

LBC

Legacy Builders Class

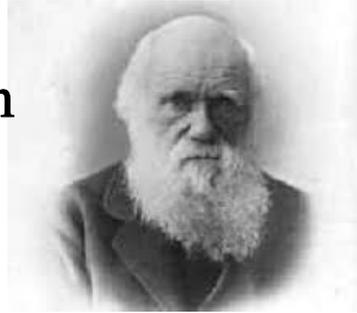


Darwin

Scripture:

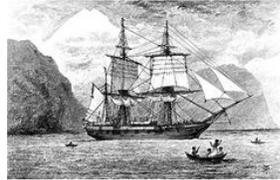
The History of Charles Darwin

Charles Robert Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England February 12, 1808



Darwin moved to Cambridge and enrolled at Christ's College to study for the ministry

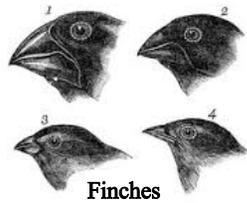
1831 - 1836 Darwin boarded the HMS Beagle for a trip that would turn out to be a 5-year voyage around South America as a naturalist. This trip would be life changing not only to him but would change the world



Darwin kept careful notes of what he observed and sent many speculations back to Cambridge

As he studied plant and animal life throughout the region, he observed minor differences among modern creatures as well as similarities between those creatures and extinct varieties

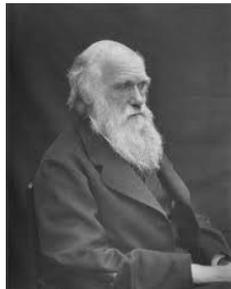
He first gives serious thought to the evolution of species while studying Galapagos Island mockingbirds



Finches

According to one source, out of this study grew several related theories:

- 1- **Evolution did occur**
- 2- **Evolutionary change was gradual, requiring thousands to millions of years**
- 3- **The primary mechanism for evolution was a process called natural selection**
 - Darwin believed that all organisms had evolved by natural processes over vast expanses of time
 - His belief that slight modifications were selected to produce big changes in organisms over the course of millions of years was the foundation of his model for the evolution of life on earth
- 4- **The millions of species alive today arose from a single original life form through a branching process called speciation**



1838-1839 Darwin expounds his idea of "natural selection"

1839 Darwin marries his cousin, Emma Wedgwood and raise 10 children

1840 Darwin publishes his Zoology of the Voyage of the Beagle

1851 Darwin is devastated when his daughter, Annie Elizabeth, dies at the age of ten

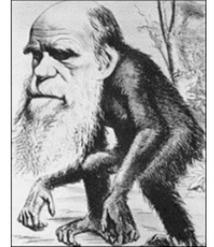


1856 Darwin begins writing On the Origin of Species

1858 Darwin's youngest son dies

The Hornet published 1871

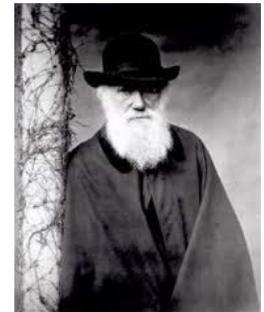
1859 **On Origin of Species** is published



1871 Darwin's book **The Descent of Man** is published, in which he applies his idea of evolution to human beings

- Charles Darwin published his views on the different races in Descent of Man.
- Though he spoke against slavery, he clearly believed that the different people groups around the world were the result of various levels of evolutionary development

1882 Darwin dies April 19, 1882 and is buried in Westminster Abbey



Charles Darwin and God

Darwin's work has helped fuel intense debates about religion and science, so it's worthwhile to consider what Darwin's own beliefs were and why:

Just as his theory has influenced people's views about God and creation, so Darwin's view of God has helped to shape his theory

As a Young Boy

- Darwin's father, Robert Darwin was an atheist
- His mother was a Unitarian
- Darwin was christened in the Church of England (Anglican)
- After her death Darwin's sisters took him to services at the Anglican Church
- Darwin attended church with his mother and received religious training at a Church of England boarding school
- He attended Cambridge to study for the ministry, saying that he *"did not then in the least doubt the strict and literal truth of every word in the Bible."*

- Darwin received his degree in theology but had no heartfelt call to ministry
- Darwin wrote in his autobiography that he was at one point led by *“the firm conviction of the existence of God, and of the immortality of the soul”*
- In *On The Origin of Species*, Darwin refers to creation as the *“works of God”* and mentions the *“Creator”* 7 times.

Downward Spiral of Darwin’s Religion – A Perfect Storm



- Even though Darwin was at Cambridge for theology, his interest in natural science only strengthened. He went to lectures on botany, and his interest in geology grew.
- Most of the academics that taught Darwin in those areas were either openly critical of or outright denied the authority of the Bible.
- Darwin’s religious views seem to have begun to change aboard the HMS Beagle. During his voyage, he had opportunity to see the cruelties of slavery and wondered how God could allow such inhumanity to exist.
- By the 1836, he had come to view God as a “revengeful tyrant.”
- This issue of why God would allow such suffering in the world was an internal conflict that Darwin could not resolve.
- In 1851, the issue of suffering was one that Darwin faced personally, with the death of his 10-year-old daughter, Annie. Her death dealt a crushing blow to his religious beliefs.

As he developed his theory of origins by purely natural means, Darwin grew further from the Biblical concept of a Creator and said of his religious views,

“I am sorry to have to inform you that I do not believe in the Bible as a divine revelation, and therefore not in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.”

Darwin also wrote:

“I can indeed hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe, and this would include my Father, Brother, and almost all my best friends, would be everlastingly punished. And this is a damnable doctrine.”

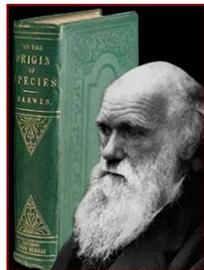
While in later years Darwin was not religious to any extent, he never entirely discounted the existence of a God but gradually became **agnostic**.

1915 Darwin’s son Francis wrote, *“He (Darwin) could not have become openly and enthusiastically Christian without the knowledge of his family, and no such change occurred.”*

Darwin wrote in *On The Origin of Species*:

“Why, if species have descended from other species by fine gradations, do we not everywhere see innumerable transitional forms? Why is not all nature in confusion, instead of the species being, as we see them, well defined? . . . As by this theory innumerable transitional forms must have existed, why do we not find them embedded in countless numbers in the Earth?”

Darwin acknowledged that the absence of intermediates put his theory in doubt, but he attributed their lack to the scarcity of fossils at that time



150 Years later, the situation has not improved much. Scientists have searched diligently for a century and a half for evidence, we now have over 100 million fossils catalogued in the world’s museums, covering 250,000 different species, which should be sufficient to give an accurate picture of our past.

The missing links are still missing!

Information from the following sources:

The Origin of Species 150th Anniversary Edition – Special Introduction by Ray Comfort
The New Answers Book 3 and 4 (Ken Ham General Editor)

Scripture offers some Explanation for Pain and Suffering:

1. **Suffering as a result of living in a sin cursed world – Romans 8:21, 22**
 - Because of sin the world is abnormal
 - Nature is not always kind to man – Natural disasters

2. **Suffering as a result of our own actions – Galatians 6:7, 8**

Chosen pain & suffering

Two types of people:

1st Type – Those that say to God, “Thy will be done”

2nd Type – Those to whom God says (at the end of their life), Thy will be done

3. **Suffering as a result of someone else’s actions**

- Crime – murder, rape, drunkenness

4. **Suffering as a result of God’s discipline – Hebrews 12:3-13**

5. **Suffering gets our attention**

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” – C.S. Lewis

6. **Suffering may bring about good – Genesis 50:20**

- Physical pain can be a good thing – imagine if you lost all your pain senses

7. **Preventative Suffering – 2 Corinthians 12:7**

- Paul’s case of his thorn in the flesh

8. **Instructional Suffering – Romans 5:3-5**

9. **Suffering for a better proclamation of a testimony for Christ – Acts 9:16**

- The purifying fires of affliction cause the lamp of testimony to burn all the more brilliantly.

“We correctly interpret a situation only when we turn from the immediate to the ultimate”