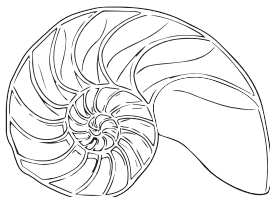


# WORLDVIEW GUIDE

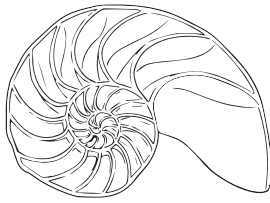
## ORIGIN OF SPECIES



*Dr. Gordon Wilson*



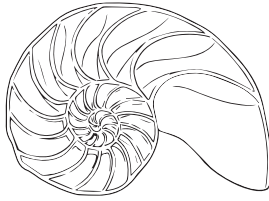




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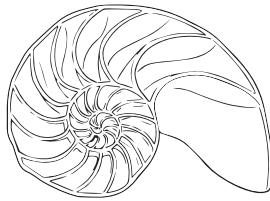




## INTRODUCTION

*Origin of Species* is a must read for Christians in our secularized, Darwin-saturated society. From a factual foundation, Charles Darwin persuasively extrapolates an erroneous explanation of life's diversity and complexity apart from God's handiwork, although there's a lot Darwin argues that his modern-day proponents ignore. Not surprisingly, this naturalistic theory has been the scientific justification behind great secular evils such as eugenics and the holocaust. Christians, using Scripture and science, should study this profoundly influential book thoroughly and cautiously.





## WORLDVIEW ANALYSIS

### *Natural Selection and Variation*

Much of what Darwin said in the first four chapters was to amass a pile of evidence to convince his readers of the empirical reality that species do, in fact, vary and can change both under domestication and under nature. And indeed they do. He shows the connection between artificial selection and natural selection to persuade an uncritical mind that a little bit of change over a little bit of time can accumulate into a lot of change over a lot of time. Superficially this appears to be a reasonable conclusion. However, Darwin was unaware of something extremely important. He assumes that if species have the capacity to generate slight variations for natural selection to seize upon, these variations can then gradually add up to the improvement of the species and eventually give rise to totally new body plans and organs. He writes in Chapter 4:

It may metaphorically be said that natural selection is daily and hourly scrutinizing, throughout the world, every variation, even the slightest; rejecting what is bad, preserving and *adding up all that is good*; silently and insensibly working, whenever and wherever opportunity offers, at the *improvement of each organic being* in relation to its organic and inorganic conditions of life. (73–4, emphasis added)

In one sense, he is correct, but we need to sort the proverbial baby from the bath water. A species can give rise to a number of species, but we need to ask if there are limits to “*adding up all that is good*” or “*improvement of each organic being.*” Darwin is arguing that there are virtually no limits to biological change, provided those changes are physically possible and have survival value. The reason he thinks we are unable to see significant change is that it happens too slowly to detect over a human lifespan, let alone shorter experimental time frames.

Admittedly, Carolus Linnaeus (18th century scientist and the Father of Modern Taxonomy) believed that God created species as fixed entities which exhibited varying degrees of similarity and dissimilarity with other species (hence his classification system). When Linnaeus placed several species in the same genus, it was because they were very similar to each other, and he assumed that similarity was due to a very strong degree of common design, not due to common ancestry. Later in his life he loosened his views about fixity of species. He placed several genera in the same family because he believed God created them to