00:23:13 Vicki Best: Welcome everyone to this afternoon’s Diving Deeper Discussions!

00:35:08 Vicki Best: DDD articles and videos can be found here: https://network.asa3.org/page/DivingDeeper

00:47:09 dwilcox: The higher the level of social cognition, the stronger the selective pressure on the genes controlling neural flexibility, the faster the evolution of human modernity - under God's providence

00:49:18 John Wood: A paleontologist might be better on this one, but invoking a directionality or vector of evolutionary change going from "rodents, to dogs, to primates, to humans" doesn't fit anything that I can recall from the evolutionary history of life. Stephen Jay Gould and Niels Eldredge touched on this morphologically with the great punctuated equilibria debate of the 70's and 80's. Something like the Chichlid fishes of the Great Lakes of East Africa or the Fruit flies of Hawaii, or birds, or ... many other clades show very rapid evolutionary change.

00:52:11 Sy Garte: John, of course, I don't think Peter is suggesting that communication with minds is the only evolutionary mechanism. I certainly don't think so. I see him as suggesting that this could be one way that God might intervene to influence evolution, especially in humans, creatures with an advanced mind and spirituality as well as mentality.

00:53:52 dwilcox: That sort of rapid change (punctuation) requires a high level of pre-existing genetic diversity in the source population, and the rapid development of pre-reproductive isolating mechanisms.

00:55:30 Sy Garte: "Barash means creation

00:57:35 dwilcox: It has always seemed to me that the question of God as creator and evolution as creation in action is exactly parallel to God's providential governance OF the creation and the laws of physics (and biology). God never goes on vacation from the world - He rules it at all points of space and time, realizing his purposes.

00:59:13 John Wood: Right Sy, my response was to Peter's thesis, but to how evolution works. I thought I heard in your question the suggestion that human evolution might be unique among animals in the rate of change. I would be cautious suggesting that the rate of change is unique to humans. We are much more similar to all other species, yet some how so very different.

01:08:48 Jesse Jones: I think we might be able to suggest a compatibility with Dr. Bussey's suggestions and an increased directional rate of change in clades that have a higher and higher ability of information processing that can lead to the use of mathematical reasoning and language (or other complex communication). This immediately leads me to think of Dolphins, however, which don't seem to have a relevant taxonomic connection to human development, yet have similar cognitive abilities to higher primates that do.


The graph is almost linear, but seems to have three sequential areas [tri-linear] of development. Steve Huffey

01:11:52 dwilcox: Natural populations maintain a surprisingly high level of genetic diversity. When the environment suddenly changes, those variants which are best fit flourish. Thus, the average phenotype changes. However, if the pressure is maintained, the other variants will be eliminated completely and the population will be genetically depauperate. It will require thousands or millions of years for mutation to restore adaptive diversity.

01:15:20 dwilcox: So, the regularity of natural law is not a function of the autonomy of nature, but the faithfulness of God's governance....... So we can do science, 'thinking God's thoughts after him'.

01:27:02 dwilcox: The assumption that the laws of nature are based in autonomous matter and energy is a theological principle - it states that they are NOT based in God's providence.

01:33:11 dwilcox: Does randomness in space and time look random from outside - from eternity?

01:40:03 Thomas Roose: I think it is good to keep learning about both Natural Revelation and Special Revelation and reconciling them together. As we know, they serve different purposes.

01:40:11 Steve: Jesse - thanks for the dolphin comparison to human development. It is even better in their taxonomy, too. The dolphin is a mammal, unlike fish. For example, Despite the radically different appearances between human arms and dolphin flippers, our limbs are remarkably similar in bone structure. Inside of their flippers, dolphins have five phalanges, or finger bones. Along with the five phalanges, dolphins also have carpals, ulna, and radius and humerus bone fragments, just like humans.
Their encephalization has many outcomes similar to humans, yet particular to their environment.
Steve Huffey
01:40:19 Vicki Best: Wishing you all a meaningful Advent season!
01:40:41 Del, Fozzie, Quack-Quack, Little Quack-Quack: Excellent!! Thank you!