

GOD AND EVOLUTION

ARE THEY COMPATIBLE?

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Theism?

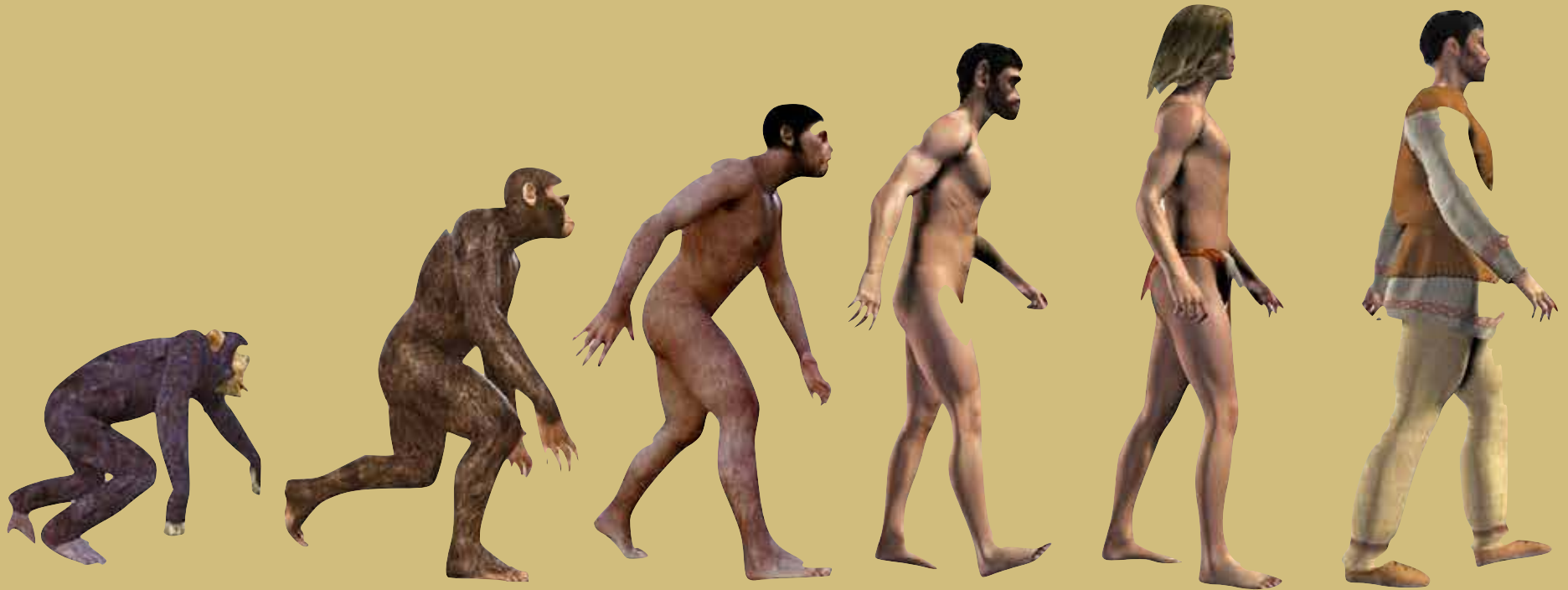


GOD AND
EVOLUTION

“Theism”

- Transcendent, perfect, all-powerful being
- Everything else depends on God.
- God freely created the world and can freely act in a variety of ways in nature.
- All events are providentially ordered for a purpose.
- Design and purpose are apparent in creation.

Evolution?



GOD AND
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“Evolution”

- Change over time; history of nature; cosmic “evolution”; any sequence of events in nature.
- Changes in the frequencies of alleles in the gene pool of a population.
- Limited common descent
- Mechanism—natural selection and random variations/mutations

“Evolution”

- Universal common descent
- Blind Watchmaker Thesis: “random” means “purposeless”
- Metaphorical: survival of the fittest
- Progressive increase in complexity/development—Darwin avoided the word for this reason.

How Darwinists Define Their Theory

“The real core of Darwinism, however, is the theory of natural selection. This theory is so important for the Darwinian because it permits the explanation of adaptation, the ‘design’ of the natural theologian, by natural means, instead of by divine intervention.”



Ernst Mayr

Dilemma



The Dilemma

- Proposition 1: Blind Watchmaker
Thesis: “random” means “purposeless”
- Proposition 2: All events are providentially ordered for a purpose.
- Proposition 3: Design and purpose are apparent in creation.

Random?

“When it is said that mutation or variation is random, the statement simply means that there is no correlation between the production of new genotypes and the adaptational need of an organism in a given environment.”

- Ernst Mayr

Random?

“There is no *physical mechanism* (either inside organisms or outside of them) that detects which mutations would be beneficial and causes those mutations to occur.”

- Elliott Sober

Random: Dictionary

a : lacking a definite plan, purpose, or pattern

2 a : relating to, having, or being elements or events with definite probability of occurrence <*random* processes>

b : being or relating to a set or to an element of a set each of whose elements has equal probability of occurrence <a *random* sample>; *also* : characterized by procedures designed to obtain such sets or elements <*random* sampling>

: a haphazard course

— **at random**

: without definite aim, direction, rule, or method <subjects chosen *at random*>

- Merriam-Webster

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A Really Tight Definition

“When we say that an adaptation is the result of natural selection and “random” genetic mutations, we mean: (1) There is no *physical mechanism* (either inside organisms or outside of them) that detects which mutations would be beneficial and causes those mutations to occur, and (2) there is no implication that natural selection and random mutation are complete or causally adequate explanations of adaptive complexity. (3) There is no implication that other, non-physical causes are not also required to explain adaptations and other, empirically manifest features of organisms.”

-Jay Richards

Conclusion

Strict Darwinian Evolution
Contradicts Christian
Theism.

