



Apologetics Series: Study 2 **ARE DARWIN’S FINCHES EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION OR CREATION?
Genesis 1:21-22, Ephesians 4:17-19; 2 Timothy 4:3-4,**

Our discussion today is a crucial question that young people in North American public institutions encounter at one time or the other in their careers. The question stems from attempts by the enlightenment movements to secularize everything including the origin of all life forms, including humans. The theory of evolution rests on scientific observations of Charles Darwin on various adaptive types of the birds called finches. Darwin as a young naturalist was on a voyage to South America in the early 1800’s and came to a stop at the Galapagos Island off the coast of Ecuador. Darwin travelled around the island for several weeks taking notes and collecting data on specimen, especially birds. Darwin observed that many of the Galapagos finches lived on only one, or few of the islands. He noticed they had a graded series of beak sizes and shapes and predicted these species had developed their unique traits there, adapting to the specific environmental conditions on each island. Today, the evolutionary idea that all living animals descended from one original form dominates our secularized world, as people seek answers to the question of origins outside religion. Do the “Darwin’s finches” really prove evolution of creatures or the Bible’s viewpoint of creation and adaptation according to Genesis 1: 21 - 22?

Darwin was correct about one thing; he observed the results of variation and speciation within a created kind of animals, but unfortunately, he developed the concept of evolution and natural selection as the origin of all life forms. He claims that given enough time, natural selection would cause one kind of creature to evolve into a completely different kind of creature. Darwin extrapolated those changes he observed in the present to an unobservable past. This later led to the development of Darwin’s famous model; a diagram of how different species can be linked to each other which has become a visual representation of molecules-to-human evolution. Darwin’s finches have now become the premier example of evolution in action in many scientific books.

However, from the Biblical viewpoint, God created all the birds including finches; **“... And every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good”** (Genesis 1:21). God spoke animals to existence **“...according to their kind”**, Natural selection can result in variation and speciation **within their kind**, which is what Darwin observed, but he did not observe one organism evolving into a different organism. When Scripture readers examine these same observations of Darwin with the light of the Spirit, the interpretation will be different. The concept of creation in the Scriptures that we just read shows us that Darwin’s interpretation is from a viewpoint of someone looking for alternative explanations to the source of life outside God (Ephesians 4:18; 2 Timothy 4: 3-4).

To challenge the observations of Darwin, researchers Peter and Rosemary Grant, a husband-and-wife research team, investigated finches from the Galapagos Island, the same places where Darwin explored. They went to the Galapagos Islands to find how finches showed Darwinian evolution. They tracked all the finches on one tiny island and recorded weather patterns and the birds’ diets. Their research found that the dominant beak sizes within a finch species changes depending on varying climate, food availability, and predators in the area (www.genesisapologetics.com). When a drought struck the islands in 1977, the only readily available finch food was tough nuts. Finches with slightly smaller beaks died, while those few with beaks large enough to more efficiently crack the nuts survived. They estimated that at the rate of beak thickening that they observed in the finches, more droughts could produce much bigger beaks among survivors, the same mechanisms that Darwin interprets will supposedly take millions of years of evolution to form.

In the scientific parlance, natural selection and evolution are two different processes. While evolution describes the change in the genetic gains in regularly mutating populations over successive generations to form new species, natural selection are processes within a generation that defines which individuals in a population survives and passes the survival traits on for new generations to adapt. Both processes require the gain of new genetic information to build new structures and functions that will ultimately resolve into completely different kind of organisms if allowed over a long span of time. However, none of the processes define the original genetic materials that has been adapting to changing living conditions, though modern science keeps postulating all kinds of origins like the big-bang theory.

To challenge the controversial theories on origins of life by evolution, data from the recent finch research is a good resource. In 1982 and 1983, when the Galapagos islands received rainfall that allowed plants affected by the 1977 drought to grow back and create abundance of soft seeds as food, the researchers found that finches with smaller beaks came back. For every supposed evolutionary step forward, finches appear to take a step backward, so that no net

evolution was involved in Darwin's finches. In reality, the Galapagos finches have shown their God-given abilities to adapt and survive tough times. In Genesis 1: 22, God blessed the living creatures, including fowls, with the gift of multiplication and invariably adaptation. As Bible believing Christians, let us see our different worlds with the lens of the word of God. Let it be our guide and standard for interpreting everything we engage in, including modern science.

Why do we study this question? Firstly, it is because wrong ideologies about the origin of life will blur our understanding of our eternal purpose. If we believe the error that our origin is from nothing, then we will view our end as nothing, which makes life empty and confusing. The truth is that we originated from a Creator, Whose breathe we carry, and to Whom our spirits will return. Secondly, in the western world, young people are bombarded with every wind of doctrine, and the Bible admonishes us in 1 Peter 3: 15 to: "**...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you**". This is what is called apologetics, that is, the defence of our faith.

As Christians, let us brush up our apologetics to equip ourselves with knowledge that will help us to "**be ready always**" to defend ourselves from the confusions of our time. Beyond apologetics, we should also brace up our "evangelistics" to take-on the offensive by challenging the fallacies with the hope of helping many deceived souls around us. Links to resources for apologetics and evangelism are suggested at the end of this study outline. We are called to be light in the darkness, hence we are to be prayerfully engaging the word of God to electrify our lives for shining in the perverse, dark world (Philippians 2: 5). We are called to be confident in our belief that we and everything we see around us are not a product of chance or a series of lucky mistakes. We know we are fearfully and wonderfully created by a Designer who made all the world and the galaxies with such amazing craftsmanship and precision. We will not be shaken out of this truth, but rather we will be shining lights that will bring people in darkness to God in Jesus' name.

Links to useful resources:

Apologetics: www.genesisapologetics.com.

Evangelism: <http://www.biblicalevangelism.com>

Discussion and Prayers

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