

mammal. Mechanistic evolutionary theory just doesn't seem adequate to explain how minute changes gradually accumulate to produce a totally new life form. How do the in-between stages work? Of what use are they? We can see how the amphibian functions, how the reptile functions, and how the mammal functions. It is the gradual hypothetical changes from one to the other that stretch the imagination.

What then are we to conclude? Has evolution taken place or not? If we consider the word *evolution* to mean that *change has taken place over time*, we can conclude that evolution has indeed occurred. Change over time is demonstrated not only in the fossil record of life, but also in the physical record of changing seas, oceans, mountains, and continents. However, we can make no conclusive statement concerning some of the "changes" that are hypothesized to have taken place -- amphibians into reptiles, for instance -- because there is no physical evidence for them. Such "changes" may or may not have occurred.

While we can agree that change over time has taken place, the point of disagreement begins when we consider the causes and purposes of the observed changes. Here people split into two broad camps -- those who believe in a Creator and those who do not. *Creator* versus *no-creator* is the real issue -- *not* creation versus evolution.

Those who believe in a *Creator* believe God has either directly or indirectly created all things. They believe that the vast sweep of historical events from the beginning of time to the advent of man has a purpose -- the full preparation of the Earth for the creation of man.

Those who believe in *no-creator* hold that all things are the product of random chance and accidental forces. They see no direction or purpose to the geologic or biologic changes that have taken place on Earth. Stanford University oceanography professor, Tjeerd van Andel says, "Evolution is not progress, only change. As a human, I do not represent progress over an amoeba: I'm simply adjusted to a more complicated environment."⁸

Those who believe in *no-creator* view the changes that have taken place over time as only short-term adjustments to the particular situation at hand.

Those who believe in a *Creator* hold that the changes that have taken place over time are part of God's long-term cohesive plan and see the hand of God in the vast panorama of historical events.

Those who believe in a *Creator* do so because they choose to. It is an act of faith. Those who choose to believe in *no-creator* do so