

2016 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Essay Category

Second Place: “In the Beginning,” by Lillian DeVries

One of the greatest questions in the scientific world today is where life came from. Some people say that God created the world and everything in it, while others claim that it came about through pure chance and natural processes. Many have a difficult time believing in God without proof, but is there proof? There are scientists who believe there is. Christian Creationists believe that science is revealing the power of the All Mighty with every new discovery.

One of the largest factors in this argument is actually the idea of faith. Some people believe that the idea of Creationism is based from pure faith, and it is. What they fail to realize is that so is the theory of evolution. Christians have faith that the Bible is true and in the scientific discoveries they believe support their worldview. Evolutionists have faith in the scientific discoveries that they believe support their worldview. Both sides have faith in the scientific media as well.

Another misconception about faith is that it is unguided. True faith is not blind, but informed by fact. For example, when a person sits in a chair, they have faith that it will hold them. This faith is based on the fact that the chair has never let them fall before. Just like a person has faith in a chair, Creationists have reasons to believe in the existence of God.

Many scientists believe that science ignores the supernatural and look for a natural cause, discrediting the supernatural as a “natural cause”. The definition of science is “the study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). If this is so, it is incorrect to say that science ignores any variable. When ignoring the supernatural in science, a person would also have to ignore all the evidence that points toward the supernatural. A good scientist examines all aspects of a topic before forming a hypothesis. What if the natural cause they are looking for is the supernatural? Because everyone has their own opinions and beliefs, all scientists are guilty of bias in some small way. Creationists have one main advantage over evolutionists. Something can be proven true, but it is impossible to prove something does not exist. Even if science proved that there was no need for intelligent design, this does not disprove the existence of God.

Until the 20th century, most great thinkers, like Aristotle, thought that the universe had no beginning. The Bible disagreed and so did the people who believed it. For all that time, the Bible was scientifically accurate when the scientific world was not. Most scientists now agree that the earth began with a “big bang”. For the longest time, the Big Bang theory was rejected by many creationists because it was thought to support the evolutionary time line. According to William Lane Craig, the Big Bang is actually one of the largest arguments for God’s existence (Strobel 19). An essential element to the astronomical and Biblical

accounts of Genesis is the same: at a definite moment in time, there was suddenly an intense flash of light and energy (Strobel 19). The Big Bang was an explosion that occurred everywhere at once, filling space with every known particle of matter. This includes the subatomic and neutrinos that make up the earth. Among these particles were photons, which make up light. This lines up perfectly with Genesis 1:5, which says "And God said, let there be light; and there was light." The Big Bang is exactly what someone would expect it to look like if an all-powerful God were to command "let there be light". In order to make this happen, there must be someone or something who is not subject to the physical laws. Picture a pond with no wind or anything to make the water move. When you put your hand in it, suddenly there are ripples that grow larger and larger. The pond could not move itself; it needed an outside force that was not subject to the same laws as it was.

Evolution only tells us what happens after there is life. As a general rule, living things cannot come from non-living things. Evolutionists want to make one exception to this rule, spontaneous generation. Spontaneous generation is when a living substance comes from a non-living substance (Strobel 3). In the real world, things do not simply appear from nothingness. If a person came home from work one evening to find an elephant on their front lawn, their first suspicion would not be that it spontaneously appeared there. Darwinism teaches that all life comes from one common ancestor. There is one main problem with this and it really comes down to common sense. According to Darwin's theory of "survival of the fittest", if an animal does not have what it needs to survive immediately, it will eventually die out. For example, a fish does not have billions of years to learn how to breathe air. If it is unable to do so, it will die minutes after leaving the water (Strobel 10).

The earth's age is a good indicator of whether or not evolution is possible at all. There is overwhelming evidence that the earth is young. Most evolutionists believe that the earth must be at least 3 billion years old in order for evolution to be possible (Sherwin 3). The salt level in the ocean says otherwise. Every year, about 457 million tons of sodium is added to the ocean by rivers and such. This is more sodium than exits the ocean annually (Sherwin 3). Because of this, the amount of sodium in the ocean can actually be used to calculate the approximant age of the earth. According to Frank Sherwin, researcher, writer and speaker for the ICR (Institute for Creation Research), this information shows that the earth can be no older than 40 to 60 million years old (Sherwin 5). This is not taking into account that the ocean was most likely created with salt in it because of the species of fish that need it to survive. Most creationists assume that the worldwide flood also added sodium to the ocean. The Bible says "the depths of the deep were broken up" when describing the flood. This is taken as a reference to underwater volcanic activity and plate tectonics. Volcanic dust and erosion gives off sodium. The moon is also evidence that the earth is young. Each year, the moon recedes from the earth by 1.5 inches (Lisle 1). Since the moon cannot be closer than 11,500 miles to the earth or earth's atmosphere would break it into pieces, it is known that the moon was never that close to the earth. If the earth was even one billion years old, the moon would be much farther away (Barnes 4). The magnetic field of the earth decreases about 5% each year. Assuming this has been a consistent pattern, this decay puts an age limit of only thousands of years on the earth (Barnes 7).

The theory of evolution relies entirely upon chance. Everything about the earth is set up just perfectly for life to be possible. Author Lee Strobel in his book *Case for a Creator*, uses this example: imagine that the possible settings for gravity were on a ruler with

infinite possibilities. Out of infinite possibilities of where gravity could have been on this ruler, it is exactly where it needs to be to support life. If the gravitational force was off by only one inch on this ruler, life would be impossible (Strobel 38). The earth is the exact distance from the sun for the earth to have enough heat, but not too much radiation. Earth is blocked from harmful solar rays by the moon, Jupiter, and other planets (Strobel 39). Dr. Robin Collins, professor of philosophy at Messiah College, said this, "if the cosmological constant were the only example of fine-tuning, and if there were no natural explanation for it, then it would be enough by itself to strongly establish design" (Strobel 39). The cosmological constant is not the only example of "fine tuning" in creation. Birds are amazing creatures that show fingerprints of a creator. It took man thousands of years to figure out a way to fly, yet birds make this complex task look simple. In Job 39: 26, God tells Job that it is by His hand that birds know how to fly south for the winter. Scientists have discovered that birds that fly south for the winter use earth's magnetic field to guide them. They do this by using a substance called magnetite that is in their heads. This works like a built in compass for the bird.

The greatest and most clear evidence for the existence of God is summarized in John 1:14 which says "the Word (meaning Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father." Jesus Christ came to earth, becoming manifest to us. Many people today say that there is no evidence to prove that Jesus was the Son of God. In the first century, every person in that area of the world had heard of Jesus and not even His enemies could deny that He did miracles. The Talmud, the most used Jewish commentary that was written in the first century, accuses Jesus of being a sorcerer (Talmud). *The Antiquities of the Jews* was written in 93 or 94 A.D by the Jewish historian Josephus. Books 18 and 20 tell about the miracles that Jesus did (Josephus 18 and 20). These are only two examples of evidence that show Jesus is indeed the Son of God.

Some people may wonder what difference it makes if there is a God or not. It makes all the difference in the world. If there is no God, then each life is worthless; nothing more than a universal accident. Nothing we do, whether it be good or bad, makes any difference at all in eternity. Not even the strongest atheists believe this. In C. S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*, he points out that even from a young age, people acknowledge "a real law which we did not invent and which we know we ought to obey" (Lewis 5). Romans 2:15 explains this when it says "They (meaning people) demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right" (NLT). If there is no God there is no real standard of what good and bad even are. C. S. Lewis also says that everyone has broken this standard (Lewis 5). The Bible says in Romans 3:23 "that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" and Romans 6:23 says that "the wages of sin is death". This means the punishment for sin is eternity in Hell when we die. This is what I believe some evolutionists are afraid to believe. If this were the entire story, it would be bad news for mankind. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to die in our place. Romans 5:8 tells us that "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Josephus, 93-94 AD)

All of this information is just a small sample of the evidence for God's handiwork in our world. Psalm 19:1 says "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork." Anyone who explores the beauty, wonder, and mystery of this universe with an open mind, will surely come to the same conclusion. "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 people are without excuse.”
(Romans 1:20 NIV)

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JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

Though it begins as an argument for creationism and ends as an argument for the existence of God, the paper is polished, it's well written, and it shows good command of the trappings of scholarship.

Kyleigh Ritter is a 2009 graduate of Michigan State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in creative writing and was the recipient of the Jim Cash Creative Writing Award. She currently works as a professional writing consultant in the MCC Writing Center.