

The Gables – Creation

Introduction:

Read Genesis 1.

Dialog between Rick & Donna:

Rick: What do you think of the passage that was just read, Donna?

Donna: I don't know. I was always taught to believe in evolution.

Rick: Do you believe in God?

Donna: "I'm not sure. I think it's possible there's a God. If he or she were to come up to me and shake my hand, then I'd believe. But since I can't see him or touch him or listen to him or use any of my other senses to experience him, then I'd have to say he probably doesn't exist. I was raised Catholic, but I guess I'm really an agnostic. Do you believe in God, Rick?"

Rick: "Yes, I do."

Donna: "Why?"

Rick: "For starters, it's evident from the creation."

Donna: "Why do you say that?"

Rick: "Take the human eye, for example."

Donna: "The human eye? Some scientists think the eye was stupidly designed."

Rick: "The eye is actually a pretty amazing thing. First, light enters through the cornea, which is the primary focusing mechanism, and then through the iris, which controls the amount of light that enters. Then the light passes through the lens for further focusing, and then on through the retina. The retina contains photoreceptor cells that are light sensitive; they convert the image into electrical signals, which are in turn interpreted by the brain. The eye takes pictures continuously and develops them instantly. The retina contains one hundred and twenty million rods that are used for dim vision, night vision, and peripheral vision, and seven million cones that are used for color vision and fine detail. Each eye contains one million nerve fibers that connect the photoreceptors in the retina to the visual cortex of the brain where the images are reconstructed in such a way that we see them. The spectrum of light that can be perceived by the human eye varies by a factor of ten billion. The human eye has the ability to perceive millions of shades of color."

Donna: "How can you just rattle all that stuff off like that?"

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Rick: “I read it in a book called *More Than Meets the Eye*, by Richard A. Swenson,” Jackson said. “He’s a MD and has a PhD in physics. But actually, the best part is yet to come. There is more processing power in the human retina than the computer you use at home.”

Donna: “I don’t believe that.”

Rick: “If you do the math, a single nerve cell can process five million instructions per second. If you then calculate that there are a million of these nerve cells processing images simultaneously, the number goes up to five trillion calculations per second, per eye. That’s way above the processing speed of the desktops or laptops we use at work today.”

Donna: “These processes you described, while impressive, were inherited through evolution.”

Rick: “Have you ever read Darwin’s *Origin of Species*?”

Donna: “No.”

Rick: “Darwin seems like a very reasonable and honest guy to me. Do you know what Darwin said about the human eye?”

Donna: “No.”

Rick: “He said to a friend in a letter that ‘the eye to this day gives me a cold shudder.’ And that for the human eye to have been created through natural selection seems ‘absurd in the highest possible degree’.”

Donna: “Really! Darwin said that?”

Rick: “Yes. It takes a whole lot of faith to believe that all the complex processes within the eye occurred by chance.”

Donna: “Well, most, if not all, of my professors at college believed in evolution.”

Rick: “Think about it. They believe that something came from nothing. Where did that something come from? Dr. Swenson said that ‘The something then became a prebiotic soup with hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, and water vapor (free oxygen arrives later). The soup [mysteriously] bubbles into compounds like methane and ammonia.’ Lightning (wherever that came from) strikes the soup several times, resulting in an amino acid, followed by other amino acids. Then it strikes again, resulting in a protein, then more complex proteins. After a while you have a living cell with thousands of proteins created by DNA with three billion base pairs, all the result of ‘random beneficent mutations.’ You then have to somehow get from that single cell to millions of different organisms, each containing trillions of cells, all conveniently organized in such a way as to support the various functions required for life.”

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Donna: “As unlikely as it seems, it’s still possible.”

Rick: “Mutations definitely occur at the cellular level. For example, flu viruses change all the time, usually by mutation. This has been proven over and over again in the laboratory. But I think evolution, as an explanation of our origins, is really more a matter of faith than fact. Micro-evolution, or evolution at the cellular or species level, is a fact because it can be proven over and over again in the laboratory using the scientific method. Macro-evolution, or species-to-species evolution, like a fish evolving into an ostrich, is just a theory – it has not been proven in the laboratory, through the fossil record, or any other method you can come up with.”

Donna: I wasn’t aware of all that. How can all these really smart professors be wrong about our origins?

Rick: There are a couple of Bible verses that address that:

- Matthew 11:25-26 – ... Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.”
- God wants us to believe in Him, that he created the world and all that is in it. It requires faith, but not a blind faith. God has given us minds and he wants us to use them. As we have seen, the facts are on our side.
- Another verse is Romans 1:18-22 - The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...

Donna: If I understand the passage correctly, people suppress the truth by their own wickedness, missing the obvious fact that the creation could not have just gotten here by accident.

Rick: That’s right. Do you recall the Hans Christian Anderson short story called *The Emperor’s New Clothes*? In the story some charlatans convince the emperor that they are weavers of the finest clothes and that only smart people can see them. The emperor doesn’t want to be thought of as stupid, so he goes along. The emperor’s advisers don’t want to be thought of as stupid either, so they go along too. Finally, while the emperor is parading before his people, a little child cries out that the emperor is naked. The people realize that they had been fooled and that the child was right; the emperor was indeed naked.

Donna: If you’re right, and there is a God, what should we do about it?

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Rick: You need to find out what God requires of you.

Donna: What does that mean?

Rick: Do what the Bible says we should do.

- 1 Kings 2:3 – ...observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go...
- John 6:28-29 – [The crowds that were following Jesus] asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

Donna: All we have to do is believe in Jesus?

Rick: The Bible says that we are sinners – that we have disobeyed God – and that our destiny is hell, which is eternal separation from God in a place of utter loneliness and suffering.

- Romans 3:23 says, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...”
- Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

But God in his mercy has given us a way out. His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins so we could live forever with him in heaven.

To get into heaven, we must repent, believe and receive.

- Luke 13:3 says, “I tell you, no! But unless you **repent**, you too will all perish.” Repentance means to turn away from our sinful life and follow the path God has for us.
- John 3:36 says, “Whoever **believes** in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” If we believe that Jesus’ death and suffering on the cross paid the penalty for our sins, then the righteousness of Christ is transferred to our account, and our slate is wiped clean. It’s as if we’d never sinned.
- John 1:12 says, “Yet to all who did **receive** him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...” We must ask Jesus to be our Lord and Savior and receive the gift of eternal life. God doesn’t force himself on us.
- Finally Romans 10:9 says, “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Donna: If God created the world and all that is in it, and he wants us to live with him forever in heaven, we would be foolish to reject his offer of forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rick: I think you’ve got it.