Session 4 Discussion

1. Compare the uses of the word "faith." How is faith in Scripture different from faith that my chair won't collapse different from the faith in paradigms necessary for science?
2. Evolutionists answer the idea of irreducible complexity as follows: in many so-called irreducibly complex systems, the predecessors had the parts in place, but they were performing another function. These parts were then repurposed into the systems we see now.
   What weakness can you see in the explanation?

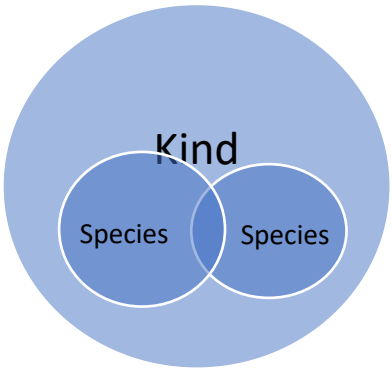
3. Refer to slides 7-9. In the interest of time, I did not include a narrative. I included those slides so they could be examined in more depth here.
   a. Slide 7 – The picture on the left is a representation of the hemoglobin molecule Different types of atoms have a different color. There are thousands of atoms. If we could see this in 3D, it would still look like a blob. The picture on the right is the same molecule, this time the colors represent the amino acids present in the protein. A bit more structure emerges.
   b. Slide 8 – In this view, I represent the main protein not as atoms, but as a chain or backbone. In the picture on the left, the colors still represent individual amino acids. Notice that in the interior I have left some red-colored structures as atoms. These are the hemes, from which hemoglobin gets its name. In the center of each heme is an orange-colored atom- this is an iron atom. The iron gives hemoglobin the ability to bind, transport and release oxygen. The heme also gives blood its red color. We see more structure emerging. In the picture on the right, the colors now represent the subunits of hemoglobin, each with a heme in the center. The structure is much more clear.

      The complex structure is necessary to hold each heme in the correct orientation in space and relative to one another. The heme is structured inits way so it can hold the iron atom in the correct orientation. If the structures are not exactly right, hemoglobin won't work. Oxygen can't be circulated.

   c. Slide 9 – The sequence of 284 residues is the sequence of amino acids in hemoglobin. Each letter stands for an animo acid. If even one of the letters are changed, it will change the structure of the molecule, and we end up with non-functional hemoglobin. The following series are the nucleotides in the DNA sequence of hemoglobin. A 3-letter combination (a codon) codes for an amino acid. If one of these letters is changed (an A for a G, for example) there are two possible outcomes: either the change is neutral and it doesn't affect the sequence of amino acids, or the mutation will result in a different amino acid, which changes the structure of the hemoglobin, which will yield a non-functional molecule.
   d. The point of all this- nature can't experiment with the genetic sequence of hemoglobin to finally get it right. An incorrect sequence means that hemoglobin doesn't function. The organism can't survive. Evolution does not account for how a complex molecule like hemoglobin can evolve, whether from scratch or a repurposed molecule.

e. Go back to slide 4. The blood clotting process takes at least ten different proteins, acting together, to accomplish its task. Those proteins must be fully functional, and they must also function with the other proteins. Evolutionists can't account for this level of complexity. They can only respond, "It must have evolved somehow, because here it is." That's a statement of faith, not science.

4. Offer comments on the cookie analogy. Where is the statement of faith for Evolution?
5. Christians do not dispute natural selection. The COVID-19 virus is an example of a genetic mutation that altered an existing virus. We Christians acknowledge evolution only within a "kind." A kind is as difficult to define as "species." The Venn diagram may be helpful.



We can agree that natural selection can alter species, even form new species, but those species will not change kinds. A coronavirus will not mutate into a bacteria. A species of shark won't evolve into a tuna.

6. The ultimate faith statement for Evolution is that one kind can evolve into another. There is no observation, either in the field or lab, to corroborate that statement. It is pure speculation. Evolution has turned a statement of speculation into fact.