

A Christian Perspective of the Nye/Ham Debate

A debate was held between Bill Nye “The Science Guy,” and creation scientist Ken Ham, February 2, 2014 on the topic “Is creation a viable model of origin in today’s modern scientific era?” Since then, Bill Nye’s evolutionary defense, his attack, and challenge to creationism left unanswered in part by Mr. Ham have seemed to bolster Darwinian evolutionary advocates. Questions and challenges proposed by Mr. Nye have been mimicked and perpetuated by evolutionist followers since the debate. For this reason, we wish to provide some answers.

First, let’s observe Nye’s defense of the naturalistic evolutionary model. Evolutionists like Nye know that they must win the war on the presumed 4.5 billion year old age of the earth to account for the inability to observe macro-evolutionary changes today, and assert that such changes occur slowly over millions of years. The thrust of Nye’s defense was that we can know with certainty the age of the universe based on the present. Although he confesses the assumptions made in radiometric dating, expansion of the universe, rate of gene changes in bacteria, etc., he says that these assumptions are, “based on previous experience,” and claims that Mr. Ham is trying to separate natural laws of the past from natural laws of today. “It’s magical,” Nye claims.

In response to this, we believe Mr. Ham did an excellent job in providing compelling evidence from Andrew Snelling’s research concerning wood that had been carbon dated 37,500 years old, while basalt rock encompassing the wood was dated some 47.5 million years old. This great disparity underscores the severe limitations of carbon dating techniques. Nye could not refute Snelling’s research and it stands as evidence against the validity of evolutionary dating techniques. Creationists do not argue that scientific laws have changed in the past, but dating techniques should be more sophisticated and accurate than the old uniformitarian equation on which Nye relies. They should be able to account for the

unusual effects of catastrophic events before being applied to the past.

Nye also made several attacks against the creation model. Nye claimed that in the geologic column, “You never, ever find a higher animal mixed in with a lower one,” i.e., simpler creatures with more complex according to the evolutionary scale. This statement was made in response to mention of the Bible’s record of a world-wide flood. However, William Meister in 1968 discovered a human footprint—so detailed that it included sandal stitching—with fossilized trilobites in the print. *Nature* published a story in 2005 documenting a small dinosaur fossilized in the stomach of a mammal. While Nye’s focus is on the Grand Canyon, broadened research quickly reveals documented cases of polystrate fossils (i.e. fossils cutting through two or more sedimentary-rock layers) elsewhere.

Also, we wish to respond to Nye’s argument concerning the development of new species in accordance with the creation model. Nye claims that since some 16 million species exist on the planet today, and the flood was only four thousand years ago with only 7,000 representative species on the Ark, then 11 new species would have to evolve every day! He commented that if this were so, it would be possible to go out into the yard and find a new type of bird every day. First, Nye’s numbers are questionable to say the least. Some studies have counted as few as three million species. Also, Nye’s number doesn’t account for

the survival of marine life and plant life in a universal flood, or the quick reproduction of insects. Furthermore, scientists today are documenting 15,000 new species each year! That’s an average of 41, not 11 Mr. Nye! Perhaps most importantly, the Bible’s account of the ark refers to a male and female of each “kind,” not species; the multiple species of different animals and other living things that exist today have developed as a result of mixed breeding since the days of Noah.

Lastly, we also would like to address Nye’s challenge to the creation model. Nye claimed that evolutionists can use their model and successfully make discoveries like the Tiktaalik, which is supposedly a missing evolutionary link between fish and land-dwellers but it has the characteristics of a fully-functional distinct species. Nevertheless, consider the following sample of predictions from the creation model:

- (1) Matter and energy will not spontaneously generate or be eternal; scientific evidence confirms this truth though naturalistic evolution must rest on one of these two possibilities
- (2) Life forms will appear fully-formed and functional in the fossil record without evolutionary history linking them to a single-celled organism; the “Cambrian Explosion” seen in earth’s strata verifies this prediction
- (3) Archaeology and history will provide ancient stories from independent civilizations around the world to bear witness of the world-wide flood; evidence verifies this prediction

(4) Life cannot spontaneously arise in nature from non-life and evidence verifies this prediction, though naturalistic evolution must posit that abiogenesis can occur

(5) Dinosaurs roamed the earth in the not-so-distant past; recent discoveries have been made of soft dinosaur tissue which could not have survived 65 million years

(6) Petrification can happen rapidly rather than over eons of time; recent evidence verifies this prediction

(7) Earth was once a tropical environment even at the poles and some form of water canopy once surrounded the earth until the flood; recent discoveries indicate Antarctica was once covered in palm trees, and Greenland was once green having been covered in conifer forest. These and many more of Earth’s attributes can be accurately predicted based on the creation model.

Creation is not a viable model, it is the viable model for the origins of life. The evolutionary model is not and can never be viable because it contradicts physical evidence and logic. You can learn more and check our references at www.apologeticspress.org. We encourage you to “test all things; hold fast what is good,” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

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