. "The pager then figured out how to reproduce, and natural selection took care of the rest."

Scientists also confirmed that anyone who believes that some mythical being named "Steve Jobs" may have had a hand in creating the iPhone is "deluded."

"While the iPhone may have the appearance of design, and, yes, an Apple logo on the back, we assure you, these are happy accidents and not the result of intelligent designers creating the device," Shami said. "The obvious answer to the origin of the highly complex smartphone is that it created itself *ex nihilo*."

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



All the major and many of the minor living branches of life are shown on this diagram, but only a few of those that have gone extinct are shown. Example: Dinosaurs - extinct



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Evolution 'Tree of Life'

Evolutionary Creation (EC)



"'You have a small capacity for reason, some basic tool-making skills, and the use of a few simple words.' ... Yep. That's you."

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Types of Evolution

- Change over time; history of nature; any sequence of events in nature.
- Changes in the frequencies of alleles in the gene pool of a population.
- Limited common descent: the idea that particular groups of organisms have descended from a common ancestor.
- The mechanisms responsible for the change required to produce limited descent with modification, chiefly natural selection acting on random variations or mutations.
- Universal common descent: the idea that all organisms have descended from a single common ancestor.
- “Blind watchmaker” thesis: the idea that all organisms have descended from common ancestors solely through an unguided, unintelligent, purposeless, material processes such as natural selection acting on random variations or mutations; that the mechanisms of natural selection, random variation and mutation, and perhaps other similarly naturalistic mechanisms, are completely sufficient to account for the appearance of design in living organisms.

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Is Evolutionary Creation true?

- Were Adam and Eve real people?
- Were they the first and only ancestors (sole progenitors) of all people?
- Did God create them as a special act of creation (*de novo* = *from dust & rib*)?
- When did they live?
- How were they made in the image of God (*imago dei*)? Characteristics or role?
- How was God involved in creating and changing life on Earth, and is there evidence?

Questions to ask:

- Is our faith dependent on how God created all things? In an actual supernaturally-created Adam and Eve? Or does it just rely on belief in Jesus as God, savior, and Lord of our lives?

Evolutionary Creation (EC)

Adam & Eve Origins: What are the Differences?

Ancient Traditional View / Sole-Genetic Progenitors	500-700 thousand years ago	A&E ancestors of homo sapiens, Neanderthals and Denisovans
Modern Traditional View / Genetic-Interbreeding Progenitors (RTB / OEC / EC?)	50-200 thousand years ago	A&E genetic ancestors of all humans with non-human interbreeding
Genealogical View / Sole-Genealogical Progenitors (Swamidass)	6-10 thousand years ago	A&E genealogical ancestors of all humans but not genetic ancestors
Federal View (EC)	6-10 thousand years ago	A&E representative couple