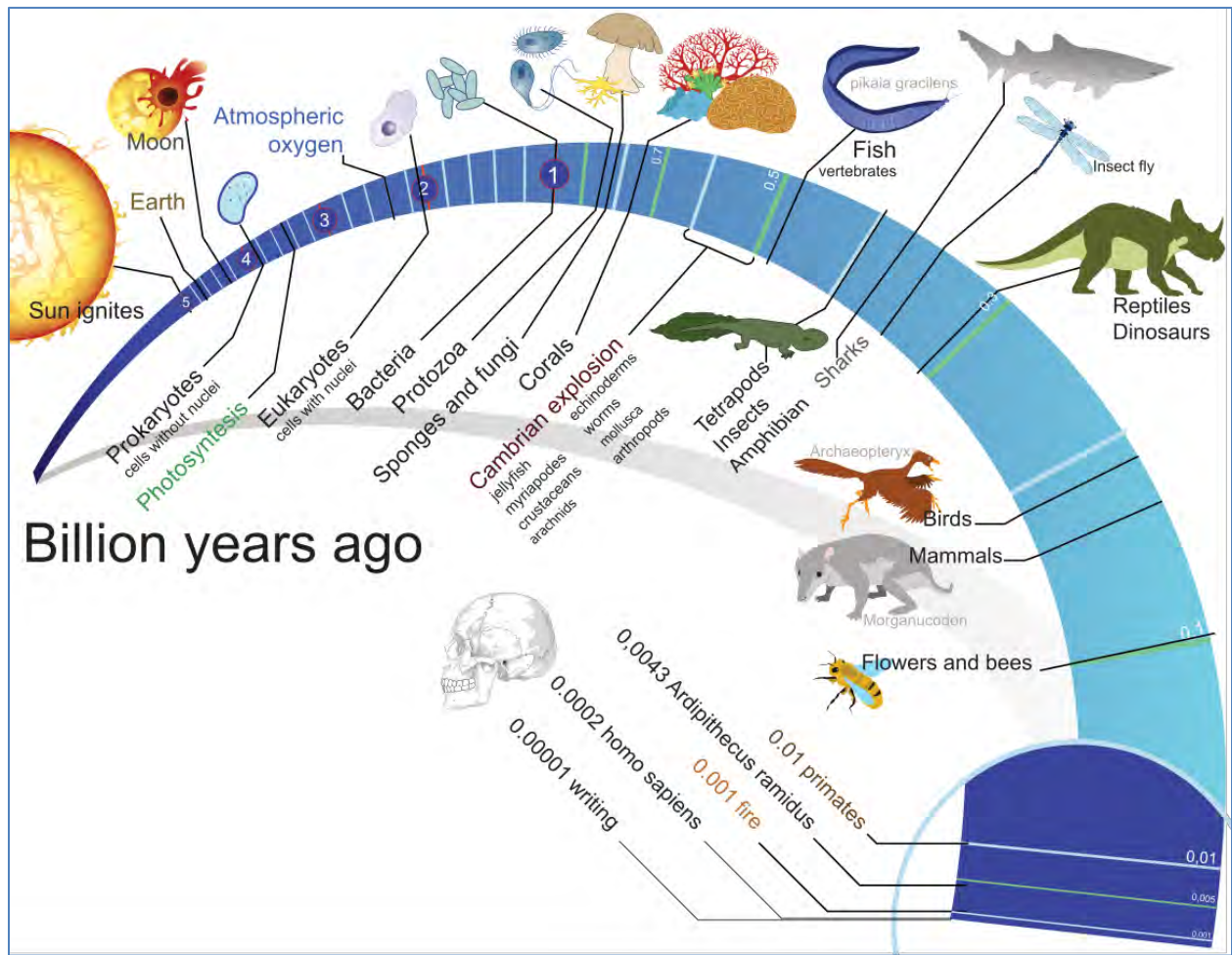


FFWPU Europe and Middle East: New Insight On Evolution - Feature Of Creation

Knut Holdhus
May 2, 2024



Small timeline showing different events in the evolution of life. Illustration (2012)

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



Dr. Andrew Wilson lecturing online 23rd April 2024

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 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](#)

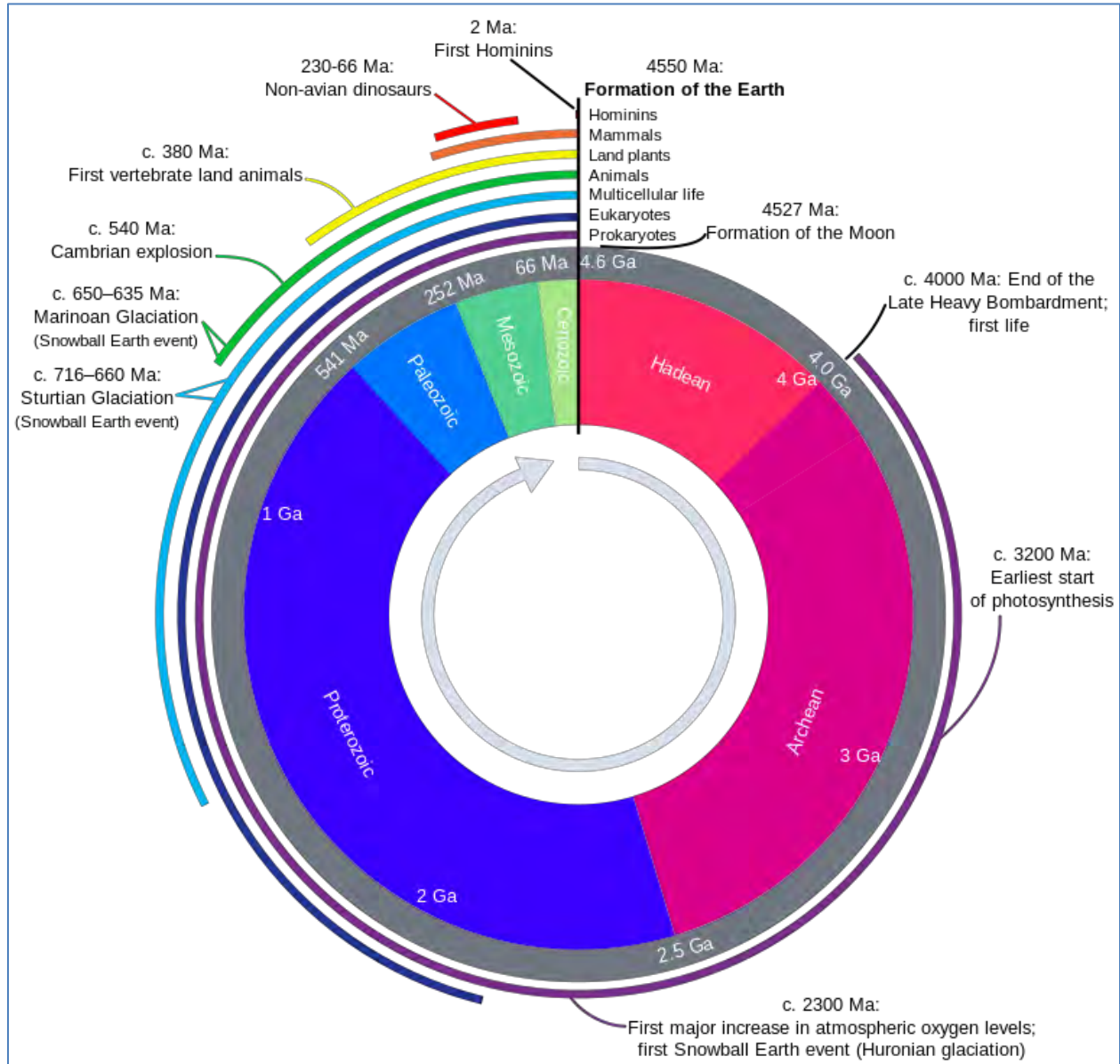
Until now, my lecture was about astrophysics. The next part is about evolution and biology. It's titled

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, in the fact that there are basically

three eras in the evolution of life, the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic, and the Cenozoic era.



The geological clock: a projection of Earth's 4,5 Ga history on a clock ("Ma" = a million years (Megayear) ago; "Ga" = a billion years (Gigayear) ago)

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](#).



Charles Darwin in 1854, 5 years before he published [The Origin of Species](#)

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.

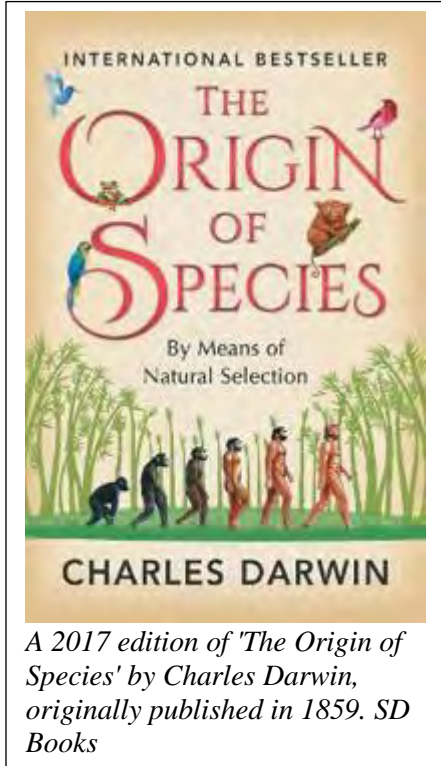
Darwin taught that evolution was purposeless, that it developed the way it did, basically by chance, and natural selection would select out the most fit creatures to survive.

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 implies 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.



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.

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

Stages of growth

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.

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](#).

To be continued. Part 4 coming soon. See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

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maintains the universe must have the values it has because its purpose is the emergence of human life

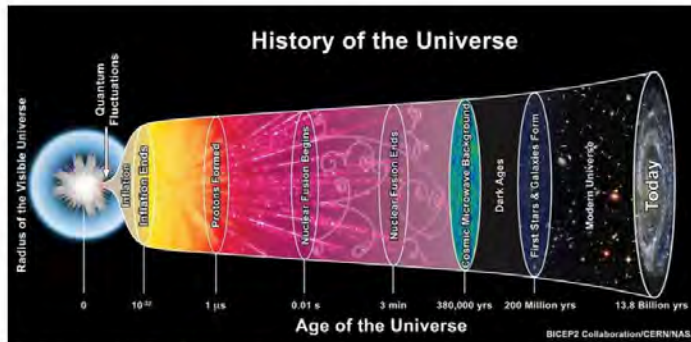
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Dr. Andrew Wilson. Photo: FFWPU

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The Anthropic Principle



The evolution of the Universe from the big bang to the present. Illustration (2014): TheAstronomyBum / Wikimedia Commons. [Public domain image](#)

The Anthropic Principle is an attempt by scientists to explain [these observations of fine-tuning](#).

And there are basically two different Anthropic Principles – the **Strong Anthropic Principle (SAP)** and the **Weak Anthropic Principle (WAP)**.

The **Strong Anthropic Principle** says that the universe is unique, and it must have these values because its purpose is the emergence of intelligent life.

In other words, there is an intelligent purpose behind the formation of the universe.

This is the position of people who talk about intelligent design. There's an intelligence which we call [God](#), and intelligent design claims that the Creator designed the universe with the purpose to support the emergence of sentient life. And the fact that the universe is fine-tuned, is evidence for that.

Or there's some kind of a life principle underlying existence that constrains the universe to evolve towards life and mind.

So there are various ways of explaining the Strong Anthropic Principle, but it has to involve some kind of intelligence or life inherent from the very beginning.

Well, that is very distasteful to most scientists who are materialistic, so they prefer the Weak Anthropic Principle.

And the **Weak Anthropic Principle** basically says that the fine-tuning that we see in our universe is the results of selection bias, because of all the possible universes that could exist, only a handful have the properties suitable for sentient beings such as ourselves.

We are sentient beings, hence the universe we see has all the right parameters for our



Brandon Carter, Australian theoretical physicist, the first to



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existence. But there are an infinite number of other possible universes, and maybe those other universes exist actually, and we just don't see them.

name and define the weak anthropic principle. Photo: Brandon Carter / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 1.0 Gen

And then you get the idea of the multiverse, that there are countless universes of which our universe is only one, and because it's the one that we live in, and because everything works for us to exist, we think of it as somehow designed, but it's not designed at all.

It's rather that it's automatically selected from all the countless universes that ours would be the one that we live in. Okay, that's the Weak Anthropic Principle.

But there's no experimental evidence that other universes exist besides our universe. And positing multiple universes is quite cumbersome. How many multiple universes would there have to be?



The Skeptic Magazine's illustration of Ockham's Razor, the problem-solving principle that recommends searching for explanations constructed with the smallest possible set of elements. Popularly paraphrased as, "The simplest explanation is usually the best one." (Wikipedia). Illustration: The Skeptic Magazine (UK) / Wikimedia Commons. License: CC ASA 4.0 Int

So we can use what's called Ockham's Razor, which is a principle in philosophy that the simplest solution is the best.

The hypothesis of a single universe is simple and more parsimonious than positing multiple universes. Yet the reason most scientists prefer the Weak Anthropic Principle, which requires multiple universes, is because they are materialists, and they are allergic to the concept of **God** or a designer having designed the universe.

If it is a single universe, however, then its fine-tuning is evidence for the intelligent design of the universe by a purposeful Creator, which would then contradict materialism.

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Featured image above: *Silhouette of person looking into the night sky. Photo: [Greg Rakozy on Unsplash](#)*

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