

**Review: Calvin Smith – *Codes and Creation*, Creation Ministries International, 2010**

Runtime: 69 min

**Logical Presentation with Gemstones of Knowledge**

Calvin Smith delivers a largely qualitative presentation on the hopelessness of the hypothesis of evolution in accounting for the origin of life and information it requires. This turns out to be a strength as many highly complex areas are covered, each containing sub-topics which the viewer is left to pursue further depending on their interests.

The power of the material rests in its logical argumentation, common-sense delivery and the alignment of contemporary observed evidence to a literal Biblical worldview. The atheist will be left without the crutch of materialism and so without excuse before a moral Creator and His absolute standards.

For the Bible-believing Christian a number of key concepts are worth meditating on to strengthen apologetics, namely:

-Evolutionists *must* confine themselves to matter and energy in explaining everything, yet information is *not* material.

-The existence and requirement of nanomachines to *all* life, whose blueprints are coded for *in* DNA, the *origin* of which is a mystery for evolutionists.

-Information, most completely defined as a code or language, is *completely* divorced from the medium it exists in. Professor Werner Gitt's three principles of information are worth memorising.

-Special creation of man from raw materials (i.e. dust) is very rational, given humans (clumsily) do the exact same thing when creating complex machines from raw materials.

-Mutation as the key driver for information creation is devastated by how

DNA stores information – forwards, backwards and overlapping, meaning a single point mutation is likely to do great damage.

The viewer should be fascinated with the subject matter and spurred on to further study.

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A number of key concepts are worth meditating on so the Bible-believing Christian can strengthen their apologetics, namely:

-Evolutionists *must* confine themselves to matter and energy in explaining everything, yet information is *not* material.

-The existence and requirement of nanomachines to *all* life whose blueprints are coded for in DNA, the *origin* of which is a mystery for evolutionists.

-Information is *completely* divorced from the medium it exists in and special creation from raw materials (e.g. dust) is very rational, given humans (clumsily) do the exact same thing when creating complex machines (from raw materials!).

-Mutation as the key driver for information creation is devastated by how DNA stores information – forwards, backwards and overlapping, meaning a single point mutation is likely to do great damage.

These seem to be the most valuable parts Calvin has included.

## Part I: Origins of Life (31 min)

The presentation is introduced with a wake up call for the Church: ~70% of youth who attend a Church group stop attending Church after going to university<sup>1</sup> [causation and correlation aren't dealt with, a significant part of this impact may be due to luke-warm doctrine].

It must be reinforced there are *only* two valid theories on origins: Creation by an intelligent agent, or Evolution which posits *time*, *matter* and *energy* joined forces to create everything. Towards the end Calvin remarks Evolutionists have their own Trinity: Father Time, Mother Nature and Lady Luck!

Turning the tables on the Christian stereotype, high school and university students subject themselves to indoctrination by listening to one person teaching from a book in an authoritative fashion!

After forty years, according to TIME Magazine the experiment's conclusions about the plausibility of its findings are “probably wrong”<sup>2</sup>. Evolutionists cannot claim any success seeing as a Professor Jack Trevors is currently offering a USD1M prize for anyone who can give an answer on the origin of the genetic instructions found in the DNA.

The Stanley Miller-Urey experiment of 1953, still widely taught as evidence of chemical evolution is mentioned. It resulted in the production of compounds like amino acids, essential components for life. Methane, hydrogen, ammonia, carbon dioxide and water were mixed together in a closed system and energy applied. Oxygen was notably missing due to the risk of explosion! The production of some proteins was thoroughly insufficient for life (i) because of the requirement of *non-material* information (see below), (ii) the amino acids were a (racemic) mixture of 'left' and 'right'-handed – life uses left-handed ones only (iii) the acids were formed in an aqueous environment which actually *breaks down* proteins.

Darwin's 'simple' cell idea is debunked with modern science's magnification technology. At 1B times it resembles a 20km-wide metropolis, with millions of portals admitting and restricting various

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<sup>1</sup>Quoted from one T.C. Pickney

<sup>2</sup>TIME Magazine, 10/11/1994

materials into and out of the cell.

The principle of natural selection is explained as an insufficient mechanism to account for the *origin* of any organism, *seeing as it only applies at the phenotype level*.

The scientific idea of irreducible complexity is introduced and developed. It is basically a step-wise reduction of components in a fully functioning system until error catastrophe (i.e. system breakdown) occurs.

Taking the example of a human cell, required parts include:

- 1) A blueprint or plan (DNA).
- 2) Blueprint decoding device (RNA, a single-stranded molecule which can 'copy' an unwound DNA strand).
- 3) An energy supply to function (ATP production in the mitochondria of each cell).
- 4) A frame or internal structure (e.g. microtubial 'highways').
- 5) A type of outer shell as protection from the environment (cell wall).

N.b. Component *order* is critical – the number of components without everything in correct order will result in a non-functioning system.

A good analogy of a house is used: the architect's drawings, site foreman, electrical power supply, form work, and external walls. It is mentioned some of these components require *machines*. This leads into further exploration of the cell's wonders specifically the ATP synthase enzyme, Ribosomes and kinesin nanobots (!).

ATP synthase is a 20nm wide machine which converts ADP (adenosine phosphate) into ATP (adenosine triphosphate) by the addition of an extra phosphate molecule. It is powered by protons and has been found in *every* plant and animal studied.

Ribosomes are the protein manufacturing machines which receive raw

material 'parts' and after reading instructions brought by the RNA manufactures the proteins. They perform this task at an astounding rate!

Kinesins are machines with two arms and two legs, carrying bags ('vestibules') of proteins wherever they are directed to within the cell. This behaviour is analogous to a postman on a delivery route. They *walk* (!) along tracks called microtubials, which are made up of ATP – every 8nm step on the ATP powers the nanobot. Despite their anthropomorphic characteristics, kinesins are not alive. As with ATP, scientists have found kinesins in every plant and animal specimen studied.

The dilemma for evolution is brought home at this point, given the blueprint for these machines *are all coded for in the DNA itself!*

Despite this, evolutionary dogma prevails (paraphrasing): [www.barrettresearch.ca](http://www.barrettresearch.ca), “nature has created these machines and countless engineering solutions to nanoscale problems,” and Jack Szostak says, “we just let evolution do the work and study the results after.”

The fallacy (self-refutation) of using intelligent design (i.e. experimentation) to provide evidence for evolution is also made clear.

## Part II: Information (38 min)

Calvin begins by trying to define what is obvious to everyone but is hard to pin down with words:

\*Statistical information (e.g. bits and bytes). Not really information as it can include duplication.

\*Specified complexity (e.g. the alphabet from A to Z). Meaningful arrangement yet not fully information.

\*A code or language. This is exactly what information is.

The difference between raw material used and the code which uses the raw material is done well, e.g. President's faces and a rock face. It should be reinforced information obviously weighs nothing.

DNA is explained exceptionally, an information storage molecule whose

sections (codons (?)) can be read forwards, backwards and overlapping over both! This devastates the argument of information creation by mutation. Like a crossword puzzle with one changed intersecting letter of two words, both words are destroyed.

Revealing quotes are given by Professor Paul Davies at Macquarie University: “How did stupid atoms spontaneously write their own software?” (1999) and, “Nobody knows how a mixture of lifeless chemicals spontaneously organised themselves into the first living cell.” (2003).

Professor Werner Gitt, a Christian, and the current world authority on information theory is referred to to give key *attributes* of information, namely:

I) Information is non-material but requires material for storage and transmission.

II) Information is not life, but is a prerequisite for it.

III) Life also non-material, yet requires both information and material to exist.

The above are quite insightful and worth memorising.

Richard Lewontin's popular quote is shown, re: dominance of materialism and that 'a divine foot cannot be allowed in the door'.

Good examples of common codes are given for the viewer to recognise the previous concepts being explained:

\*Braille

\*Computer programs

\*Languages

\*Morse code (created by Mr. Morse)

\*Sign language

\*Smoke signals

\*DNA (which materially is just sugar, phosphate and protein bases?)

The topic of science is ended with a reverse form of inductive reasoning

and analogy applied to prove an intelligent mind:

A car, made of parts, all designed in a blueprint, beginning with an engineer's idea. This would never be questioned by a rational person.

A man, made of proteins, all designed in the DNA, beginning in God's mind. This *would* be questioned by a rational person!

Finally, Calvin wraps up providing examples of the morality resulting from an evolutionary world view – the Columbine and Finland Massacres. The killer's modus operandi was to act as 'natural selectors', accountable to no higher authority other than themselves.

The God of the Bible is explained using Romans 1.20 along with analogies in nature to the Godhead: three states of time (past, present and future), water (solid, liquid, gas), human colour perception (red, green and blue cones), and three letters used in DNA codons.

Also, Christians should not be afraid of claiming special creation from dust, given mankind does the same thing all the time, with computers for example!