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TriBakery Group: Worldview #4

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Scripture:

“...because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorrupt God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator...”

Romans 1:19-25

Remember:

Every worldview has to hold three main areas of belief:

Creation – where do we come from?

Fall – how come there is evil in the world?

Redemption – how do you correct or change the evil?

Quotes:

“...every worldview starts with an account of Creation, which shapes its concepts of the Fall and Redemption.”

Nancy Pearcey, p.154, Total Truth

“One of the most widely cited pieces of evidence is the variation among finches on the Galapagos Islands off the coast of South America...one study found that during a period of drought, the average beak size among finches actually increased slightly. Apparently the only food available in the dry period were larger, tougher seeds, so that the birds with slightly larger beaks survived better...it was hailed enthusiastically as confirmation of Darwin’s theory.

But that was not the end of the story. Eventually the rains returned, restoring the original range seeds. And what happened then? The average beak size returned to normal. In other words, the change that Darwinists were so excited about turned out to be nothing more than a cyclical fluctuation. It did not put that finches on the road to evolving into a new kind of bird; it was simply a minor adaptation that allowed the species to survive in dry weather.

When the National Academy of Sciences put out a booklet on evolution for teachers, it decided this story really needed a more positive spin. And so the booklet did not mention that the average beak size returned to normal. Instead it speculated what might happen if the change were to continue indefinitely for some two hundred years – whether the process would even produce a ‘new species of finch.’”

Nancy Pearcey, pp158-159, Total Truth

“Take the peppered moths in England, which most of us remember from photos in our high school science textbooks. The moths appear in two variants – a light gray and a darker gray – and the

standard textbook story goes like this: During that Industrial Revolution, the new factories poured out smoke and soot, which darkened the tree trunks where the moths perched and made it easier for birds to see the lighter variety and eat them. Over time the process led to a larger proportion of the darker moths.

In recent years, however, a small problem has come to light. Peppered moths don't actually perch on tree trunks in the wild. (They are thought to perch in the upper canopy of trees) How then do you explain the photographs we see in the textbooks? It turns out that they were staged: To create the photos, scientists glued dead moths onto tree trunks. One scientist who helped make a television documentary acknowledged that he glued dead moths on the trees in producing the film...amazingly the moths continue to appear in science textbooks. One enterprising reporter interviewed a textbook writer who admitted he knew the photos were faked – but used them anyway. 'The advantage of this example,' the writer said, 'is that it is extremely visual...later on students can look at the work critically.'"

Nancy Pearcey, pp 161-162, Total Truth

"As a junior high student, I was immensely impressed when my parents took me to a museum featuring an exhibit sure to be familiar to everyone: It showed vertebrate embryos lined up side by side – fish, amphibian, bird, and human. The point of the exhibit was to show how similar the embryos are, in order to suggest common ancestry. Darwin himself said that similarity among vertebrate embryos was 'by far the strongest single class of facts in favor of' his theory.

But it turns out that Darwin himself was misled. The embryo series was created by one of his most ardent supporters, a German scientist named Ernst Haeckel. His goal was to support a polysyllabic slogan he had coined – *ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny* – which means each individual embryo replays all the prior stages of evolution.

Shocking as it may seem, however, Haeckel fudged his sketches making them look more similar than they really are...Even more shocking, in Haeckel's own day, more than a hundred years ago, scientists already knew that he had faked the sketches...Yet the same drawings, or similar ones, continue to be used in biology textbooks." (see illustrations on next page)

Nancy Pearcey, pp 163-164, Total Truth

Discussion: