

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

Evolution, Cause and Effect, and the 1st and 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics Lesson #3

In this lesson of our Creation Versus Evolution series, we are going to examine three important scientific laws that are devastating to the theory of evolution. The first law we will consider is *the Law of Cause and Effect*. The *First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics* will also be discussed. If these laws are not familiar to you then hopefully by the end of this lesson you will have a basic understanding of both of these scientific laws and more specifically, how they relate to the creation versus evolution debate. The purpose of this class is not to get embroiled in the technical details of these scientific laws, or wrangle about all the objections evolutionists attempt to use in order to escape the consequences of these laws upon their theory, but to give you a general understanding of what they mean and the implications they have upon evolution so that you can understand more technical treatments on these laws, be encouraged, and so that you are better equipped to discuss these subjects with others.

I. KEY DEFINITIONS

A. A Scientific Law

1. *A Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* defines a scientific law as: "An empirical generalization; a statement of a biological principle that appears to be without exception at the time it is made, and has become consolidated by repeated successful testing."¹
2. *Wikipedia*: "A scientific law or scientific principle is a concise verbal or mathematical statement of a relation that expresses a fundamental principle of science, like Newton's law of universal gravitation. A scientific law must always apply under the same conditions, and implies a causal relationship between its elements. The law must be confirmed and broadly agreed upon through the process of inductive reasoning."²

¹R. J. Lincoln, G. A. Boxshall, and P. F. Clark, *A Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990).

²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_law

3. *ChristianAnswers.net* gives this definition of a scientific law: “Basic, unchanging principle of nature; a scientifically observed phenomenon which has been subjected to very extensive measurements and experimentation and has repeatedly proved to be invariable throughout the known universe (e.g., the law of gravity, the laws of motion).”³



Figure 1 – Google Image

4. There are many scientific laws, but in order to become a “law” there must be no known examples or cases when that law has ever been proven to be false. If that were the case, then it could not be a law.

B. Law of Cause and Effect

1. *This law states that for every effect there is a cause.* Simple and straightforward, it argues that things don’t happen without something making them happen. You are writing with a pencil, for instance, and you ask yourself, “How did this pencil get here?” And let’s say you could trace it back to its origins. You pulled it out of your pocket, and before that brought the pencil with you from home. Before that you purchased it at an office supply store. Before that it came from a warehouse. It got to the warehouse via a truck from the pencil making factory. The materials, the graphite, wood, paint, metal band, and eraser each came from different places, but let’s just continue to trace the wood part only.

The wood, let’s say, is red fir, which came from a lumber distributor, which came from a lumber mill, which came from a truck, and the truck was loaded by lumberjacks who cut down the tree in the forests of Idaho. That tree came from a seed from another fir tree, which came from another tree, on and on, several generations back. As you keep going back, you have to arrive at – the first red fir tree. But how did that first tree get there? And where

³<http://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-thermodynamics.html>

did the soil, water, heat, light, and air come from for the first red fir tree to grow?

Everything that exists, every effect, can be traced back to the first, ultimate, or uncaused cause of all things which is? – What? The Bible says, “God,” (Gen. 1:1) but evolutionists don’t know or guess and then base their entire theory of evolution on that guess.



2. *Harmony of Science and Scripture* says:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1 NAS).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made” (Jn. 1:1–3).

In this important law of physics, we find the cause is always greater than the effect. Creation, from the tiniest insect to the most complex human being, from the Earth to the farthest star, is only the effect; God is the cause. Without a cause there could be no effect. The effect reveals a cause: Creation (the effect) reveals the necessity of a Creator (the cause). This law reveals the truth of God’s existence.⁴

The above quote makes an important statement that must not be overlooked. It is the statement “the cause is always greater than the effect.” Put into simple terms an effect, something that comes from a cause, is always less than the cause. Humans have intelligence. So whatever is the cause of humanity must have greater intelligence. Thus whatever causes something, must have within itself a greater amount or degree of the effect.

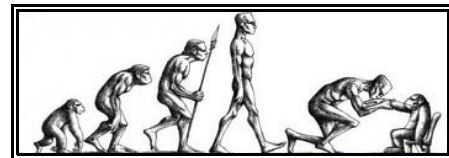


Figure 3 – progressingpilgrim.com

⁴Dennis Gordon Lindsay, *Harmony of Science and Scripture* (Dallas: Christ for the Nations, 1998).

3. Henry Morris has stated:

In ordinary experience, one knows intuitively that nothing happens in isolation. Every event can be traced to one or more events which preceded it and that, in fact, caused it. We ask: "How did this happen?" "What caused this?" "Where did this come from?" "When did it start?" Or, more incisively, "Why did this happen?"

When we try to trace the event to its cause, or causes, we find that we never seem to reach a stopping point. The cause of the event was itself caused by a prior cause, which was affected by a previous cause, and so on back.

Police investigators on an accident scene, for instance, use the principles of cause and effect every day to determine who was ultimately responsible and how it happened.

Eventually, we must face the question of the original cause—an uncaused First Cause.

A scientific experiment specifically tries to relate effects to causes, in the form of quantitative equations if possible. Thus, if one repeats the same experiment with exactly the same factors, then exactly the same results will be reproduced. The very basis of the highly reputed "scientific method" is this very law of causality—that effects are in and like their causes, and that like causes produce like effects. Science in the modern sense would be altogether impossible if cause and effect should cease.

This law [the law of cause and effect] inevitably leads to a choice between two alternatives: (1) an infinite chain of non-primary causes (nothing ultimately responsible for all observable causes and effects) [this makes all matter eternal and is often referred to as "materialism"]; or (2) an uncaused primary Cause of all causes (the One absolute Cause that initiated everything).⁵

⁵<http://www.icr.org/causality/> or Henry Morris' book, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* (Dallas: Institute for Creation Research, 2009), 16.

C. The First Law of Thermodynamics and Conservation of Energy

1. All three laws of thermodynamics were established by Lord William Kelvin (1824-1907). Kelvin was a mathematician, physicist, and engineer. His greatest contributions came from his work in using mathematics to describe electricity and the laws of thermodynamics. He was knighted by Queen Victoria for his work in establishing a transatlantic telegraph. He also made improvements on compasses used on ships for navigation and is probably most well known for his discovery of “absolute zero” and the temperature scale that is derived from his name. Lord Kelvin was a committed Christian. He was brought up in the Church of Scotland, believed in the 39 articles of the Anglican Church, and supported Christian education in public schools.⁶

2. John MacArthur defines the first law of thermodynamics saying,

The first law of thermodynamics deals with the conversion of energy. This principle means simply that energy cannot be destroyed; neither is it being created. Systems that use energy do not use it up; they merely convert it to different forms of energy – heat, motion, light, or chemical or electromagnetic energy.⁷



Figure 4 – Google Images

3. Henry Morris has noted, concerning the First Law of Thermodynamics:

The First Law tells us that matter (mass/energy) can be changed, but can neither be created nor destroyed. The Second Law tells us that all phenomena (mass/energy) continually proceed to lower levels of usefulness.

⁶http://www.adherents.com/people/pk/Lord_Kelvin.html

⁷John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning* (Thomas Nelson, W Publishing Group, 2001), 181.

In simple terms, every cause must be at least as great as the effect that it produces—and will, in reality, produce an effect that is less than the cause. That is, any effect must have a greater cause.

When this universal law is traced backwards, one is faced again with the possibility that there is an ongoing chain of ever-decreasing effects, resulting from an infinite chain of nonprimary ever-increasing causes. However, what appears more probable is the existence of an uncaused Source, an omnipotent, omniscient, eternal, and Primary, First Cause.⁸

D. The Second Law of Thermodynamics and Entropy

1. *Battle for the Beginning* defines the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics as follows:

The second law of thermodynamics states that the total amount of entropy [disorder] in nature is increasing. *Entropy* is a measure of the randomness and disorder in a system. Put simply, the second law of thermodynamics means that things run down. They wear out. Systems left to run on their own always evolve from order to chaos, and never the other way around.⁹

2. *ChristianAnswers.net* defines the second law:

The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics describes basic principles familiar in everyday life. It is partially a universal law of decay; the ultimate cause of why everything ultimately falls apart and disintegrates over time. Material things are not eternal. Everything appears to change eventually, and chaos increases. Nothing stays as fresh as the day one buys it; clothing becomes faded, threadbare, and ultimately returns to dust. Everything ages and wears out. Even death is a manifestation of this law. The effects of the 2nd Law are all around, touching everything in the universe.¹⁰

⁸<http://www.icr.org/first-law/> or Henry Morris' book, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* (Dallas: Institute for Creation Research, 2009), 17.

⁹John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning* (Thomas Nelson, W Publishing Group, 2001), 181.

¹⁰<http://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-thermodynamics.html>

3. *Deductive Quantum Thermodynamics in a Critical Review of Thermodynamics* says, "There is no recorded experiment in the history of science that contradicts the second law or its corollaries."¹¹
4. *Thermodynamics and the Development of Order* states:

It is probably no exaggeration to claim that the laws of thermodynamics represent some of the best science we have today. While the utterances in some fields (such as astronomy) seem to change almost daily, the science of thermodynamics has been noteworthy for its stability. In many decades of careful observations, not a single departure from any of these laws has ever been noted.¹²
5. **Isa. 51:6**, "Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane.
6. **Psa. 102:25-26**, "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. 26 "Even they will perish, but You endure; And all of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them and they will be changed.
7. **Rom. 8:21**, that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

II. BIBLICAL EXPLANATION FOR THE CAUSE OF ALL THAT EXISTS

- A. The first verse of the Bible teaches that God, having always existed, spoke all things into existence out of nothing. This means God is the first, ultimate, or uncaused cause of all things.

¹¹E.B. Stuart, B. Gal-Or, and A.J. Brainard, editors, *Deductive Quantum Thermodynamics in a Critical Review of Thermodynamics* (Baltimore: Mono Book Corporation, 1970), p. 78

¹²Emmett L. Williams, editor, *Thermodynamics and the Development of Order* (5093 Williamsport Drive, Norcross, Georgia 30092: Creation Research Society Books, 1981), pp. 7-8.

1. **Isa. 40:26-27**, “To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.”
 2. **Isa. 48:12-13**, “Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. 13 “Surely My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together.”
 3. **Jn. 1:1-3** says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”
 4. **Rom. 4:17** describes God as He, “who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.”
 5. **Heb. 1:1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.
- B. All that exists in the universe, exists because God, being all powerful, created it. The universe is a closed system and creation isn't an ongoing process. There have been times when God created after creation, adding matter (another form of energy) to the already existing creation, like the manna from heaven, Jesus turning water into wine, the multiplication of fish and bread, etc. Yet these were the rare exception.

Evolutionists profess to believe in the law of cause and effect. They have to or they couldn't do science. However, it is ironic that Darwin in his *Origin of Species*, never really got around to talking about origins and where everything came from. If you pay attention, evolutionists will often start with an effect, something already existing, but they don't mention what caused it to exist. They speak of an imagined big bang which came from some sort of imagined cosmic egg that supposedly was an effect with no cause.

III. CAUSE AND EFFECT, THE LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS, AND THEIR SUPPORT OF CREATION, NOT EVOLUTION

A. The Law of Cause and Effect

1. Henry Morris reasons why the law of cause and effect logically drives us to believe in the God of creation saying:

Applying the principles of cause and effect, it is clear that scientific logic indicates that the Cause for the universe in which we live must trace back to an infinite First Cause of all things. Random motion or primeval particles cannot produce intelligent thought, nor can inert molecules generate spiritual worship.

- The First Cause of limitless space must be infinite.
- The First Cause of endless time must be eternal.
- The First Cause of boundless energy must be omnipotent.
- The First Cause of universal interrelationships must be omnipresent.
- The First Cause of infinite complexity must be omniscient.
- The First Cause of spiritual values must be spiritual.
- The First Cause of human responsibility must be volitional.
- The First Cause of human integrity must be truthful.
- The First Cause of human love must be loving.
- The First Cause of life must be living.

We would conclude from the law of cause-and-effect that the First Cause of all things must be an infinite, eternal, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, spiritual, volitional, truthful, loving, living Being!¹³

2. Hank Hanegraaff after affirming that an effect is never greater than its cause writes: "In stark contrast, the theory of evolution attempts to make effects such as organized complexity, life, and personality

¹³<http://www.icr.org/transcendent/> or Henry Morris' book, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* (Dallas: Institute for Creation Research, 2009), 17.

greater than their causes – disorder, non-life, and impersonal forces. . . Albert Einstein humbly acknowledged that “the harmony of natural law. . . reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.”¹⁴

B. The First Law of Thermodynamics

1. John MacArthur sums up how the first and second law of thermodynamics collide with evolution in his work *The Battle for the Beginning* when he says, “The first law of thermodynamics rules out the possibility of ongoing creation, and the second law of thermodynamics eliminates the possibility that an ordered universe evolved naturally from chaos.”¹⁵
2. Henry Morris notes a huge problem when confronted with the first and second laws of thermodynamics:

The fact that the universe is not yet dead, is clear evidence that it is not infinitely old. Since it will die, in time, if present processes continue, time cannot have been of infinite duration. Our present universe is a continuum of space, mass, and time, so if one of these entities had a beginning, the other two must have began concurrently.¹⁶

3. The first law tells us that the universe is like a battery, and all the differences in the universe are drawing energy from the universe so that it is winding down (first law of thermodynamics) to a state of random equilibrium (second law of thermodynamics). No one is recharging the battery of the universe, according to the first law, and whatever caused the universe to exist must have been greater than the universe itself (law of cause and effect)! There is only one candidate who qualifies for the position – God. God is the only one who is eternal, having always existed. God is the only one who is all powerful and who can create matter and energy out of nothing.

¹⁴Hank Hanegraaff, *The Face That Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998), 80, quoting in part, Albert Einstein, *Ideas and Opinions – The World as I See It* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1974), 40.

¹⁵John MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning* (Thomas Nelson, W Publishing Group, 2001), 180.

¹⁶Henry Morris, *Scientific Creationism* (San Diego: Creation Life Publishers, 1974), 25.

It is illogical to conclude anything else based on what we *know* to be true from science.

C. The Second Law of Thermodynamics

1. *ChristianAnswers.net* notes:

Naturalistic Evolutionism requires that physical laws and atoms organize themselves into increasingly complex and beneficial, ordered arrangements. Thus, over eons of time, billions of things are supposed to have developed upward, becoming more orderly and complex.

However, this basic law of science (2nd Law of Thermodynamics) reveals the exact opposite. In the long run, complex, ordered arrangements actually tend to become simpler and more disorderly with time. There is an irreversible downward trend ultimately at work throughout the universe. Evolution, with its ever increasing order and complexity, appears impossible in the natural world.¹⁷

2. James Jeans notes,

The more orthodox scientific view is that entropy [increasing randomness] of the universe must forever increase to its final maximum value. It has not yet reached this; we should not be thinking about it if it had. It is still increasing rapidly, and so must have had a beginning; there must have been what we may describe as a 'creation' at a time not infinitely remote.¹⁸

3. Charles Bennett notes:

Based on modern advances in the field of information theory, the only way known for the entropy of an isolated system to decrease is through the use of intelligence. . . . Since the universe is far from its maximum entropy level, a

¹⁷<http://christiananswers.net/q-eden/edn-thermodynamics.html>

¹⁸ James Jean, *The Mysteries of Life* (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1932), 181, as quoted by Douglas Kelley in *Creation and Change* (Geanies House, Fern, Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications), 56.

vast intelligence is the only known means by which the universe could have been brought into being.¹⁹

4. Wilder-Smith speaking of laws of thermodynamics says:

Today it is simply unscientific to claim that the fantastically reduced entropy of the human brain, of the dolphin's sound lens, and of the eye of a fossilized trilobite simply 'happened,' for experimental experience has shown that such miracles just do not 'happen.'²⁰

5. Hank Hanegraaff speaking of entropy and the second law of thermodynamics says,

While the law of energy conservation is a blow to the theory of evolution, the law of entropy is a bullet to its head. Not only is the universe dying of heat loss, but according to entropy-also known as the second law of thermodynamics-everything runs inexorably from order to disorder and from complexity to decay. The theory of biological evolution directly contradicts the law of entropy in that it describes a universe in which things run from chaos to complexity and order. In evolution, atoms allegedly self-produce amino acids, amino acids auto-organize amoebas, amoebas turn into apes, and apes evolve into astronauts.²¹

In this lesson we have looked at the laws of cause and effect and the first and second laws of thermodynamics. We have learned that these scientific laws are the death knell of evolution. Though evolutionists have proposed unsubstantiated arguments suggesting these laws do not apply to evolution, they have furnished no proof. Do not feel ashamed or intimidated by the confident assertions of evolutionists who dismiss the laws discussed in this lesson. Ask them for hard, scientific evidence of why these laws do not apply, laws which have never been found to be false.

¹⁹Charles Bennett, 'Demons, Engines and the Second Law,' in *Scientific America*, Nov. 1987, 108-116 as quoted by Douglas Kelley in *Creation and Change* (Geanies House, Fern, Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications), 65.

²⁰A. E. Wilder Smith, *The Natural Sciences Know Nothing of Evolution* (Master Books, 1981), 146.

²¹Hank Hanegraaff, *The Face That Demonstrates the Farce of Evolution* (Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998), 85.