

# Defeating Darwinism

## Chapter Summaries

### Chapter 1

#### Emilio's Letter – Three Common Mistakes

##### Vocabulary

*American NABT* – American National Association of Biology Teachers

*Naturalism* – Nature is all there is (aka *materialism*)

*deism* – the belief that God created the world and the laws that govern nature, but then left us to our own devices

*theism* – the belief that God created the world and remains active in our lives (the God of the Bible)

*empirical* – (adj.) science is empirical, meaning scientists rely on experiments, observations and calculations to develop theories and test them.

##### People

*Phillip E Johnson* – the author of the book

*Emilio* – the author of the letter

*George Gaylord Simpson* – famous evolutionist

##### Summary

A Christian Student at a European university wrote a public letter to reconcile the differences between creationists and evolutionists. Phillip Johnson (the author) states that he makes 3 common mistakes in his arguments.

#### 1. It's Only About Length of Time

- a. Emilio believes that the conflict between evolution and creation rests on the dispute over whether the term 'day' is figurative or literal.
- b. In fact, it is much greater than that, as what Emilio is proposing as a slow, gradual transformation of life over time directed by God is completely different than the accepted definition of evolution by the NABT, and the common evolutionist

#### 2. God Made the Laws and Then Retired

- a. Even if evolution is mindless, that would be okay, as long as we agree that God created the laws of physics and chemistry that evolution follow
- b. This allows evolutionists to be deists – or to allow other evolutionists to still believe in God.
- c. This also means that the ultimate question – whether or not God cares about us – can be answered with a 'no.' Even the most convinced evolutionist won't argue with you about whether there is a deistic God. Emilio is willing to exchange the Creator God of the Bible for the lifeless God who just created scientific laws and then walked away.

#### 3. Giving Away the Realm of Reason

- a. Deism isn't Christianity.
- b. Emilio believes that religious statements only belong to the realm of faith while scientific statements all belong to the realm of reason.

- c. Like comparing Jesus to Santa Claus, society says it's ok to believe bits and pieces of spiritual things. Some of these things are more respected than others. If you believe in Santa as a grown up you would be considered crazy. If you want to believe in Jesus, that's ok, as long as you only believe it 'in faith' and not as if it could be a scientific reality.
- d. It's an easier stand for a potential scientist to make because more people will take him seriously.

### **Do You Have A Better Idea?**

Ways we can stop trying to reconcile with evolution and stand on a literal creationist view:

1. Stop seeing this as a conflict between the Bible and science. You can see creation through a scientist's eyes.
2. Focus on the "Blind Watchmaker Thesis" – the idea that God wasn't necessary for biological creation because the natural forces did that for us. Scientific evidence is actually *against* this concept.
3. Science is empirical, but also naturalistic, therefore, when assessing empirical data, scientists are already *looking* for naturalistic answers.