



JESUS PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

4338 Third Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817

The "Reality Check" Zine

FREE

Editor: Thomas Adcock

FADE TO BLACK



END OF MAN – ERASE

**READ THIS
FIRST**

If this is the first free newsletter you have received from us and you do **not** want to receive any more-**Do Nothing**-you will not receive another. However, if you would like to continue receiving our newsletter you **must** contact us by e-mail or letter to keep receiving it. We will not send you any letters begging for money and we will not give your name and address to anyone else. Thank you. Tom Adcock, President, Jesus People Ministry. Mailing address: 4338 3rd Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817

E-mail: jesuspeoplemin@sbcglobal.net

Greetings from California

A place where watching the end of the movie "Billy Jack" while listening to Cher singing "One Tin Soldier Rode Away" is widely accepted as a "valid deep spiritual experience"

Salvation

Acknowledge: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God", (Romans 3:23) "God be merciful to me a sinner". (Luke 18:13)

Repent: "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3) "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

Confess: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved." (Rom. 10:9)

Believe: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Receive: He came unto his own, and his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:11,12)

Follow Jesus: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:3) "For the grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;" (Titus 2:11 & 12)

Places where we have sent free Christian literature for the last 43 years:

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Australia	Ghana, W. Africa	Malaysia	Romania
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Belgium	Greenland	Micronesia	Scotland
Belize, C. America	Guam	Mozambique, Africa	Sierra Leone, W. Africa
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Botswana, Africa	Guyana, S. America	Namibia, S. Africa	South Korea
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Bulgaria	Hong Kong, China	Netherlands	Sri-Lanka
Burma	Hungary	New Zealand	Sweden
Cambodia	Iceland	Niger, Central Africa	Switzerland
Cameroon, W. Africa	India	Nigeria, W. Africa	Taiwan
Canada	Indonesia	Norway	Tanzania, E. Africa
Chad, Africa	Ireland	Pakistan	Thailand
China	Israel	Panama	Tibet
Colombia. S. America	Italy	Philippines	Togo, W. Africa
Cuba	Ivory Coast, W. Africa	Poland	Trinidad, W. Indies
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Egypt	Kenya, E. Africa	Republic of Congo, Africa	Zambia, Africa
England	Kuwait	Republic of S. Africa	
Ethiopia, E. Africa			

Free literature goes out constantly

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe:

In the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is True God and True Man. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. The Old and New Testaments are God's Divinely Inspired words. All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God and are in need of salvation. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men. It is the will of God that every believer be filled with the Holy Spirit. Healing is available to every believer only when it is God's will to act. Ultimate healing is at the resurrection of the body. **The Church** consists of all those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. In the personal, visible, imminent return of Jesus Christ. In water baptism, and observance of the Lord's Supper.

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“My wife Kathy and I are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year. My wife went to South

NOTICES

1. **Our newsletters are available in bulk orders: Mini-bulk order: 10 copies for \$6.00. 50 copies for \$25; 100 copies for \$45. We pay shipping on all bulk orders. These prices are for the United States only.**
2. Free Bibles and Christian books to prisons.
3. Free Christian literature and Bibles to 3rd world pastors, as the Lord leads and supplies.
4. Join our Jesus People Book Club. For a \$25 or more tax-deductible donation per month, to help us supply free literature worldwide, we will send you a quality Christian book every month.
5. For a free subscription to receive our newsletter write us and ask for it.

Send for above requests to:

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Korea with a tour group. She passed out some Christian tracts even though it was a ‘vacation’. I stayed home and got a new dog from the SPCA, a three year old black German Shepherd. I did get a Korean T-shirt however. Respecting each other’s freedom is one of the keys to a happy marriage.” Tom Adcock



He's BAAACK! Abusive "Cussing Pastor" Mark Driscoll Hits the Christian Conference Circuit.

Mark Driscoll, who was forced to resign last year from the pastorate of Mars Hill Church in Seattle, Washington, after he refused to accept counseling to deal with his abusive personality, has returned to "ministry" in April, appearing at the Thrive 2015 Leadership Conference at Bayside Church in Granite Bay, California. He is also scheduled to appear at a Hillsong Europe event in London.

(To their credit, organizers of the "Act Like Men" conferences at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago and other locations have dropped Driscoll as a speaker).

As long as there are preachers who promote and make excuses for men like Driscoll, and lay people who are eager to follow him, we can expect men like him to rise to "superstar" status and to give evangelical Christian pastoral ministry a bad name.

A former Mars Hill member, Van Rue, made these comments about Driscoll's return to ministry: "Many of us former heartfelt attenders, leaders, pastors and elders of Mars Hill were shocked and dismayed to learn that not only was Mark Driscoll given a pulpit at the Thrive Conference yesterday, he was given an endorsement of a return to ministry by Pastor Ray Johnson.

"If you recall Dr. Paul Tripp comments he said that, 'Mars Hill was the most abusive coercive ministry culture that I have ever been involved with.' Mark was not allowed to return to the pulpit after an investigation by the Elders because of his repeated and unrepentant abuse. Mark was offered a counseling program yet he sadly chose resignation over a plan of being gracefully restored.

"There were shocking theological, governance and relational issues deep beneath the surface of Mars Hill from the very beginning. . . . He [claims] he is 'The Prophet' eerily similar to Joseph Smith to exert utter and absolute control over Mars Hill, not only of the governance but the lives of those who attended there, and even to claim divine revelation. Mark even horrifically claims his frequent pornographic and lurid dreams are direct revelations from God, this has spilled out into sermons so dark and shameful their content can't even be repeated here.

"Mars Hill conducted bizarre, non-biblical and occultic 'Demon Trials' that were used to utterly shame and destroy innocent people to the point it even led to broken families and divorce. Some Pastors were fired for simply sharing or asking for a copy of the then hugely secret by-laws. Pastors and Elders were required to give deep confessions during their approval process, only to be threatened later that those recorded confessions would be openly shared to ensure their silence or utter compliance as required.

"His misogynistic complementarianism was so extreme he once publicly called an Elder's wife a 'whore' for simply asking a question and many women were shamed terribly for simply being overweight. Entire families were cruelly shunned for simply asking questions that were taken as threats to authority, and even singles were excommunicated without appeal for dating without permission. . . .

"That the Church as a whole tolerated this lurid serial cruelty for so long brings shame to the love and purity of Christ Jesus, and His heartfelt longing that we engage in loving respectful relationships. Mark and Mars Hill have distorted Christ's character to the entire world, who has watched in horror the spectacle of our shameful silence."

There are many who still admire Driscoll's style of strong macho-man leadership, which certainly comes in handy for keeping the lay folks under control. Meanwhile, millions of Christians avoid all churches and preachers because they do not want to be bullied by the likes of Driscoll.

My guess is that organized evangelical Christianity will lose more people than we gain, when we make heroes and superstars out of notorious bullies like Driscoll. But then again, I could be wrong.

By Thomas Williamson, excerpt from: *Northern Landmark Missionary Baptist News and Views of Interest to the BMA Movement*, June, 2015
3131 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL 60608

F.Y.I

Dangerous Trends! **“Christian” Professor at Rutgers University Claims Jesus Was A Homosexual**

Christiannews.net (April 7, 2015) reports that “in a recent article for *Salon*, a Rutgers University professor who claims to be a Christian trashed other Christians as she claimed that Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) was meant to give license to ‘terrorize’ blacks and homosexuals, and to stop women from having sex outside of marriage.”

The professor is **Brittany Cooper**, who teaches Women’s and Gender Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey. “In her opinion piece posted on [April 1], the professor asserted that religious freedom laws are driven by Christians who are ‘antagonistic to every single group of people who are not white, male, Christian, cisgender, straight, and middle-class.’

“As a practicing Christian, I am deeply incensed by these calls for restoration and reclamation in the name of religious freedom,’ she wrote. ‘This kind of legislation is rooted in a politics that gives white people the authority to police and terrorize people of color, queer people and poor women.’”

Cooper advocates sex outside of marriage and homosexuality. “The professor then proceeded to blast what she called ‘the religious right’ for its beliefs on homosexuality and decried that ‘the lives the church imagines for women still center around marriage and motherhood, and no sex if you’re single. I find myself wishing that this particularly violent and vicious breed of Christianity would die off,’ Cooper Wrote.”

She has gone so far as to say that Jesus may have been a homosexual: “The Jesus I know, love, talk about, and choose to retain was a radical freedom-loving, justice-seeking, potentially queer (because he was either asexual or a priest married to a prostitute), feminist healer, unimpressed by Scripture-quoters and religious law-keepers, seduced neither by power nor evil,’ Cooper wrote.”

-- Dr. Ron Baity, RETURN AMERICA

(*Sword of the Lord News*, May 22, 2015, p.10)

We have a large amount of Christian resources to help you understand all the difficult verses in the Bible, why the Bible is absolutely true, information on all world religions, religious cults, evolution, homosexuality, Bible prophecy and more. Books, DVDs and VHS tapes. Go to our website www.jesuspeopleinfo.org and click on “Book Offers.” at discount prices and since we pay the shipping costs, every item is discounted. If you don’t have a computer, write us and we will send you the entire booklist by mail. When “my stock” of these items are gone—that’s it -- you can get them elsewhere and pay required price plus tax and shipping.

Can we accept Christ as Savior But Not As Lord?

“One ought to take time to reflect seriously upon the question, ‘Has God truly wrought a miracle in my life? Is my own heart proof of the supernatural intervention of God?’ That is the apologist’s first question. In the West we go through these seasons of new-fangled theologies. The whole question of ‘lordship’ plagued our debates for some time as we asked, is there such a thing as a minimalist view of conversion? ‘We said the prayer and that’s it.’ Yet how can there be a minimalist view of conversion when conversion itself is a maximal work of God’s grace? ‘Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new’ (2 Corinthians 5:17). – Ravi Zacharias, in *“Beyond Opinion.”*

I STUDIED THE Koran a great deal. I came away from that study with the conviction there have been few religions in the world as deadly to men as that of Muhammad. So far as I can see, it is the principal cause of the decadence so visible today in the Muslim world; and though less absurd than the polytheism of old, its social and political tendencies are in my opinion to be feared, and I therefore regard it as a form of decadence rather than a form of progress in relation to paganism itself.

Alexis de Toqueville (Letter to Arthur de Gobineau, October 22, 1843)

We do NOT have a Pen-Pal Program.

WE GET LETTERS **Thousands of them – Here are a few**



Dear Tom,
Thank you for the few hundred Spanish New Testaments and the few hundred Spanish books “The One True God” by Jean Carlson for the men in here. God bless you.
Protestant Chaplain Alderson
Cal. Men’s Colony East, San Luis Obispo, CA

J.P.I.C.
To the homophobic, racist group that sent me a newsletter. We don’t want your newsletters, it’s EVIL. You are ignorant of the teachings of Jesus.
The residents at 5402 Sandpiper Ct., Rocklin, CA 95765

Editor: He received vol. 43, issue 1. It is now up on our website, jesuspeopleinfo.org for anyone to read. Just calling people names doesn’t mean anything “Your Jesus” is probably the same as Brittany Cooper’s.
Thanks for putting your address down. Maybe someone else will write you. Most letters like yours are from “anonymous cowards.”

Greetings Tom,
Thank you for your gracious donation of 50 Spanish New Testaments and 50 copies of the Spanish book “The One True God”. Many thanks again and God bless you.
Protestant Chaplain Peter Celum,
High Desert State Prison, Susanville, CA

Tom,
Thank you for the Spanish New Testaments. I will be looking for the two cases of the Spanish book “The One True God” for the men here.
Catholic Chaplain Daniel Bringas,
Wasco State Prison, Wasco, CA

To Whom It May Concern,
...The prison chaplain provided me with your address. I am serving a prison term of 3 years at 85%. I am 21 years old and an ex-fire fighter. I can change my life around... Can you send me your free materials to help me?
Gabriel Galban,
Deuel Vocational Inst. Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
I am coming back to our Lord and asking for your free books...
Brad Strusser, DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Hi,
I was given one of your magazines and want to be on your mailing list to get more...
Michael Neupert, Lakeland, FL

Hello,
A friend of mine is writing this for me.
I only read and speak Spanish. Can you send me Christian books? ...
Juan Jimenez,
Prison, Frackville, PA

Editor: Sent a Spanish Bible, two books and some tracts. I reply to every request. But need more cash flow to do it. The postage cost alone is outrageous.

Greetings...
Do you have literature that will help me keep growing in God...
Darryl Green,
Prison, Cumberland, Maryland

Jesus People,
Please send me your free magazines....
Kevin Toole,
State Prison, Tracy, CA

Hi, I really loved your newsletter. Enclosed a gift to help with print costs...
Nancy McCarty, El Dorado Hills, CA

Jesus People,
Read a newsletter. Put me on your mailing list...
Jon Christy, Elk Rapids, MI

Jesus People,
Thank you for the books and magazines. I share them in here....
Darryl Alexander,
S.C.C. Prison, Jamestown, CA

Dear Jesus People,
I have been transferred to this prison... Please send me more stuff about what Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roman Catholics believe and what you believe about end time prophecy.
Joseph Sanchez,
Sierra Conservation Center, Jamestown, CA

Jesus People,
Please sign me up for your free magazine.
Fred Ford, Sacramento, CA

Hello Tom & Kathy,
Can you send me your last newsletter... Also there is a Mason in here and a man who practices Santeria do you have any literature on these two groups?
Jeff Lowrance,
Pekin Federal Prison Camp, Pekin, IL

Dear Jesus People,
... Thanks for the magazine and books especially the
book exposing the charismatic word faith group...
Jesus Diaz,
State Prison, El Dorado, Kansas

Jesus People....,
Me and my friends listed below want your free bible
studies...
Helen Terrell,
Prison, McCloud, OK

Hello,
I see your books all over here. Can you send me a copy
of "Live Like A Jesus Freak?"...
Christie Harkias,
State Woman's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

I got a free newsletter in the mail. It's wonderful. Put me
on your mailing list.
Charline Henry, Redding, CA

J.P.
I just want you to know all the books and magazines you
have sent me have been a tremendous blessing to me.
Keep sending it...
Duane Darkins,
Prison, Huntingdon, PA

Dear Sir,
Please send me your free newsletter. I'm responding to
your web-site note "We Expose Cults".
Sherman Harbeson,
Milton, FL

Hi there, my wife and I were out witnessing at the Food
Co Shopping Center and we found one of your
newsletters on the ground. We have been blessed
reading it and would like to be on your mailing list...
Eric Johnson, Sacramento, CA

Hello,
I received one of your free newsletters and I would like
to keep getting them.
Christine Gaskin, Librarian,
Southern Methodist College, Orangeburg, SC

J.P.
Can I have a subscription to your free magazine and I'm
inviting you to our Russian Evangelical Church...
Yanik Parunin, Sacramento, CA

Jesus People,
Excellent, Put me on your mailing list for your free
newsletter...
Rev. Kenny Joseph,
Fullerton, CA

Jesus People,
I'd like to get your newsletter after reading one...
Larry Perkins, El Dorado Hills, CA

Jesus People,
... How can I get free Bible books from you?....
Herman Cochran, Jr.,
DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
Please keep sending newsletters...
Robert Emmert, El Dorado Hills, CA

Jesus People,
Thank you from the depth of my heart for sending me
your newsletter. I would like to receive more issues.
Arlene dela Sierra, Sacramento, CA

Thank you for the newsletter, great work. Keep them
coming...
Len Granger, Dixon, CA

Hello,
I am a drug addict person but I believe on the Lord Jesus
Christ. Can you send me Bible and books in Spanish?...
Jaime Meza Tapi, DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Dear Sir,
I am in prison and want a Bible...
Allen Talton, DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
Somehow one of your newsletters got to me here in
Solitary. Please send more. I honestly did not think I
ever wanted a Christian life but now cannot deny Jesus
any longer....
Thomas Riffenburg,
State Prison, Ontario, OR

Dear Jesus People,
I'm needing information on Wicca and demon possession
as some in here are involved and some are violent...
Allen Harper,
Valley Men's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Jesus People,
Can you please give me your newsletter and a copy of
"Mere Christianity"?....
John Jons,
Wasco Prison, Wasco, CA

Stop sending your Hate Mail. You do not represent the
loving Christ I do.
Mark, Sacramento, CA (no address)

Editor: What hate? You are too cowardly to "say
anything" or give your name and address.

Dearest Jesus People,
.... can you send me free books and tracts and I will pass them around in here...
Anthony Silva, DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Dear Tom,
Thank you for the last box of books, tracts and newsletter. I appreciate your help...
Jonathan Miller,
Folsom Prison, Represa, CA

J.P.
I am doing two years and would appreciate any Christian reading I can get.
Kevin Sloan, DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
.... I don't want to keep bothering you but I need some more answers....
James Mattocks, Jr.,
U.S. Federal Prison, Tucson, AZ

J.P.
I would like two of your books on the cult of Freemasonry...
Jo Martinez,
Mule Creek State Prison, Ione, CA

Dear Sirs,
I am indigent man here and want to know how your church can help me with books...
Christopher Donnerson,
New Folsom Prison, Represa, CA

Jesus People,
I have been transferred and want your newsletters...
Timothy Felder,
State Prison, Lancaster, CA

Hello,
Can you give me a large print Bible and any of your books and newsletters...
Bryan Shuk,
Federal Prison, Butner, NC

Jesus People,
Have not much Christian material to read around here...
Can you send me some...
Arnold Robledo,
State Prison, Avenal, CA

Jesus People,
.... I am struggling emotionally. I need guidance and know I have to change. I have a wife and 3 children and I don't want to put them through any more hardships...
Dustin Retzloff,
DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
... I have no family and I would like to be involved in your free Bible studies...
Karima Holloway,
Cal. Women's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Jesus People,
I don't have any money. Please send me more free books to read...
James Einn,
Allen Correctional Inst. Lima, OH

Jesus People,
.... Can you send me a book on sexual healing. I have been beaten physically....
Name withheld by J.P. Editor,
Salinas Valley State Prison, Soledad, CA

Jesus People,
Please send any of your books or magazines...
Jesus Borunda,
Valley Men's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Dear Sir,
I heard about your newsletter and I would like to get one...
Steven Adams,
State Prison, Corcoran, CA

Jesus People,
We would like to express our deep appreciation for the wonderful books you donate here...
Chaplain Gabriel Miles,
Cal. Correctional Institution, Tehachapi, CA

Dear Jesus People,
Please donate one each of your books and magazines to me...
Carlton Payne,
CCI, Tehachapi, CA

Jesus People,
I have a 36 to life sentence. Can you send me your book "How To Live Like A Jesus Freak"...
Jessica Contreras,
Women's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Jesus People,
Can you send me the book "The One True God"...
Anthony Alvarado,
Prison, Wasco, CA

Dear Christians,
I am 39 and now a Christian and I need good study books like you have... I don't want to mess up again...
Ed Harman,
DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Jesus People,
There are a lot of "so called" Christian stuff floating around here... I read your newsletter and I want more... I am an ex-gang member... I am truly saved. I met a guy in here who said he was saved in 1989 and I asked him "How many prison terms has he served since he was saved?" He said "5". You teach the truth and so many churches don't...
Jesse Paz,
State Prison, Avenal, CA

Jesus People,
I'd like your free magazines....
B. Landcraft,
Prison, Wasco, CA

Jesus People,
Keep sending me your free newsletters...
Sandy Davis, Murrieta, CA

Dear Jesus People,
I want to thank you for all you have done for me. And thanks for the free books on the cults of Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses. They commit crimes also. I got saved which, at least, means I must never commit another crime...
Max Garcia,
Prison, Wasco, CA

Jesus People,
I got your name off a resource list in here. Please send me your free Bible study books
Brandon Hamilton,
Prison, Marion, OH

Hi,
I was reading a Bible study book in here and it had your address in it... I am a 30 year old Christian. I fell on hard times and ended up in here. No excuses. I just want some of your stuff so I can keep my faith up....
Quincy Shelton,
DVI Prison, Tracy, CA

Hi,
I saw your name and address inside a book in here and it said write for free Christian magazine. Well I would like one...
Jossie Zuazo,
Women's Prison, Corona, CA

Jesus People,
I found one of your tracts in my day room "Real or Counterfeit". It has a fortune teller with a crystal ball on the front cover... I would like more Christian things to read from you...
Jia Haboshian,
Women's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Tom,
I retired as Pastor from Fairvale Baptist Church but still enjoying your newsletters and I pray for your bold ministry. I'm 82 now.
Wil Nuckolls, Fair Oaks, CA

Jesus People,
.... I'm pretty much doing life for now and would appreciate any Christian material you can give me...
Dennis Wechski,
Prison, Marienville, PA

Jesus People,
I'm ashamed but a Christian in prison. Please send me all Bible study books you can...
Jeffrey Pearring,
Men's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Tom,
Enclosed small donation. Please send me some of your tracts to pass out.
Kevin Davis, Dothan, AL

Hi,
... A Christian brother here got out and gave me your address for free Christian books...
Albert Narciso, Prison,
Wasco, CA

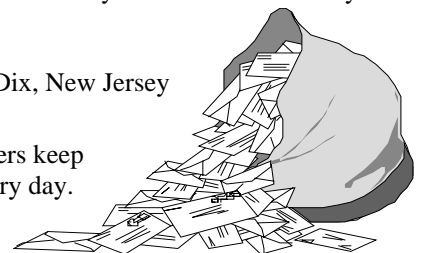
Jesus People,
I'm in prison and asking for your free books...
Brian Clark,
Men's Prison, Chowchilla, CA

Jesus People,
A friend in our Bible study group said I could write you for free books...
Larry Seyfarth,
Prison, Wasco, CA

Jesus People,
My friend informed me about your organization. I too would like some Christian books to read...
Jonathan Diaz,
Prison, Wasco, CA

Jesus People,
I am a Christian... I ran across one of your magazines in here and I would appreciate any free Christian books you can send me....
David Rodenberger,
Federal Prison, Fort Dix, New Jersey

And the letters keep coming, every day.



WAS ADOLF HITLER A CHRISTIAN?

It is claimed by some, especially by atheists and critics of Christianity, that Adolf Hitler was a Christian because he was baptized as a Catholic, was never excommunicated, was once an altar boy, at times used Christian vocabulary and even talked about the Almighty's blessings on his work.¹ Some then argue against Christianity, asking, "How could Christianity be true when it has such examples as the believing Christian Adolf Hitler (some even adding that he was a devout Christian)?"

Richard Dawkins takes the approach that Hitler may not have been a Catholic or a Christian, but he was not an atheist either. Dawkins further argued that "Hitler's...anti-Semitism owed a lot to his never-renounced Roman Catholicism."² Dawkins later wrote that "Hitler was born into a Catholic family, and went to Catholic schools and churches as a child...never formally renounced his Catholicism, and there are indications through his life that he remained religious."³ Dawkins then quotes a man who was very close to Hitler, Rudolf Hess, who once stated that Hitler was a good Catholic Christian, and German General Gerhard Engel who claimed Hitler told him, "I shall remain a Catholic for ever."⁴ Dawkins does not openly state, but implies by these quotes and several like it, that Hitler was at least a theist, if not a Catholic. Some go even farther than Dawkins' modest claim about Hitler. For example, Wayne Paulson writes:

My overall motivations is to help hasten the day when all religions will become extinct. I view them as being very harmful to society and to individuals. Their irrational nature allows for the justification of any belief and atrocity. After all, if the God of Christianity commits murder, torture, genocide, and advises cannibalism (still practiced today in the Eucharist), what is so terrible about killing a few more thousand in a god's name? The recent attack on the World Trade Center is but one example of the danger of such beliefs. The Nazi Holocaust is another—a direct consequence of centuries of Christian anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism by Christianity—primarily the Catholic and Lutheran churches. *Hitler, a Roman Catholic Christian*, finally carried it out—in the most Christian country in the world, with the willing

support of the public, and with Swastika flags flying proudly in the churches.⁵

This paragraph, although based on certain valid observations, is irresponsible. One atheist website goes so far as to claim that Hitler was not only a Christian but "agreed with the modern 'intelligent design' creationists," and was also "a religious fanatic, a Christian and a creationist."⁶ Obviously, whether or not Hitler was a Christian is, at best, only indirectly related to Christianity's validity, but the question has come up so often that it is necessary to address in some detail this claim.

HITLER'S ATTITUDES TOWARD CHRISTIANITY AS A YOUTH

Hitler clearly had strong, even vociferous anti-religious feelings as an adult, as did most high-level Nazi party leaders. Hitler's mother was a devout Catholic, but his father was an active agnostic. Hitler eventually rejected his mother's religion and adopted his father's worldview. When very young, Hitler was a "small, pale choirboy...pious believer," but as he got older he leaned more and more toward his father's "free-thinking attitude."⁷ Hitler scholar George Victor wrote that Hitler "grew up anti-Christian and a near atheist."⁸

Hitler's closest childhood friend, August Kubizek, wrote that for the entire time he knew Hitler, he (Hitler) not only never attended mass, but refused to go with his mother when she attended. She was very disappointed and begged him to go to mass but, evidently, she eventually came to "terms with the fact that her son wanted to follow another path"—his father's.⁹ Hitler was obviously very influenced by so-called free thinkers. He once excitedly told Kubizek about a book he was reading on "The Church witch-hunts" and "on another occasion one about the Inquisition," both of which made him outraged against the church. Hitler made his own religious beliefs very clear as an adult: "I myself am a heathen to the core."¹⁰

HITLER'S VIEWS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

The antagonism of Hitler and the Nazis to Judaism is well known. In short, the Nazis drew "on a crude form of Darwinism" in order to define themselves "as a racial group bent on world domination."¹¹ Although Hitler often claimed Germany's war was

about such traditional reasons as the need for more *lebensraum* (living space for the superior race to expand into), he made it clear that he “hated Christianity” and eventually was going to eradicate it after the war ended.

One reason for Hitler’s fervent opposition to Christianity was that he believed that “it had crippled everything noble about humanity.”¹² In words reported to be Hitler’s, “The heaviest blow that ever struck humanity was the coming of Christianity.”¹³ Hitler was influenced by one of his idols, Alfred Rosenberg, who taught that the Old Testament was a Jewish book, and for this reason Christianity, which is based on the Hebrew Scriptures, must be eliminated from Germany.¹⁴

His reasoning was based on his belief that Christianity was an “illegitimate” Jewish child and, as a Jewish child, it was swine like its parent—both needed to be eradicated. Although Hitler singled out the Jesuits for special scorn, all of Christianity was “Jewish Christianity,” which was comparable with “Jewish Bolshevism.” Hitler considered Christianity the “invention of the Jew Saul.”¹⁵ In short “the Aryan race had been conquered by the Semitic spirit in the form of Christianity. Christianity was...a Semitic import, which had weakened the fabric of the Aryan race by virtue of introducing moral commandments, which protected the weak from the strong.”¹⁶ Hitler concluded that Judaism and Christianity were both evil, calling them Bolsheviks, swine or worse, and for this reason, both had to be destroyed.¹⁷

This view of Hitler influenced most of the leaders of the Nazi hierarchy. One Nazi official wrote, the reason he resigned from the Christian church was because as a “National Socialist and opponent of Jews, it is impossible for me to continue to belong to present-day Christianity, because it is supported by the Old Testament, which is Jewish and friendly to Jewish things.”¹⁸ He stressed that “Christianity and Bolshevism” were “two versions of the eternal revolutionary Jewish threat” and that when Germany exterminates these plagues they will have performed a deed for the good of humanity.¹⁹ The Nazis used the state-controlled schools and universities to achieve this goal. Consequently,

a major priority of Nazi educators was the liberation of the fierce Germanic instincts which more than a thousand years of foreign influence had repressed; and in their estimation, Christianity bore a major responsibility for

blunting the expression of that Germanic spirit. The new German schools would help create a militarized society which would both purge the national spirit and promote the high-tension ethos which accepted war as a normal condition in a life of struggle.²⁰

Germany’s main father of Darwinism, Ernst Haeckel, argued in his *Natural History of Creation* (1868) that “the church with its morality of love and charity is an effete fraud, a perversion of the natural order.”²¹ This natural order, namely Darwinian natural selection, functions “without the recourse to mercy or compassion in the Judeo-Christian tradition.”²² The Nazis also viewed Darwinism and Christianity as polar opposites because Christianity

Makes no distinction of race or of colour; it seeks to break down all racial barriers. In this respect, the hand of Christianity is against that of Nature, for are not the races of mankind the evolutionary harvest which Nature has toiled through long ages to produce? May we not say, then, that Christianity is anti-evolutionary in its aim?²³

Hitler was also very influenced by many leading German academics and scientists, especially during the 1930s when a “scientifically credible set of principles” in support of eugenics was widely supported by academia in Germany, **America**, Sweden and elsewhere.²⁴ Furthermore, opposition to Christianity was a prominent feature of German science, and later German political theory, for decades. A major reason why Hitler opposed Christianity was that he viewed it and science as diametrically opposed to each other.²⁵ Hitler concluded that, in the end, science would win and that the Christian church would eventually be destroyed. He believed that Darwinian mechanisms created the superior German race, and his goal was to use Darwinian mechanisms to create a utopia on earth by the elimination of inferior races. Typical claims by German scientists were in a lecture titled “On evolution: Darwin’s Theory,” by professor Ernst Haeckel who

argued that Darwin was correct...humankind had unquestionably evolved from the animal kingdom. Thus, and here the fatal step was taken in Haeckel’s first major exposition of Darwinism in Germany, humankind’s social and political existence is governed by the laws of

evolution, natural selection, and biology, as clearly shown by Darwin. To argue otherwise was backward superstition. And, of course, it was organized religion which did this and thus stood in the way of scientific and social progress.²⁶

Martin Bormann, Hitler's closest associate for years, and one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany, was equally blunt: the church was opposed to evolution and for this reason the church must be aggressively opposed. He stressed that the Nazis were on the side of science and evolution, not Christianity. Furthermore, Nazism and Christianity are incompatible because Christianity is built on the ignorance of men and strive[s] to keep large portions of the people in ignorance.... On the other hand, National Socialism is based on scientific foundations. Christianity's immutable principles, which were laid down almost two thousand years ago, have increasingly stiffened into life-alien dogmas. National Socialism, however, if it wants to fulfill its task further, must always guide itself according to the newest data of scientific researches.²⁷

Bormann even claimed that the Christian churches have long been aware that

scientific knowledge poses a threat to their existence. Therefore, by means of such pseudo-sciences as theology, they take great pains to suppress or falsify scientific research. Our National Socialist worldview stands on a much higher level than the concepts of Christianity, which in their essentials were taken over from Judaism. For this reason, too, we can do without Christianity.²⁸

That Hitler's opposition to Christianity was based on Darwinism was detailed by Oxford historian Alan Bullock, who wrote that Hitler "showed the sharpest hostility" toward Christianity because, in

Hitler's eyes Christianity was a religion fit only for slaves; he detested its ethics in particular. Its teachings, he declared, was a rebellion against the natural law of selection by struggle and the survival of the fittest. "Taken to its logical extreme, Christianity would mean the systematic cultivation of the human failure."²⁹

In fact, much of the opposition to the eugenics movement came from conservative German Christians such as the confessing church.³⁰ One reason was the confessing church's Christian teaching that we should protect the poor, the weak and the sick, teachings that opposed Nazi eugenic goals.³¹ Himmler wrote that to be a Nazi and carry out their "good but dreadful work," one must overcome Christian training.³² Hitler believed that persons of African descent were "monstrosities halfway between man and ape" and for this reason disapproved of German Christians going to "Central Africa" to establish "Negro missions," resulting in the turning of "healthy...human beings into a rotten brood of bastards."

In a chapter he titled, "Nation and Race," Hitler wrote,

The stronger must dominate and not blend with the weaker, thus sacrificing his own greatness. Only the born weakling can view this as cruel, but he, after all, is only a weak and limited man; for if this law did not prevail, any conceivable higher development (*Hoherentwicklung*) of organic living beings would be unthinkable.... Those who want to live, let them fight, and those who do not want to fight in this world of eternal struggle do not deserve to live.³³

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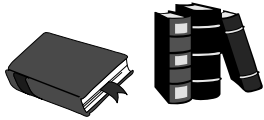
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Excerpt from: ***Hitler and the Nazi Darwinian Worldview*** by Jerry Bergman (Published by Joshua Press, Inc. Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, 2012) pp. 55-62.

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HELL IS IT REAL?

“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell!” Matthew 10:28

The above statement by Jesus states the following:

1. Hell is not the grave.
2. No one is in Hell (Gehenna) now and will not be until the future physical resurrection of all mankind at the second coming of Christ. (John 5:28-29)
3. Don't be “politically correct” about this subject. Don't fear men – Fear God!

Americans Describe Their Views About Life After Death:

Barna Group, October 21, 2003

1,000 adults surveyed
76% believe in heaven
71% in hell

Only ½ of 1% believe they are going to hell!

The extreme horribleness of hell, as portrayed by priests and nuns, is inflated to compensate for its implausibility. If hell were plausible, it would only have to be moderately unpleasant in order to deter. Given that it is so unlikely to be true, it has to be advertised as very very scary indeed. Atheist Richard Dawkins – *The God Delusion*

The ultimate tragedy is that all those who end in Hell will have chosen it. Instead of accepting that we are all sinners in need of the salvation of Jesus Christ, their pride condemns them to spiritual death. In the end, someone must be god of our lives. If we insist on being our own god, we shall succeed, but at the cost of an eternity in Hell. Grant R. Jeffrey – *Heaven: The Mystery of Angels*

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Jesus Christ – Mark 8:36

The devil, as a master of deceit, does everything he can to keep people from believing in the existence of a hell; but hell is a literal state of existence that will be the plight of all those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ. Tim LaHaye – *Revelation Unveiled*

What is hell? Hell is oneself. Hell is alone, the other figures in it merely projections. There is nothing to escape from and nothing to escape to. One is always alone. T.S. Eliot – *The Cocktail Party*

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.” All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. – C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Hell is not evil; it's a place where evil gets punished. Hell is not pleasant, appealing, or encouraging. But Hell is morally good, because a good God must punish evil. Randy Alcorn – *If God Is Good*

Satan knows where he's headed and he knows the everlasting punishment that awaits him there. Now he wants to persuade everyone he can (including you) to follow him to that place of torment. He'll make you believe any of his lies that he can to deceive you into being his roommate in hell forever. If he can make you believe that you will rule and reign with him there, then he'll do that. If he can make you believe that hell doesn't really exist, then that's what he'll do. If he can convince you that hell is a wonderful place, that will be his tactic. Satan will do whatever it takes to stop you from believing and receiving the truth. And the truth is; Satan hates you with a passion! His only desire is to hear your agonizing screams as you share his torture in the burning flames of hell. Rick Jones – *Stairway to Hell*

The greatest misconception about hell is that it doesn't exist. Just as we believe scientists when they tell us there is such a thing as gravity, so should we believe God when he tells us there is such a place as hell. Many people wonder how a merciful and caring God could send people to such a terrible place. The truth is that God doesn't send anyone to hell; people choose to go there by their own rebellion and God honors their choice. Ronald A. Beers & V. Gilbert Beers – *The Complete Book of Life's Questions*

Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth. John Wesley.

If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for. Charles H. Spurgeon.

Sinners in hell are not the fools they were on earth; in hell they do not laugh at everlasting burnings; in the pit they do not despise the words, "eternal fire." The worm that never dieth, when it is gnawing, gnaws out all joke and laughter; you may despise God now, and despise me now for what I say, but death will change your note. Charles Spurgeon.

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15

I am well aware of what Luke chapter 16 says. Unfortunately Hell in that chapter is "Hades." I'm aware of all the different meanings of "Sheol", depending on context, in the Old Testament, as well as the meaning of the single use of Tartarus, translated as Hell in many versions..

The Bible teaches all people will either pay for their sins after death or have them forgiven before they die physically.

Now, today, if you die saved your soul goes into God's presence. If you die unsaved your soul goes into Hades, a place of torment. Both classes of people await the consummation of all things at the Second Coming of Christ where the saved will be given a new body to live for ever in the New

Heaven and New Earth. The lost will pay for their sins in Hell.

Reincarnation and Purgatory are not realities. The moment you die physically seals your eternal destiny. – J.P. Editor

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9:27

knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and the perdition of ungodly men. But beloved do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat: Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:3-13 (NKJV)

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to Gehenna, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where '*Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*' And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into Gehenna, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where '*Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*' And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into Gehenna fire—where '*Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.*'" Jesus Mark 9:43-48

What's Your Religion? ~ ~ Evolution?

The overall subject of evolution is vast and complex. In Darwin's day a lawyer friend of his suggested that *Origin* was 'possibly beyond the comprehension of any scientific man living',³⁶ and nearly thirty years later Thomas Huxley complained, 'I have read the *Origin* for the sixth or seventh time, becoming confirmed in my opinion that it is one of the most difficult books to exhaust that ever was written.'³⁷ Now, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, many thousands of books and countless millions of words later, the subject bristles with even greater complexity, confusion and controversy, and it would be fatuous to attempt even a superficial overview of the subject in the course of a single chapter. Instead, we will point some of the 'atheist-friendly' claims evolutionists have made, and examine them through the eyes of experts in the field. Before doing so, we will need to nail down some definitions.

The word 'evolution' – which comes from the Latin *evolutio* ('unrolling') – and means an 'outfolding' or 'change'³⁸ – does not in fact appear in *Origin*, although 'evolved' is there from the sixth edition onwards. Put in its very simplest terms, evolution is the process by which nature is said to have constantly improved itself through gradual development. There was nothing new in the idea that life had evolved over millions of years, possibly from a single primitive organism. What Darwin did was to claim that an impressive mass of data supported the idea of natural selection as a mechanism for bringing this about. Yet 'evolution' is too broad a word and in order to maintain our focus we need to distinguish between two different forms of evolution and two different concepts of it.

Micro-evolution is the theory that in organisms of the same species different characteristics emerge as the result of adaptation to differing natural environments. This began to dawn on Darwin after the *Beagle* had visited the Galapagos Islands, where he had made particular notes about different varieties of turtles and of a small group of land birds now known to the world as 'Darwin's Finches'. Seven chapters of *Origin* are taken up with micro-evolution, showing that great variations occurred within existing species by perfectly natural processes, and there was nothing remotely revolutionary about this. The respected biological evolutionist Ernst Mayr has pointed, out, 'Darwin's

choice of title for his great evolutionary classic, *On the Origin of Species*, was no accident. The origin of new "varieties" within species has been taken for granted since the time of the Greeks.'³⁹ Had Darwin kept to micro-evolution – his 'special theory' – he might now be little more than a footnote in history.

Macro-evolution – what we can call Darwin's 'general theory' – goes much further and claims that as a result of natural selection all life-forms have evolved from a common ancestor in a continuity of nature that goes back to a single primal origin. In *The Descent of Man*, published in 1871, Darwin made the massive leap which guaranteed both his fame and his infamy: 'The main conclusion arrived at, and now held by many naturalists who are well competent to form a sound judgement, is that man is descended from some less highly organized form.'⁴⁰

The first concept of our subject is *theistic evolution*, which attempts to harmonize both forms of evolution with belief in God. Theistic evolution basically says that while God remains the personal Creator of the universe, he used (and still uses) the process of evolution to carry out his entire programme, including the development of the human race. In a different model, which he defines as a superior form of pantheism, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin thought that there is an ongoing evolution, not only of biology but of consciousness, mind and society, and that human history is evolving towards a climax of spirit – what he called 'the Omega point'⁴¹ – which would be God himself. The major problem with theistic evolution is its acceptance of a theory which by definition is based on chance natural processes, and which is therefore difficult to reconcile with the purposeful actions of a supernatural God.

The second concept of our subject, and the one which directly concerns us is *atheistic evolution*, which rules God completely out of the picture. As we have seen, not all evolutionists are atheists, yet the general theory of evolution, or something very much like it, is in one sense a necessity as soon as one rejects creation by God. If the earth was not created supernaturally, it came about naturally, as 'the result of natural laws operating upon primitive matter, producing complexity over time'.⁴²

Darwin played a significant part in the development of this concept. Towards the end of *Origin* he made a few respectful allusions to God as

Creator, but this may have been a tactical ploy to avoid criticism from certain quarters, including members of his own family, rather than something that fitted into the general thrust of his book. However, three years later, in *The Descent of Man*, he dropped any reference to God. In doing so, and at the same time relentlessly pressing home the alternative scenario, Darwin helped atheism to become respectable; he gave it a scientific gloss. In Richard Dawkins' judgement, 'Although atheism might have been logically tenable before Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.'⁴³ Today, 'evolution' usually means atheistic macro-evolution, the vertical transformation of one kind of organism into another from the most primitive submicroscopic form of life to man, all as the result of blind chance, and with no need or place for divine energy or interference. As the British writer and researcher Ian Taylor explains, 'The idea that life on earth originated from a single-celled organism and then progressed onwards and upwards in ever-increasing complexity to culminate in man himself is what the theory of evolution is all about.'⁴⁴ Macro-evolutionists endorse this and Richard Dawkins provides a typical example of what they say: 'Charles Darwin showed how it is possible for blind physical forces to mimic the effects of conscious design, and, by operating as a cumulative filter of chance variations, to lead eventually to organized and adaptive complexity, to mosquitoes and mammoths, to humans and, therefore, indirectly to books and computers.'⁴⁵ In fact, Darwin did no such thing, and neither, over a century later, has anyone else since, not even Dawkins. Michael Denton explains why: 'By its very nature, evolution cannot be substantiated in the way that is usual in science by experiment and direct observation. Neither Darwin nor any subsequent biologist has ever witnessed the evolution of one new species as it actually occurs.'⁴⁶ As we shall emphasize in the next chapter, macro-evolution is no more than a model, and one which can be accepted only by those whose faith can jump over a number of extremely high hurdles.

Mechanisms

Darwin proposed that evolution happens by a process which he called 'natural selection'. According to this idea, organisms prey on each other in order to survive and at the same time they develop

new characteristics in order to cope with the environment in which they find themselves. Where these new characteristics become a permanent feature, a new species emerges in what Darwin called 'progress towards perfection', whereas those life-forms which adapt less well, die out.

This amounts to 'the survival of the fittest', a phrase coined by the British philosopher Herbert Spencer in his *Principles of Biology*, published in 1865. Darwin originally thought that natural selection and the survival of the fittest were two different ideas, but he introduced Spencer's phrase in the sixth edition of *Origin* when he explained that it was a 'more accurate' explanation of what he had previously called 'natural selection'.

The idea of natural selection was thought to be Darwin's greatest contribution to science, but it has long been pointed out that it leans heavily on circular reasoning: certain life-forms survive because they are the fittest, and they are the fittest because they survive. Ernst Mayr admitted that Spencer's idea simply meant that 'Those individuals that have the most offspring are by definition ... the fittest ones.'⁴⁷ Put even more concisely, those who survive, survive. Describing it as 'a vacuous statement,' the well-known British evolutionist C.H. Waddington said, 'Natural selection is that some things leave more offspring than others; and you ask which leave more offspring than others; and it is those that leave more offspring; and there is nothing more to it than that. The whole real guts of evolution – which is, how do you come to have horses and tigers and things – is outside the mathematical theory.'⁴⁸ One might add a postscript here. If macro-evolution *is* taking place, why should we try to preserve creatures which are in danger of extinction? If they are inadequate to cope with their changing circumstances, surely we should let them die off to prevent them hindering evolution's progress?

Another major weakness in Darwin's presentation of the idea of natural selection is that although it provides a good working model of changes within species it provides no evidence of the creation of new ones. In *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, Michael Denton writes, 'It was not only his general theory that was almost entirely lacking in any direct empirical support, but his special theory was also largely dependent on circumstantial evidence. A striking witness to this is that fact that nowhere was Darwin able to point to one bona fide

case of natural selection having actually generated evolutionary change in nature, let alone having been responsible for the creation of a new species. Even the case of trivial adaptations Darwin was forced to use conditional language.’⁴⁹

By the 1930s, classical Darwinism was being superseded by neo-Darwinism. This put forward the so-called ‘synthetic theory’, which said that, although organic evolution could not be brought about by natural selection alone, it could happen if mutations (inheritable genetic changes taking place over an immense period of time) were added to the process. Natural selection could merely eliminate unfit organisms and preserve the fit, whereas mutations could provide the variants in the life-form concerned, and from these nature could use those best suited for future development. Crudely put, mutations could give nature a bigger deck of cards from which to deal a winning hand. This is the ‘hot number’ in contemporary evolutionism, and Sylvia Baker, a well-known writer in the field, goes so far as to say that ‘The modern theory of evolution ... stands or falls on this question of mutation.’⁵⁰ Yet for all the passion with which it is promoted, the theory runs into massive obstacles.

Firstly, natural mutations (as opposed to those induced in a laboratory) are extremely rare, one specialist suggesting that they occur once in approximately every ten million duplications of deoxyribonucleic (DNA) molecule. Pierre Grassé, one of the world’s leading zoologists, who held the Chair of Evolution at the Sorbonne for over thirty years, made a particular study of mutations in generations of bacteria, which multiply 400,000 times faster than human generations. This means that in a short space of time scientists can trace mutational changes equivalent to millions of years of change within the human species. Yet Grassé found that these bacteria have not essentially changed during all these generations,⁵¹ a discovery which led him to make the following comment: ‘The opportune appearance of mutations permitting animals and plants to meet their need seems hard to believe. Yet the Darwinian theory is even more demanding. A single plant, a single animal, will require thousands and thousands of lucky, appropriate events. Thus miracles would become the rule: events with an infinitesimal probability could not fail to occur... There is no law against daydreaming, but science must not indulge in it.’⁵²

The rarity factor is so important that it is worth including yet another endorsement of the heavy odds against mutations driving evolution, this time from as staunch an evolutionist as Julian Huxley: ‘A proportion of favorable mutations of one in a thousand does not sound much, but is probably generous... And a total of a million mutational steps sounds a great deal but is probably an understatement... However, let us take these figures as being reasonable estimates. With this proportion, but without any selection, we should clearly have to breed a million strains (a thousand squared) to get one containing two favourable mutations; up to a thousand to the millionth power to get one containing a million. Of course this could not really happen, but it is a useful way of visualizing the fantastic odds against getting a number of favorable mutations in one strain through pure chance alone. A thousand to the millionth power, when written out, becomes a figure 1 with three million noughts after it; and that would take three large volumes of about 500 pages just to print! No one would bet on anything so improbable happening.’⁵³

Secondly, far from contributing to the viability of the organisms in which they occur, mutations are almost universally harmful, if not lethal. Canadian medical professor Magnus Verbrugge has this comment on the rarity of mutations: ‘This is fortunate, for in virtually all instances they are harmful. Recall that the DNA is molecular message. A mutation is a random change in the message, akin to a typing error. Typing errors rarely improve the quality of a written message; if too many occur, they may even destroy the information contained in it. Likewise, mutations rarely improve the quality of the DNA message, and too many may even be lethal.’⁵⁴

After something approaching a century of research, involving untold thousands of experiments, geneticists have still not been able to produce a single case of a mutation that was clearly and positively beneficial, other than at a very localized level. Verbrugge cites the results of experiments on fruit flies, chosen because of their very short life span: ‘Mutations do not create new structures. They merely alter existing ones. Mutations have produced, for example, crumpled, oversized, and undersized wings. They have produced double sets of wings. *But they have not created a new kind of wing. Nor have they transformed the fruit fly into a new kind of insect.* Experiments have simply

produced variations within the fruit fly species.’⁵⁵ (emphasis added).

Linking these two difficulties together, Sylvia Baker writes, ‘Mutations are far from being able to produce new, vigorous genes which would enable a new species to evolve. They are extremely rare and detrimental events which do not alter the genetic structure of the race as a whole – except in some cases to weaken it. This even applies to the so-called favourable mutations such as the sickle-cell anaemia trait and the drug resistance of bacteria.’⁵⁶

The third problem develops from the first. As all observed mutations are infinitesimally small, millions of such micro-mutations would be needed to change one kind of plant or animal into another. Verbrugge explains: ‘How likely is it that random mutations will come together and co-ordinate to form just one new structure? Let’s say the information of an insect wing requires only five genes (a very low estimate). Most mutations are harmful, and scientists estimate that only one in 1,000 is not. The probability of two non-harmful mutations occurring is one in one thousand million million. *For all practical purposes, there is no chance that all five mutations will occur within the life cycle of a single organism*’⁵⁷ (emphasis added). Yet Verbrugge’s ‘no chance’ verdict is against the possibility of one solitary structure, whereas an organism is made up of many structures *that must appear at the same time, working together as an integrated whole*. Little wonder that the French biologist Rémy Chauvin, Professor in the Laboratory of Animal Sociology at René Descartes University in Paris, comes to this conclusion on the overall theory of macro-evolution: ‘I say, and I underline the fact, that if this mass of preconceived ideas did not exist, everyone would admit that since those forms of animal life which mutate very rapidly have remained the same during tens of millions of generations, *mutation could not be considered the motor of evolution*. This is a matter of good sense, but given the strength of prejudice within science as everywhere else, good sense loses its case in court’⁵⁸ (emphasis added).

The time needed to accommodate all the changes claimed by evolutionists to develop would require many times longer than the largest estimate for the age of the earth, yet even if allowed this absurdity, other questions arise. How could evolving organs or structures interrelate effectively with other, unchanged organs or structures? What

would be the survival value of a partially developed organ? How would beneficial mutations survive the loss over time by further (and more likely) disadvantageous mutations? How would mutations overcome the fact that the natural cell is conservative and tends to eliminate any change, good or bad?

The fourth difficulty faced by the mutation theory is that by their very nature mutations are completely random whereas, if evolution were to succeed, should we not expect it to follow an ordered design or plan? As we have seen, mutations are like typing errors. They result from mistakes in copying the genetic code and can therefore be thought of as accidental damage to the code. This leads Malcolm Bowden, a specialist in the subject, to suggest that ‘The reliance of evolutionists upon damaging mutations as the means by which evolution progresses is rather like saying that using a hammer on a number of watches will eventually improve one of them! ... The mutation theory just does not work and is but one more inadequate attempt to provide a mechanism of how new species can arise.’⁵⁹ Ernest Chain, co-holder of a 1945 Nobel Prize for his work in the use of penicillin, is equally dismissive: ‘To postulate that the development and survival of the fittest is entirely a consequence of chance mutations seems to me a hypothesis based on no evidence and irreconcilable with the facts. These classical evolutionary theories are a gross over-simplification of an immensely complex and intricate mass of fact, and it amazes me that they are swallowed so uncritically and readily, and for such a long time, by so many scientists, without a murmur of protest.’⁶⁰

The whole neo-Darwinian package raises important questions. If it takes millions of years for evolution to occur, *how can we be sure that it is occurring?* Is humankind as we now experience it merely an intermediate state leading to a more complex and intelligent life-form?

- If humans are the products of random mutations, sifted by the process of natural selection, how can we be sure that this statement is true?
- How can natural processes, operating by blind chance, generate complex, functioning mechanisms, let alone intelligent human beings, out of random particles?

- What objective value or dignity does humanity have if it owes its existence to nothing more than millions of accidents?

We will take a detailed look at these and related issues in chapters 15-17.

Fossils – facts and fantasies

When United States President Ronald Reagan said on national television in 1981 that the theory of evolution ‘is not believed in the scientific community to be as infallible as it was once believed’, a spokesman for the American Association for the Advancement of Science angrily responded that 100 million fossils, identified and dated, ‘constitute 100 million facts that prove evolution beyond any doubt whatsoever’.⁶¹ His outburst reflected modern evolutionary thinking: in the words of a leading modern zoologist, ‘The most important evidence for the theory of evolution is that from the study of palaeontology. Though the study of other branches of zoology ... might lead one to suspect that animals are all inter-related, it was the discovery of various fossils and their correct placing in relative strata and age that provided *the main factual basis for the modern view of evolution*’⁶² (emphasis added).

This was not the case in Darwin’s day. Writing in *Origin* about the need for intermediate links between species, he said, ‘Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory. The explanation lies, as I believe, in the extreme imperfection of the geological record.’⁶³ Nobody is suggesting that we now have a perfect geological record, but we do have a vastly greater number of fossils to work on. What is the result? According to David Raup Curator of Geology and Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History, ‘The situation hasn’t changed much. The record of evolution is still surprisingly jerky and, ironically, we now have *even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin’s time*... Darwin’s problem has not been alleviated’⁶⁴ (emphasis added). This is hardly the message the man in the street is hearing. Bombarded with trees, graphs, charts, columns and models littered with polysyllabic names and claiming to prove wholesale evolution, he is inclined

to assume that he can take the whole package for granted as something scientists have long since settled as being beyond dispute.

The particular importance of fossil record is that, whereas all the other evidence offered in favour of evolution is circumstantial, the evidence from palaeontology (the study of life-forms based on fossils found in the earth) is the only one which claims to present proof of the history of evolution, rather than its results and mechanisms. Evolutionists admit that the functions of evolution may not always be clear, but the fact of evolution is usually said to be proved by the fossils. Yet even this claim is not universally agreed. Writing in *Darwin Up To Date*, the leading evolutionist Mark Ridley, of the Animal Behaviour Research Group, Oxford, has this to say: ‘The argument is about the actual historical pattern of evolution; but outsiders, seeing a controversy ... unfolding, have imagined that it is about the truth of evolution, whether evolution occurred at all. This is a terrible mistake; it springs, I believe, from the false idea that the fossil record provides an important part of the evidence that evolution took place. In fact, evolution is proven by a totally different set of arguments, and the present debate within palaeontology does not impinge at all on the evidence that supports evolution.’⁶⁵ If Ridley is right, the fossils contribute little or nothing to the evolution debate but, because so many people set so much store by them, we will take a closer look at this aspect of evolutionary claims.

The framework for palaeontology is provided by geology, the study of the earth. Until the nineteenth century, most scientists believed that the earth was no more than a few thousand years old. Everything changed when Charles Lyell popularized the idea of uniformitarianism, which claims the processes now operating to modify the earth’s surface have always done so in the same way and at the same rate over an immense period of time. This means that the development of all things can be explained exclusively in terms of the laws and processes which are operating today, a doctrine summed up by the eighteenth-century Scottish agriculturalist James Hutton in his now famous phrase, ‘The present is the key to the past.’ When Lyell’s assumption was applied, it produced a geologic column in which the units of rock were neatly stacked, with the oldest at the bottom and the youngest at the top. However, it is important to note that these strata were arranged

on the basis of another critical assumption, namely that organic evolution was an established fact, with complex chemical leading to primitive living material, and in turn to simple and eventually increasingly complex creatures. Using these tools, geologists, biologists, palaeontologists and others, in the course of a century and a half, have commonly revised the age of the earth from a few thousand years to about 4,600 million years and suggested that virtually no living matter existed for the first 80% of that time.

The commonly accepted ages in the geologic column are the Pre-Cambrian or Pre-Phanerozoic Era, dated from 600-4,600 million years ago; the Palaeozoic ('ancient life') Era, dated from 225-600 million years ago and containing the simplest life-forms; the Mesozoic ('intermediate life') Era, dated from 65-225 million years ago and containing more advanced life-forms; and the Caenozoic ('recent life') Era, covering the last sixty-five million years and containing the most highly developed life-forms. In general terms, the Palaeozoic rocks are particularly characterized by relics of marine life and amphibians, the Mesozoic by those of reptiles (including dinosaurs and others popularized in recent years by the Hollywood film industry) and the Caenozoic by those of birds and mammals. When the entire package is presented it seem very impressive, but closer examination reveals serious flaws.

The first is fundamental, and was hinted at two paragraphs ago, namely that the geologic column was put together *on the assumption of evolutionary biology*. In fact, no complete geologic column actually exists (it would be well over 100 miles high if it did) except in the minds of evolutionary scientists. It is simply an idea, based on a presupposition and producing a clear case of circular reasoning, as Scott Huse explains: 'The only basis for placing rock formations in chronological order is their fossil content, especially index fossils. The only justification for assigning fossils to specific time periods in that chronology is the assumed evolutionary progress of life. In turn, the only basis for biological evolution is the fossil record so constructed. In other words, the assumption of evolution is used to arrange the sequence of fossils, then the resultant sequence is advanced as proof of evolution! Consequently, the primary evidence for evolution is the assumption of evolution!' ⁶⁶ *Encyclopaedia Britannica* agrees: 'It cannot be denied that from a strictly philosophical standpoint

geologists are here arguing in a circle. The succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain.'⁶⁷ This fact alone means that the geologic column cannot properly be used as conclusive evidence of evolution, any more than it can be used to prove a vast age for the earth.

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THE OLD VIOLIN

Twas battered and scarred, and the
auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste such time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bid, good folks?" he cried.
"Who'll start the bidding for me?
A dollar, a dollar - now two, only two...
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

Three dollars once, three dollars twice,
Going for three"--but no!
From the room far back a gray haired
man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then, wiping the dust from the old
violin,
And tightening up all the strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As sweet as an angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "What am I bid for the old
violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.

"A thousand dollars--who'll make it
two?

Two thousand--who'll make it three?
Three thousand once and three
thousand twice,
Going, and gone!" said he.

The people cheered, but some of them
cried,
"We do not quite understand
What changed its worth?" The man
replied:
"The touch of the Master's hand!"
And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and torn with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to a
thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.



A "mess of pottage", a glass of
wine,
A game... and he travels on.
He's going once, and going twice,
He's going and almost gone!
But the Master comes and the foolish
crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the change
that's made
By the touch of the Master's Hand!