

What evolution can teach us about God?

Natural theology is a program of inquiry into the existence and attributes of God without referring or appealing to any divine revelation.¹

Tertullian: Against Marcion (Book1:18)²
We maintain that God must first be known from *nature*, and afterwards authenticated by *instruction*: from nature by His works; by instruction, through His revealed announcements.



"The Book of Nature" by Jakub Vitek

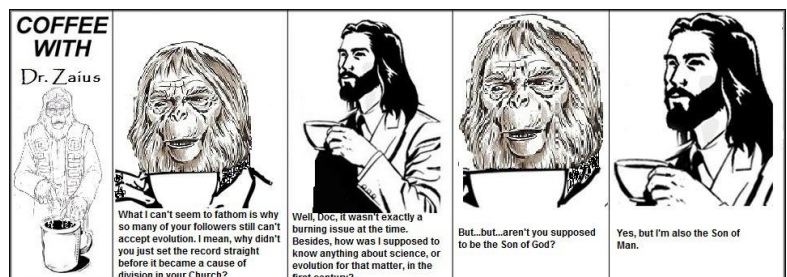
Psalm 19

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
 - ² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
 - ³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
 - ⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
- In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
- ⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
 - ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

Why I'm suspicious

- 1) No character, only abstract concepts
- 2) shifting understandings of nature
- 3) The problem of lenses



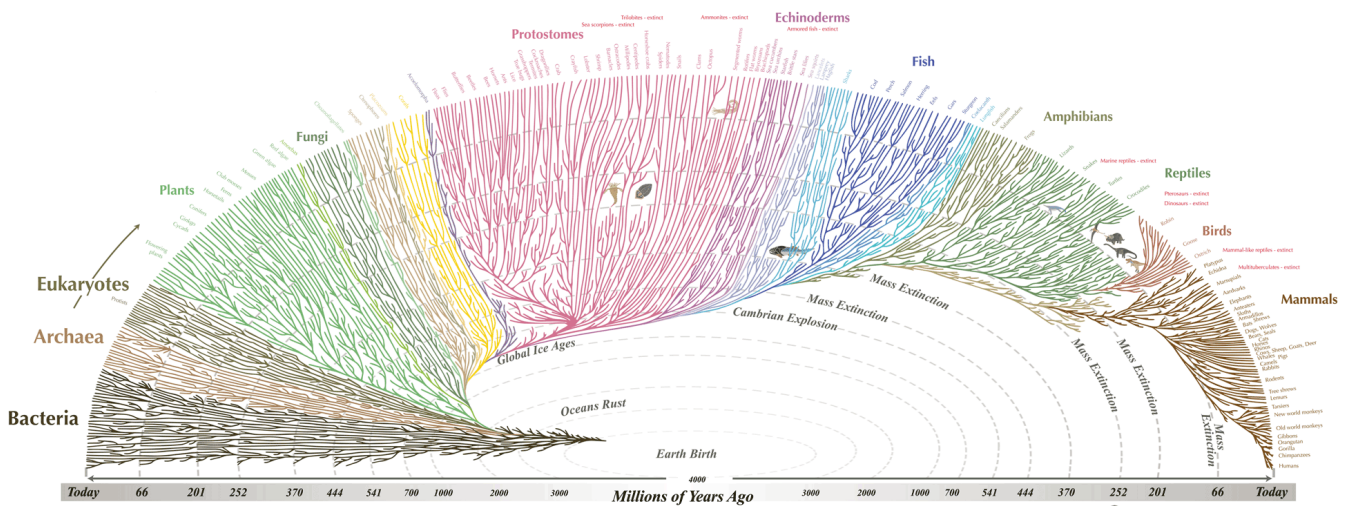
¹ <https://iep.utm.edu/theo-nat/>

² <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/03121.htm>

Mechanisms of Evolution³

Heritable Variation	Natural variation occurs among the individuals of any population of organisms. Some of these variations are inheritable	Could be taken to express that God values novelty, uniqueness and memory.
Fitness	The concept of fitness is central to natural selection. In broad terms, individuals that are more "fit" have better potential for survival, as in the well-known phrase " <u>survival of the fittest</u> ", but the precise meaning of the term is much more subtle. Modern evolutionary theory defines fitness not by how long an organism lives, but by how successful it is at reproducing	That death is a function of creation, but the important question isn't about personal longevity, but life creating impact.

Products of Evolution⁴



The product of evolution is a varied universe, (Creative) that appears not to be determinable by prior conditions, (Non-Newtonian) strangely fragile and remarkably robust, (Incarnational) deeply relational, and (Loving) dynamic.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_selection#Mechanism

⁴ <https://www.evogeneao.com/en>