

Two ultimate questions we can ask ourselves as self-aware human beings, related to the origin of life are where did we come from? Where are we going?

One secular worldview often held by atheists is that humans evolved rather than being designed and created by God, as some Christians believe. Atheism is the rejection of any sort of belief in deities or a God. ①

The figures for a 2010 Eurobarometer survey in the European Union (EU), reported that 20% of the EU population claimed not to believe in "any sort of spirit, God or life force".¹ ②

Therefore, for atheists one possible answer to where we came from all started with a "Big Bang" 13.8 billion years ago, during the period of time when the universe was habitable for the biochemistry of life to happen billions of years ago.² Complex organic molecules found in the solar system and in interstellar space may have provided molecules, the starting materials for the development of life on Earth.³ ②

There is one similarity here with the Protestant belief of Creation by God, and that is both viewpoints attribute something happening in the universe a long time ago for the initiation of human life to happen here on Earth. ①

The bible book of Genesis 2:7 states that "then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (ESV). ②

However, the difference in beliefs according to the Bible is that Adam was created as a perfect human male, in God's image. ①

Genesis 1:26 says, "Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." - *New American Standard Version (1995)*. Luke goes as far as calling Adam the Son of God ([Luke 3:38](#)). The gospel refers to Jesus Christ resembling Adam. Christ, while on earth in human form, was sinless, and so was Adam for a time. ②

According to the bible account, Adam did not evolve from living organisms containing nucleic acid to the mammal stage through replication, adaptation, natural selection and then through speciation appear through primates to become a modern human over a period of approximately 2 billion years.⁴ ①

Another of the arguments of atheists is the design flaws in human beings, asking "if there is an omniscient, omnipotent, omnibenevolent God then would humans who Protestants ①

believe to be made in the 'likeness of God' be perfectly designed if created." Originally published in *Creation* 4(1):21–29, March 1981.

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One design flaw in humans referred to is having our oesophagus and trachea only separated by a flap of skin (epiglottis) that can fail, which is why we can choke when eating food or drinking and needing to breathe as well.

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Evolution puts this down to effectively making do with what we had in terms of genetics and replication, adaptation, natural selection and speciation rather than due to design and creation.

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However, Protestants argument could be that the fall from grace lead to imperfection and flaws. God's creation was perfect but humanity's misuse of its free will to rebel against God has resulted in the corruption of good design.

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As Genesis 3:16, 17 says, "To the woman He said, I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you. Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life." - NASV.

2

Because Adam and Eve sinned and therefore were no longer perfect, each successive generation afterwards would have become more flawed, weaker and genetic imperfections would have naturally occurred and increased over time.

3

All Christians believe that how we live our lives and how we treat others has great importance, Galatians 3: 16 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus", so atonement for sin and imperfection is possible leading back to perfection and eternal life. How we live our lives has meaning, a life time of faith and good works towards others means this person's life should be celebrated when they die, as "a 'good' name is better than precious oil; and the day of death, than the day of one's birth" Ecclesiastes 7: 1 - ASV (1901).

2

However, atheists do not believe in deities or a God so there is no sense of a plan or purpose other than what they choose to implement themselves. Existence is purely biological in nature, they believe we are all heading towards death, without any afterlife, and that life and death is the natural cycle of all living creatures.

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This can result in an attitude of just living in the moment, making the most of this life because it is the only one you will get, you no longer exist when you die.

3

This can lead to purely selfish human pursuits, as there is no need to consider or help anyone outside of your immediate circle of family and friends, as there is no creator to take into consideration. Those who choose to live a good life and help others do so for their own personal, ethical or humane reasons rather than from a belief in God. There is another similarity here, in that both atheists and Christians as humans can behave in very good ways towards others, showing love and kindness.

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