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## What Difference Does a Worldview Make?

*Alice: Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?*

*The Cat: That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.*

*Alice: I don't much care where.*

*The Cat: Then it doesn't much matter which way you go*

Lewis Carroll

*Alice in Wonderland*

### A Trip to Washington, D.C.

On Constitution Avenue, between the Capitol and the Washington Monument is the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. Like the other museums on the Mall in Washington, D.C., this museum is impressive even from the outside. In the spring of 2006, I took a group of college students on a field trip to visit this museum and its many exhibits. I wanted them to see their tax dollars at work and how the theory of evolution is promoted at the museum.

As you walk into the central area of the museum, in the middle of the Rotunda is a huge (stuffed) African elephant. On either side of the Rotunda are very large halls. On one side, you catch a glimpse of a dinosaur skeleton; evolution will surely be promoted

there. On the other side is the Hall of Mammals, a long, wide, well lit corridor with stuffed examples of a wide range of mammals. As you enter this room, the tall giraffe is the first animal that catches your eye. ‘What amazing creatures might await us inside!’ you ponder with enthusiasm.

But that is when you notice the large sign that reads:

**Welcome to the mammal family reunion!**  
**Come meet your relatives.**

As you tour the wide range of exhibits, from aardvark to zebra, from dingo to lion, and from walrus to bat, it becomes clear that the purpose of the entire hall is to promote evolution. Rather than emphasizing the characteristics that make each creature unique, every sign promotes evolution with “related to”, “millions of years”, and “adapted to”. There can be no doubt that the purpose of the exhibit is to reinforce belief in evolution.

Evolution is used as a verb. One sign reads, “As mammals adapted to a changing world, a wondrous diversity of shapes, sizes and behaviors evolved.” Although the general process of evolution is explained, one notices a lack of evidence *demonstrating* the process. For example, the giraffe supposedly evolved from ancestors with short necks because its long neck enabled it to eat leaves from tall trees. However, the “short-necked giraffe” is not a giraffe at all, but an okapi. One wonders what the baby long necked giraffe would eat and how the okapi managed to survive if only leaves on tall trees were available for food. Which mutations were responsible for developing the long neck? How did the giraffe also get one way restrictive valves in arteries to reduce blood pressure when it bends over to get a drink? These and other questions are ignored in favor of blanket statements of the “fact” of evolution.

Evolution is also used as a noun. “Evolution at work” is the heading on a sign at the front of the museum. “Evolution is the biological process responsible for the magnificent diversity of life on Earth. Over time, evolution creates new species.” Yes, the sign really says that *evolution creates*.

Toward the back of the Hall, there are four large rectangular pillars arranged in a tight formation. Carved on each pillar are the words "From One Ancestor, Many Mammals." There is also an invitation to "Meet One of Your Oldest Relatives." As you walk into this shrine for the "oldest mammal ancestor," you notice the bronze object on the small wooden pedestal in the center. The object looks like a tiny rat or mole. However, it is neither. It is a *Morganucodon*, an extinct, insect-eating mammal. While we were there examining the idol, a boy about 6 years old asked his mom about the bronze "rat". "That is our oldest mammal relative," the parent dutifully read, passing on to her child the collective wisdom of the scientific elite.

In back of the "ancestor shrine" is the "Evolution Theater" with a continuously playing movie. The movie is fast paced and geared toward children. Not everyone is invited to the "mammal family reunion". Fish aren't, frogs aren't, and neither are birds. In order to be invited, you need hair, special ear bones, and a mother that makes milk. The main characters in the movie are "Harry", a chimpanzee, and the morganucodon that we can call "Great grandma Morgie"

Man is significantly downplayed in the movie. If the whole period of time that mammals existed on earth were compressed to one hour, humans would come on the scene in the very last second. Everything is continuously changing, especially the environment. In order to survive, mammals have to adapt. That requires "time, genes, and a little luck." At the end of the movie, we are invited back with a teaser: "Who knows what new mammals we might see at the next mammal family reunion!"

In the museum gift shop, you can purchase an IMAX film on DVD with the title, *GENESIS: Fourteen billion years in the making*. Or if books are your thing, *Evolving Eden* is an option. In spite of the Biblical sounding titles, these are evolution materials with no mention of creation or God.

The take home message is obvious. Scientists have worked out all of the problems and can explain how the earth began, the origin of life and the source of all of its diversity. When it comes to origins, there is no doubt, no question and no controversy.

# CONFUSED ABOUT THE CREATION–EVOLUTION DEBATE?

*Unraveling the Origins Controversy* answers many of the most challenging questions in the origins debate. Dr. David A. DeWitt clears up the confusion about creation and evolution by distinguishing fact from interpretation. He exposes underlying assumptions and evidence on both sides of this contentious debate from a consistent Biblical worldview. Using scientific evidence and Scripture, he presents a positive, compelling case for a creation perspective.

“The creation–evolution debate has been argued time and time again in forums throughout our society. With no end to this debate in sight, Christians need to be armed with the information necessary to uphold Biblical truths. Dr. DeWitt’s book, *Unraveling the Origins Controversy*, will give you the evidence and confidence to stand up for the Genesis account of creation in the face of an ever-growing wave of opposition.”

JONATHAN FALWELL, PASTOR

“David DeWitt clearly elucidates the differences between empirical science and historical—or forensic—science and exposes how evolutionists blur these distinctions to bolster their claims. He defines the assumptions used by both evolutionists *and* creationists and explains how these presuppositions impact the interpretation of the data. *Unraveling the Origins Controversy* definitely lives up to its name.”

L. DANIEL HOWELL, Ph.D., SCIENTIST



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