

Scientific Evidence supporting the New Testament and the existence of Jesus Christ

Archeological Evidence:

Archaeology has made some important contributions but it can't prove if the New Testament is the Word of God. However, if the incidental details (geographical, etc) of the books consistently check out to be accurate our confidence is increased in other material that the author wrote but that cannot be readily cross-checked. Archeology has yet to produce anything that is a clear contradiction to the Bible.

Archeological evidence supports details from the book of Luke. For example, Luke 3:1 refers to Lysanias being the tetrarch of Abilene in about A.D. 27. Scholars have long refuted this because of the evidence that Lysanias was actually the ruler of Chalcis fifty years earlier. But through archeology an inscription was found from the time of Tiberius (A.D. 14 to 37) that names Lysanias as tetrarch in Abila near Damascus. There had coincidentally been two rulers named Lysanias.

Archeological evidence that support of the book of John. For example, John 5:1 – 15 states how Jesus healed an invalid by the Pool of Bethesda. John recorded that the pool had five porticoes, which are colonnaded porches or walkways. Many people said this was an instance of John being incorrect because no such place had been found. However, recently the Pool of Bethesda has been excavated and there were five porticoes just as John had described. There are many other recent discoveries that support the book of John: the Pool of Siloam from John 9:7, Jacob's Well from John 4:12, the probable location of the Stone Pavement near the Jaffa Gate where Jesus appeared before Pilate in John 19:13, and even Pilate's identity. All of this evidence adds much reliability to the Gospel of John.

Archeological evidence that supports the use of crucifixion at the time of Christ's death. In 1968, archeologists in Jerusalem found the remains of many Jews who had died during the uprising against the Roman Empire around A.D. 70. There was clear evidence that one of the victims had been crucified. They found a seven inch nail still driven into his feet, with small pieces of olive wood from the cross still attached.

Medical Evidence supporting the death of Christ:

Sweating blood: In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus understood the amount of suffering he was about to endure and was naturally experiencing a great deal of psychological stress. In Luke 22:44, it states that he began to sweat blood. This is a documented medical condition called hematuria. While not a very common ailment, it is associated with a high degree of psychological stress. Severe anxiety causes the release of chemicals that break down the capillaries in the sweat glands, and the sweat comes out tinged with blood. This also had the effect of making the skin very fragile and extra sensitive when being flogged by the Roman soldier the following day.

Roman Floggings: Roman floggings were known to be very brutal, usually consisting of 39 lashings. The soldier would whip a person from their shoulders down to the backs of the legs.

The whip was made of braided leather thongs woven with metal balls and sharp pieces of bone woven into them. Upon striking the flesh, these balls would cause deep bruises which would break open upon later blows. The sharp bone fragments would also severely cut the flesh. A victim's back would be so shredded that parts of the spine would sometimes become exposed from the deep cuts. As the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Many people would die from this kind of severe beating before ever making it to the cross. Those who didn't die experienced tremendous pain and would go into hypovolemic shock. Hypovolemic shock is the result of losing a great deal of blood. This causes four symptoms: the heart races to try and pump non-existent blood, blood pressure drops (causing fainting or collapse), kidneys stop producing urine to maintain the remaining volume, and the person becomes extremely thirsty. There is evidence of these symptoms in the gospels. Jesus collapsed while carrying the cross on the road to Calvary. Then while on the cross Jesus became thirsty and a vinegar soaked sponge was offered to him. This beating and the ensuing hypovolemic shock would have left Christ in serious to critical condition before he was put on the cross.

Crucifixion:

The first step of the crucifixion was to drive a five to seven inch spike through each of the victim's wrists. It is commonly thought that the nails were driven through the palms of the hands, but, in fact, the language of the time included the wrist as part of the hand. If the nails had been driven through the palms of the hands, his weight would have cause the skin to tear and he would have fallen off of the cross. The nails would have gone through the arm in the precise location to crush the median nerve, which is the largest nerve running to the hand. This would have cause intense pain! It is important to note that the pain was so extreme that they had to invent a new word to describe it: *excruciating*, which means "out of the cross."

The next step is to drive the nail through the feet. This would have again crushed major nerves causing similar amounts of pain.

Hanging from the cross would have had some immediate effects on his body. His arms would have been stretched about six inches in length and both shoulders would have become dislocated. This shows how the prophesy in Psalm 22 is fulfilled, "My bones are out of joint."

The actual cause of death would have been asphyxiation. The stresses on the muscles and diaphragm placed the chest in the inhaled position. In order to exhale, the person would have to push up on his feet to ease the tension on the muscles. So, for each breath the nail would tear further through his feet and his tattered back would scrape against the rough wooden cross. This would continue until complete exhaustion would take over, and the person would no longer be able to push up to breathe. As the person slows down his breathing, he would enter what is called respiratory acidosis. In this condition, the carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid, causing the acidity of the blood to increase which eventually leads to an irregular heartbeat. And then he would have died of cardiac arrest.

Of course, we see how Christ is both God and man in how he was able to sustain such horrific torture and then give up his life when he chose.

The hypovolemic shock would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to the heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called a pericardial effusion, as well as around the lungs, called a pleural effusion. When the Roman soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear it apparently went through the right lung and into the heart. So, when he removed the spear, some fluid (the pericardial and pleural effusions) flowed out. This fluid would have the appearance of a clear fluid, like water, followed by a large volume of blood.

Source:

Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

Science refutes iconic symbols of evolution

The Miller Experiment: Famous 1953 experiment in which Miller shot electricity through a lab generated atmosphere (hydrogen-rich mixture of methane, ammonia and water vapor) thought to be like the one existing on the primitive earth and created amino acids which are the building blocks of life. This experiment is still referenced in many textbooks today as proof that life can evolve out of nothing without any external help. However, today's scientists refute Miller's primitive atmospheric gas mixture. Although, no one knows for sure what it might have contained. They now hypothesize that the early atmosphere of the earth would have contained only minimal amounts of hydrogen because it would have escaped into space. They further claim that the atmosphere would have been composed of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and water vapor. Re-enacting this experiment with the primitive atmospheric conditions accepted today, the results would not be the creation of amino acids but other organic molecules namely *formaldehyde* and *cyanide*. These are both very toxic. Formaldehyde fumes actually destroy proteins and kill embryos. The combination of formaldehyde and cyanide actually creates embalming fluid! From this evidence it seems impossible to conclude that life could have evolved out of nothingness when the atmosphere was composed of chemicals that killed the building blocks of life. So, this is a great example of how textbooks continue to promote evolution by using "evidence" no longer accepted by mainstream science. (This argument of a primitive earth would not be consistent with the "young earth" argument. It falls more in line with the idea of an "old earth" that God created with a "big bang" millions of years before Adam was created.)

Haeckel's Embryos: Another common site in modern textbooks is that of Ernst Haeckel's comparative drawings of embryos, which is considered some of the best evidence for Darwinism. However, the similarities between these embryos were faked. This forgery was exposed as early as the late 1860s. He doctored many of the drawings to make them look more similar. He also hand-selected the best examples of embryos, that had similarities which supported his idea. The most disturbing and largest discrepancy is the fact that he misrepresented the embryos as being in the early stage of development when in fact these embryos are actually in the midpoint of development. Embryologists have an "hourglass" analogy for the development of embryos. The width of the hour glass represents the dissimilarities between embryos. So, the embryos start out

looking very different, at the midpoint they look somewhat similar, and then in the later stages they look much different again.

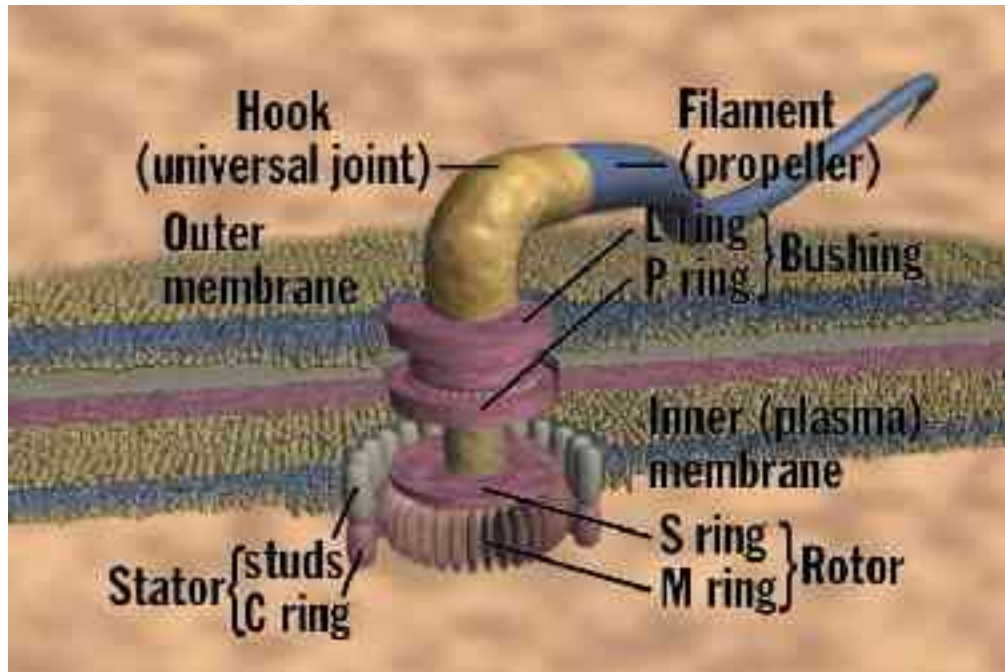
I find it infuriating that textbooks continue to use this example as proof of evolution 100+ years after it was first refuted.

Java Man: Another icon of evolution that we commonly see in textbooks is of the procession of ape-like creatures that transform into modern humans. This theory was strengthened by the work of Eugene Dubois who in 1891 unearthed some bones on a riverbank on an Indonesian Island that she claimed to be the missing link between apes and man. However, what most people don't realize is that her discovery consisted of only a skullcap, femur, three teeth, and a lot of imagination. Scientists have since discovered that the femur didn't actually belong with the skullcap. In addition, Cambridge University anatomist Sir Arthur Keith has found that the skullcap was very much human. Finally, a team of nineteen evolutionists produced a 342 page scientific report refuting Dubois' claims and found that Java man had no role in human evolution.

The similarity between human genes and ape genes: Recent genetic studies have shown that humans and apes share 98 to 99% of their genes. Darwinists claim that this is proof of a common ancestor between humans and apes. So, if we believe their story all the differences between humans and apes would be attributed to less than two percent of our genes. However, it has been shown that the body building genes are actually in the ninety-eight percent of shared genes. The two percent of genes that are different are quite trivial and have little effect on anatomy.

Irreducible Complexity: A system is irreducibly complex if it has a set of different components that all work together to accomplish the task of the system, and if one of the components were removed the system would no longer be able to function. Such a system is very unlikely to be created through the Darwinian process of random trial-and-error evolution because the system has to be completely intact in order to function.

For example, the *flagellum* on the bacterial cell is an irreducibly complex system. The flagellum acts like a rotary propeller to move the bacteria around. The propeller of the flagellum can turn at 10,000 rpm (revolutions per minute) then stop spinning within a quarter turn and start spinning in the opposite direction at 10,000 rpm. The flagellum is only a couple of microns in size (1 micron = 1/20,000ths of an inch). The motor of the flagellum is actually only about 1/100,000ths of an inch. This is an amazing little organic machine that has been driving Darwinist crazy because it's so hard to show how something like this could have evolved.



The Flagellum

Sources:

Strobel, Lee. The Case for a Creator. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2004.

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