

## LESSON 3

### THEORY OF EVOLUTION (For 2 periods)

**Reading** : Gen. 1,2

**Memory verses** : Gen. 1:27-28

**Theme** : *To learn that all living beings including man did not come into existence by evolution from lower categories and to believe that they were all created in their own types.*

**Introduction:** Do you believe in the account given in the Bible regarding creation? Have you heard people saying that it cannot be true in the light of modern science? Have you learned anything from your school text books about how different creatures came into being? Bible states clearly that this Universe and everything in it were created by God (Gen.1,2). But atheists and even some Christian leaders do not believe in the creation account given in the Bible. They prefer to accept the theory of evolution proposed by Charles Darwin. But it is a fact that evolution has not been proved scientifically

#### HISTORY OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION:

Man has shown an inclination at all times to think that all things in the Universe came into existence by natural forces. Such an opinion was held by people like the Greek philosopher, Aristotle. Later some scientists brought up the 'Theory of Spontaneous Generation' saying that living beings generate themselves in nature. They said that worms, small fishes, flies, frogs, etc. come out of decaying substances and mud. Louis Pasteur (1822-95) proved by several experiments that no creature generates by itself. During those days in 1859, Charles Darwin published his book called 'Origin of Species'. He postulated that various types of living beings have come as a result of evolution through millions of years from simple creatures like the monocellular Ameba. But the conclusions in the book are mere speculative in nature. Darwin uses the words; we may suppose', 'it is possible;', 'it may be believed;', etc.



But atheists and unbelievers accepted Darwin's theory as scientific truth and gave it wide publicity by including it as study material in school text books. It has been reported by Lady Hope, a friend of Darwin, that he himself, realized the folly of his theory towards the end of his life. It is also worth nothing that many scientists are opposed to the theory of evolution.

## **SUMMARY OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION:**

Many millions of years ago, monocellular beings somehow came into existence. Through mutations, exchange of acquired characteristics, etc. these single cells evolved into Paramecium, Hydra, cockroach, etc. and later into birds and animals with complex structures and then into man.

## **THE ARGUMENTS OF THE EVOLUTIONISTS:**

### ***1. similarity in anatomy:***

The bones, arteries, blood vessels, etc. which are found in one type of creatures are similar to what are found in another type with minor differences. In some creatures the similarities in body structure are quite prominent. There are similarities between cat and dog and between monkey and man. Evolutionists arrange all the creatures in the order of such similarities and claim that all of them should have a single predecessor.

But this argument does not support evolution. It only points to the fact that all creatures are the handwork of one creator. Although all the buildings designed and constructed by a carpenter or an engineer do not look exactly the same, there could certainly be some similarities. There will be similarities in basic principles. We have school buildings in our country. They do not look the same, but they are built with the guiding principles set by the Education Department. All the schools will have an office room, science laboratories, library, class rooms, etc. It will be foolish to say that a big school has evolved from a small school.

### ***2. Gradation in classification:***

Creatures can be graded according to the complexity of their anatomy. The evolutionist grades all living beings from the Ameba to the most complex man in a progressing order. In this line up, Paramecium, Hydra, cockroach, etc. are at the lower end and cat,



dog, sheep, cow, monkey, man, etc. are at the upper end. This grading is then declared as a proof for evolution. The evolutionist claims that the creatures evolved upwards in the order that he has made. But this argument is against all logic.

- a) If the books in a library are arranged in their order of complexity, will it mean that the highly complex book evolved from the lower category? If the sheeps in a herd are arranged from the smallest one to the biggest one, will it mean that the bigger one evolved from the smaller ones?
- b) Big gaps are seen between different creatures. For example, Dr. Alfred Roamer from Harward University has said that science cannot explain the wide gap between vertebrates and non-vertebrates. Even though may be some similarities between monkey and man, the physical, mental and moral differences between them are enronous. Where is the link between man and monkey? Such a creature has not been found anywhere on the earth.

### **3. Embryology:**

Evolutionists claim that the human embryo looks like a single cell in the beginning and grows into the shape of a human being in the end and hence is proof for evolution. But this opinion has been totally rejected by physiologists. Human embryo does not go through the stages of the creatures in evolution. In whatever stage the embryo happens to be during the nine months inside mother's womb, the attributes are solely human. The process of evolution which the evolutionists claim to have happened in millions of years is not repeated in the development of the embryo in nine months.

### **4. Vestigial organs:**

The organs which are taken to be useless in the human body like 'appendix' and 'tonsils' are known as 'Vestigial organs'. According to evolutionists, these organs had their use in animals, but have become useless when the animals evolved into man. But modern scientists like Dr. E.S. Goodrich have proved that there is not a single useless organ in the human body.

### **5. Mutation:**

This theory proposes that sudden changes which happen in 'genes' are passed on to later generations and new creatures are born. Some



mutations have been carried out in laboratories under special conditions. But the probability of such conditions occurring in nature is extremely small. How have such mutations taken place progressively from monocellular creatures till man, has not yet been satisfactorily explained. Dr. H.J. Mueller, a nobel-laureate, has rejected this argument for the following reasons:

- a) Mutations in nature are very, very rare.
- b) Mutations are harmful to living beings. They lose their lives.
- c) Even if they do not die suddenly, they lose their vitality and die in course of time.

### ***6. Transmission of acquired characteristics:***

Due to pressure of living conditions, characteristics of the body undergo changes. Some evolutionists are of the opinion that such changes are transmitted to the next generations and new forms of life come into being. In a Biology text book published in 1977 (Kerala), a theory on how giraffe acquired this characteristic because it had to stretch its legs and neck to eat leaves from tall trees. But it has been proved through experiments by Dr. Augustus Weizman, Dr. Paine and others that acquired characteristics and physical changes are not transmitted to the next generations. Chromosomes hold all characteristics and only they are transmitted.

### ***7. Mendelism:***

For 62 years from 1862, George Mendel conducted experiments in cross pollination of plants and produced improved varieties. Same principle has been used for producing improved cattles also. This principle supports evolution, according to certain people. But Mendel had performed his experiments on cross pollination of the same species of plants. Cross fertilization happens only in plants and animals of the same species. A new species is never created, but only improvements in certain characteristics of the same species are achieved. The Biblical statement that God created plants and animals in their own types, continues to hold true.

### ***8. Paleontological evidences:***

Evolutionists claim support from the discovery of fossils in layers of rocks during excavations. They have found fossils of small creatures in the lower layers and fossils of bigger creatures in the upper layers. Hence they take this finding as a proof for saying that small creatures lived many years before bigger creatures came into existence. But



many other later excavations have brought out different findings. Fossils of smaller creatures have been found in upper layers and bigger creatures in lower layers. Also, fossils of small and big creatures have been found together in the same layer of the rock. In addition, age of the layers of rock as calculated by some scientists has been proved wrong by other scientists.

### **9. The origin of life:**

No satisfactory proposal regarding origin of life has been put up by theory of evolution. There was a time when it was believed that small worms and flies come into being from mud, dung, rotten egg and meat. Scientists once believed that bacteria are produced naturally in organic matter. But research by scientists like Louis Pasteur have proved that life cannot be produced from dead matter. Some people believe that Dr. Khurana (an Indian Scientist working in U.S.A.) has produced life in the laboratory. But all that he achieved was the production of protein by synthesizing nucleotides. No one has till now succeeded in producing life. Evolution does not give any explanation of how life came into existence in the first instance. We can certainly believe that God created animals and other living creatures in their own types (Gen: 4:21-24).

### **Questions:**

1. Who was the originator of the theory of evolution? Give the name of the book that he published on the theory.
2. Give a summary of the theory of evolution.
3. Prove that similarity in the anatomy of creatures does not support evolution.
4. What kind of order among creatures is taken as support for evolution? How much logical is the argument?
5. How is the development of the human embryo related to evolution?
6. What are vestigial organs? Examine whether they support evolution.
7. What is mutation? Can evolution be proved by mutation?
8. What are acquired characteristics? Do they get transmitted to future generations?
9. Prove that Mendelism does not support evolution.
10. Examine whether paleontological evidences support evolution.
11. What does evolutionists say about the origin of life?

