

## THE ORIGIN OF OUR SPECIES

The chief Rabbi, Dr. Jonathan Sachs, recently said, “There are some even in this sceptical age who still believe that God is an old man with a long beard. His name is Charles Darwin, patron saint of scientific atheists. Next year will be a double anniversary for followers of Darwin: the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*. We will no doubt hear it asserted that Darwin dealt a death blow to religious belief.”

Sachs goes onto mention that we might say, having deciphered the genetic code, that all life in its seemingly endless variety has a single source. We may ponder at the extraordinary precision of the six mathematical constants that determine the shape of the Universe, such that if even one were fractionally different neither we nor the Universe would exist. We might mention other things, such as how did life evolve from non-life? How did sentience emerge? How was the uniquely human capacity for self-consciousness born? How did life evolve at such speed that even Francis Crick, co-discoverer of DNA, was forced to suggest that it came from Mars? And the ultimate question: why is there something rather than nothing? Yet while all these facts fall short of the ultimate scientific proof of God the creator, these are things to ponder and wonder. Jonathan Sachs rightly adds that none of our most important truths are susceptible of scientific proof: That right is better than might, that love is greater than hatred, that human beings are worthy of respect, that peace is nobler than war, that forgiveness is better than revenge, that contentment is better than greed.

The Bible asserts that the truth of creation by God is a truth, like love, not ultimately susceptible to scientific proof that will be accepted by all. Thus, in Psalm 19 the psalmist does not say “the heavens prove the existence of God” but rather that creation declares His praise: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” A breathtaking sunset does not prove God but, for a Christian, it will lead to joyful thankfulness, wonder, and adoration to the Creator, since it is by faith in the Bible’s revelation that we understand that the creation was made by God’s Word.

We may respond why do not all humans recognize that God created the universe? Why are so many intelligent modern people atheists? Paul the apostle in the New Testament has an answer to these questions: Humans suppressed the truth of God’s creation because they wanted to reject God their creator in order to live our lives our own way and it brings upon us God’s judgement: “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

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