

The Antithesis, the Bible or Science, Again

In *The Australian* recently, James Murray reported that some Christian writers reacted to an earlier article of his by holding that there is an inherent conflict between religious faith and science. Others saw a way of fusing the two. Murray has been arguing that the church has failed to keep up with scientific thought. There is a lurking assumption that, because human cloning will soon be achieved, scientists have become the masters of human life. God is unnecessary. Murray quoted one writer who suggested that if a few cells of Jesus' skin could be retrieved, scientists could produce copies of Him. He would no longer be unique! One commented that, if this applied to Jesus' body, it would not apply to the uniqueness of His inner being. One of the better replies said that God is not part of the scientific enterprise, but the reason why there is a universe at all. However, he assumed that the "big bang" was a fact.

Antinori's predictions of human cloning within two years will seem to non-Christians to give support to a view that God is simply unnecessary. One of Murray's correspondents suggests that scientific technology has left God far behind with stone jars. Assumption that the Bible is nothing more than pious fiction.

We have discussed negative aspects of cloning before. The church has admittedly in the past made mistakes when it condemned new approaches. However, the possibility of cloning should not support wild and irreverent assumptions or sinful practices. If geneticists successfully manipulate material in God's universe, that does not disprove God. Failure rates in cloning have been high. It took 277 tries to produce Dolly. God does not have the kind of failure rate. Geneticists are handling material that God created and called very good. The danger of malformations in cloning is high. Antinori wants to limit cloning to cases in which the husband is sterile and the wife refuses artificial insemination with the sperm of some other man. There are no guarantees that experimentation on human cloning will be limited to that. As in *in-vitro* fertilisation, there is tremendous wastage, and all destruction of human life is murder. God's protection of human life after the flood still stands. "If anyone sheds the blood of a human being, his blood should be shed by a human being, because God has made human beings in His own image." Contrary to what is alleged, cloning does not mean a form of immortality for human beings, nor is any immortality possible without the holiness that comes from the redemption through Jesus Christ.

Christians need to be ready with answers to evolutionary theory. Here are some: The essential trouble is the assumption that the theory of evolution has disproved the Bible. The theory of evolution is not science. It is a philosophy or religion. Evolutionists replace God with time and chance. That is why they need millions of years. They invent their own myths and miracles without God.

Evolutionists are often dishonest. They discard what does not fit their preconceived beliefs. When dinosaur material was not identified previously some researchers tested as relatively recent. Evolutionists accept what their theory permits them to see.

Christians do not deny facts. They interpret the same facts differently from evolutionists. Christians welcome genuine science. God, who has revealed Himself in nature, is the same God who has revealed Himself in Scripture. Good science also welcomes challenges to its theories. However, the Bible opposes evolution.

There are no proofs for evolution.

Evolutionists have no way of proving their assumptions of millions of years. They rest on circular reasoning. Rocks are dated from fossils, which are dated from rocks. Many "young" fossils do not fit the theory, as they are found in deeper layers. Rock layers often occur in the "wrong" places.

Dating methods are flawed. Tests based on carbon 14 were designed for what is less than 5,000 years. Radiometric tests are unreliable.

Evidence in astronomy contradicts the theories of the "big bang" and the "red shift."

All alleged finds of part-human and part ape creatures (such as at Neanderthal, Nebraska, and Piltdown) have been proved subsequently to be hoaxes, or either fully human or fully ape. The *National Geographic* recently later apologised for glossy misinformation about an alleged mixed species in earlier issue. It had already been proved a hoax.

Evolutionists tend to regard every variation as a new species. The same species of some fish have more vertebrae when they live in cooler water. This is not evolution. They are the same species.

Both evolutionists and the Bible talk about changes in the world since the beginning. The changes have not been gradual results of natural selection. The Bible reports violent catastrophes. These changes include the fall into sin, in which creation lost its purpose and became futile. God cursed the soil because of human sin. God made Cain's descendants wanderers. The Flood was a tremendous catastrophe. The world before the flood was

very different from now. Once there was only one landmass. Once there was a mild climate all over the world, including at the poles. Many plants and animals that were originally friendly to human beings became pests, predators, and enemies. Many creatures changed from grass eating to meat-eating ones. A later catastrophe caused the Dead Sea. Marks of terrific bombardment on planets such as Mars indicate violent change. Fossil beds are enormous, and are the result of violent change. Fossils do not form now. They were preserved when creatures were buried by a sudden catastrophe, such as the flood, before they could decay or be eaten.

It has been claimed that recent finds under the Black Sea were the basis of legends about the Flood. However, a better suggestion is that melting ice after the Flood caused that flooding. In many ways the earth was healed after the Flood.

However, genetic change is limited. Most true hybrids, like mules, are sterile. Many other hybrids, like Clydesdale horses, when left to themselves, revert to the ancestors from which they were bred. DNA demonstrates that change from one species to another, like fish to birds, is impossible.

Christians do not deny that dinosaurs existed. The Bible has references to “behemoth”, “leviathan”, and “rahab.” People should question the alleged numbers of their species, and speculate about why they are now extinct. Caution is needed. In over half of dinosaur finds, their heads are missing. The word “dinosaur” not used before 19th century, and means, literally, “terrible lizard.”

Christians ought to affirm that Bible truth is not merely on the same level as science, but incomparably higher. It, too, deals with the real world. Genesis is the true history of real people and real events. The Bible is infallible on all matters about which it speaks, including history and science.