

Strong case, but Flawed by Compromise

***A review of *The Case for a
Creator* by Lee Strobel***

Images of Evolution

- Miller–Urey experiments purporting life evolved from non-living chemicals
- Darwin's tree of life
- Haeckel's embryo drawings, and
- the *Archaeopteryx* fossil 'missing link' between reptiles and birds

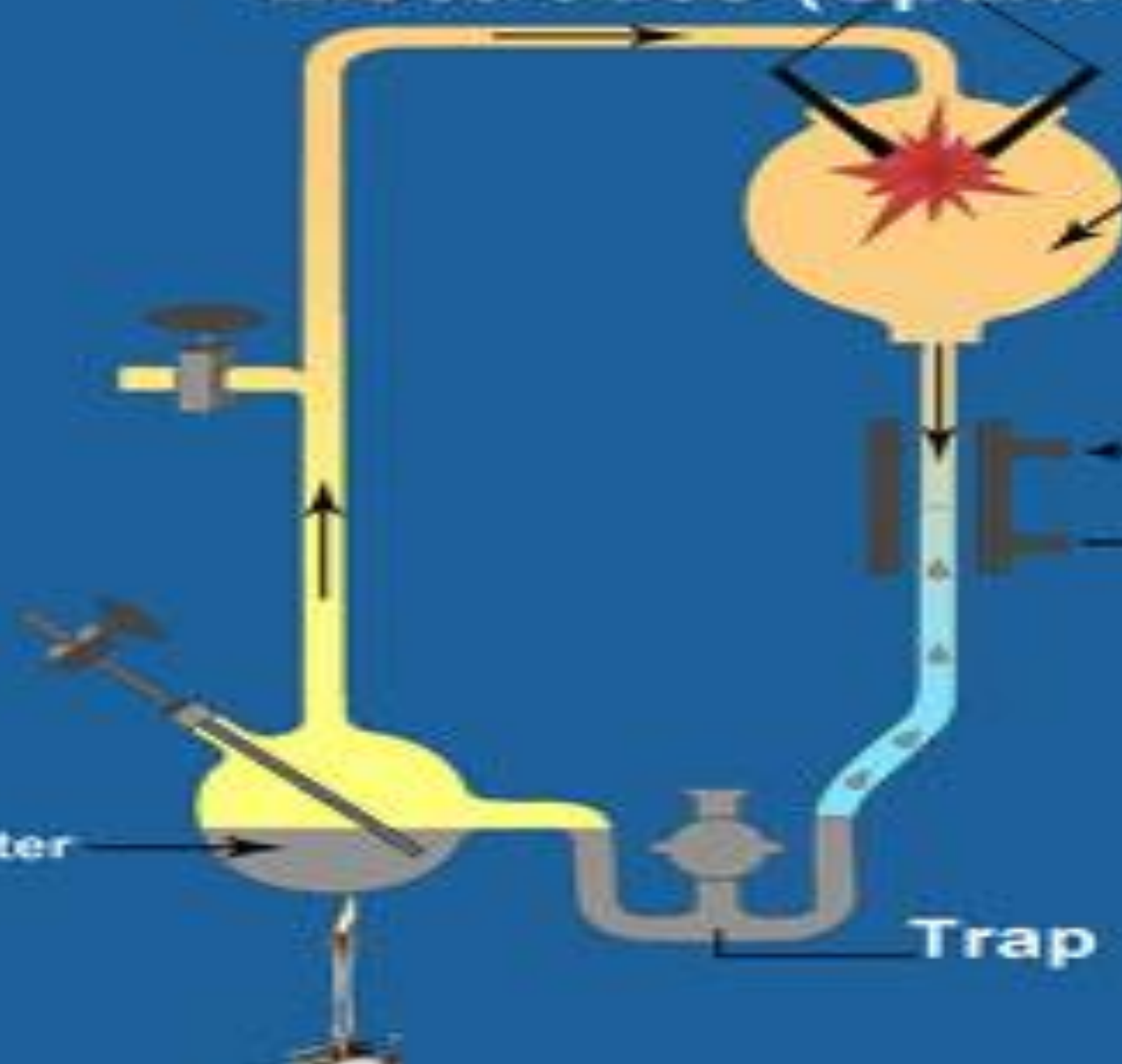
Electrodes (Spark Discharge)

Gases
(CH_4 , NH_3 ,
 H_2O , H_2)

Cooling
Condenser

Boiling Water

Trap



Archaeopteryx



- not half-bird, half-reptile; **it is a bird**
- bird's feathers & structures very different from reptiles'

Science: the Only Begetter of Truth?

- Self-refuting; cannot be tested scientifically
- We gain knowledge through **introspection** and **history** that cannot be tested scientifically

Bible Claims

- The Bible makes claims that **are scientifically testable**, and the validity of its moral and spiritual message **relies on its accuracy** in all testable areas

Science vs. Scripture

**Arguments against
evolutionary hypothesis**

Macro Evolution

- Evidence **for** micro-evolution (*changes within a species*)
- **No evidence** at all on macro-evolution (*changes **from** one species **to another***)

Life from No Life?

- Life coming spontaneously **from no-life** as a one-time occurrence followed by natural process which should have been going on today - **rejected today** by scientists

The Paradox of the Origin of the Universe

- **1st Law:** energy cannot be created nor destroyed. It can only be changed from one form to another
- **2nd Law:** everything in the universe is breaking down and moving to randomness

Problems in the Fossils Record

- a) Gaps in the record
- b) Circular reasoning
- c) Error of exploration
- d) More than 500 cases of inverted fossil records have been found

Problems with Radioactive Dating

- C-dating only accurate up to 14,000 years
- How much strontium was there in the beginning so that we can calculate the half-life?

Creationism

1. **Can** explain the origin of life
2. Recent developments:
 - 24 hrs. literal creation
 - Pictorial Creationists
 - Research Creationists
 - Theistic Evolutionists
 - Day age Theory
 - Apparent Age Theory

CREATION OR EVOLUTION: DOES IT MATTER?

**What Does the Fossil Record
Show?**

What the Record Reveals

- Fossil record has been **misinterpreted** if not outright mischaracterized
- "A large number of well-trained scientists outside of evolutionary biology and paleontology have unfortunately gotten the idea that the fossil record is far more Darwinian than it is

History of most fossil species

- ***Stasis***. Most species exhibit no ...
[evolutionary] change during their tenure on earth. They appear in the fossil record looking pretty much the same as when they disappear; ... [anatomical or structural] change is usually limited and directionless.

History of most fossil species

- *Sudden appearance*. In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors: it appears all at once and 'fully formed''

Fossil Record No Longer Incomplete

- "when estimates are made of the percentage of [now-] living forms found as fossils, **the percentage turns out to be surprisingly high,** suggesting that the fossil record may **not be as bad as is often maintained"**

Transitional Species?

- *no one* has discovered a fossil creature that is *indisputably transitional* between one species and another species. *Not a single undisputed 'missing link' has been found* in all the exposed rocks of the Earth's crust *despite the most careful and extensive searches"*

Paleontology's Well-Kept Secret

- **if evolution** = the gradual change of one kind of organism into another kind, the **outstanding characteristic of the fossil record** is the absence of evidence for evolution—and *abundant evidence to the contrary.*

Simple Life Forms?

- Bacteria are **not simple organisms**
- Modern technology has shown that even a single cell is **extraordinarily complex**