

Cockroaches

Walkers were on a beach admiring the beautiful rock formations, with their different layers. “Obviously, there have been big changes throughout the history of Earth”, they said. “All this panic about climate change is nothing compared with previous crises. Ice ages came and went, along with many species. Even if we all were to disappear, then the process of life developing on Earth could all start again if there were nothing but two cockroaches left.” Such beliefs are common. While having a respect for the wonders of nature, many people think that we are just products of an evolutionary chain which includes insects like cockroaches.

Made in God’s Image

The Bible contains a different message. It teaches that God made the first man and woman on the same day that He made other animals. However, Adam and Eve, unlike the animals, were made *in the image of God* (Genesis 1:27). The Bible also explains the existence of things not easily explained by science, and which certainly could not occur by a random process of coincidence. These things include our consciences, the concept of morals, and death. Moreover, the Bible consistently and repeatedly invites us to respond to God’s message, so that we are not hopeless but have prospects beyond death. Take a look at Ezekiel 18:30–31, Amos 5:4, John 3:16 and Acts 3:19. However, the Bible is very blunt about non-believers: their ultimate destiny is no different from that of the animals.

Nevertheless man, though in honour, does not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the way of those who are foolish, and of their posterity who approve their sayings. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling. But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me (Psalm 49:12–15).

This is one of several passages where the Bible repeats this message. Jesus says the same in Mark 16:16:

“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Our Choice

If we chose not to believe the Bible, its message is still true; without the hope of the gospel, unbelievers will cease to exist and will remain in the grave. Then this life is all there is. However, this need not be the case. As explained in the Bible, non-belief is fundamentally wrong. If we believe and repent then we can be raised from the grave to live for ever on a glorious, perfected earth.

The choice is ours. Jesus said that his followers are of much more value than many sparrows, let alone cockroaches (Luke 12:6–7). Let’s seize this opportunity to believe and not act like mere enhanced cockroaches! Let’s be people of hope.

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