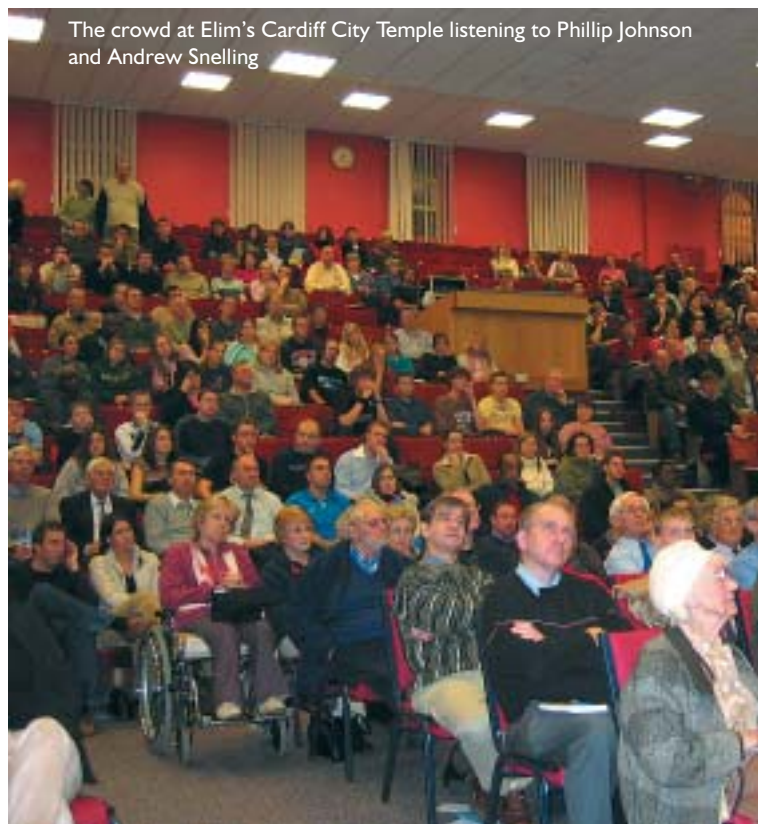


“More than 80% of Americans believe in the Virgin Birth, while fewer than 30% believe in evolution”, wrote Garry Wills, Adjunct Professor of History at Northwestern University, in the New York Times.

You can reverse those figures for Western Europe. Perhaps if we had the same scepticism about evolution, Europe would be more likely to believe in the miracle-working Creator. That was the thinking behind the Elim-sponsored UK tour by **Professor Phillip Johnson** and **Dr Andrew Snelling** in October and November. Deputy Editor Andrew Hallaway reports on the ‘Darwin Reconsidered’ seminars at Elim’s Birmingham Christian Centre, and interviews Prof Johnson.

## Elim-backed anti-tour fills churches professor and geo unite against the t

The crowd at Elim’s Cardiff City Temple listening to Phillip Johnson and Andrew Snelling



The power of Prof Phillip Johnson’s arguments are such that this tour of UK churches could well have been called ‘Darwin Refuted’ rather than ‘Darwin Reconsidered’.

But such is the strength of acceptance of evolution in the UK, even within parts of the Church, that simply making evolutionists begin to reconsider their theory would be a towering achievement.

The tour began with a welcome dinner on October 26th at the Rembrandt Hotel in

Kensington, London, hosted by Moorlands College Principal Rev Dr Steve Brady. Approximately 80 invited leaders of the UK Christian scene expressed their appreciation for an intellectually stimulating evening considering whether the battle against Darwinism is winnable.

I met Prof Johnson on the Birmingham leg of his tour, where he gave two public seminars, as did his colleague on the tour – Dr Andrew Snelling. Johnson is the Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of

# evolution as law logist heory



California at Berkeley, who wrote an article specially for *Direction* in our October issue. He is the founder of the Intelligent Design Movement in America – a group of scientists and academics who argue that intelligent design is a far better scientific explanation for life than evolution.

Dr Snelling is a geologist from Australia, working for the Institute for Creation Research, who is conducting a research programme to demonstrate conclusively the young age of the

earth. His talks on geological evidence and dating methods reinforced Johnson's arguments, whose lectures related more to the philosophical and logical aspects of evolution.

I asked tour organiser Peter Loose how it was going at that point: "It has been a great success – with most venues being filled with over 400 people. The seminars at Kensington Temple in London attracted 1,000." The tour comprised 22 meetings in eleven cities from October 26th to November 13th. By its end, Prof Johnson and Dr Snelling had addressed about 8,000 people – one third more than the planned estimate of 6,000. In Scotland, in particular, numbers far exceeded expectations, with about 2,000 visitors to the three venues.

At Birmingham Johnson began his first talk with the book of Daniel – explaining how the

## **Dr Snelling's talks on geological evidence and dating methods reinforced Johnson's philosophical and logical arguments.**

Jewish prophet overcame the power of idolatry in Babylon with simple faith and courage. He compared that situation with modern Western culture, where "today's Babylonian idolatry is evolution – evolutionists are the modern priesthood, the controllers of morality in society. There is a battle to replace Christian faith with atheistic evolution. What is at stake is freedom of thought and speech. Politically incorrect ideas are the new sins that must be wiped out. Everything else must be tolerated."

The battle seems to be already won by evolutionists in the UK, so it is high time that Christians started a new assault. But what prevents us? Seduction and intimidation. Johnson believes that Christians are seduced into thinking that evolution is just a side issue and that we should concentrate on preaching the Gospel – rather than being diverted by

## **Oxford's evolutionary high priest Prof Richard Dawkins has labelled religion as a 'mental virus'**

controversies. But this is burying our heads in the sand – leaving the population at large open to the deceit of evolutionists and failing to understand that evolution is a barrier to evangelism.

The second way in which evolution is winning is by intimidation. Johnson says the evolutionary 'thought police' oppress free thinking: "Academics would have you believe that you shouldn't talk about this subject because you need their training and knowledge in order to make any contribution to the debate. And that if you object to evolution, it's either because you're brainless or because you are biased by superstitious Christian faith."

The same kind of bluff was used with Freudianism: "If you refuse to believe in it then you're not really intelligent – in fact, you have a mental disease! So you need psychoanalysis to correct your thoughts." But Freud's scientific methods have now been much discredited.

This kind of intimidation is

also used by homosexual propagandists today. If you don't support gay rights you're automatically homophobic, so any arguments you have arise from prejudice and are therefore not valid.

Evolution works in the same way – if you don't think like us there must be something wrong with you. In fact, Oxford's evolutionary high priest Prof Richard Dawkins has labelled religion as a mental virus or 'meme'.

But Johnson is encouraging ordinary believers to take up the battle. He believes that you don't need to be a professional scientist to expose the fundamental flaws in evolution theory. He himself is a professor of law, not science, yet he has made a strong impact in America.

But you don't even need to be a top academic, because the basic arguments against evolution are ones of logic and reason. Evolutionists are out on such a limb that when pressed for evidence the response of many is verbal abuse, or they have to come up with ludicrous arguments. Johnson gave several examples of evolution guru Richard Dawkins' clever twists of language to avoid the glaring absence of evidence.

The gospel according to Dawkins is that life is an accident and there is no Creator. But it is philosophy wrapped up to look like science. What Dawkins and others present to the world is

## **Evolutionists are out on such a limb that when pressed for evidence the response of many is verbal abuse.**

their interpretation of the evidence, and because they are perceived to be the experts, their word is law. In fact, they argue that evidence is no longer needed, because their case is already proven.

It's very bad science. Evolutionists limit themselves to one theory, so they have to either

- ◀ ignore inconvenient evidence or force it to support evolution, rather than rejecting the theory if it doesn't fit the evidence. Admittedly, the theory has changed over time, but only in ideas about how it might work – not whether it's actually true or not.

Johnson says, "Evolution is pseudo-science – an ideological campaign paraded as scientific fact. The key to winning the battle is to educate people to

**When evolutionists realised the implications of allowing freedom of thought they opposed the Amendment.**

distinguish between philosophy and real science."

Putting that belief into practice, Johnson worded an amendment to an education bill, the Santorum Amendment, in the US Senate. The aim was to legislate that teachers must help children understand the difference between philosophy and science. It was proposed in the Senate by Republican Senator Rick Santorum, and in practice would have required schools to discuss controversies surrounding scientific topics, and give the theory of evolution as an example.

At first the Senate supported it, but when evolutionists realised the implications of allowing this freedom of thought they opposed the Amendment and the Senate passed a weaker, non-binding version. If it had been passed in full it would have allowed alternatives to evolution to be discussed, and that would have spelled disaster for the evolutionists – so frightened are they of children actually thinking for themselves. If the evidence for evolution is as strong as they say it is, what are they so afraid of?!

Backing up Prof Johnson's attack, Dr Snelling's first seminar of the day explained the complete unreliability of modern rock dating methods. He gave proof that all three assump-

tions on which the methods are based are faulty.

Not only that, but he has discovered rocks that contain minerals that can be dated as either many millions of years old or a few thousand years old, depending on which of two methods you use! Yet it's the same rock, formed at the same time, in the same place, and both radioactive dating methods are frequently used in today's geology. This huge inconsistency is characteristic of different methods and casts doubt on the whole process.

The evidence Snelling presented could, on its own, blow apart the theory of evolution, if it wasn't for the inherent bias towards 'millions of years' in the academic establishment. Such long time periods are essential to the evolution theory, though creationists argue that it doesn't matter how much time you have, evolution still wouldn't happen.

Snelling's latest discoveries deserve to hit the national newspaper headlines. Just one example is the lava flows from Mt St Helens, the volcano that

**Known to be less than 25 years old, samples of the rocks were sent for dating. The results gave dates of millions of years!**

unexpectedly erupted on May 18th, 1980, in south-west Washington.

Known by observation to be less than 25 years old, samples of these rocks were taken and sent for dating to a top laboratory used by geologists in America. When the results came back, they gave dates of millions of years!

Much of Dr Snelling's research has focused on the world famous Grand Canyon. He has taken samples of the basalt rock acknowledged by all scientists to be the most recent – lava flows across today's surface of the Canyon – and had

## Deputy Editor Andrew Halloway interviews Prof Phillip Johnson at Birmingham Christian Centre

**Andrew:** Is the tour meeting your expectations so far?

**Phillip:** It is going well, as it is our first attempt to energise part of the British Christian community about this issue. But we are starting from a low point, so any progress at all is a good beginning.

**Andrew:** What is the most common question that you have been asked on this tour?

**Phillip:** British Christians are most concerned with the question, 'Why does this matter? Can't we just say that Darwinism and Christian faith are compatible and leave it at that?' But the two are completely incompatible – and I say why in my seminar.

**Andrew:** How did you begin the Intelligent Design Movement?

**Phillip:** I came back to the USA from a stay in England in 1988 and after some travail I published my first book on this subject, 'Darwin on Trial', and that attracted a following. And there were already some well-informed people working on the same ideas in the States, critiquing the logic and science of Darwinism without even getting into questions like the Genesis account or the authority of the Bible. So these people came together in a movement that took off after that first book.

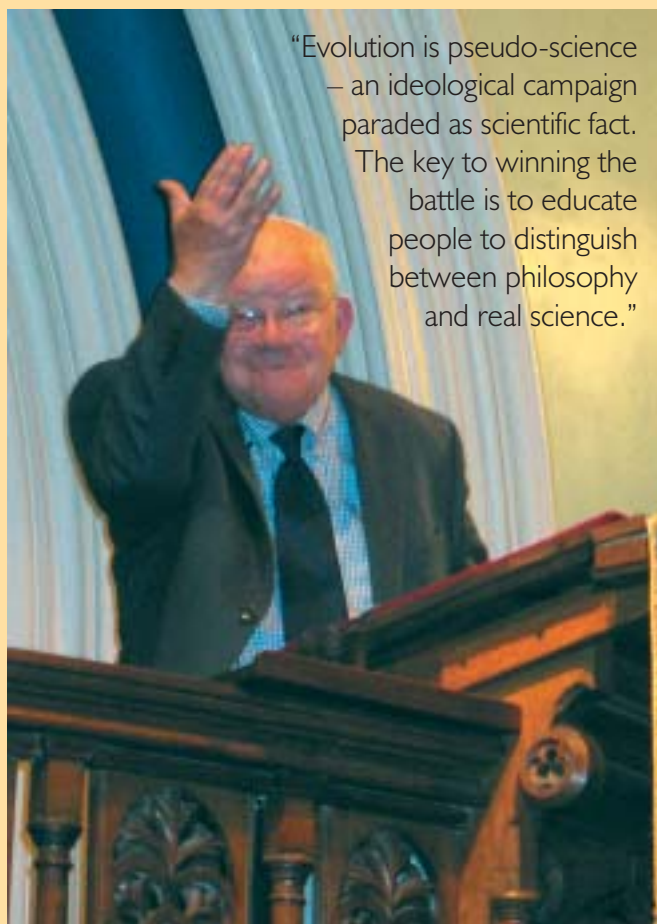
**Andrew:** Do you see the Intelligent Design Movement growing in America just among Christians, or are non-Christians beginning to pick up on the idea too?

**Phillip:** We do have non-Christian supporters. There is a fairly widespread acknowledgement in America that Darwinism has serious problems. So we do get some co-operation from non-Christians, but most of the people who are motivated to pursue the critique are Christian.

**Andrew:** Are there any Christian scientists over here who are signed up to the Intelligent Design Movement?

It doesn't matter how much time you have, evolution still wouldn't happen.

them dated in the best labs. The results proved very similar to samples from rocks taken at the lowest points in the Canyon – the rocks claimed to be the oldest. So the question arises, where did all the millions of years go, between the oldest rocks at the bottom and the newest rocks at the surface? Snelling concludes that they simply never existed.



“Evolution is pseudo-science – an ideological campaign paraded as scientific fact. The key to winning the battle is to educate people to distinguish between philosophy and real science.”

Prof Johnson speaking in Bournemouth before a packed church

**Phillip:** Yes, we have a very small number. And we have some people of a British background who actually work in America with us. But in the British scene, the scientists who are Christians are almost entirely theistic evolutionists. There's a substantial history of creationism in Britain, going back to the Evolution Protest Movement decades ago, but among the scientifically informed there is almost no spirit for attacking Darwinist assumptions, vulnerable though those are. It's remarkable, the level of social conformity that has been enforced.

**Andrew:** Is that because Britain is the home of Darwinism? If it cracked here, it would probably crack anywhere!

Johnson's second seminar concentrated on the fact that DNA contains information – and information always arises from intelligence. He showed how chance alone cannot create intelligible information. The only explanation for this organic 'computer programme for life' is an intelligent Creator.

He ended with an attack on theistic evolution – the belief

A literal interpretation of the Bible is incompatible with evolution.

**Phillip:** Well, yes. I have read that there is a movement here to have Darwin officially declared as the greatest Englishman of all time. But Darwinism is behind the whole materialist domination of society.

**Andrew:** Materialism has increased as Christianity has declined in this country, so is Darwinism filling a spiritual gap by denying God but putting an alternative belief system in his place?

**Phillip:** Yes, Darwinism is essentially the state religion now.

**Andrew:** What about beyond our two continents, is the Movement going worldwide?

**Phillip:** Oh, yes, especially in strongly Christian countries like South Korea and Brazil. My books have even been translated into Chinese as well as Portuguese, Korean, Finnish, Macedonian, French, Czech, etc. So there is a global influence, although small at present; but it is growing.

**Andrew:** Do you believe that you will see evolution toppled in our lifetime?

**Phillip:** Maybe not mine, but certainly some time this century. Remember, few people expected the Iron Curtain to fall at the time and with the speed that it did.

**Andrew:** What do you think is needed to break the stranglehold of evolution in the academic world? Is it just a matter of building up enough evidence to convince the majority, or will it require something much deeper than that?

**Phillip:** Oh, much deeper. There's too much at stake to win just by convincing arguments. Billions of pounds of public subsidies are at issue, and the prestige of academic institutions, in fact the control of society itself. I believe that what it will take to shatter the Darwinist control in Britain and America is events that expose the errors in the dominant philosophy, in a way that can't be covered up. I believe such events will occur. The Darwinist scientific establishment has become so reckless in what they announce and so careless in their facts and checking, that they are eventually going to produce the kind of catastrophe that cannot be covered up or ignored. And then there will be the prospect for real change.

held by many UK Christian scientists, that God used evolution. He said that this belief system is just as faulty as atheistic evolution, because in it God takes no active part, other than perhaps lighting the touch paper at the beginning, and then standing back. If he does have a role, it wouldn't be evolution any longer – because evolution is an argument that, by defini-

tion, says nature itself is all that is needed to create life.

A literal interpretation of the Bible is incompatible with evolution. Most theistic evolutionists are liberal in their theology. If they are evangelical, they tend to make an exception for Genesis and interpret it like a liberal in order to accommodate evolution.

Johnson believes the real ►

Dr Snelling delivers a lecture at the packed Cardiff venue



reason that Christian scientists can't stomach challenging evolution is that they are not willing to rock the boat. They don't want to be demeaned by their colleagues in the same way that creationists and supporters of Intelligent Design are.

The final seminar, given by Dr Snelling, tackled the fossil evidence and what it really tells us about the past and Noah's Flood.

Massive fossil graveyards are often a mix of land and marine species, washed together. They occur on a scale unimaginable apart from a massive flood – even birds have been found bur-

**Traditionally, Ayers Rock is said to have taken millions of years to form. But it could have been laid down in a matter of hours.**

ied with land and sea creatures. How did these animals end up being preserved as fossils alongside fish?

If they had been washed out to sea by even the greatest river flood we can imagine, the animals would have either decayed or been eaten by sea-dwelling creatures, or birds picking at floating

carcasses, before they had chance to be fossilised.

Some rock strata containing fossils cover huge distances across the globe. For example, there is a fossil bed that stretches right across North America to the UK, across Europe and even into Asia. Comparison shows that it was formed at the same time and contains the same type of fossils. Also some coalbeds, which are formed from organic matter, stretch from Britain across Europe to Russia. What other explanation is there apart from a global catastrophe?

Research on Ayers Rock, now called Uluru, in Australia, shows evidence of the Flood. This tourist magnet is made of bright red sandstone, a sedimentary rock which by definition was laid down in water. The layers are up-ended so that the horizontally-laid strata are now almost vertical, lying at 80°. The total thickness of the sandstone is 18,000-20,000 feet.

Of course, traditionally this is said to have taken millions of years to form. But it could all have been laid down in a matter of hours if it was created

Radioactive carbon has been found in almost the entire geological column – yet this shouldn't be possible in rocks 'millions of years old'.

under a large body of water with 70 mph currents, as in a global flood.

And, in fact, research shows that it must have formed rapidly, not over millennia, because the rock contains feldspar, which is not usually found in sandstone. Feldspar quickly breaks down into clay under slow-moving conditions. Also, the grains of sandstone are not rounded by attrition – which would be the case if a river had gradually laid down the rock over a long period. The grains are hard-edged, indicating that there was no time for them to be eroded.

Another line of evidence for the Flood is folded strata. Sedimentary rock bends only when it is still soft with water. Once hardened it cracks, if put under pressure. Yet we find whole strata sequences folded on themselves – this has to indicate that the rock was laid down rapidly, under high pressure, before it dried out. If each stratum took millions or even thousands of years to form under slow pressure, they would have dried out and split.

Polystrate fossils, features that penetrate several rock

strata, are another phenomenon that defies long ages. Take fossil tree trunks. If it took millions of years for the rocks to form around them and for them to be fossilised, the trees would have rotted away long before they turned to rock. Strata had to accumulate around the trees so rapidly that they didn't have time to decay

**“There won't be revival in this country until the Church repents of the idolatry of evolution”**  
– Prof Andy McIntosh.

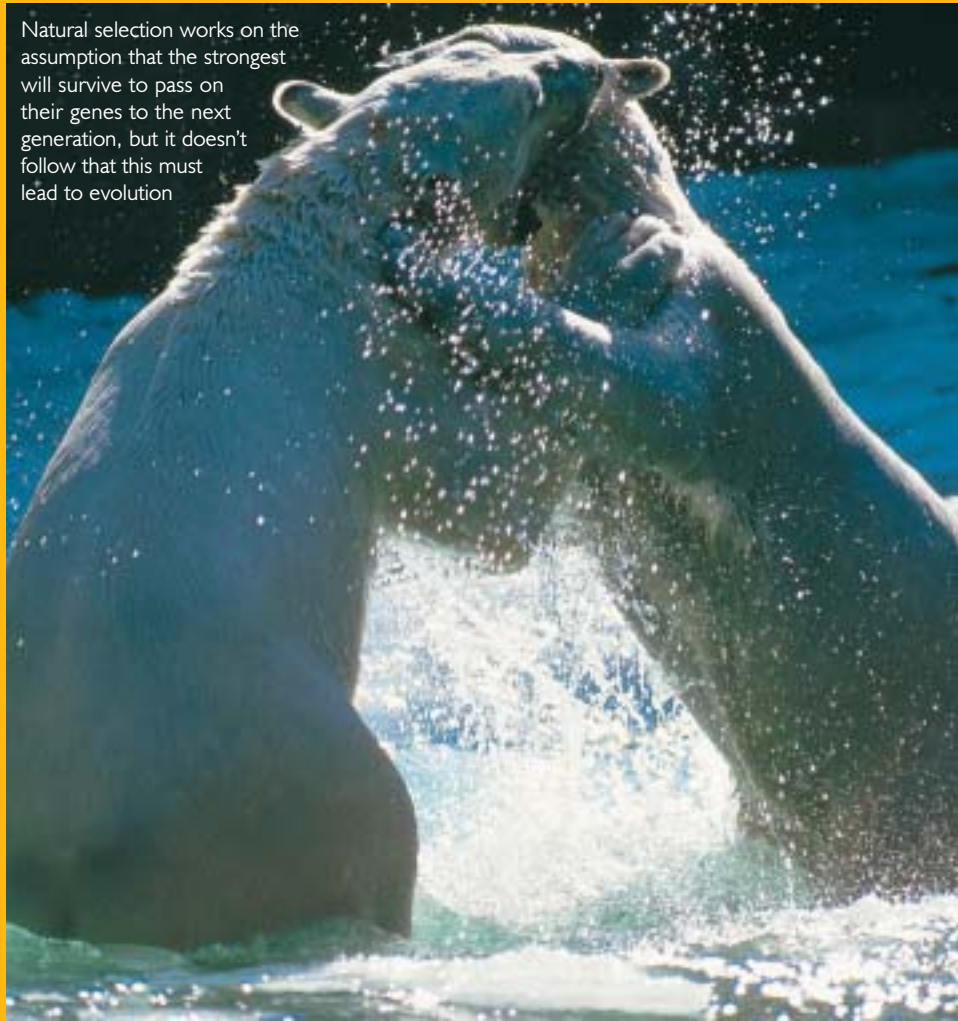
In Nova Scotia, there are many tree fossils scattered through hundreds of feet of rock, that cross as much as 20 strata.

Another fascinating fact is that radioactive carbon has been found in almost the entire geological column – all the rock layers that are meant to represent several billion years of time. Why is this significant? Because radioactive carbon only has a short half-life – in just over 250,000 years all of it in the earth should have decayed out of existence. So it shouldn't be possible to find it in rocks that are millions of years old, unless of course the rocks really aren't that old.

The chairman of the seminars, Prof Andy McIntosh from Leeds University, concluded: “I believe there won't be revival in this country until the Church repents of its acceptance of the idolatry of evolution, which denies the Creator his due honour and glory.”

*Recordings of the tour seminars and a range of books and DVDs by Phillip Johnson and others are available from ICC. See [www.iccspreadingtheword.com](http://www.iccspreadingtheword.com) or call 0845 607 1672 for an order form. For more information about creation research see [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org). For more information about Intelligent Design, see [www.discovery.org/csc](http://www.discovery.org/csc) and for more on Phillip Johnson see [www.am.org/johnson/fo\\_articl.htm](http://www.am.org/johnson/fo_articl.htm)*

Natural selection works on the assumption that the strongest will survive to pass on their genes to the next generation, but it doesn't follow that this must lead to evolution



## Natural selection v. evolution

In his second seminar Johnson explained why evolution fails to show how natural selection and genetic variation together produce new, useful genetic information. New information must be created in the DNA if evolution is to occur. Yet every example of genetic variation given by evolutionists as evidence does not involve the creation of new information. For example, the classic Darwin's finches (pictured right) case study is constantly cited by biologists as evolution in action. When a drought hit the finches, those with bigger beaks survived better because they could get to the food, so the average beak size increased. But this is just an example of natural selection – not evolution! In any case, evolutionists fail to mention that the beak sizes revert to the norm when the rains return. So even this minor modification isn't permanent. All it demonstrates is the inherent variety of genetic information that already exists in the genes. The variation in beak size did not take

the finch population in any new direction. No new biological structure was created – there is no permanent change, and no new DNA information added. No 'net' evolution occurred. Yet this is one of evolution's so-called best proofs!

