THE CASE FOR CREATION: 4

LAW OF GENETICS

Galatians 3:16 *-- ... He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.*

Introduction

1. The language of the Bible is like usage anywhere. There are times when it expresses its ideas in the understanding of the people it is written to. (Although it is not scientific to place the emotions in the vessel recognized as the heart, it is the way people even in this civilization still apply it.) But the Bible can also be very scientific with its use of terms, terms perhaps taken for being quaint until we ourselves increase in knowledge to a point where we can recognize just how exacting God can be. An example is seen in the use of "seed."
2. In his presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, William Bateson made this startling admission: "Descent used to be described in terms of blood. Truer notions of genetic physiology are given by the Hebrew expression 'seed.' If we say he is 'of the seed of Abraham,' we feel something of the permanence and indestructibility of that germ which can be divided and scattered among nations, but remains recognizable in type and characteristic after 4000 years." (1914)
3. Almost 100 years later, though scientists grope to describe it differently ("faithfully copied", "perfect replica", "recurring pattern of reproduction") they still have not gotten any more precise than saying that all living things reproduce "after their kind." This lesson will demonstrate that the study of genetics has not destroyed the Creation model, but has actually fortified it against evolution.

A. The Genetic Code and Mendel's Laws

1. "It is recognized by molecular biologists that the genetic code is universal, irrespective of how different living things are in their external appearance." Darrel Kautz (1988).
2. Renowned British geneticist, E.B. Ford, in his book, *Understanding Genetics*, provided an insightful summary in this regard: "Something must be handed on from parent to offspring which ensures conformity, not complete but in a high degree, and prevents such extreme departures. What it is, how does it work, what rules does it obey and why does it apparently allow only limited variation? Genetics is the science that endeavors to answer these questions..."
3. Gregor Mendel, the father of Genetics, was (of all things) an Augustinian monk. In 1857 he began a series of experiments in the garden of the abbey in Brunn Austria using edible peas. His accomplishments in the field of genetics is comparable to that of Newton's laws in mechanics. (By the way, his work sat on a library shelf for 35 years with nobody paying any attention to it). "Mendel's Laws" are summarized as follows:

    a. The inheritance of traits is determined by genes that act like individual physical particles rather than like fluid.
    b. Genes come in pairs for each trait. The genes may be alike or different.
    c. When genes controlling a trait are different, one gene is observed (dominant), the other remains hidden (recessive).
    d. In gametes (eggs and sperm) only one gene of each pair is present. The fertilization results in predictable ratios.
    e. Genes separate during gamete formation, each gamete carries one gene from each pair.
    f. When two pairs of traits are studied in the same cross they are found to sort independently.

B. Faithful Reproduction Controversy

1. At least two important points make genetics a controversial subject in the Creation/Evolution debate. First, the genetic code's chemical instructions are copied **faithfully** time after time, i.e. sparrows never produce robins; buttercups never produce tulips; human beings only produce human beings.
2. Second, the genetic code - with its complexity, orderliness, and function - provides the most powerful kind of evidence for **intelligent design**, which requires a Designer. We will further examine these two concepts briefly.
3. John Gribbin, himself an evolutionist, has admitted that "...once a fertilized, single human cell begins to develop, the original plans are faithfully copied each time the cell divides (a process called mitosis) so that every one of the thousand million million cells in my body, and in yours, contains a perfect replica of the original plans for the whole body."
4. Nobel laureate, F.H. Crick has said that "if one were to translate the coded information on one human cell into book form, one would require one thousand volumes each of five hundred pages to do so. And yet the mechanism of the cell can copy faithfully all this information in just twenty minutes."
5. Neo-Darwinism resides in the face of this. The "neo" (new) is genetic mutations. "Mutations are the ultimate raw materials of evolution" -- George Simpson. Currently, it is thought that evolution proceeds through the combined efforts of natural selection and genetic mutations. However, the true facts of science tell a story not in accord with evolution.
6. First, the expression of "survival of the fitness" (natural selection) is arbitrary and circular. The fittest breed more and the one who breeds more is the fittest.
7. Second, mutations are known to be random, destructive, and lethal. Natural selection should serve only to weed these out. Pierre-Paul Grassè, France's leading zoologist, who held the Chair of Evolution at Sorbonne for 20 years, said in his opinion: "The opportune appearance of mutations permitting animals and plants to meet their needs seems hard to believe... Miracles would become the rule: events with an infinitesimal probability could not fail to occur. There is no law against day-dreaming, but science must not indulge in it."
8. Mutations are also very rare (1 in 10 million). Worse, evolution requires a series of related mutations. The odds of four in a series would be (1 in 10 to the 28th). Also, mutations that can give rise to something different are unknown in biology.

C. The Design of the Genetic Code

1. Even what evolutionists would term "simple" cells (e.g. bacteria) have extremely large and complex "Libraries" of genetic information stored within them. The genetic code is characterized by orderliness, complexity, and adeptness in function.
2. As Dr. Wilder-Smith explains: "...it resembles a hypothetical architect's plan of a house, which plan not only contains the information on how to build the house, but which can, when thrown into the garden, build entirely of its own initiative the house all on its own without the need for contractors or other outside building agents... Think of an architectural blueprint having the capacity of actually building the structure depicted on the blueprint, of maintaining that structure in good repair, and even replicating it.... Thus, it is fair to say that the technology exhibited by the genetic code is orders of magnitude higher than any technology man has developed...
3. He concludes: "The DNA molecule is something utterly unique and had to have an unnatural or supernatural origin... The information in the DNA molecule had to have been imposed upon it by some outside source... The information in DNA is presented in coded form..., and codes are not known to arise spontaneously."
4. "A code is the work of an intelligent mind." -- E.H. Andrews