



Does God redeem animals?

By MAXINE WILLIAMS

WE SAY WE DON'T BELIEVE in evolution. Usually we mean we don't believe that men came from monkeys. Yet because this theory has been dinned into our ears throughout grade school, high school, and college, we often try to reconcile its concepts with the Bible. After all, could all the scientists and researchers be completely mistaken?

So some accept "theistic evolution," a teaching in which God is credited with beginnings, but development is attributed to evolution. In this manner we can say that God made the amoeba, but from then on evolutionary forces produced higher and higher forms.

The subject is too extensive to consider the whole, but I will give two reasons why I believe theistic evolution is irreconcilable with the Bible.

First, the theory of evolution is based on the premise that man is an animal. Because he shares certain characteristics such as life support systems and reproductive systems, he is identified with animals.

The Book of Genesis makes a distinction. (Compare Genesis 1:24, 25 with 1:26, 27.) Animal life was made on a separate day; man was given authority over the animals. Obviously this argument is of little consequence for those who do not accept the Scriptures, but theistic evolutionists claim to accept Biblical teachings.

Second, the theory of evolution denies the fall of man. It says that man began with lower forms and gradually, through selectivity, survival of the fittest, and adaptations to environment and circumstances, evolved into his current form and abilities. The Scriptures teach that man was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and that through sin he was degraded from his earlier splendid position.

If we accept the theory of evolution, we have no need for a Redeemer to restore man to the place he originally held. Evolutionists say man is constantly moving upward. The Bible says he fell from a perfect condition and can be restored only through the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Combining these two considerations, let us ask: Would God redeem an animal? Why would an animal need to be restored to fellowship with God? It is because man is *not* an animal but is a spiritual being, fallen from the perfection with which he was created, that he is capable of being redeemed.

The evolutionary theory is untenable if man is not an animal. It makes unnecessary the finding of a "missing link," for there is no chain of evolving.

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When men think of themselves as animals, they tend to excuse their behavior on the basis of "animal instincts." Is it any wonder if people who have been taught since childhood that they are animals should respond as such?

If man is ever progressing upward from lower forms, he has whereof to boast—for then by his own achievements he advances without need of God, without need for repentance, without need of salvation.

But the impact of considering ourselves as animals has been disastrous. Looking around we see that our world is not getting better and better. But we will have renewed faith and restoration by accepting the Biblical teaching that God sent His Son to redeem not an animal, but man—man created in the image of God; that God redeems men because He wants to have fellowship—not with an animal, but with spiritual beings who can respond both in love and in worship.



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