

In chapter 6, with regard to Asian ecclesiology, the author states, "The chief ecclesiological problem in Asia is how to be church in the midst of more ancient family-based religious communities" (p. 201). The elitist approach of ecclesiology, according to Chan, is not fully recognized because it ignores the contribution of grassroots Christianity. The author observes that several indigenous concepts of Christianity have found answers for these issues and introduced in Asia concepts such as churchless Christianity, Japanese Indigenous Christian Movements, Pentecostal Church, and Watchman Nee's family-based local church. Among these indigenous Christian movements, he insists that the Pentecostal Church has the most adequate response to the Asian context.

In this book, the author argues that the ecclesial experience should be the basic source for Christian theology. This means that the formation of theology should be founded on grassroots Christianity. The question that needs to be addressed concerns the primary source of Christian theology: Should it be God's revelation or the church's experience? Despite this question, I think this book is a very useful material for those who are interested in studying the cultural backgrounds of Asian theology. It is also a good source for those who study the indigenous Christian movements in Asia.

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Darwin's Doubt: The Explosive Origin of Animal Life and the Case for Intelligent Design, by Stephen C. Meyer, New York: Harper One, 2013. 540 pp. ISBN 978-0-06-207148-4. Hardcover, US\$19.99.

Darwin's Doubt is the most up-to-date comprehensive and rigorous argument based on fossil evidence against the neo-Darwinian theory and for intelligent design. While a rigorously made argument is always useful, the truly amazing thing about *Darwin's Doubt* is that the rigor does not render the book unreadable. In fact, Stephen Meyer's writing is amazingly clear, elegant, and understandable to any generally educated reader sincerely interested in understanding the arguments he makes. It belongs in the library or anyone serious about understanding the origin of animal diversity.

One outstanding aspect of *Darwin's Doubt* is the way in which Meyer clearly and respectfully lays out counter arguments to his own. This is es-

sential in books that tackle topics as complex and riddled with subtleties as the origin of various kinds of animals. Meyer demonstrates a true mastery of the arguments from multiple angles. No matter what their preconceptions and background may be, upon reading this book readers will be aware of the arguments for and against a Darwinian explanation for animal diversity.

It may be tempting to think of this book as simply another argument against Darwinism. *Darwin's Doubt* profoundly challenges Darwinism, but it does not stop there, Meyer presents a positive and compelling argument for intelligent design as an explanation for the animal diversity that appears with indisputable suddenness in Cambrian strata. This positive argument hinges on the necessary increase in genetic information when new body plans come into existence. In working through this, Meyer draws heavily on the seminal work of Doug Axe and others. While Meyer may not be drawing on his own original research and readers could go to the sources he cites, his summary of the research and the clarity with which he expresses its importance in understanding the Cambrian explosion is uniquely useful.

Meyer goes beyond the ever-expanding knowledge about DNA encoded information and draws with great effect on our emerging understanding of epigenetics. This epigenetic information is encoded outside of DNA sequences, and ranges from small chemical modification of DNA itself to the way in which proteins and other molecules are arranged in cell membranes. If anything, this information presents an even greater challenge to the neo-Darwinian synthesis than does DNA-encoded information. Certainly, there is no current detailed model for how the necessary modification of epigenetic information could gradually change in concert with DNA-encoded information to produce the profoundly different body plans seen in Cambrian organisms—as well as in modern organisms—ranging from vertebrates to echinoderms.

In a nutshell, Meyer shows that the first appearance of some 13-16 animal phyla in layers of rock thought in conventional geological terms to have been laid down over 5-6 million years requires an increase in genetic information that cannot be accounted for by the neo-Darwinian mutation/selection theory of origins, but is consistent with the theory that some intelligence played an active role in producing these very different kinds of animals. In other words, the requirement of a *vera causa*—a true or real cause—in scientific explanations for phenomena is not met by Darwinism, but is met, at least in this case, by intelligent design.

There may be some creationists who find Meyer's position disappointing because it is not based on a strictly biblical understanding of history. This would be unfortunate, as what Meyer shows is extremely persuasive; even if one concedes a conventional understanding of geology, Darwin-

ism still fails as a scientific explanation of the origin of the profound diversity evident in the fossil record. The argument is possibly more persuasive coming from a scientist who worked as a professional geologist before pursuing his doctorate in the philosophy of science at Cambridge University. It would be ridiculous to dismiss Meyer as some kind of unqualified Christian apologist.

Of course, Darwinists are even more likely than creationists to find *Darwin's Doubt* disappointing. This is why it is worth owning the 2014 edition, which includes a response to Darwinist critics of the first edition printed in 2013. In fact, Meyer's response is so good that it makes the second edition worth the investment even by those who already own the first edition. However, it is unfortunate that there are one or two places where a copy editor should have caught slips, such as a repetition of essentially the same thing using similar phraseology in the last two consecutive paragraphs on page 433. Perhaps more disappointing in a book with such valuable endnotes is the lack of bibliographic support for notes in the response to critics. One can only hope that this will be corrected in future editions.

Over the past two decades, a number of excellent books have been written for those willing to seriously consider intelligent design as at least one possible explanation to be considered when thinking about the origin of natural phenomena. Michael Behe's *Darwin's Black Box* introduced the concept of irreducible complexity at the molecular level to a wide audience. *Icons of Evolution* by Jonathan Wells is iconoclastic in its approach to common textbook evidence. William Dembski's books have formalized and added a degree of rigor to discussions of biological information and its origin. Meyer's earlier *Signature of the Cell* as well as *Darwin's Doubt* are not so much about introducing new concepts or calling into question old evidence or arguments. In both cases, they are about bringing a careful philosophical perspective to the question of origins and presenting evidence within this framework. Thus, Meyer's approach takes the discussion to a new and higher level in a different way than previous books about intelligent design.

Darwin's Doubt is a weighty volume; 540 pages in length, 100 of which are endnotes and bibliography. Few will read and understand it in a day. In fact, those who claim to have more or less done this, as is the case with at least one critic, may find that they have actually missed the argument all together. Digesting this book takes time and careful consideration; however, it does not take a graduate degree in geology, paleontology, or molecular genetics. While Meyer uses science, he writes as a philosopher in clear prose designed for clarity. Careful readers may find their understanding of reality challenged, but in a positive eye-opening way. It could be intimidating to take on a book of this weight, both in terms of its physi-

cal size and the material it tackles, but anyone who does so will find their effort richly rewarded.

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