

- (1) Either matter is eternal or it has simply, of itself, come into being.
- (2) The complex structure of the physical universe has evolved from the simple unorganized condition of primeval matter.
- (3) Living material has evolved from non-living matter.
- (4) All living things -- whether monerans, protists, plants or animals -- have evolved from the simplest living things.
- (5) Man has evolved from animals.
- (6) Each of the above processes took place by means of the random operation of previously-existing natural forces.

In connection with our topic, I should like to point out the fact that there are good reasons why an alternative to Evolutionism is needed. One such reason is that Evolutionism makes a claim that it is the only reasonable and credible explanation of the origin and development of the universe, of life, and of man, and that any other explanation is unworthy of consideration. To substantiate this charge, it is necessary only to quote from one of a number of writers who express themselves on this point. Horatio Hackett Newman, when he was Professor Emeritus of Zoology at the University of Chicago, wrote:

The nature of the proof of organic evolution, then, is this: that, using the concept of organic evolution as a working hypothesis it has been possible to rationalize and render intelligible a vast array of observed phenomena, the real facts upon which evolution rests .... There is no other generalization known to man which is of the least value in giving these bodies of fact any sort of scientific coherence and unity. In other words, the working hypothesis works and is therefore acceptable as truth until overthrown by a more workable hypothesis. Not only does the hypothesis work, but, with the steady accumulation of further facts, the weight of evidence is now so great that it overcomes all intelligent opposition by its sheer mass. There are no rival hypotheses except the outworn and completely refuted idea of special creation, now retained only by the ignorant, the dogmatic, and the prejudiced.^2

Another reason why an alternative to Evolutionism is needed is that