

Just Thinking Apologetics

A second view of how life came to be is called “theistic evolution.” Theism involves belief in God and the evolution part would mean acceptance of Darwinian evolution. So, theistic evolution combines the two. On this view you would have a mix of both supernatural and natural processes.

In a nutshell, theistic evolution supports the ideal that God created everything supernaturally and used evolution. Minimal theistic evolution states that God preformed only two supernatural acts: creation of matter out of nothing and the creation of the original life from which all else evolved. Maximal theistic evolution adds one more supernatural act by God putting a soul in man.

There are two competing views as to whether or not it is logically possible to be a Christian and support theistic evolution. Philosopher Michael Ruse says, “Yes, Darwinist can be Christian.” Biologist Jean Pond agrees by saying, “Chemical evolution (does not) promote an atheistic world view.” However, there are those that take a different view. For example, Philosopher Nancy Pearcey states, “You can have God or natural selection, but not both.” Atheist and evolutionary Biologist Richard Dawkins would agree with Pearcey. In the December 1999 edition of Time magazine it is emphatically stated that “Charles Darwin didn’t want to murder God, but he did.” The divide between those who support theistic evolution being compatible with Christianity is extreme. Next week we will consider special creation and see that there are also differences here, but on a different level.