

Movie Review



Expelled – a Documentary by Ben Stein

Let's face it – Ben Stein has clearly touched a nerve with this film – and it's long overdue. Some years ago, I taught a Sunday School class on the subject of angels. The study of holy angels went smoothly, but when talk turned to the fallen variety, class members frowned, cringed and didn't want to proceed with the class. That didn't make the dark side any less worthy of study – it simply meant the students didn't want to hear about it.

Ben Stein's controversial movie, ***Expelled***, does not push Christianity, Judaism, Creationism, or any other “-ism” for that matter. In fact, the central theme of this documentary is a single question – i.e., “Why is application of the scientific method acceptable throughout academia with respect to just about everything except Darwinism?” It's a fair question – especially in an arena that prides itself on unbridled freedom to challenge anything.

“Political correctness” apparently trumps such freedom. Stein spotlights professors whose careers and livelihood have been trashed for merely hypothesizing that the complexity of living things implies an intelligent design. But the powers that be won't even permit such a hypothesis to undergo evaluation by the scientific method. Proponents of evolution are in control -- their party line is revered as absolute truth – and challenge is virtually off limits.

It's like the prospect of looking deeply into your family tree... You suspect in your heart that there are some crooks in there, but nobody really wants to admit it, so they ignore it. Actually, the land mine that Stein taps goes much deeper than one's personal distaste for a given subject. Here's the trip-wire: As a belief system, secular humanism presumes there is no Deity. As such, all attempts by secular humanists to explain anything that exists are necessarily and firmly bounded by that presumption.

In other words – secular humanism is a house of cards that topples when one concludes, even by applying the scientific method to a body of evidence, that what exists is attributable to something supernatural – perhaps an intelligent designer. So... now academia employs the Abbott-and-Costello approach to the issue – “Doc, it hurts when I do this!” So the doc responds – “Well, don't do that!” And so academia doesn't, and apparently won't even entertain it.

This is all rather confusing, considering that Charles Darwin himself references a “Creator”, with a capital “C” in his writings. Here are a couple illustrative quotes from his benchmark work, ***The Origin of the Species***, 6th edition, 1872:

*"To my mind it accords better with what we know of the laws impressed on matter by the **Creator**..." p.462b (underlining and highlighting added) ¹*

*"There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the **Creator** into a few forms or into one..." p.463 (underlining and highlighting added) ²*

At this point, it should be noted that Darwin, the standard-bearer for evolutionism, concerned himself much less with how life began, and much more with seeking to explain how and why we have various species in the world. In any event, it appears from the above quotes that Darwin himself acknowledges an "Intelligent Designer" with respect to the origin of life, if not the origin of species.

Stein, who is Jewish, devotes considerable attention to how Darwinism shaped Adolf Hitler's thinking and behavior in connection with his personal quest to purify humankind by exterminating Jews, and thus establish Aryans as a so-called "super-race". **Expelled** skillfully laces in several sobering clips from German concentration camps and extermination facilities.

Predictably, tenacious adherents to evolution have responded to Stein's presentation with pure venom. If you have any doubt, just sample some of the commentary posted on YouTube. While **Expelled** may not become a box office smash, it is refreshing and thought-provoking – definitely worth your watching.

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Gary M. "Mick" Wells / 5-12-2008

"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'"

Psalm 14:1, NIV

¹ <http://members.iinet.net.au/~sejones/drwooscr.html#ch15a>

² *ibid* 1