ANSWERS TO EVOLUTION (Autumn 2001)

PALEONTOLOGY

1. Many thousands of plants and animals which turned into stone (fossils) have been found and classified. A great many of these are identical to plants and animals still alive today and the rest represent types (species) that have all died out (extinct).
2. No one saw how the extinct species came to exist or how they reproduced themselves. There is absolutely no evidence based on real observation (empirical evidence) to show that any of the species are related to one another.
3. Those who believe in evolution claim that some of the species changed into other species after thousands of generations. However, this is a matter of faith and is not based on actual scientific observation.
4. A rather small number of fossils have been presented as examples of forms part way between one species and another (intermediate). Nevertheless, the vastly consistent rule for rocks containing fossils (the fossil record) is to find very different, well defined species in them. This is so much the case that the British scientist, Gould, invented the theory of "punctuated equilibrium" to explain the absence of intermediate forms of fossils between one species and another. The only evidence Gould has for his theory is the lack of intermediate forms!
5. The most logical conclusion: Paleontology is useful for identifying fossilized plants and animals, but it provides no convincing evidence in favor of the theory of evolution or the idea that one species changed into another species. On the contrary, it seems to indicate that they have always existed as separate species.

FOSSILS

1. Almost all fossils were formed because the plants and animals were buried **rapidly**. If they hadn't been, they would have rotted or been eaten by scavengers and parasites.
2. Almost all of the fossils are preserved in sedimentary rocks, rocks formed when huge amounts of water carried earth and minerals which began to settle on the bottom and concentrate into layers (strata).
3. There are literally millions of fossils preserved in sedimentary rocks on all the continents of the world.
4. Contrary to what scientists used to think, fossils can form in less than two years, coal in just a few hours, and petroleum in about 20 minutes!
5. The most logical conclusion: This evidence leads us to believe that there once was an enormous flood which covered the whole earth at some point in the past and that it may have happened fairly recently.

GEOLOGY

1. There are thousands of strata of rocks around the world. They are classified as sedimentary rocks, igneous rocks (volcanic), or metamorphic rocks (transformed). Many strata of rocks are fractured, bent or folded. As a rule, only moist sediments can be bent or folded, before they harden into sedimentary rocks.
2. The main scientific methods used to give dates to the formation of rocks are radiometry and the geological column. Radiometry is used almost exclusively with igneous rocks, not sedimentary rocks where nearly all fossils are found. Radioactive elements present in rocks change from one element to another element at a regular rhythm (the half-life). Radiometry compares the amount of the first element (mother) with the amount of the second element (daughter) and calculates the age of the rock using its half-life. However, this method is based on several assumptions concerning the stability of the process and not on observed and controlled facts. Therefore, radiometry often produces impossible results (anomalies). For example, people watched the eruption of the volcano in Hulalai, Hawaii in A.D. 1800. However, radiometry indicated that the rocks were over 160 million years old!
3. The well-known method of carbon 14 (C^{14}) suffers from the same problems as other radiometric methods. What's more, it is not even relevant to the subject because its supposed maximum limit is 50,000 years into the past.
4. A couple of centuries ago, some geologists decided to combine the different strata that they had identified around the world into one geological column in the order that they believed they must have formed (chronological order). They decided the order based on the type of fossils (index fossils) which they found in the strata, placing the "simpler" forms of life (and therefore "more ancient") near the bottom, and the more complex forms of life (and

therefore “more recent”) near the top. Thus, the geologic column doesn’t represent any real area of the world. It is merely an artificial combination of the different strata, based on the idea of evolution, which the geologists used to make their choices. For this reason, it should never be used as a way of deciding the age of rocks or the fossils in them.

5. A very logical conclusion: We cannot know the true age of the majority of rocks in the earth’s crust, nor that of the fossils, by using the geologic column or radiometry. Most of the sedimentary rocks around the world are bent or folded, which means that they must have been lain down by a worldwide flood and twisted by tectonic movements while they were still moist. This may be when most igneous and metamorphic rocks formed as well.

GENETICS

1. Genes provide the information necessary for living creatures to reproduce generation after generation. They define the physical features that an animal or plant will have as it grows. The DNA (chains of genes) contains much more information than it ever uses, thus making it possible to have many different physical features within the same species. For example, there are more than 200 different races of dogs, but only one species, since all of them have the ability to mate and have offspring (interfertility).
2. At times, because of isolation and/or sporadic genetic mutations (damage to the genes), the members of a species lose the ability to interbreed. They are then classified as different species. This seems to be the case of the finches that Charles Darwin discovered on the Galapagos Islands. Nevertheless, they always maintain a very strong resemblance and are still recognizable as originally members of the same species or genus. This is an example of “**microevolution**,” that is, evolution on a very small scale.
3. Thousands of experiments have been done on flies and other plants and animals in order to discover the limits of genetic variation. Although the scientists have observed hundreds of mutations and varieties within a species, they have never observed the creation of a completely new and different species. If they could, for example, watch a fly turn into a mosquito which was able to reproduce itself, this would be an example of “**macro-evolution**,” that is, evolution on a large scale. Despite the fact that the whole theory of evolution depends upon macroevolution, no one has ever seen this occur or proven it can.
4. The most logical conclusion: Genes enforce real limits on the changes possible within a species. Although there are many examples of microevolution due to the enormous amount of information stored in the genes, this does not mean that macroevolution will ever happen (change from ape into man, for example), since such a change has never been observed. Belief in macroevolution is a matter of faith, not science.

BIOCHEMISTRY

1. Every living being depends on the formation (synthesis) of proteins. Proteins are made up of amino acids. In order for evolution to occur, the first synthesis of a protein would have had to occur entirely by chance. Due to the complexity of even the simplest proteins, there is statistically only one chance in 10^{67} that the first protein could have formed on its own. In statistics, impossibility is defined as any probability above one out of 10^{50}.
2. Charles Darwin admitted that if anyone discovered a biological system so complex that it could never be produced by a series of small, evolutionary changes, the result would be the failure of his entire theory. For example, a conventional mousetrap has nine pieces. If we remove any of the nine pieces, the trap becomes useless. It is “irreducibly complex.” The famous biochemist, Michael Behe, has identified numerous biological systems of irreducible complexity, such as the functioning of cilia and the transportation of proteins to lysosomes.
3. The most logical conclusion: Without even taking into account environmental conditions, which in themselves make evolution extremely unlikely, a natural origin for life on earth by shear chance is statistically impossible, no matter how much time we allow. Furthermore, biochemistry demonstrates the impossibility of evolution since there are multiple, irreducibly complex biological systems. Therefore, life must have arisen through supernatural creation.

FINAL CONCLUSION

There are no empirical proofs for macroevolution. The idea of a miraculous creation by God of all the species and the occurrence of a universal flood continue to be the most reasonable explanation of what is really observed through scientific investigations.