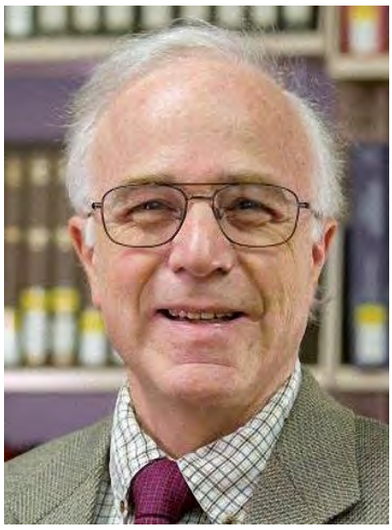
FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: Evolution By The Principle Of Giving And Receiving

Knut Holdhus
May 4, 2024


Hover fly pollinating

Academic reveals how it is not survival of the fittest that drives evolution, but the universal principle of giving and receiving


Dr. Andrew Wilson

Part 4 of "Evolutionary Creationism: A New Perspective on Purpose and Human Origins", a presentation by Dr. Andrew Wilson, Professor of Scriptural Studies at HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership (HJI), New York, USA, given on a special online program 23rd April 2024 hosted by HJI and the Higher Purpose Forum (HPF).

See part 1, part 2, part 3

Another aspect of the principles of creation that we see in evolution is giving and receiving.

As I said, Darwin looked from the perspective of individual species and saw evolution and survival of fittest.

But if we look at the whole ecosystem, species exist in harmony with one another. Predators and prey are in balance. And these species, whether they're predator species or prey species, evolve together.

If we only look at the individual level, we see survival fittest. But if we look at the whole of life, we see ecosystems in which predators and prey are evolving in some kind of balance. There's giving and receiving going on.


Lichens on a branch

For example, we can talk about symbiosis where lichens are the example. A classic, textbook example is a symbiosis of fungi and algae. So, there's a fungus, and the algae is living inside the fungus.

The fungus provides protection to the algae. The algae provide the energy for the fungus through

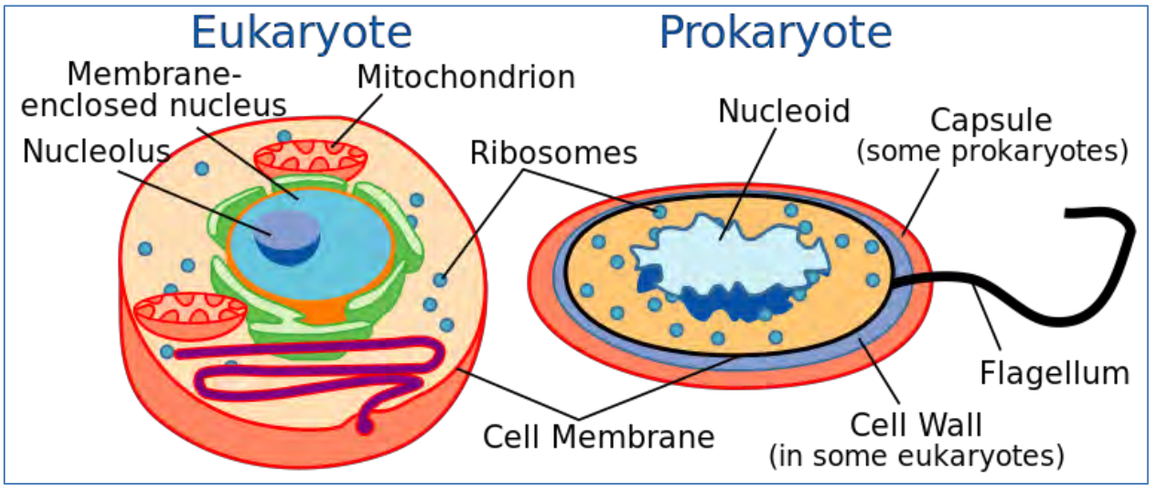
photosynthesis. There's giving and receiving, and both benefit.

Beetle pollination: Trichiotinus lunulatus, the Emerald Flower Scarab beetle on Redring Milkweed

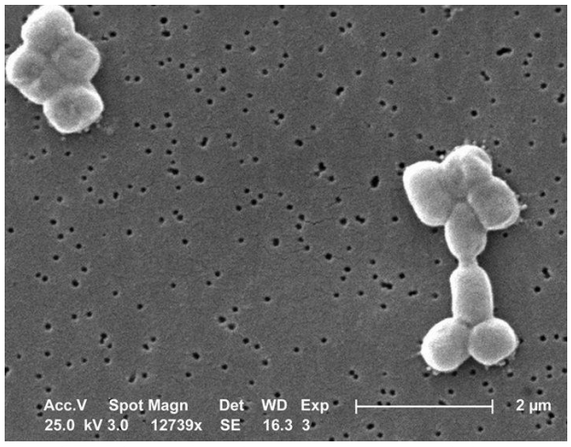
This is how life evolved, actually. For example, insects and flowering plants developed in a symbiotic relationship, where the insects consume pollen and nectar from the plants. The insects spread the plant seeds, and the plants developed flowers with colors and scent to attract insects.

And the insects, in turn, evolved mouthparts and digestive systems to be able to feed on flowers.

Every type of flower is connected to a different type of insect, whether a fly a beetle, a rodent, a moth, or a bee. And this development occurred simultaneously within a larger symbiotic relationship.



Comparison of eukaryotes vs. prokaryotes



This SEM (scanning electron microscope) depicts a couple of clusters of aerobic Gram-negative, non-motile Acinetobacter baumannii bacteria as seen under a magnification of 12,739x

Or going back even further, the development of all life began from prokaryotes, that is, cells without nuclei, like bacteria. And these bacteria then join together to form eukaryotic cells, which are cells that have a nucleus, mitochondria - and if they are plant cells - they have chloroplasts for photosynthesis. And

this was a symbiotic process.

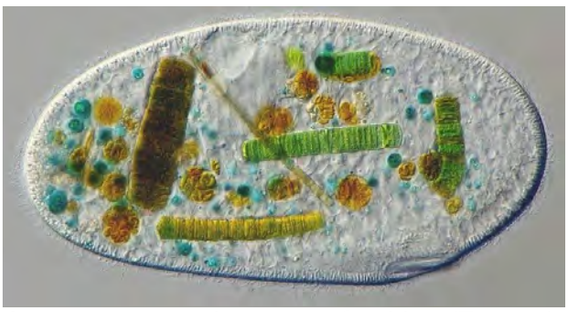
You had aerobic bacteria, which means bacteria that can breathe oxygen. And they entered and developed a symbiotic relationship with cells which had a more primitive metabolism that was anaerobic.

Okay, I'm using big words here. What's an anaerobic metabolism? It's like when you generate energy by burning sugar and developing lactose and other kind of products in the blood, and you get tired.

But then when you breathe a lot of oxygen that can oxygenate, can convert those sugars into carbon dioxide, then you get energy, much, much more energy when you have the ability to burn oxygen.

The primitive chemical reactions of the anaerobic cells that only did not use oxygen and were very inefficient in terms of producing energy were very much benefited by joining with the aerobic bacteria, the prokaryotes.

And together they formed mitochondria, which then grew to become an organelle within the cell. The cell is now protecting and enriching the existence of that formerly independent prokaryote.



A phase-contrast micrograph of a ciliate (Frontonia sp.) digesting blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). The cytostome (the "mouth" of the cell) is seen on the right side down

And the same with chloroplasts. There were cyanobacteria that could metabolize carbon dioxide and light. And these entered primitive plant cells and became chloroplasts through photosynthesis.

So, both the host cell and the primitive bacteria benefited from this arrangement. And this was fundamental to establishing higher life forms. It happened by give and receive action, by symbiosis.

Even in the evolution of the brain symbiosis is involved. We have these retroviruses in the environment, which join into our DNA and become fixated in the DNA and are passed down through the generations.

And it turns out that a lot of human cells have retrovirus DNA in them. And some of the retrovirus DNA and nerve cells were essential for the production of myelin, which is like an insulating material in nerves.

And this is all very new. This is from a Neuroscience article from February 2024. It said,

"Ancient viruses played a pivotal role in the development of myelin, crucial for complex vertebrate brains. The discovery of 'RetroMyelin', a retrovirus-derived element [in the DNA] essential for myelin production across mammals, amphibians, and fish, underscores the impact of viral genes on vertebrate evolution." (Neuroscience News, Feb. 15, 2024)

So, we even should be grateful to viruses, because we would not exist if it wasn't for some primitive creature, you know, primitive fish or something, that ingested these retroviruses, that produce myelin, that help to develop the structures of the modern vertebrate brain and spinal cord and nerves and so on, that allow these life forms to take the shape that they have.

Another form of give and receive action is sex. Sex is very inefficient. When creatures engage in sex, they become vulnerable to be eaten by predators, and they have to spend a lot of time, energy, to attract mates. So, why not just be like beasts and not even worry about sex?

But from the point of view of the principles of creation, it's to manifest God's form of duality, of giving and receiving. Thereby they share the best genes.

So, in science, we talk about sex as a way of selecting the best genes. Males, like a male peacock here, display fitness by having a glorious display to attract the best females.

Females value the males with the greatest fitness. They invest in caring for his valuable progeny. And thus, we have the evolution of beauty in the animal world as a result of giving and receiving, manifesting God's form.

Peacock trying to woo peahen at Warwick Castle, England in 2003

So, giving and receiving according to the principles of creation drives evolution. That's my conclusion.

Giving and receiving by the principles of creation is the primary driver of evolution, far more important than survival of the fittest.

Survival of the fittest is just for cleanup in evolution, because it is giving and receiving by the principles of creation that manifests the three stages of growth of the principles of creation.

To be continued. Part 5 coming soon

See part 1, part 2, part 3

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May 2, 2024 • Knut Holdhus

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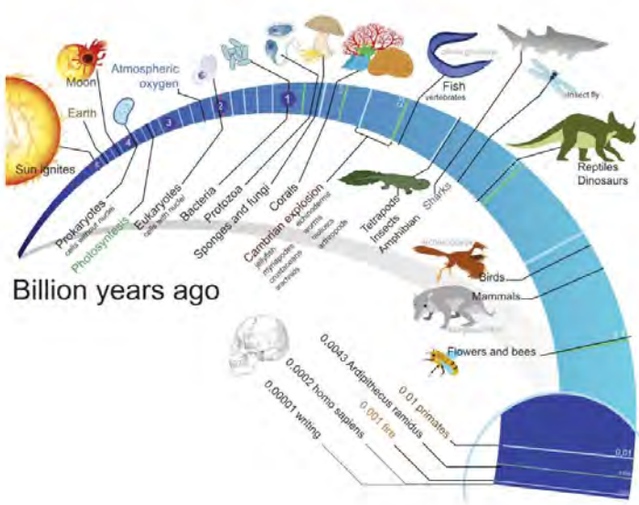

Evolution of life follows certain universal "principles of creation" and can be said to be a distinct feature of creation

Part 3 *of "Evolutionary Creationism: A New Perspective on Purpose and Human Origins", a presentation by Dr. Andrew Wilson, Professor of Scriptural Studies at HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public*

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Dr. Andrew Wilson lecturing online 23rd April 2024. Screenshot

School for Peace and Public Leadership (HJI), New York, USA, given on a special online program 23rd April 2024 hosted by HJI and the Higher Purpose Forum (HPF).

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Until now, my lecture was about astrophysics. The next part is about evolution and biology. It's titled

Evolution is a feature of creation

That means evolution was created guided by the principles of creation.

We can see evidence of the principle of growth through three stages, **for instance** that **since the Cambrian explosion there are basically three eras in the evolution of higher life forms,** namely the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic, and the Cenozoic era.

EON	ERA	PERIOD	MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic	Quaternary	1.6
		Tertiary	66
	Mesozoic	Cretaceous	138
		Jurassic	205
		Triassic	240
	Paleozoic	Permian	290
		Pennsylvanian	330
		Mississippian	360
		Devonian	410
		Silurian	435
		Ordovician	500
		Cambrian	570
Proterozoic	Late Proterozoic Middle Proterozoic Early Proterozoic		2500
Archean	Late Archean Middle Archean Early Archean		3800?-
Pre-Archean			

Geologic time scale with detail down to the period. Illustration: United States Geological Survey / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image

And so we can see the principled pattern of formation, growth, and completion.

In other words, evolution that we see of life is but a manifestation of the principles of creation.

It is the **purposeful development of life forms over billions of years** to arrive at the goal of God's creative work, which is human beings, who could know God, and with whom God can have an object partner relationship.

So just seeing the number three here in terms of the geologic era, it's indicative of the fact that there's could be a **principle of growth at work in evolution**.

Darwin taught that evolution was purposeless, that it developed the way it did, basically by chance, and natural selection would select out the most fit creatures to survive.

But **evolutionary creationism says that life unfolds to realize a predetermined purpose**, namely God's purpose of creation.

And if there is growth through stages, it i**mplies that there must be an end, an endpoint to evolution**, which would be completion of the original design that God intended when God began creating.

And that original design that existed before life began, is something that would not be in the vocabulary of an evolutionist who follows Darwin, or the Neo-Darwinian synthesis that reigns in biology today.

Charles Darwin in 1854, 5 years before he published

But for the evolutionary creationist, the basic theme of life unfolding to realize predetermined purpose, means that the **survival of the fittest**

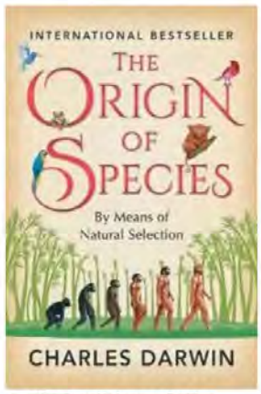
that Darwin saw, is but a means to that end – an **external cause of change**.

But the **internal cause is the unfolding of** God**'s purpose**.

The Origin of Species. Photo: Maull & Polyblank / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image. Cropped

So, let's look at this a little bit more.

Stages of growth



A 2017 edition of 'The Origin of Species' by Charles Darwin, originally published in 1859. SD Books

Darwin looked at everything as species. Every species was an individual species, and just look at his book. It's entitled "The Origin of the Species".

But if you look from a kind of a 35,000 foot view, we **can see species as stages**. Extinct species are from earlier stages in the lineage of the modern creatures that exist today.

And a very good example is birds. We can see that dinosaurs were the growth stage of modern birds, that in the dinosaur era, feathers developed.

And then another stage of development of dinosaurs, in the Mesozoic era, was the evolution of flight.

And it was out of those stages, formation and growth, that we get to the completion stage, which would be birds today.

3 stages of growth according to the Principles of Creation. Illustration: FFWPU

And birds, of course, realize the final purpose – to relate with human beings. By our appreciating and enjoying birds and eating the products of birds, namely eggs and chicken, we can connect them with God.

Continued in part 4.

See part 1, part 2, part 4

***Featured image** above: Small timeline showing different events in the evolution of life. Illustration (2012): LadyofHats / Wikimedia Commons. Public domain image*

"New Insight on Evolution – a Feature of Creation" – text: Dr. Andrew Wilson

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