

STATISTICAL PROBABILITY OF LIFE ORIGINATING BY RANDOM CHANCE

Statement 1: Referring to the view of scientists who have rejected the idea of spontaneous biogenesis, W. Lee Stokes writes:

"The problem of synthesizing one simple protein of about 300 amino acids has been cited. It is assumed that the protein must be synthesized, by a gene with at least 1000 nucleotides in its chain, the nucleotides being the four basic chemical units of which genes are built -- adenine, thymine, guanine, and cytosine. A chain of 1000 nucleotides made of the four basic units might exist in any of 41,000 ways, but only one will form the protein being sought. The chance that the correct sequence would be achieved by simple random combination is said to be so small that it would not occur during billions of years on billions of planets, each covered by a blanket of a concentrated watery solution of the necessary amino acids."⁶

Stokes then comments that there are other biologists who think life may have originated with smaller, less complicated duplicating entities that would have a greater chance of occurring spontaneously.

Statement 2: In dealing with the subject of origin in natural selection, the critical paradox of the problem becomes apparent. As the classic work *Evolution* by Dobzhansky, Ayala, Stebbins, and Valentine states:

"Both nucleic acids and proteins are required to function before selection can act at present, and yet the origin of this association is too improbable to have occurred without selection."⁷

It appears neither nucleic acids nor proteins could have occurred by themselves under the laws of statistical probability. It's the chicken or the egg problem.

Table 6.3

vegetative life? In other words, does a literal rendering of Genesis 1:11-12 preclude God's use of the preexisting materials and the energy sources He had created in His previous creation commands? In attempting to answer this question, we must look more closely at the words used in the Genesis account.

Many people are under the impression that each creation command in Genesis states that God *created* (Hebrew *bara'*), as opposed to formed or *fashioned* (Hebrew *yatsa'*), the object brought into being. A close look at Genesis reveals that, in the case of vegetative life, the Hebrew word *bara'*, which translates creation of a new and original object, is *not* used. In fact, the word *bara'* is only used for the creation