

# *Smoky Mountain Bible Institute*

## *Biology / Botany 108*

Welcome back to the lab. I have already spent way too much time talking about time, so let's get back to Biology. Thus far in this wing of the institute we have briefly examined the history of biology, and how mathematics and chemistry are an integral part of understanding the study of life. We also took a little side path through the dating methodology; old earth assumptions and methods; and young earth assumptions and methods, along with some of their flaws, and limitations of dating methods.

Let's address Botany in this lesson. On the third day God created all plant life (Genesis 1:11). In this text the words literally translate Grass, Herb, and Tree. You may think of this as a weak description of the vast variety of plant life on earth. However, when you consider that the first two terms in Hebrew really imply the fresh sprouting plant, in the beginning almost all plant life looks like little green shoots coming out of the soil. Not to mention if you exclude waterborne plant life, you could fit all known plant life into the categories of, low lying grasses, middle sized herbs & bushes, and all sizes of fruit and seed bearing trees. What about those water born plants? Well most of them anchor in soil and those that don't only thrive in still waters that are rich in minerals from the surrounding soil. What about fungus? Well I like sautéed mushrooms as much as the next guy, but consider this: If there was no death in God's original creation, that may have applied to plant life as well. If there is no decaying dead plant life (biomass) for fungus to grow, were there mushrooms in the pre-sin earth? It is possible that there weren't. Maybe mushrooms and all forms of fungi came in with the curse: thorns; blood sucking insects; and all things that grow only on decay, because there was possibly no decay. These suppositions cannot be proven or disproven – I am just carrying some of these through to their logical extreme.

The molecules-to-man evolutionary world view holds that plants evolved just like all life. An oversimplified explanation is that it started with the simplest microscopic one-celled algae, progressing to nonvascular, and finally, vascular plant life. On the surface, this small and simple, to large and complex approach makes sense to us. However, when we look at the complexity of even the simplest life form, we discover quite another reality. While the vascular qualities of plants and trees is clearly a complex mechanism, (most mature trees drink about 50 gallons of water a day), it is also true that the complex genetic mechanisms of micro plant organisms are equally and, in some cases, more complex than those of larger plant life. So, size does not necessarily dictate complexity.

We have already addressed the issue of time with regard to a biblical world view versus an evolutionary worldview. However, another point that needs to be addressed when discussing life is its homogeneous nature. What does this mean? Well, all life is composed of similar or identical parts or elements. We make comparisons and find that all life shares many similar characteristics, and while we can compare many: organs; tissues; exoskeletons; endoskeletons; hair; scales; or feathers. The easy place to make comparisons is in the realm of genetic material, because all life has this form of information to tell elements and the chemistry what to do for the organism to live. Fifty to 60 percent of our DNA is identical to that of a banana. We share a 90 percent similarity with all mammals, there is only a 2 percent difference between humans and chimpanzees, and all human beings are 99.9% genetically identical. When you consider that, the fullness of human diversity is wrapped up in less than 0.1% of our genetic makeup. This shows you how far apart genetically 2 percent really is when comparing humans and chimps. Depending on your world view, you can draw one of two conclusions from this information.

1. The evolutionary worldview: There is no real purpose or meaning to any of this. It all follows basic naturalistic laws that just exist, so you can see in the homogeneous nature of all life that we all over time evolved from a common ancestor in a primordial soup over some exact number of millions of years.

2. The Biblical worldview: There is real purpose or meaning in all of this and it follows basic laws that God put in place, so you can see in the homogeneous nature of all life that we all have a common Creator who loves and cares for His creation.