

## *In Celebration of Charles Darwin Day*

By David L. Miner

This is a discussion on Facebook between those who favor a purely random series of events based on chance and natural causes as the explanation for our existence and others, mostly me, who believe in Intelligent Design as the sole explanation for our existence. This series of exchanges included several threads, all in reaction to an article posted on Facebook indicating that the only actual and factual evidence in support of what is usually called the Big Bang was rescinded by the men who discovered that “evidence.”

There are a number of contributors to this discussion, but the primary two contributors were me (DLM) in favor of Intelligent Design and GS, a self-proclaimed atheist and a strong proponent of “molecules to man” evolution brought about by chance and natural selection. A man later joined the conversation, whom I have labeled as [Darvin]. I thought both GS and Darvin had good points to raise.

By the way, all “quotes” came directly from the Facebook posting. Each contributor is responsible for his/her errors.

The initial post to this thread follows, along with only part of the thousands of lines posted on Facebook but not included here. I have tried to list good arguments on both sides. And, as you can see, I have listed stupid arguments offered by both sides.

[other] Only God knows

[another] Actually He revealed the beginning of creation to us in the book of Genesis, so anybody can know if you're willing to listen to God's explanation. Not that hard.

[GS] So, did Adam have to learn a language and writing, or was he made with that knowledge. What about terms like death? How did he know what death was before the fall?

[GS] Creation myths just lead to questions no one could answer.

[other] They assume a lot while answering little.

[DLM] Geoff - Creation or Intelligent Design leads to many questions, just like evolution. The difference between the two groups of questions is where do we turn for the answers. What fascinates me so much about the evolutionary religious system proponents is their total lack of logic. They/you ask questions about creation and about the Garden and stuff, but you deny the admissibility of the evidence offered in answer. You ask about supernatural things and you

refuse to believe an answer that involves the supernatural. It reminds me of a man I met a couple of years ago with beliefs that seem similar to yours. He was asking about heaven and hell. When I gave him some answers, he responded with, "Well, that's impossible!" I left him to ponder his ignorance. And I leave you to ponder yours.

[other] Are you secure enough with yourself to admit that every thing you think you know is wrong? Including your naive notion of God's word? Are you able to admit that maybe He could be real and has revealed His truth through His word?

[GS] I would be if I was, but I'm not.

[GS] If there were a shred of evidence I'd gladly accept that he existed. I would think he was a total jerk which allows suffering for no reason, but he's fake so I dont.

[other] oh... So the scientists are secure enough to admit that they could be wrong... But not you. Got it.

[GS] Can you read? I just posted above that if you were to show real evidence evidence I'd be willing to. The problem is you cant.

[other] Does existence not exist? I'm sorry but the entire universe is all the evidence you'll ever get. Just keep that head in the sand buddy!

[another] Actually, if you were scientific in all areas of life, it wouldn't be very hard to research and see that the Bible is the best kept book in all of History! If it's not reliable, nothing we have from antiquity is! Nothing has been more faithfully passed down than the Bible! Read 'The Evidence that Demands A Verdict.' Good place to start!

[GS] The universe says it's billions of years old, the earth is billions of years old, and we all evolved from earlier species. I can see clearly. Your the one ignoring reality for a false one with false promises.

[DLM] Actually, Geoff, the universe is totally silent on its age. It was SCIENTISTS that have come up with an age of billions of years. And they did so using radio-isotope measurements (facts) and estimates (guesses). Specifically , we can measure the ratio of potassium to argon in ancient rocks that we have found. And we can measure the existing ratio in current rocks. We can measure the degradation of that ratio between current rocks and rocks we guess to be ancient. So scientists have GUESSED that the existing degradation has remained constant over the ages. And scientists have GUESSED at the amount of time that was necessary for things to have evolved by chance and natural processes into what we have today. And scientists have calculated an initial ratio of potassium to argon based on their guesses of the time necessary to bring about the current situation. Then, armed with the GUESS that the rate of degradation has remained constant, and the GUESS of the initial ratio of potassium to argon, they then calculate an age of billions. An idiot studying to be a moron could expect that scientists armed with guesses about an ancient planet could use formulae based on those GUESSES about an ancient planet and then calculate an ancient age to that planet. The universe doesn't tell us how old the

planet is – SCIENTISTS armed with presumptions about an old planet have calculated an old age to that old planet. And every time a scientist hits a snag about how much time was needed to naturally develop a certain collection of facts, he proposes a different initial ratio of potassium to argon so the new calculations would come up with an even older earth. And it is SCIENTISTS that refer to this process of guessing and revising those guesses as SCIENCE.

[GS] The ever increasing short comings of science, yet technology and understanding of the world drastically improves daily. Yeah, it's really falling behind.

[other] Geoff do you honestly believe that nothing created everything according to physical laws that were in place from the start? That concepts like water, colors and sound are results of coincidence?

[GS] I don't use the word coincidence or nothing. I just don't claim to know what or where.

[DLM] Yes, Geoff, you DO claim to know. The act of denying one option is an act arising out of a claim to know. Just because YOU have no explanation of a certain set of facts does not mean that you can claim that one explanation of those facts is wrong and another explanation or ANY explanation or NO explanation as right WITHOUT making a declaration of knowing.

[GS] Look at color- merely light refracted and separated . Simple, elegant, and no need of a supernatural explanation.

[DLM] Thank you for making my point.

[GS] And btw, I posted in a earlier thread that you people were so desperate that you would jump on any band wagon to support your claims, and her you are proving me right, so thanks. Btw, I remember when you used to insist that the big bang never happened...

[other] Only some people take the theistic evolution view. The others have kept true to young earth creation.

[another] No one changed their views back and forth. Theistic evolution started when evolution was popularized. Young earth creation was the prevailing view before evolution. Many famous scientists have been creationists including Isaac Newton, etc.

[GS] Oh yes they did, even this page has posted how the big bang fits with creation. "Reached out the heavens" and similar, while some still claiming that it fits a young model. You guys can't even come to a consensus amongst yourselves but want to deride scientists for continuing to question their conclusions.

[GS] "Have been" turns into once was when honestly evaluating the evidence. Thats why most scientists are atheists.

[another] In the beginning God.... This statement still sands undisputed.

[GS] Was a figment of man's imagination to explain an untamed world, but unfortunately many still cling to those archaic beliefs.

[other] geoff, you seem to really like this page, but you cant ever prove God doesn't exist. ever...

[GS] You can't prove Bigfoot doesn't exists or invisible dragons in my garage. Thats because you can't prove a negative. What you fail to do is provide any evidence for a reason to believe in god.

[another] Read Romans 1 Geoff. Not only is there ample evidence of God's existence, but you will be held accountable for rejecting the living God who holds your very breath. You reject Him because, as Jesus said, you're a slave to your sin. And you do not seek ...

[another] If you consider that new research suggests that there was no beginning, and that the universe is infinite and eternal, it still puts the lie to the Genesis model of creation. You can't have an "in the beginning" if there was no beginning.

[another] No beginning? lol, and no 2nd law of thermodynamics right?

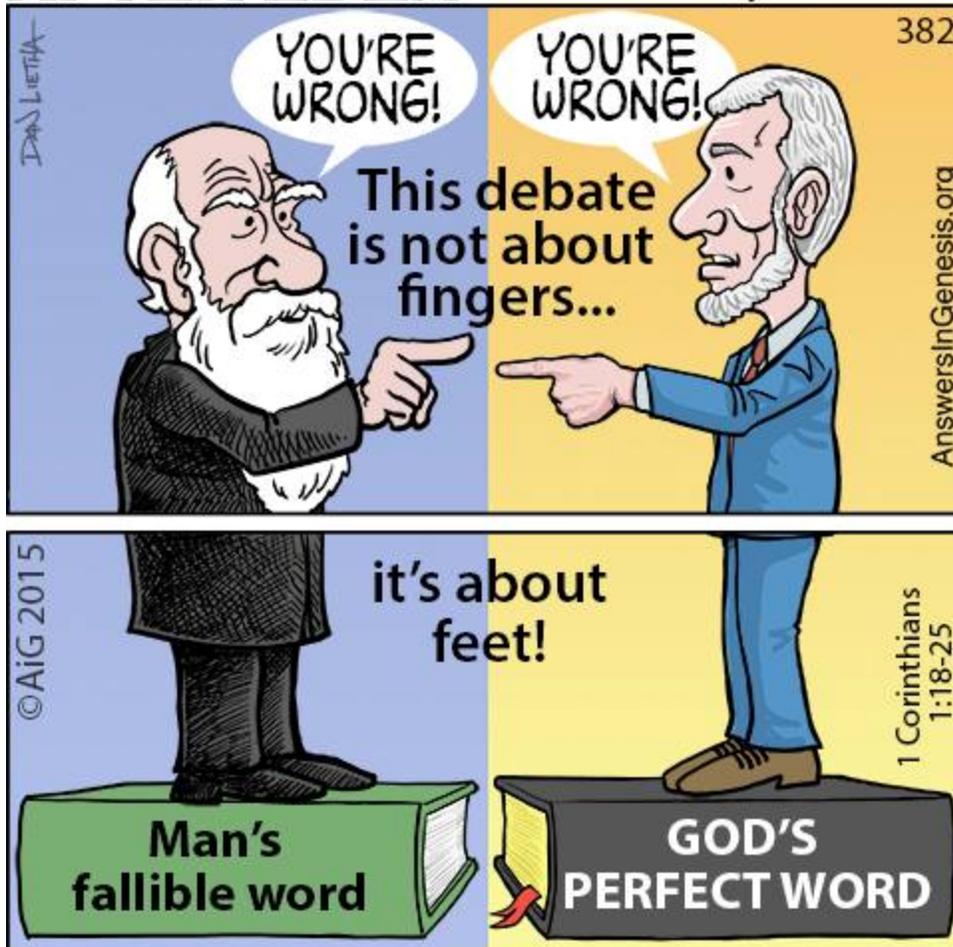
[another] Evidence for a creator of everything is ALL around you. If you actually study the design of things. Our eyesight, our hearing, complex language, complex biological organisms. A historical conclusion is not the one you've come to.

[DLM] Geoff -- you have a good mind but you have only begun to use it. Someday you will see the lack of logic in the arguments that you espouse, which also exists in some of the arguments you deny. It is real simple, people. There are FACTS and there are CONCLUSIONS based on facts. Facts change seldom, but conclusions change every day. You take all the FACTS as we know them today, and there are only two conclusions, or explanations, we can draw which have logic. BOTH religious belief systems looks AT THE SAME FACTS and offers a different conclusion, or explanation. One side, which has been called Naturalism because it depends exclusively on chance and natural events and natural processes, believes that everything, from molecules to man, has evolved through chance and natural processes over long periods of time. This position believes there is no God, or that God was not involved. The *childish* members of this religious philosophy argue foolishly, with challenges like, "Prove through nothing but natural processes that the supernatural exists." The other side is sometimes called Intelligent Design because it relies on the belief that there was an intelligence behind all the planning involved and the initial events that resulted in the creation of all things. This belief system presumes the existence of the supernatural, indeed relies on it for the explanation for much of what it does not understand. The *childish* members of this belief system often offer arguments like, "The Bible is true because it SAYS it is true." And the really dumb ones actually believe that the Naturalist could possibly attribute any credibility to that claim. Both sides MAKE UP a whole lot of what the other side believes, and then attacks the stupid inventions they have offered. Both sides use logic when it is to its advantage and leaves logic in the distance when it better suits an answer.

And BOTH SIDES pick and choose the facts and the conclusions they will accept as authoritative. Picking and choosing what is authoritative makes it easier to win an argument, so both sides engage in it all the time. GET THIS PEOPLE -- neither side can be proven. Both sides are DISPROVEN if we use the Scientific Method because the Scientific Method requires experimentation and repetition before any conclusions can be made. And there is NO ONE who can recreate creation or the Big Bang or whatever happened way back at the beginning. Except God, and we can't even prove he exists. So whichever religious belief system you hold, Naturalism or Intelligent Design, two things are true: 1) neither system has been proven, nor CAN they be proven; and 2) BOTH sides are disproven if we allow ONLY the Scientific Method to be used in our attempts at proof. People, it comes down to faith - which system do you choose to place your faith in. I have read all 54 pages of Facebook arguments under the article that started all this, and it has been largely useless. It is all based on the stubborn and illogical stance that "I don't accept your evidence as admissible, so I can say there is no evidence to support your position." People, this is stupid. And having said all that, I can now claim that the Naturalist religion is wrong, and the Intelligent Design system is right. As the cartoon suggests, we are ALL pointing our fingers at each other and each others' beliefs. But the argument isn't over fingers. The argument is about feet, and what or WHO it is you stand on as the foundation for your belief system.

# AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Where is the wise? Where is the scribe?  
Where is the disputer of this age? Has not  
God made foolish the wisdom of this  
world? 1 Corinthians 1:20

[another] Awesome article, especially the last 2 paragraphs. I love science, its all very fascinating, its just disappointing when science says something is fact and then mock anyone who believes differently calling them ignorant/unintelligent, but 10 years later the science turns out to be wrong in the first place...

[GS] Science never claimed that it was fact that they found gravity waves, just that they found evidence. New data suggests it might be something else, so they will continue to explore to find the answer. That is all.

[other] its actually taught to be fact in most public schools. I constantly hear from evolutionists that its fact. that is all

[DLM] not only is it taught as fact, but there have been a long list of professors who are denied tenure unless they was agree that it is fact.

[GS] The big bang is taught because despite this current evidence being in question, there is still a ton to support it. The article said the new evidence MIGHT need to be retracted, not the big bang itself.

[other] Don't teach me something you are not sure of....

[another] Headlines for delusions, byline or no line for the truth...again. "and Satan deceived the entire world" Book of Revelation..

[GS] Did god let him, or was he powerless to stop him?

[other] Science is only one tool used to discover truth, but it cannot explain everything that goes on around us. We would need to step into the metaphysical to understand our existence more, but atheists don't want to do that. They don't want to acknowledge a Creator. Atheists want to be their own god, so even if their conclusions don't make sense, they'll hold to their materialistic worldview.

[GS] Metaphysical means magic, so no, science will never go there. Thats what religion is for- fairy tales of magic. You disbelieve most of them, like ra or zeus, we just add a few more, like your christianity.

[DLM] metaphysical means magic TO YOU! Metaphysical means beyond the physical to most people on the planet. When you deny the possibility of anything beyond the physical, then you are left with only magic to describe these matters.

[another] Lol metaphysical does not mean magic and you know it.

[another] I was in the godless crowd once. Its a very egotistical place cause you're your own means and end. I get how strong that place is. Long as your fed their info and logic its powerful. Didnt get out till i was out of ideas on where to turn when life got out of control. Then I asked for help and got an answer. Cant say much more other than sure glad I did. Got in deep with these guys and found out what their saying is mostly correct and fits, even after a good bit of College geology... turns out Gramma was right all along...God is there and has a plan for all those that turn to Him!

[another] No matter which direction they point Hubble the red shift indicates all the body's are moving AWAY from our galaxy. Hubble himself hated this fact. Astrophysicists wake up in cold sweats considering this and the spirals unraveling in very short time lines. Now that the Peruvians and CERN disproved Dark Matter, what shall they do?

[other] CERN did find the "God Particle" the same year while Dark Matter remained absent. Lets see...an undetected, unseen and now disproven material that atheists postulated for 30 years held the universe together. Every 5th grader believed this hoax and now all the powers of the world cant find it. Wow.. A British team jumped up and down, turned red faced and demanded a retry..their answer: turn up the voltages till CERN accelerators were smoking...the result - still nothing! It took an unbiased team in Peru to call out the hoax, looking over the entire Milky Way galaxy..their summary: "There's no DM around here." I have a vision - a certain Throne room in Heaven rolling in laughter..

[another] That's because it is hypothetical. The existence and properties of dark matter are inferred from its gravitational effects on visible matter, radiation and the large-scale structure of the Universe. You majorly misunderstand the term "unbiased". Dark matter indeed has not been detected directly, making it one of the greatest mysteries in modern astrophysics. You also are in no position to make the assertion of a "throne room in heaven". It is your job, if you are that confident, to provide a coherent explanation for these observed phenomena that either fit the standard model or provide enough evidence to replace significant parts of it.

[another] Lance, thank you for your kind reply. DM was contrived to provide astronomical cohesion, without it the universe would have scattered within a few thousand years after creation. Its flying apart now, suggesting a very, very young age. An echo of this is the fact that the magnetism of all planetary bodies is running down at an alarming rate. Earths mag field has a 1/2 life of only 1600 years, Mercury only 400. This follows out into Galaxies. Russ Humphreys work on this: <http://creation.com/mercury-magnetized-crust>

[other] What I do know is I can give an "argument" for what I believe and why I believe in God, but in all my life so far I have leaned my experiences with God are far greater then any argument. Because the person with an argument is always at the mercy of a person with an experience

[another] Be careful about basing your confidence in 'experiences', though, real as they may be. It's the word of God on which we are to base our confidence...not angels, visions, experiences, miracles, or anything else.

[GS] It's nice to hear one of you admit you don't have evidence for your belief and it's all based on here say.

[other] On the contrary, the evidence for creation is vast. The problem is unbelieving human heart doesn't want to hear it and refuses to accept it.

[DLM] Geoff, it is disingenuous for you to expect us to accept your religious teachings as FACT while you dismiss our religious teachings as heresay.

[other] When it comes to evidence I teach a class on it, the reliability of the Bible, the life and miracles of Jesus, and so much more. I won't claim to have every answer but I can say with confidence this is no fairy tale

[other] Taking away the Bible and using only accepted literature you can see the birth of Jesus, the life, the miracles, the death on the cross, the empty tomb, and people willing to die instead of denying him. These things are recorded history, there are also over 24,000 manuscripts of the Bible that date to about 800 AD, and they are in 8 different languages all saying the same thing meaning they were pulled from an even earlier root. But all of those facts aside, I have seen people who have had sight restored, lame people walk, people who have had miracles happen, and not in a side show way. Many were just in a small atmosphere with people who needed God. I love science, and true free thinking, but I know God and I am not ashamed of that

[other] Geoff, EVERYTHING, whether God or "man's scientific wisdom", relies on a great deal of faith! Frankly, I'll put mine in God....I've seen man's theories collapse more times than I can count.

[other] It's a big deal because many people who ascribe to an evolutionary theory will claim that it's "basically fact" because there is so much "direct evidence" of it, when in reality that's not science and it is in fact a theory, that is, unproven. Treat a theory like a theory, people. Just because you've been taught something since you were young doesn't mean it's true.

[another] but a real Big Bang is soon coming to knock some sense into the heads of these scientists..and that is the BIG BANG of the second coming of Jesus.

[another] The finch beak changing is called microevolution. All creationists agree with microevolution. Where is the evidence for macroevolution? And where is the evidence for chemical evolution? How did the first unicellular organism appear? That is the question.

[another] "The finch beak changing is called microevolution. All creationists agree with microevolution..../..."  
Sadly, many cannot differentiate between Genotype and Phenotype, confusing and or assuming they're synonymous; they are NOT. There is NO "micro evolution", it is more properly referred to as 'genetic expression'.

[other] Atheists always ask for proof of the existence of God, then we, as wise Christians, point out the Universe itself as proof!

What's their response?

"No, that's not proof"!

Ok, prove to me it isn't proof! You see, that's the burden they are left with!

If we were in court to present evidence of a crime, it is up to the defence counsel to demonstrate how said evidence is not proof of the suspects involvement in this crime! Well, atheists, demonstrate how the existence of the Universe is NOT evidence for the existence of God!

I rest my case!

[Darvin] This is precisely how the scientific method works. When new evidence is presented, it is challenged by others and sometimes a better, simpler interpretation is found and accepted. The scientific method, by its very form, is open to new ideas and the challenge of being tested. This should not be seen as a weakness to ridicule, but rather as a strength to be embraced. On this forum I think people are so uncritically accepting of rigid ideology that the entire framework from which science works simply doesn't make sense to them. One piece of evidence reanalyzed and found to have a simpler explanation. Still plenty of other evidence to accept that the universe is expanding and has a beginning. I don't understand why the commonly accepted scientific conclusion is so disturbing to religious communities.

[other] It's disturbing because most religious people are heavily invested into their religion. When they start down the path of questioning, and realize that they'd have to give up a large part of their life, they re-double their efforts to deny the evidence that's out there. Honestly, it's a scary journey leaving religion.

[another] You might say the same thing for evolutionists. Sadly everything they propose is falsely called science... thats the real issue here. Let us call it what it is... a theory.

[another] Look at Brad! Grasping at straws! You go Brad!

[another] If you want to think that life came from a rock it's all you.

It's funny Darwin, if not blatantly phoney, that you make the claim:

Quoting - "...scientific method, by its very form, is OPEN to new ideas and the challenge of being tested." - End Quote (emphasis in all caps mine)

Yeah right... \*open\* to new ideas, just so long as said ideas do not either come from, or included anything remotely relating to, a creative, intelligent and purposeful God!

[other] There's equally as much, if not in fact abundantly more, evidence to support the theories of Intelligent design, special creation and even for God (Christ), as is / are there evidence(s) in support of the myriad theories within the evolutionary models.

When faced with insurmountably impossible odds against, almost all of many evolutionary theories require a tremendous amount of faith (and oft times blind faith at that) to accept and adhere to!

RE Nate Muth - " It's disturbing because most religious people are heavily invested into their religion. When they start down the path of questioning, and realize that they'd have to give up a large part of their life, they re-double their efforts to deny the evidence that's out there. Honestly, it's a scary journey leaving religion. "

[Darvin] Warren, read my post again. The new ideas need to be somehow testable. Science is not going to be open any whimsical philosophy. Perhaps that can be perceived as a limitation of science, but I consider it a strength. Science is about examining what is real, and not especially sympathetic to fanciful interpretations. Show the evidence, not opinions or words that twist reality into something unmeaningful, then let science work to prove your interpretation of the evidence right or wrong.

[other] While the scientific method may, in a metaphorical sense, be "open to new ideas", to infer that scientists are not biased and often times "uncritically accepting of rigid ideology" is not born out by either history or this article. Actually what I find disturbing about many "commonly accepted scientific conclusion"s is they amount to nothing more than rigid ideology. Abiogenesis, molecules to man evolution, etc. all arbitrarily presuppose what they are attempting to prove. Worse still, naturalism cannot even cogently account for the foundational presuppositions (i.e. the basic reliability of our memories and senses, the basic uniformity of nature, the laws of logic, etc.) of the scientific method it's (naturalism's) advocates esteem so much. It's one thing to Hypothesize, test, and observe. Quite another to dogmatically proclaim something as "fact" about the untestable, unobservable past.

[Darvin] Being open to changing your conclusions based on evidence is not a sign of a "rigid ideology." And science certainly can test things that occurred in the past, with the presupposition that the laws of nature have remained the same. The one presupposition that every scientist has when entering the lab is that the experiment I performed yesterday will work exactly the same if I have exactly the same conditions. Scientists don't allow for angels and demons messing up their experiments. Perhaps that is too rigid for some, but if you don't focus on the natural world you are no longer practicing science.

[DLM] Darwin, that sounds good but it is not true. First, the Scientific Method **REQUIRES** repetition and proof before concluding any fact. And that does not happen in most of these cases. Second, "The scientific method, by its very form, is open to new ideas and the challenge of being tested..." is true **ONLY** when and if the new idea conforms to natural processes already believed by scientists. Scientists generally do not believe in the supernatural, so they generally are not open to a supernatural explanation. So they instead invent new and sometimes outlandish theories that conform to their presuppositions and beliefs, rather than be challenged beyond their presuppositions and beliefs. Scientists accept "molecules to man" evolution because it is the **ONLY** explanation that does not rely on the existence of God. Evolution is **NOT A CHOICE** but a lack of options!

[other] "The Lord God stretched out the heavens. The Lord God shall fold up the heavens like an moth eaten blanket. He shall fold them and make them new again." Of course, they

would have to renege on this theory and the Big Rip Theory because if they didn't they would have to admit there was a [God](#).

[other] Anyone following this story knew the original findings were provisional. In fact, within 2 months of the initial claims (exaggerated by the NY Times) they scientists brought up the dust possibility. The most recent look seems to confirm that it is not dust after all, so it seems this article is already behind the most current data.  
That's the point really, as new evidence is available conclusions change.

[other] When you walk into an art museum, isn't it implied that a painter created the paintings or a sculptor created the sculptures? Or do we need to meet the artist in person so that we know where the art work came from?

[another] Two words to show how dependable science is when men have their own agenda's; Global Warming!

[Darvin] Dave, by definition science seeks to explain the natural world via natural processes. That's how doctors cure disease, how technology is built and how we determine the history of the earth. If you move to an explanation outside of natural processes, you're no longer using science. After all, there's no test for God, and religion itself specifically prohibits such a test if one was available. If scientists have outlandish claims, they should be tested a debated vigorously. I'm not sure how "molecules to man" evolution is an outlandish claim since we are in fact made of molecules (testable), our DNA changes over time (testable), all life shares similar DNA (testable), we have thousands of transitional forms between basic molecule life and complex human life with varying levels of physical attributes closer and closer to resembling humans (testable), we observe insertions, deletions, transitions and transversions in our own genomes as well as those of other species (testable), we observe that basic molecular life is composed of chemical reactions necessitated by the physical properties of atoms and particles, parallel to what we find in non-living structures (testable), we observe that reproduction is not a quality unique to life since chemical processes such as the formation of crystals self replicate in specific environments (testable), we observe that simple life can remain in stasis apparently forever just like non-living structures, but then resume once conditions are favorable (testable), and the list goes on and on. I am open to new ideas as long as they fit with the evidence listed above as well as other evidence, but I am not going to abandon or ignore evidence just to entertain a new idea.

[DLM] Darwin, you said: "by definition science seeks to explain the natural world via natural processes." Thank you for making my point for me. By definition, science starts out with presuppositions, and will not consider an hypothesis outside those presuppositions. Using **ONLY** the natural world and **ONLY** natural processes, science **CANNOT** investigate, much less validate, God. **ONE CANNOT INVESTIGATE THE SUPERNATURAL WHEN ONE BEGINS WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE SUPERNATURAL DOES NOT EXIST.** But that never stopped the majority of scientists from offering all manner of beliefs and prejudices **AGAINST** that which they cannot even investigate. And they call this being open-minded. Postulating the non-existence of the supernatural allows

one to 1) never have to worry about evidence to the contrary because any evidence to the contrary is not "natural," and 2) allows one to never have to grapple with the implications of knowing and not knowing God. This is truly a brilliant way to assure that one wins all arguments on this issue. Congratulations on developing an undefeatable religious philosophy.

[Darvin] Dave, it's interesting that what you define as a "limitation" of science is exactly how and why science is perceived as valuable and has considerably benefited humanity. For example, in the past lightning was believed caused from God, the volcano and earthquake were all signs of God's personal wrath, but science precisely for the reasons you state above show that this is not the truth. Now we know nature is indiscriminate, that both good and bad people die in a tsunami. And both atheists and God-fearing people are sometimes saved. Science shows us this, while religion protects its own. Science allows us to explore nature and humanity in ways religion would never tolerate. Does disease have naturalistic causes and naturalistic solutions, or is it caused by God and deserved? Science itself can make no claim as to whether or not God exists, because God is (by definition) outside the realm of science. Yet science is perceived as a threat by people of religion, precisely because it offers alternative workable explanations of the natural world based on evidence. I don't consider science a religion, as religions have defined deities. However, it certainly is a worldview, a way to approach the world, and as such, I concur it does compete with religious systems.

[DLM] Science is worshiped by people who don't want to worship God. So those who follow this religious philosophy with zealous faith are relieved when science refuses to recognize anything supernatural. Science STARTS OUT with the presupposition that the supernatural does not exist, that ONLY the natural exists. This means YOU can breathe a sigh of relief. And that sigh of relief comes out with words and beliefs proclaiming the value of science is in the fact that it STARTS OUT with the belief that the supernatural does not exist. If science disallows the possibility of the supernatural, science can then say any belief in the supernatural is wrong, and even idiotic. And then science initiates a series of experiments presuming the supernatural does not exist. And science further disallows all "evidence" that deals with or explores the supernatural. And then science comes up with the surprising announcement that the supernatural, that God, doesn't exist. Therefore, science can proclaim to all the world that there is "no evidence" for the existence of God.

[DLM] In law, we call this circular reasoning, and it is not allowed as evidence. In science, it is the FOUNDATION of evidence

[Darvin] Dave, there's no way to use science to investigate the supernatural, without using naturalistic explanations. If there is no natural explanation, at best we can say we do not know the cause (of a specified phenomena). Again, this is not a limitation, but rather an asset inviting further inquiry. You seem especially distraught that science competes with religious worldviews, even suggesting that science is worshipped. I personally wouldn't use that religious word to describe those who embrace a scientific worldview, but I, in

part, understand where you are coming from. Because there are different starting points, there are different conclusions.

[DLM] As long as you restrict "scientific investigation" to the natural and disavow the supernatural, there is no way for science to investigate the supernatural. You are absolutely right on this one, Darwin.

[DLM] BTW, Darwin, I am not distraught at all that "science competes with religious world views." The fact that I never said that it does or that I am distraught over it seems to be unimportant in your comments, so I will let that go. What I think is totally disingenuous is the fact that science limits itself from investigating the supernatural while, at the same time its presuppositions discount any evidence to the contrary. It is a case of, "I won't look at it, therefore it doesn't exist." I seem to remember three monkeys with similar logic.

[Darvin] Dave, perhaps in this thread there's more in which we agree than disagree. I think we agree science is not going to be able to investigate things outside the realm of nature, or if it does, it's going to limit those investigations to natural phenomena and natural causes. To do otherwise would not be science. You find this disingenuous whereas I find it essential to the foundation of what science means.

[DLM] Almost! I do not find that "disingenuous" at all. I am a scientist of sorts, and my undergraduate studies was in "Interdisciplinary Natural Sciences with an Emphasis on Marine Science." And I took the graduate level course Evolutionary Biology (Bio 565) at USF in Tampa while still an undergraduate there. So I know a little about this issue. What I find disingenuous is the FACT that almost all followers of the religious philosophy called evolutionism claim God does not exist. And they base this claim on the SO-CALLED FACT that if science cannot capture it, paint it, and put it in a test tub, using the Scientific Method, that it therefore does not exist. In other words, they claim it does not exist based on the fact that it is not part of the natural world. Yet the claim "the supernatural does not exist because it is not natural" is illogical, and even stupid. And what I also find disingenuous is the FACT that the scientific community will admit (usually under its breath) that science cannot investigate and prove or disprove the supernatural, yet this FACT does not EVER keep the scientific community from arguing against something it knows it cannot investigate and cannot disprove. It is the hypocrisy of that religious philosophy that is disgusting to me. But I have the greatest respect for science, as long as it remains inside its own self-declared limitations. A scientist commenting on God and the supernatural has no more credibility than a preacher commenting on genetics. While some on either side know something on the issue they are discussing, most know VERY LITTLE! but expect themselves to be taken as experts.

[Darvin] Dave, I'm not sure the war is really as strong as you entail. Most scientists I know don't make any public claims about God, and instead remain silent on the question because supernatural explanations are outside the realm of their discipline. Even the public proponents of atheistic naturalism, such as Richard Dawkins and Lawrence Kraus, will readily admit they are not true atheists, but rather strongly convinced agnostics. Dawkins

will only say God is extremely unlikely (based on evidence). When pressed he will not make the assertion that he knows for certain that God does not exist. That would be an unproveable religious notion, just like a believer claiming with complete certainty that God does exist.

[DLM] In that case, neither you nor the other very vocal evolutionists on this thread are like the scientists you know. This thread only exists because of the strong, almost violent attacks on the initial post at the top of this thread.

[DLM] Of note - there is no such thing as an atheist or an agnostic. Those labels are adopted by people who have lost hope. An atheist is one who believes there is no god. An agnostic claims that if there is a god, he/she/it cannot be known. Both positions require that the individuals possess all knowledge in order to make those claims. Yet if they are humans, then do not possess all knowledge and they cannot make these claims. So they borrow labels as a disguise, labels that allow them to not deal with the issue that escapes them. Paul, in the first chapter of his letter to the Roman Christians says that everyone knows deep in his heart that there is a God because the marvelous creation all around them speaks of him. But they choose in their hearts to not acknowledge him as God. So they instead choose to place created things as god in their hearts. Some choose a bird or a tree. Others choose science, placing science as the sole arbiter of truth and fact, rather than God. They use the name "Mother Nature" and give her all the attributes of will and choice and purpose that the Bible gives to God. Or they choose evolution and write about it as if evolution has all those traits. These people call themselves atheists or agnostics, and they defend their faith with all the zeal of a devout Christian or a radical Muslim. But this is only because they have lost all hope that there is a god, and yet still must have something to play the role of god in their lives. The main difference between you and me, Darwin, is the fact that I have hope that I am more than a highly-evolved animal, and I have someplace to go and something to do after I have left this totally and exclusively natural world. You have been a worthy opponent, Darwin. I believe you will someday rediscover your hope.

[other] The definition of "Atheist" in the argument above is an overly broad straw man: an atheist is one who either lacks positive belief in a god or who believes that no gods exist, not one who claims to know absolutely that no gods exist.

[DLM] By your definition, most men would bear your label. Yet few would own it. You have watered down the definition to allow the adoption of the label without facing its inherent arrogance.

[Darvin] Dave, right now science cannot answer the question of whether the Big Bang was caused by natural or supernatural means. But as they investigate further I guaranty they are looking for a natural cause, because that is precisely what science is about. My issue from the beginning is that ICR misleads the public in the way it presents these posts. The above "retraction" in no way poses a formidable challenge to the big bang theory. There's not a controversy among scientists. There's a controversy among religious people as to the best way to handle this information.

[other] Actually, no, science does not test anything. Science is a tool to discover truth. Science is a tool used by scientists both Christian and non-Christian. Scientists are responsible for doing the testing and retesting. Scientists are responsible for reporting the truth of what occurs during their testing and retesting. Many evolution believing scientists do NOT test and retest, because if they did, they would have disproven evolution seeing that cosmic evolution, chemical evolution, and biological evolution have never been confirmed or witnessed; only believed in the place of Almighty God their Creator.

[other] Oh because someone watched "God" create everything?

[another] Tycin, are you trying to use the scientific method against the Bible?

[other] Seems to me most Bible critics get embarrassed as time goes on, not the other way around. E.g. archeologists claim they found this or that then get disproved. The cycle goes on and on but its no reason not to read the entire book objectively and see what happens. I did and when life got outta control I wasn't quoting Dawkins or Hawking for answers...don't have time when you're about to crash at night in the mountains, you're thinking how stupid you are and what the papers and critics are going to say, "oh he always took to many chances" or "he should have stayed on the ground" or " he must have pushed his fuel load" or " too bad he took a load of people with him" and their family hates you're guts forever. Been there, thank God for His mercy and the fuel Angels..Shut me up about no God after that. Thanks

[other] The scientific method, itself, works fine. To insinuate that religious communities, as a whole, believe otherwise is disrespectful and ignorant. The problem that religious communities, as a whole, have with the scientific community, is that when evolution and the Big Bang fail to be proven by any scientific method time and time again, the secular scientific community is uncritically accepting of this rigid ideology and just change their latest conclusions. Creation may not have been proven, but it has never been disproven and the basic model does not have to be constantly modified.

[other] Big bang theory is not disproven,just this one evidence.Evidence for cosmic inflation was unveiled in march last year,and now they found out that their measurements was wrong because of cosmic dust..and that's it.Other evidence is still here>>>red shift ( Hubble's law),cosmic microwave radiation, relative abundances of light elements etc.

[other] I never said that it was disproven, I said that it has never been proven and that they keep changing their latest conclusions.

[DLM] Goran - the Big Bang Theory CANNOT ever be proven, especially not by the Scientific Method. The Scientific Method requires experimentation and repetition in order to draw conclusions. No one can repeat the creation of the universe but God.

[DLM] And Brett - I agree with your statements. But sometimes disrespect is both accurate and warranted. I have an ongoing discussion here with Doran on this issue. I do not agree

with him. But I respect him because he is actually bringing logical issues and questions to the table. There have been, however, a few comments made by others that show no signs of intelligent life. I have no respect for them because 1) they have not earned respect, and 2) I don't owe them respect.

[DLM] Last, NEITHER evolution nor the Big Bang Theory can ever be proven. But neither can the existence of God or his creation of the universe or Intelligent Design. We are arguing about issues impossible to prove or even demonstrate, or to disprove. That is why BOTH SIDES are religious philosophies, and BOTH SIDES are sometimes proffered or defended by zealots who overstep the limits of their knowledge and experience. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THIS CONFLICT in this life. Science says "There is nothing past this life, so don't sweat the small stuff." The Bible says, "THIS IS NOT SMALL STUFF!" Personally, I believe the Bible.

[another] Let me get this straight. So Christians will embrace everything that science has produced, unless it refutes anything in the bible? Because I don't see any of you giving up your medicines, cars, air travel, TVs, cell phones, computers, plastic products, or mass produced food any time soon. Yes all of these things are based on science.

[other] Science is nothing less than what we observe in the natural world, and understanding it. Why would "we" (we are not another species, sir) give up on any of those things? You have a narrow view of what Christians believe, and an ignorant view of how Christianity is all about.

Let this sink in: CHRISTIANITY IS NOT AGAINST OBSERVATION AND EXPERIMENTATION; to believe so is to believe a invented farce meant only to disparage Bible-believers.

And why would Christians (since you single us out) give up anything found in your list? None of those objects "refutes" a thing in the Bible, nor even the Bible doctrine!

The problem isn't Christianity, the problem is that your knowledge of Christianity is completely ignorant and biased; prejudiced, even, since it seems to be based on fallacies you've believed from others were biased.

[DLM] Gerald - So I guess you made the HUMONGOUS and stupid leap of supposed logic from your idiotic belief that not believing in evolution means you don't believe in anything science says or does. Then you made the equally stupid leap into declaring that those who don't believe in evolution are somehow hypocrites because they use cell phones and eat McDonald's hamburgers. Gerald, please bring some semblance of logic and understanding to this discussion or it will get real boring real quick.

[other] There was a day when science differentiated between origin and operational science. Now in the midst of staring in the lab microscope the prof says "see evolution?" and if you say no they give you a "D." I stood my ground said 'no' and told them why.

[DLM] Darwin, you said: "we have thousands of transitional forms between basic molecule life and complex human life with varying levels of physical attributes closer and closer to resembling humans (testable)" And I say, we have hundreds of motor vehicles in this world, from scooters to go-carts to motor cycles to ski jets to small cars to big cars to small trucks to huge trucks. But that DOES NOT prove that giant earth movers evolved from go-carts. The existence of a range of life forms CANNOT in any way be presented as "transitional forms" without a huge bias in place prior to the claim. What you call evidence that you refuse to abandon is a wonderful example of the faith all religious zealots place in their belief systems.

[Darvin] Dave, the difference is that motorized vehicles don't reproduce. While I thank God for my daughter, I realize and understand that she is a product of natural processes, a bond and love shared between me and my wife. I too am the product of my parents via natural processes, the same as every living thing on this planet. Trace backward and our similarities with everything else in this world need an explanation. Your analogy only makes sense if we were each individually created independent of a natural process. Do I have faith that the natural process works? Not really, I just accept it, because it has been proven over and over and over again. Do I have faith the sun will rise tomorrow. Not really, I just accept it. Faith is not a prerequisite to observing and accepting what we discover through nature.

[DLM] Really? Motor vehicles don't produce? I didn't know that. I guess I can let my RAM truck into the garage with my Camaro. I was afraid that I would get a Fiat out of it. ;)

[DLM] Seriously, I was using an analogy of a string of similar items, alive or dead, that can be artificially arrayed in increasing complexity does not offer evidence of evolution.

[Darvin] Well Dave, the string of items you selected is not parallel to the string of life because of that very tricky business of natural reproduction. It's a serious difference which allows the life string the possibility of evolution, whereas in the motor vehicle string concepts and ideas evolved over time but each car is created independently and separately from its "ancestor," without the need to have a physical contribution from its "ancestor." For the car, the idea can be exclusively in the mind of the designer and then created. For life, we always come from earlier life, and those life processes are all related between humans, chimps, monkeys, all mammals, all vertebrates down to the simplest forms of life itself.

[DLM] You are the one who presented inorganic crystals reproducing. Now you are complaining about my use of inorganic items? But I understand your point. And we are arguing about two different issues. I was pointing out the artificially-imposed "order" of life forms in such a way as to wrongly imply that this order supports molecule to man evolution. The same story is a little more explicitly illustrated by the so-called evolution of the horse. We take different species of horse, ranging in size from a small dog to the Clydesdale, arrange them in order of size, and then present that line-up as evidence of evolution. Yet any biologist who has studied this particular "example" (myself included) knows that the different samples are taken from different continents thousands of miles and millions of years apart with no way to get from one place to another. The "horse line-up" is a false

and manufactured argument and commonly used by evolutionists to support evolution. THAT was my point. Sorry I did not make it clear enough.

[Darvin] Yes, the original horse string is far outdated and false. On that we can agree. We now know that size is one of the easiest genetic features to change. Instead of size, the horse string should be organized based on increasingly distant genetic structures. When organized by genetics we find the horse string forms a continuum with tapirs and even rhinos, and that of course takes us back even further. I guess I still don't quite get your point. Are you suggesting that the variety of horses we have today do not share a common ancestor? Or are you only challenging the means to get to that common ancestor?

[DLM] I am suggesting there are TWO LOGICAL AND FACTUAL explanations for these examples. One is the totally natural philosophy of evolution. The other is the spiritual explanation of a Creator and Intelligent Design. BOTH are logical conclusions based on the same facts. But both have mutually exclusive presuppositions. One totally depends on the philosophy or religious belief that there is no supernatural and no God. The other is based on the philosophy or religious belief that there IS a supernatural and that God DOES exist. The two sides start with their own unprovable presuppositions and draw totally different conclusions when looking at the same facts. The only REAL difference IN THIS WORLD between them is one view gets you elevated within academia and the other position will get tenure denied.

[Darvin] Dave, let's assume you are correct, that there are only two explanations, the scientific one (naturalistic explanation) and the religious one (supernatural explanation). A professor of a scientific discipline is expected to follow that discipline and keep any person religious beliefs to himself. I find that quite acceptable and valued. The same would be true (in reverse) for a professor of a religious discipline.

[DLM] I agree totally, Darvin. The problem is the FACT that few so-called scientists keep their personal views to themselves. And that NO so-called scientists can stop their personal beliefs from affecting their research or their conclusions. In fact, this entire discussion, including several threads, exists ONLY because the so-called scientific crowd COULD NOT keep their personal views to themselves. I don't have a problem with that, EXCEPT for the fact that the so-called scientific crowd CANNOT admit the existence of their personal religious biases, nor can they admit the EFFECT of their personal religious biases on their research and their conclusions.