

Which Came First, the Chicken or the Egg?

By Alfred B. Davis
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Someone asked my fifth-grade teacher, Miss Schmidt, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" She smiled and said, "If you believe what I do, you would know the answer." She was referring, of course, to the Bible and her Christian faith.

Now, this may seem like an obvious answer to a Bible-believing Christian at first. However, there is a bit more to it than you may think. In fact, in order to answer the question correctly you have to think. You have to apply a little reason to what you think you may know.

Consider, first what the evolutionist has to say about which came first. They believe that chickens evolved from theropods, a group of dinosaurs that includes the Tyrannosaurus rex. In fact, Hugh Powell, writing in the Smithsonian Magazine said, "The closest living relatives of Tyrannosaurus rex are birds such as chickens and ostriches..." in his April 24, 2008, article, *T. Rex Linked to Chickens, Ostriches*.

There are a variety of creative and imaginative theories and explanations as to how dinosaurs evolved into chickens. They range from the long, gradual processes of mutations, coupled with competition and changing climates, over millions of years incrementally evolving theropods into birds to the sudden appearance of mass mutations in a single generation causing a gigantic evolutionary leap where a dinosaur laid an egg and a bird hatched out of it. The latter theory, called the *Hopeful Monster Theory* by geneticist Richard Goldschmidt of the University of California at Berkeley in the 1940's, was originally put forth in the 1930s by paleontologist Otto Schindewolf to explain the missing links in the fossil record between dinosaurs and birds. Evolutionists Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldredge resurrected the, by then, discredited theory in 1972, renaming and rebranding it as "punctuated equilibrium." This revived theory explains the absence of transitional fossils by proposing that intermediate organisms were transitory, unstable species which quickly evolved into long-lasting, stable species. In other words, there were long periods of genetic equilibrium or stability (no evolutionary change) during which many fossils were produced, punctuated by rapid bursts of genetic mutations (rapid evolutionary change) that left no fossils.

Despite the variations in the evolutionary theories, and whether evolution took place over extremely long periods of time or in short bursts, all evolutionary theories come down to this: two non-birds mated and out of the resulting fertile egg hatched a bird. So, in answer to the question as to which came first, the chicken or the egg, evolutionists would all answer: the egg. Two non-birds mated, laid an egg, and hatched out a bird. Two non-chicken birds mated, laid an egg, and hatched out a chicken.



Now this is where thinking and the application of reason comes in. To evolve from Tyrannosaurus rex to Foghorn Leghorn requires a great many physiological and morphological changes. Not the least of which involves the radical differences between the respiratory systems of dinosaurs and birds. Instead of pumping air in and out of the lungs, as do reptiles and mammals, birds have a unique unidirectional continuous flow of air through their lungs, giving them the most efficient lungs of all the vertebrates. Producing these changes would require multiple alterations in DNA sequencing stemming from numerous beneficial mutations. And, even if the genetic changes occurred in one dinosaur, they would have to occur in another dinosaur as well. Of the opposite sex. At about the same time. And in close enough geographical proximity that they could find each other to mate. And they would have to take care of and feed their strange newly evolved offspring instead of killing and eating it themselves. And the newly evolved offspring would have to find and mate with others just like themselves. And, to make matters worse, all these disparate coincidences had to have occurred in just a short few million years.

Another problem for the evolutionists would arise if it could be shown that fossils of both birds and the theropods they supposedly evolved from were to be found together. After all, it would be a powerful indication that birds did not evolve from dinosaurs if it could be proved that birds and dinosaurs were contemporaneous. Well, Don Batten, writing in the July 2012 edition of *Creation* says in his article, "Modern Birds Found with Dinosaurs: Are Museums Misleading the Public?":

In order to test evolution, Dr. [Carl] Werner visited 60 natural history museums and ten dinosaur dig sites in seven different countries. When he asked paleontologists if they had any personal knowledge of modern birds found with dinosaurs, he was in for quite a surprise.

...With each interview, more modern birds that had been found with dinosaurs were added to his list, including: parrots, penguins, owls, sandpipers, albatross, flamingos, loons, ducks, cormorants and avocets. Carl assembled this list from interviews he did with various paleontologists, as well as from articles by evolutionist scientists and a textbook...

...It was not long before Dr. Werner noted an important discrepancy: museums were not displaying what the scientists were revealing in their one-on-one interviews. In fact, the natural history museums contradicted reality and were suggesting the opposite. Of the 60 museums he visited, he did not see one single fossil of a modern bird that had been found in a dinosaur rock layer and only one museum out of 60 displayed a modern bird model with a dinosaur: the Milwaukee Museum.

One prone to thinking and reasoning might question why the museums are covering up what the paleontologists are finding.

So, what does the Bible have to say about this? Clearly it says that the chicken came first, right?

Well, not so fast! Let's do a little thinking and reasoning here as well. First, let's consider what the Bible says about the origin of birds in Genesis 1:20-23:

²⁰And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. ²¹And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. ²³And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Clearly, the Genesis account of creation leaves no room for evolution, not even for the theistic evolutionist's vain attempt to correlate evolution and Genesis by claiming that God was the guiding force behind evolution, thereby explaining away the lack of transitional fossils and intermediate species. Instead, the Bible presents birds, and that includes chickens, as being created whole and complete by a specific creative act of God. Reptiles, including the dinosaurs, were not created until the next day, day 6, according to Genesis 1:24-25.

Of course, the chickens that God created were more like the red jungle fowl of southeast Asia that our domestic chickens are derived from. I say derived from, not evolved, because the offspring of those first domesticated jungle fowl have been bred, cross bred, and selectively bred for thousands of years but are still, when you get right down to the genetic heart of the matter, jungle fowl. After all, God did not need to create all the variations of chickens that exist today. He only needed to create the original jungle fowl kind that contained sufficient genetic diversity to produce all the various types and breeds of chickens and jungle fowl that exist today.

And that leads us to the Biblical answer to the question of which came first, the chicken or the egg. Unfortunately for Miss Schmidt, who was confident that the chicken came first, she was wrong as well. The correct answer is both. When God created the first chickens (jungle fowl) on the fifth day of the creation week, He created both sexes, male and female, roosters and hens. That means, as any Bible-believing biologist can tell you, when God created the female chicken, the hen, on day five, He created her along with the eggs carried in her body that would eventually mature and be laid throughout her life. Consequently, neither the chicken nor the egg came first. They were both created at the same time on the same day.

As always, if you have questions, God's Word has answers. Even for which came first, the chicken or the egg.

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