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Vestigial Organs:

Evolution's left-overs or evolutionists' ignorance?

By Jeff Miller, PHD

*If evolution were true, your great, great, great, great…grandfather was a creature like an ape or a monkey, and you came from him.*

Jeff, what do you mean "if?"

Evolution has been proven to be true beyond all reasonable doubt.

Jeff, take special notice of the word *reasonable*.

*Over the years, your ancestors gradually changed or evolved from looking like an ape to looking like humans.*

Jeff, you omitted an important fact: those ancient ape-like creatures differed from all the other apes in that they possessed 23 pairs of chromosomes rather than 24. That's why we have 23 pairs of chromosomes ... instead of 24.

*Your ape-like, distant grandfather, like many primates today, probably would have had a tail, a big jaw, and a lot of hair.*

Jeff, that's true. But they didn't have 24 pairs of chromosomes.

Another interesting thing is that human fetuses also have a tail and lots of hair in the first month of development. The tail recedes to form the coccyx, while the hair disappears in most cases.

But some humans do have tails, lots of hair, and big jaws, even today. Jeff ... how could you not be aware of that ... what with your PHD and all?

*He probably also had several other organs you either do not have today, or you have, but unlike him, you do not really need anymore. Those organs which you would no longer need are called vestigial organs by evolutionists. If evolution is true, then such organs should exist.*

Jeff, then your argument is over. Thanks for playing.

*In 1895, an evolutionist named Robert Wiedersheim made a list of 86 different organs that he thought were vestigial—organs that supported the idea that we evolved from ape-like creatures millions of years ago. Evolutionists were excited by this news since they believed it helped to prove evolution. Since then, evolutionists have argued that many parts of our bodies are no longer useful, but are remains of our evolutionary ancestors: our hair, wisdom teeth, appendix, coccyx, tonsils, several genes (“junk” DNA), and even goose bumps have been called leftovers of evolution.*

Jeff, vestigial organs are not necessarily useless. Some have simply evolved to perform different functions than they were originally used for. For example, the human appendix is no longer used to digest cellulose; in emus, wings are no longer used for flight; and in whales and snakes, pelvic bones are no longer used as attachments for legs.

*As time has passed, Wiedersheim’s list has gotten smaller and smaller. Why? Because scientists have studied more and more about the human body over the years and discovered that there are important functions for each of the organs on Wiedersheim’s list.*

Jeff, what is the important function of the male nipple?

I mean other than, as a place to stick nipple rings.

*The problem was never that there were not functions for those organs on the vestigial list. The problem was that scientists did not know enough to figure out what those functions were.*

Jeff, so how do you tell the difference between not knowing the function of an organ, and an organ that serves no function?

*In other words, the organs on the vestigial list are not evolution’s left-overs, but rather, they highlight evolutionists’ ignorance about those organs.*

Jeff, there is a reason why you refer to them as 'evolutionists' instead of by their actual title of "biologists." If you referred to all scientists by their real titles, it would soon become obvious to everyone that all fields of science disagree with your bizarre pseudoscientific beliefs. So 'you people' dishonestly lump them all together under the title of "evolutionists" to give the false impression that only a small little band of renegade scientists disagree with you, when in fact ... they all do.

*Consider the parathyroid glands, which evolutionists long considered to be vestigial organs. These four little glands are usually found sticking to the thyroid in your lower neck, just above your collar bone. If they are functionless, or not that important, then removing the parathyroid glands should not create a problem for humans, right?*

Jeff, transcription factors Eya-1, Six-1, and Gcm-2 have been associated with the development of the parathyroid gland, and alterations in these genes alters parathyroid gland development. Scientists call those alterations ... evolution.

Jeff, if attacking scientists from centuries ago, who lacked the knowledge of today's biologists, is your best weapon against science ... then you've already lost. To win, you need to defeat today's scientists and their knowledge - not scientists from the 19th century.

But I have a bit of bad news for you Jeff: all those scientists in the past whose theories have been discarded or disproven ... were defeated by other scientists using the scientific method. Never has one been defeated by a Ghost Worshiper, using religious texts. So you've really got your work cut out for you, Jeff.

*Why, do you suppose, when I had my thyroid removed several months ago, my doctors were so concerned about my parathyroid glands?*

Jeff, there were probably many things they were concerned about, not the least of which ... was getting sued.

*They went out of their way to warn me that the glands might accidentally get cut off during my surgery.*

Jeff, how did they go "out of their way?" Did they miss meetings or reschedule other surgeries? Did they cancel other patients?

If they warned you, why not just say so? Why describe it as "out of their way?"

It sounds like you are trying to manipulate your readers. You wouldn't do that, would you Jeff?

*Why would they want to warn me about that possibility if it did not matter whether or not I had them?*

Jeff, why didn't you ask them? Any competent doctor will advise their patient of possible negative outcomes so that the patient can better make an informed decision.

Hey Jeff, why did you go to doctors anyway? Where does the Bible say that Jesus needs doctors? Why didn't you just pray? Didn't Jesus tell you that if you prayed, He would heal you?

I believe He did.

It doesn't sound like your faith in scripture is all that strong, Jeff.

*The reason is that doctors have discovered that the parathyroid glands are not vestigial.*

Jeff, it doesn't matter what doctors discovered; what matters is what biologists discovered. They are the ones who determined that those glands are vestigial, not doctors; which, as I already pointed out, doesn't necessarily mean that those organs don't serve a function. Reread the definition, Jeff.

*They are very important to humans. Without the parathyroid glands, your body would not be able to regulate its calcium levels within the very narrow range that it requires, and the nervous and muscular systems would not function properly.*

Jeff, remember earlier when you wrote that your doctors warned you that *"the glands might accidentally get cut off during my surgery."*

If your statement were true, that without those glands, the calcium levels could not be regulated, resulting in the nervous and muscular systems not functioning properly, then there is no doctor in America who would have taken that chance. But, by your own words, they did remove your thyroid. So they must have told you that the risk was acceptable, because you agreed to have the surgery.

Therefore, you are obviously hiding from your audience, things that those doctors told you that you don't want your audience to hear.

But the final *coup de grace* to your argument is that, in the end ... you had the surgery Jeff. If you truly believed everything you've just written, there is no way you would have ever allowed that.

*People who believe in vestigial organs would be more likely not to worry about removing “vestigial” organs, since they do not believe they are important. This makes evolution a dangerous belief.*

Jeff, it is irrelevant whether or not the belief in evolution is dangerous. What *is* relevant is whether or not it is true.

And apparently, you yourself weren't too worried about the possibility that your glands could be cut off during surgery, thereby rendering your nervous and muscular systems unable to function, since you agreed to allow them to remove your thyroid, as opposed to managing it with other therapies.

*Consider another way that belief in evolution, and specifically “vestigial” organs, is dangerous and even harmful to us.*

Jeff, if you want to consider dangerous beliefs, look no further than your own religion. History is littered with the proof that belief in a bloodthirsty death cult such as Christianity has been dangerous to humanity.

*Have you ever stopped to think about how doctors and scientists learned everything we know about the human body?*

*It was through careful research and study of the body over many years. Usually the way research happens is that doctors or scientists ask others to give them money to pay for their research and study. Otherwise, they would not have a way to live while they are studying, and they would not have the money to pay for the equipment they need to study the body. Now what do you think the effect would have been when Wiedersheim released his list of “vestigial” organs?*

*Do you think as many doctors or scientists would have done research and study on those organs that were considered unimportant? Do you think they could have convinced as many people to give them money to support their study of those organs if they wanted to?*

Jeff, probably not. It makes more sense to concentrate limited resources on important organs.

*Perhaps you can see now how belief in vestigial organs is a dangerous idea.*

Jeff, as previously stated, that is irrelevant to whether or not vestigial organs exist.

*Less research and study will tend to be done on those organs, since evolutionists do not believe them to be important!*

Jeff, I believe you've already made that clear. So what?

*If those organs were designed by God, however, we can trust that they do, in fact, have important purposes in our bodies, even if we do not quite understand those purposes yet.*

Jeff, if the human body were designed by your imaginary friend, He is one piss-poor designer. Who would design the human body so that the wind pipe and feeding tube meet in a way that causes thousands of people to die every year from choking?

That does prove one thing however - if your invisible ghost does exist ... then He must work for the government.

Jeff, you are betting your entire argument on the desperate hope that someday science will discover a purpose for each of the vestigial organs in our bodies. If and when, that day ever comes, then you will have only proven that all of our organs have evolved to assume new functions.

Jeff ... that really doesn't help you very much.

*Instead of throwing out organs as useless, we should praise God, knowing that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”*

Jeff, to call the human body "wonderfully made," is to ignore its millions of defects.

Jeff, only 4% of Americans are Atheists. 40% of Americans accept evolution. That means that evolution believers are mostly non-Atheists. In America, that means most evolution believers are Christians. These are Christians who have learned to accept scientific fact while at the same time, retaining their faith.

Then there are the morons. People like you Jeff. People who are willing to suffer any degree of humiliation and embarrassment in defense of their imaginary friends. It isn't your ignorant beliefs that are the problem - they only deprive you of appreciating the incredible world around you and its rich history. The problem is that Fundamentalists, like yourself, attempt to corrupt the education of our youth with your fairy tales.

You people claim that this is a Christian nation. But even a nation that is 75% Christian is smart enough not to allow creationism in the science classroom. Intelligent Design has been ruled, in Federal Court, to be nothing more than religious indoctrination masquerading as science. Your beliefs are not allowed to infect our youth in the public schools. But you do have a right to lie to them in your churches ... which is exactly what you people do.

Jeff, you represent one of the worst cancers to ever strike humanity, and the sooner it goes into remission, the better off humans will be.

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

The World's Best Thermometer Is Made From Light

When scientists examine the temperature of an object they find that it is always fluctuating. If you look closely enough you'll find that all the atoms in any material are always jiggling about. But with this new thermometer, scientists actually see this unceasing fluctuation, showing that the microscopic world is always in motion.

Researchers have produced the world's most sensitive thermometer -- 3 times more precise than the best thermometers now in existence. They report that they have been able to measure temperature with a precision of 30 billionths of a degree.

This is a new and very sensitive, but unorthodox, thermometer that uses light to measure temperature. The thermometer injects two colors of light (red and green) into a highly polished crystalline disk. The two colors travel at slightly different speeds in the crystal, depending on the temperature of the crystal. When researchers heat up the crystal they find that the red light slows down by a tiny amount with respect to the green light. By forcing the light to circulate thousands of times around the edge of this crystalline disk they can measure this minuscule difference in speed with great precision.

Researchers point out that it is possible to make more sensitive measurements of temperature, but that occurs in cryogenic environments near absolute zero.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Sir Charles James Napier (1782 – 1853) 71 years

He was a general of the British Empire and the British Army's Commander-in-Chief in India, notable for conquering the Sindh Province in what is now Pakistan.

"You say that it is your custom to burn widows. Very well.

We also have a custom:

when men burn a woman alive,

we tie a rope around their necks and we hang them.

Build your funeral pyre;

beside it, my carpenters will build a gallows.

You may follow your custom.

And then we will follow ours."