

Two ultimate questions we can ask ourselves as 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

One possible answer to where we came from for atheists is that it all started with a “Big Bang” 13.8 billion years ago, and evolution happened from possibly some molecules from the universe that landed on earth at the right time for life to develop. ②

There is a similarity here with the Protestant belief of Creation by God; both these viewpoints attribute something happening in the universe a long time ago for 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). The difference in beliefs is that Adam was created as a perfect human male, in God’s image. 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” (NASV). Therefore, Adam did not evolve from a simple living organism to a mammal and then appear from primates as believed by atheists. ②

Another belief of atheists is that human beings have design flaws, so how could humans who were made in the ‘likeness of God’ who is perfect be designed and created with limitations like the epiglottis that can fail, which is why we can choke when eating food or drinking, as we need to keep breathing at the same time. ①

They put human design flaws down to making do with what we had in terms of genetics and evolution rather than design and creation. ②

However, Protestants believe that the fall from grace lead to imperfection and flaws. Christian’s believe that God’s creation was perfect, but Adam and Eve had free will and chose to rebel against God and ate from the ‘tree of knowledge of good and evil’ in the middle of the Garden of Eden, which they were instructed not to eat. ①

Because Adam and Eve sinned and therefore were no longer perfect, each successive generation of their children have become more flawed, and genetic imperfections have increased over time. ③

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. ①

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. ②

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.

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This is different from Christians who are taught to believe that how we live our lives is very important, Jesus Christ said “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these”. Mark 12: 30, 31 (King James, 2000).

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Atheists can choose to live a good life and help others for their own personal, ethical or humane reasons, due to free will rather than from a belief in God.

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However, there is another similarity, because atheists and Christians as humans can behave in very good ways towards others, showing love and kindness.

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