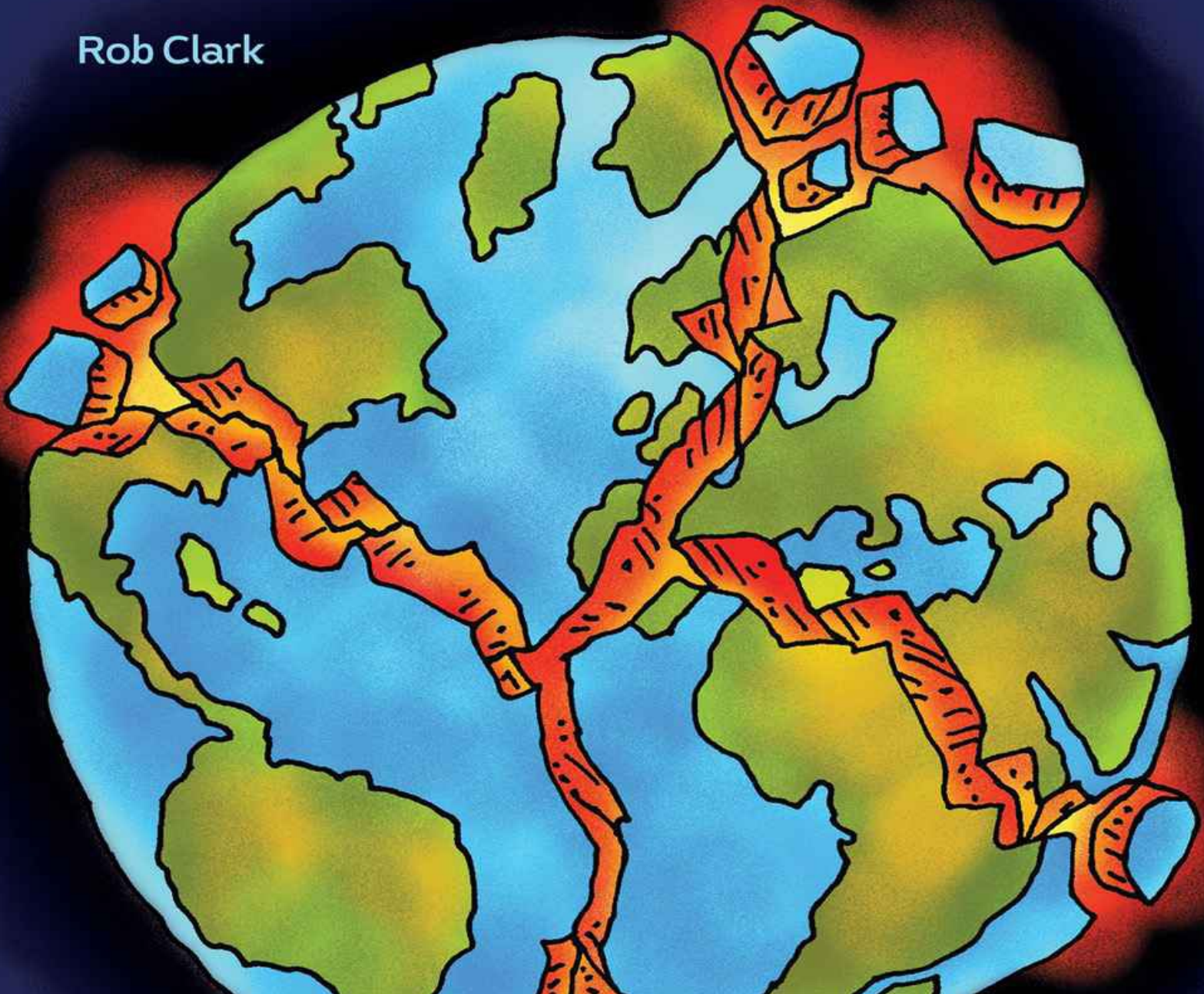


What on Earth is God Doing?

Making sense of our troubled world:
A biblical Christian worldview

Rob Clark

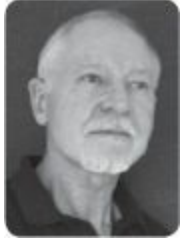


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About the Author:



ROB CLARK served as an engineering mechanic in the Royal Navy, then in the Ministry of Defence Police. His interest in the creation/evolution debate came to the fore after being introduced to *Creation* magazine in the early 1990s. Now retired, he is passionate about disseminating biblical creation truths in the public domain at a level that the layperson can understand.

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INTRODUCTION

Our troubled world, with all its many problems, can make us wonder what the future holds. Hardly a day goes past without us hearing reports of crime, conflict, disaster, disease, or some other distressing situation. Politicians, scientists, religious leaders and many others strive to solve the problems, but successes are often limited and short-lived. Governments and leaders come to power with promises of change, only to be ousted a few years later in favour of the next big idea. Unable to come up with lasting solutions, they often resort to blaming each other for the problems we see.



Religion is also blamed for causing much of the world's unrest. There are many religions and beliefs in our world today, and some groups seem to be constantly at odds with each other. Attempts are sometimes made to

unite the various religious factions, but with so many conflicting views, true unity is unattainable.

With so much political and religious antagonism, many people question the very existence of God. Many others suppose that He must be uncaring or else unable to do anything about our troubles. If God does exist, why is our world such a troubled place—*What on Earth is God doing?* For answers we must look beyond the fog of religious and secular confusion to God's own objective. The following pages aim to show that it is possible to make sense of our troubled world, and that God does have a plan and purpose for our lives.

Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going? In attempting to answer these or any of life's big questions, we all have the same facts available to us—for instance, the same planet, the same people and historical records, the same animals and plants, the same fossils, and so on. However, the facts do not speak for themselves. The evidence at hand is inevitably interpreted within the framework of our preconceptions—the things we already believe or presume to be true. We are all biased in one way or another when it comes to interpreting the evidence.

A Christian who believes the Bible to be the Word of God will start with the belief that God is the originator of all things, and that He has already given us important information about life, history and science. In contrast, evolutionists start with the philosophical assumption that the Bible's teaching about origins (Genesis onwards) should not be treated as recording actual historical events. Rather, depending on the faith position of the evolutionist, such biblical accounts are instead seen as a combination of myth and allegory, perhaps with some spiritual significance.

Of course, for the atheist evolutionist, there is no God and no divine revelation—all things made themselves. Given that Christians and evolutionists have the same facts to interpret, any differences in interpretation are largely due to the different starting points—the Christians' beliefs versus the evolutionists' assumptions. It's not a question of objective science versus biased religion; evolutionists frequently appeal to unscientific assumptions to support their arguments. Rather, it's more a

case of which interpretation is correct.

“Christians and evolutionists have the same facts to interpret.”

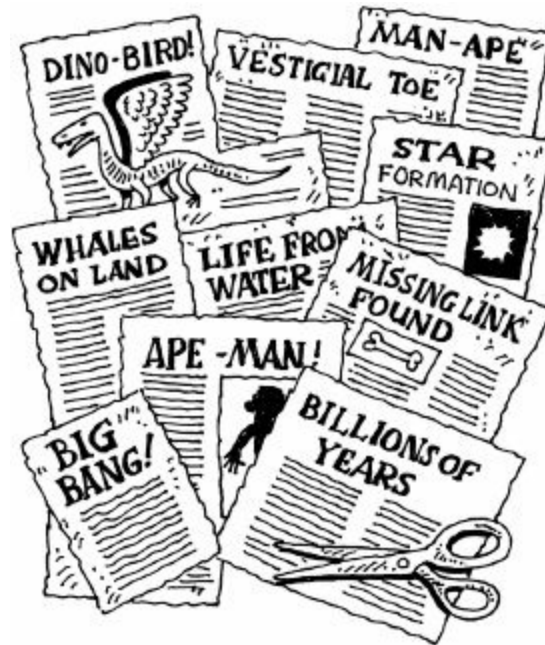
Did the universe and life on earth arise by chance—for no reason and for no purpose—as atheistic evolutionists claim, or did God create all things for a purpose, as Bible-believing Christians assert? This is important because these two views have very different implications. If the biblical Christian view is correct, life has real purpose, but if the atheistic evolutionist view is correct we are here for absolutely no reason at all.

I propose that the Bible’s account of life on earth, its history and its purpose, makes much more sense than the continually changing theories and philosophies of our world today. Whatever your own beliefs or worldview, I encourage you to read on. I challenge you to think about what you believe and why you believe it—and to think about what you don’t believe and why you don’t believe it. Examining your own philosophy for life can be surprisingly revealing. Firmly held opinions can sometimes be based on shaky foundations.

1. ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION

Many people reject any notion of a creator God; they believe that the Bible’s account of creation and history have long since been disproved by science. But is this really true? The things that we believe to be true are not always backed up by hard evidence. Instead, some things are simply assumed to be true. You may think that this only occurs within the realms of religious faith, but that is not the case. Many people believe that life on earth evolved over millions of years, not because they know it to be true, but rather because they assume that others know it to be true. This faith-like acceptance of the evolutionary hypothesis is widespread among the general population and the secular scientific community. Today, through the media of television, film and print, evolution is widely promoted as established fact—but does the concept of evolution warrant such

unreserved acceptance?



There is no doubt that enormous scientific advances have been made in recent years. Consequently, scientists are held in high esteem. However, a distinction must be made between testable, repeatable and falsifiable scientific research, which has given rise to such things as personal computers and modern medicines, and the type of science that tries to determine what happened in the distant past. The study of the past is much more reliant on unproven assumptions that cannot be reliably tested.

The further back in the past the event being studied, the more room there is for non-scientific factors to influence the conclusions of the researchers—factors such as the beliefs or worldview of the scientist. The surviving evidence from the past, such as fossils, rock strata, etc.—the things that can be seen, touched and tested—are inevitably interpreted in accordance with one's beliefs about the past.

This is understandable, but be aware that interpretations based on the assumption of evolution are just that; they're not established facts. What may be presented as 'science' regarding the past is often little more than the scientists' own opinions. The facts are interpreted in accordance with their pre-conceived views on origins. This is often not mentioned at all, or

is quickly passed over, when presenting their conclusions to the public.

Evolution

Evolutionists propose that over millions of years every living thing evolved from a single-celled organism, which itself arose by chance from chemicals—ultimately, we humans are said to have descended from ape-like creatures. They promote their views by citing such things as: physical similarities, DNA similarities, natural selection, genetic mutations, claimed transitional fossils (often referred to as missing links) and radioisotope dating methods.

“The facts don’t actually prove evolution at all.”

It all sounds very scientific. Consequently, without ever seriously examining these claims, many are convinced of evolution and reject the existence of God. However, a closer look at these claims reveals that when evolutionary assumptions are examined carefully, the facts don’t actually prove evolution at all. In fact, much of the evidence is actually contrary to the idea of evolution. What follows are just a few examples of how unproven evolutionary assumptions lead to unscientific interpretations of science facts.

Physical and DNA similarities

For many years, chimpanzee and human DNA similarity figures of up to 99% have sometimes been touted, implying that chimps are very similar to humans. It is certainly true that chimps and humans have similarities in their physical characteristics and in the genes of their DNA. (A gene may be thought of as a sequence of DNA letters, information, which codes for a particular physical characteristic, and can be inherited by the next generation.) However, if all living things have a common Creator/Designer, as the Bible teaches, this is exactly what we would expect—similar design