

Bacterial Degeneration

The disease causing association between bacteria and people is reinforced by the fact that the bacteria degenerate as well. Some bacteria seem to have lost the ability to look after themselves in the external environment and can now only live inside other living cells. The bacterium that causes leprosy is a good example of this. Scientists have recently mapped the leprosy bacterium's genome and found it to be unusually small and contained many non-functional genes. They claimed this was an example of "reductive evolution." (Ref. 17)

"Reductive" it may be, but "evolution" it is not. Loss of genetic information has turned a fully functioning bacterium into a partially defunct bacterium that can no longer carry out important chemical processes that would allow it to live an independent life. Breakdown in the human immune system has allowed this bacterium to invade human cells, where it can live by absorbing the nutrients it cannot make by itself. However, this close association means the bacterium's waste products are released into the tissues where they damage other cells. The combination of bacterial and human degeneration has resulted in a devastating disease that was not part of the original creation.

Conclusion:

Antibiotic resistance and disease causing bacteria are not evidence of evolution - they are evidence that bacteria were designed as fully functioning organisms that have degenerated, or taken advantage of degeneration around them.

Antibiotic resistance in bacteria is actually good evidence that bacteria are sophisticated organisms, well designed to survive in a complex environment with other life forms, such as fungi, that produce potentially harmful chemicals. This is evidence of purposeful creation, not random evolution.

The Book of Genesis tells us that all living organism were created to multiply after their kinds and originally lived in a perfectly balanced ecosystem. That system became unbalanced when the first man, Adam, disobeyed God, resulting in a history of change by degeneration, not by evolution. Based on Genesis we can predict we will yet see many new bacterial diseases, not because bacteria are evolving, but because man and bacteria are both degenerating, and their once-perfect balanced relationship has gone wrong.

This brings up other questions such as:

Is there evidence of original creative design in other living organisms?

Do other living things show evidence of degeneration from perfection?

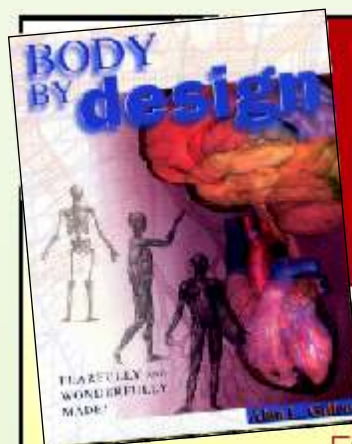
Do fossils show that degeneration has been the history

of the world?

Does the universe show degeneration is now the norm?

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