Why the common myth that evolution/long-ages is “the only scientific option” for thinkers?

One reason is peer pressure—believing in evolution because so many other people believe it, a self-sustaining cycle of social reinforcement. Another is never being shown how the same evidence can be interpreted within a framework that takes the Bible seriously as revealed history—the Word of the living God who made all things. That same Bible also teaches that since Adam’s fall into sin, people are by nature biased against God. The Bible also teaches that the creation was originally “very good”, and that death, disease and suffering are ultimately due to Adam’s sin, in which we all continue. Belief in evolution (“everything made itself”) is the ultimate way to suppress the truth that all of us know deep down—that nothing as complex as this universe could ever have come into being without intelligence and planning.

Deciding on whether creation or evolution makes more sense is one of the most crucial issues there could possibly be, because it affects your purpose and destiny. You owe it to yourself to really check out the evidence from a creation viewpoint, not just to hear it all “pre-digested” through the common “lenses” of our age.

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Surtsey Surprises

David Catchpoole, Ph.D.

After the island of Surtsey was born of a huge underwater volcanic eruption off Iceland in 1963,1 geologists were astonished at what they found. Four years later, one wrote: “On Surtsey, only a few months sufficed for a landscape to be created which was so varied and mature that it was almost beyond belief.”2

There were wide sandy beaches, gravel banks, impressive cliffs, soft undulating land, faultscarsps, gullies and channels and “boulders worn by the surf, some of which were almost round, on an abrasion platform cut into the cliff.”3 And all of this despite the island’s “extreme youth!”4

Fast biology, too

The geologists’ surprise is understandable, given the popular belief that Surtsey’s “varied and mature” features ought to have needed long periods of time—millions of years—to form. But such ideas are a relatively modern phenomenon, a legacy of uniformitarian (long-age) theories gaining popular acceptance in the decades just before Darwin.4 Prior to that, great scientists understood the earth was young (around 6,000 years old) and had been dramatically re-shaped by upheavals associated with the global Flood of Noah’s day (around 4,500 years ago).

Understanding the power of rushing water, and accepting that Genesis 7:11’s “fountains of the deep” breaking open (with the implied associated volcanic activity) was a real event, gives one a whole different starting point when viewing the world’s geography, topography and geology.

However, in contrast, anyone with a millions-of-years starting point will be “astonished” when viewing Surtsey. A January 2006 New Scientist article says: “The island has excited geographers, who marvel that canyons, gullies and other land features that typically take tens of thousands or millions of years to form were created in less than a decade.”5

In contrast, anyone with a millions-of-years starting point will be “astonished” when viewing Surtsey. A January 2006 New Scientist article says: “The island has excited geographers, who marvel that canyons, gullies and other land features that typically take tens of thousands or millions of years to form were created in less than a decade.”5

But Surtsey demonstrates that it is the sceptics who are wrong. It also gives a fascinating insight into how we got where we are today. What came, came.

The lessons of Surtsey

Sceptics try to counter Christianity by claiming that the Bible’s account of history can’t be true, e.g. by arguing that the earth’s geological features needed millions of years, and that biological recovery from the Flood would be impossible within the short biblical timeframe.

But Surtsey demonstrates that it is the sceptics who are wrong. It also gives a fascinating insight into how we got where we are today. What came, came.

And come it did, to the great surprise of evolutionary biologists. Despite the lessons they should have learned from the rapid recolonization of denuded Mt St Helens (USA) following its eruption in 1980,6 they again greatly underestimated the innate resilience of the creation.

At Surtsey, insects were the first to arrive. The first people to set foot on Surtsey in early 1964 were “welcomed” by a fly on the shore. Other aerial arrivals included spiders “ballooning” through the atmosphere on silken threads. Other insects came by sea, riding on tussocks of grass or floating wood.

Birds began producing chicks on Surtsey in 1970, just three years after the lava stopped flowing, and contributing to Surtsey’s “greening”. Snow buntings brought the seeds of bog rosemary from Britain in their gizzards. Combined with bird excreta, seeds grow rapidly—there is now a “bright green oasis” spreading from a permanent colony of hundreds of lesser black-backed gulls. Geese now graze the island’s vegetation, too.

The cycle continues; the plants support insects which attract birds that bring more plants. Recent arrivals include willow bushes and puffins. According to the Icelandic Institute of Natural History, “We now have a fully functioning ecosystem on Surtsey.”

References and notes

1. Molten lava continued to flow from the crater for several years.
2. <creation.com/surtsey>.
4. In fact, uniformitarianism paved the way for Darwin, because evolution not just assumed, but needed, long periods of time.
6. <creation.com/recovery>.