Why evolutionism is wrong and creation is right

Sylvia Baker

How did you feel as you read the above headline? Did it strike you as rather confrontational and arrogant? It was intended to mirror the title of a lecture being given last year in different parts of the country by Steve Jones, Professor of Genetics at University College, London. Steve believes strongly that ‘Creationism is wrong and evolution is right’ and is being given plenty of opportunities by the media to say so. The result has been many newspaper articles and TV and radio interviews dealing with this theme, particularly as it relates to the teaching of creationism in schools.

Creationism is spreading

Apparently, many school children and even teachers are now saying that they believe that the Earth and the living things it contains were all created in six days a matter of thousands, rather than millions, of years ago. Evidence to support this widespread belief in creationism came in a surprise result to a MORI poll carried out in January 2006. This found that 22% of the 2,112 respondents believed in ‘six-day creation’. A further 17% believed of the 2,112 respondents believed in ‘six-day creation’. A further 17% believed that life arose by a chance event rather than by the action of a creator. Apparently, many school children and even teachers are now saying that they believe that the Earth and the living things it contains were all created in six days a matter of thousands, rather than millions, of years ago. Evidence to support this widespread belief in creationism came in a surprise result to a MORI poll carried out in January 2006. This found that 22% of the 2,112 respondents believed in ‘six-day creation’. A further 17% believed that life arose by a chance event rather than by the action of a creator.

I abandoned belief in evolution.

A change of mind

Maynard Smith was a brilliant, dynamic and inspirational scientist and teacher. I feel privileged to have had the pleasure of having been at Sussex at that time and I owe a lot to him. Nevertheless, it was while I was at Sussex that I abandoned my belief in evolution and became a ‘six-day creationist’. I abandoned my belief in evolution and became a ‘six-day creationist’. I have continued actively to follow the debate ever since and am more convinced than ever that the decision that I made was the right one.

What was it that caused me to change my mind? There were two gradual processes and one dramatic moment involved in my decision. As a teenager in the 1960s, I was gradually becoming more and more convinced that the Bible could be fully trusted. At the same time, I was becoming more and more sceptical about the nature of the evidence for evolution. Was there really conclusive proof that it had happened as it was supposed to have done? Where exactly was all of the overwhelming evidence? It certainly couldn’t be found at Sussex. What could be found there were brilliant theoretical ideas, not hard evidence to do with the past.

A dramatic moment

The dramatic moment came during my final year, when I was very tentatively voicing my doubts and was astonished at the reception that I received. It happened during a seminar in which we were discussing the evolution of the vertebrate eye. After a lengthy evaluation of the problem, none of us could see how it could possibly have happened. I hastily suggested that perhaps this meant that the eye had not evolved. I did not mention God, creation or intelligent design. I was simply taking our discussion of the evidence to its logical conclusion. I was completely unprepared for what happened next. My fellow students began to mock me for believing in God. The lecturer leading the seminar who until that moment had been gentle and encouraging became visibly agitated. He refused to debate the issue or to allow the discussion to continue.

A refusal to debate

This blind refusal to permit a debate told a powerful story and showed me that in the theory of evolution we are not really dealing with science but with an alternative belief system. Something very similar is happening now as Richard Dawkins and Steve Jones, both of them scientists of repute, refuse to debate with creationists and instead use scornful mockery and misrepresentation to try to discredit those who disagree with them.

During my time as an undergraduate at Sussex University, in the late 1960s, I became convinced that the theory of evolution was not supported by the evidence and that the Bible could be fully trusted when it taught of a ‘six-day creation’.

Having obtained a BSc from Sussex, I went on to obtain a higher degree in biology from London University and to undertake research for two years in a neurobiology laboratory. It was at this point that I was asked, in 1971, to give a series of five talks at the church I was attending at the time, Thornton Heath Evangelical Free Church. The plan was that I should give one talk per month and the pastor, Harry Watle, suggested some of the topics. In the end we agreed that the talks should be given in series of five talks at the church I was attending at the time, Thornton Heath Evangelical Free Church. The plan was that I should give one talk per month and the pastor, Harry Watle, suggested some of the topics.

The talks that gave rise to the book were designed for Christians, to encourage them to realise that the scientific evidence did not contradict the Bible, as was so often claimed. The book itself, however, was often given to non-Christians, to those who would like to have faith but who sincerely believed that ‘science had disproved the Bible’, and even to complete sceptics. Before long, I began to hear of those who had come to faith in Christ as a result of reading it.

In 1986, the second edition was published and editions one and two together sold more than 250,000 copies, selling widely in Australia and the US as well as the UK. The book was also translated into ten languages. In 2002 the book was translated into ten languages. In 2002 the third edition was published, this time by the Biblical Creation Society. As I write in 2007, more than 30 years after it first appeared, Bone of Contention, the book that I had never intended to write, continues to sell.

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The articles generated a lot of interest and soon Bob Harr was approached by several publishers who wanted to publish them as a book. In April 1976, the first edition of Bone of Contention – Is Evolution True? was published by Evangelical Press.

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