

CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men" Psalm 118:8

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The Great *Proofs* of Evolution The "**Proof**" From Imperfection

analyzed by Tom Willis

When I originally wrote *Real Scientists Just Say NO!* I covered *Nine Great Proofs* of Evolution. I knew of this one, but never thought it would rise in popularity, and it really hasn't in most textbooks. But because Stephen J. Gould, one of Harvard's favorite Marxist, Christian haters, is its leading propagandizer, the "proof" has gained some popularity in "intellectual" circles.

A succinct explanation of the "proof", as presented by Gould when I first saw it in *Discover*, May, 1981, follows:

"The second argument -- that the imperfection of nature reveals evolution... perfection could be imposed by a wise creator or evolved by natural selection... Evolution lies exposed in the imperfections that record a history of descent.

When I first read this "proof" I was able to see so quickly such enormous absurdities that I assumed he was either on a toot when he wrote it, or wasn't very serious. But he was serious. He thinks the argument is marvelous!

Gould caps this astounding "proof" by rolling it together with the "proof from homology" [Which can be summarized: Similar (homologous) structures among creatures are somehow evidence that they had a common ancestor with this feature, rather than evidence their creator chose, as sane creators always do, to use similar structures to achieve similar results, or even simply because the creator liked the structure. For a discussion of the total banality of the "proof from homology," see **Real Scientists Just Say No!**, available from CSA, \$15.50]

Now, stand by... here comes Gould's death-dealing blow to creationism:

Why should a rat run, a bat fly, a porpoise swim, and I type this essay with structures built of the same bones unless we all inherited them from a common ancestor? An engineer, starting from scratch, could design better limbs in each case."

Th..Th..Th.. That's all folks! That **IS** the "proof from imperfection" as presented by its paid broadcaster. Without further ado let's begin to dissect the 10th "Great Proof of Evolution."

Before using the outline we used in **RSJSNO!** an important comment about terminology must be made. Gould freely makes use of terms like "perfect" and "optimum" and then asserts that none of the structures found in living things are perfect. But, he fails to note that it is impossible to define "perfect, or optimum" design. The most precise form of

optimization available to man requires a precisely stated criteria equation (or equations), and precisely stated mathematical constraints. Using this strategy one can minimize the cost of dog food, given some equations describing costs, nutrient values, and perhaps even some numeric flavor values. And remember, the mathematical constraints, even if formulated, were themselves subjectively derived. Even if you threw in some constraint equations that attempted to utilize our modest knowledge of canine health, few would be big enough fool to call the dog food "optimum," much less "perfect."

And consider for a moment a committee designing the perfect or optimum door handle on a car. How much consideration do you give to ease of opening by a six-year-old, or to durability when frozen shut and pulled by a 200-pounder, or to access by left- and right-handed people, or to ease of opening by a person with no hands, or to wind friction ... (the list could go on ad nauseam)?

You see, when you get away from criteria and constraints that lend themselves to mathematical formulation, the definition of "optimum" design, already hopelessly subjective, becomes nothing more than opinion. Therefore we come to the obvious conclusion regarding **perfection**:

A "perfect" creation is one that completely fulfills the purposes of its creator. Gould cannot create a living cell, much less a rat's forelimb, or a universe. Furthermore, he is totally ignorant of the global, cosmic, and eternal purposes for any part of the Creation, including the forelimbs of rats, bats, porpoises and humans. Therefore, Gould's opinion about how they should have been designed is hopelessly arrogant, ignorant, and irrelevant.

With that out of the way, we can deal with the so-called proof in our standard manner:

The "**Proof**" From Imperfection is Irrational

We must bear in mind that statements like "evolution lies exposed" may make for persuasive rhetoric but are not the language of either science or logic. If you expect stable people to treat your claims as "science" or "fact," you must get down to a concise statement of what you are proposing. I can state categorically that Gould **never** does that. In short, his position is essentially incoherent as well as irrational. If anyone tries to explain what he seems to have said, Gould will, as he often has, accuse them of misinterpreting him (or worse). But one must risk such charges to discuss him, because his articles can never be discussed as they stand. If he says anything in this "proof", which, mind you, is doubtful, he seems to be saying:

- 1 We've got all these structures in living things, but they are suboptimum, or imperfect... certainly not as good as an engineer could do.
- 2 Therefore, random processes (evolution), not God, must have built them.

His second (never stated, syllogism is:

- 1 Homologous (similar) structures occur very profusely
- 2 Therefore random processes (evolution) are further confirmed as the creative agent

Consider that every child has seen millions of complex structures (bikes, radios, planes, autos, etc.), **all** of which were created by intelligent agents (humans), **none** of which were created by random processes (evolution), and none of which were perfect. Furthermore, these structures are all profusely sprinkled with similar structures because man tends to design by analogy. He frequently uses similar structures to achieve similar ends, e.g., gears in pocket watches and an automobiles. Similarities so abound in human created structures that you can line them up in virtually any order you please and tell any story you please about their "evolutionary origin." I often delight my audiences proving that forks evolved from spoons. How on earth can a sane man argue that complex structures prove they were built by random processes, merely because they are "imperfect" and contain similarities?

Logically, the proof from imperfection (or suboptimality, if you like), even packaged with "homology," is pathetically bankrupt.

The "Proof" is the worst possible interpretation of the data.

The data is: there are lots of complex structures, they contain many similarities, they are clearly well designed, but Gould claims they show evidence of less than perfect design. Since all the complex systems whose origin we have observed were created by intelligent agents (humans, in this case), since they contain countless similar structures, and are virtually all "imperfect," therefore, by far the best (most scientific) explanation of complex structures whose origin we have **not** observed, e.g. the forelimbs of rats and Stephen Gould, is that they, too were created by an intelligent agent. Appeal to random processes as an agent is not even remotely supported by the data presented.

The "Proof" involves willful deception

I have found that every "proof" of evolution involves willful deception, just as the Bible says it will. The deceiver is not necessarily the High School teacher, nor even the college professor, most of whom could not defend evolution if their life depended on it. However, nearly all of them and certainly the High Priests of this cult have seen grotesque flaws in their system. For example, Gould prides himself on reading the Bible, and even, as I recall, sings in a church choir. He practically never writes an article without quoting the Bible. He could not possibly be ignorant of the fact that God says He cursed "all the creation." Paul called it "the bondage to decay (or corruption)" Romans 8:21. This provides a perfectly plausible Biblical explanation for "imperfection." Therefore, "imperfection" cannot possibly be a proof of evolution when it is also a proof of the Bible.

Gould is further acutely aware of "convergence," the evololand explanation for very similar structures among creatures that cannot fit nicely on anyone's tree of descent. Thus, based on similarity, flying reptiles and bats should have a common ancestor with wings, but Gould doesn't believe they do. You see, in evololand, similarity only proves common ancestry when evolutionists believe in a common ancestry.

The claim that "*an engineer, starting from scratch, could design better limbs in each case*" is either willful deception, or hopelessly idiotic. This is a claim with virtually no laboratory evidence (Gould mentions not one example to illustrate, much less prove, his point). Yet, if Gould is sincere in the claim, he can prove it easily: **simply submit one of his limbs for amputation and replacement by an engineered limb!** I eagerly await the public announcement of Gould's surgery!

The data used with the "Proof" provides an excellent case for Biblical Creation

Like most evolutionists, Gould uses very little data, and uses none of it cogently. But consider the forelimbs of rats, bats, porpoises and Gould. All of them, in spite of Gould's claim that engineers could do better, are hopelessly beyond the ability of any human being to design, much less build. In fact we have **never** seen a complex system assembled by random processes. Exactly as God claims, the data literally screams: "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*" -Isaiah 55:9

The existence and widespread occurrence of mutations in living things, is declared to be the engine of change for evolution. But everyone knows that, neither Gould, nor any other evolutionist really wants a mutation because they are all harmful. They have never been observed to build a complex new structure. But, their very existence is testimony to the "bondage to decay!" Mutations are totally compatible with the Bible, thus are evidence in favor of it, but they provide no real logical support for evolutionists who further demonstrate the truth of the Bible by their systematic refusal to accept this obvious fact. Rather, they lower their heads, kick up their heels and bray "evolution is a fact." The Bible describes this behavior accurately:

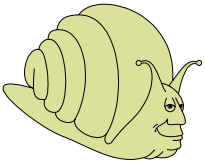
"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." -Psalm 14:1

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," -Romans 1:20-22

Conclusion

My conclusion is that Gould's proof from imperfection is not only logically, intellectually and scientifically preposterous, it is a solid proof of the accuracy of the Bible! Anyone who discards a life with God, based on the "proof from imperfection," is certainly a fool!

But, I remind Professor Gould that Saul of Tarsus, Augustine and the author of **this essay** were all once fools too, but have been redeemed. The same opportunity awaits even Stephen J. Gould. I earnestly implore you to avail yourself of it, fearing you may have to spend eternity reading your own essays.



Creation Safaris

Join CSA on a Creation Safari

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To make reservations, call (816) 658-3610. To obtain information on Safari costs, meeting place, time of departure and return, what to bring, safari registration information, etc. -- request a copy of the booklet: "CSA 1996 Safari Details."

Stephen Gould, tell him I would certainly appreciate receiving a copy of a valve he engineered to be superior to God's. About the only thing you can say about the best "engineered" one I could find is that it usually keeps you alive.

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Is Evolution Science - The Origin of Life and Kinds?

by: Cal Myers, Ph.D.

Cal uses his extensive knowledge of medical physics, medical research, and human DNA research to demonstrate that the claims for evolution are clearly refuted by the results in the laboratory

Audio Tape: \$5.00 - Video: \$13.00 (Includes postage)

Book of the Month:

The Creation / Evolution Controversy

by: R.L. Wysong

One of the truly great books of the last 20 years. Thoroughly researched, excellent illustrations and photographs, and a thoughtful analysis of the issues. Now available in Hardcover, 455 pages.

Regular Price: \$14.00 plus postage.

Special: Nov/Dec 1996 Price: \$12.00 plus postage.

Personal Note:

On August 16, Tom Willis, your editor, had his aortic heart valve replaced. Complications resulted in a stroke affecting eye movement and coordination. After nearly six weeks I am beginning to feel human again. I appreciate the prayers and support of hundreds in the Body of Christ. If anyone sees

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CSA Monthly Meeting Location: Westbrooke Church 9898 West 95th, Overland Park, KS

Two blocks East of 69 Highway (or Switzer) on North side of 95th

Refreshments: 6:15PM - Meeting: 7:00PM Nursery Available: \$2.50 per child (Reservations required for nursery)

CSA Meeting Tuesday, November 5, 1996

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

The Eruption of Mount St. Helens

Life-sized Lab in Rapid Formation of

Sediment Layers, Canyons and Even Coal

by: Ken Carlson

Ken's expertise as an international fuels consultant, artifacts gathered from around the world, and research slides and data from several sources make this presentation virtually infallible proof that major geologic formations not only occurred rapidly, but **could not** have occurred slowly. If you haven't really explored this evidence, come prepared to be shocked. The evidence is devastating.

The Advanced Institute in Creation Science

Immune Functions of the Veriform Appendix

A Video from the International Conference on Creation

by: Frank Maas

One of the most popular "proofs" of evolution is the claim that the appendix is "merely a vestige of our evolutionary past." Yet, according to Mass, he "*has never found this claim made by a researcher who has published a firsthand investigation of the anatomy and/or the physiology of the appendix. Rather, those who have studied this organ have described it as a specialized lymphoid structure.*" Furthermore, Mass documents that "*for nearly a century it has been known to be a specialized organ highly infiltrated with lymphoid tissue.*" It would appear that once again, pagan dogma controls western "science."

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Address Correction Requested

CSA Meeting Tuesday, December 3, 1996

The Basic Institute in Creation Science

Dinosaurs

by: Bob Farwell

"Everyone says" dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago, offering some 30-odd theories as to why such "fit" creatures died. Bob will explore the extinction theories and offer a simple alternative to them all. He will also challenge the 65 million years, and the notion that dinosaurs and man never lived together with some simple ideas and data.

The Advanced Institute in Creation Science

Basic Types of Life

A Video from the International Conference on Creation

by: Sigfried Scherer, Ph.D.

Hidden behind this deceptively simple title is a critical issue upon which the paper sheds some interesting light. "What do we mean when we say species, genus, etc." and "How do we know when evolution has occurred as opposed to, say, a preplanned variety?" What really is a Species... a Genus... a Family? What does hybridization tell us? How would we recognize a "basic type" [e.g. a created 'kind']? This can be a very useful discussion to those truly interested in understanding the **truth** about "*The Origin of Species.*"

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