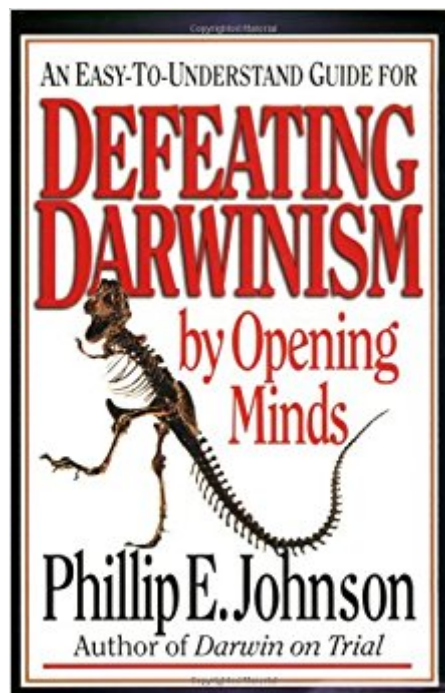




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An Easy-to-Understand Guide For Defeating Darwinism By Opening Minds



Synopsis

Voted one of Christianity Today's 1998 Books of the Year! For decades, Christians have felt voiceless in the critical debate over evolution. Until now. Finally, ordinary Christians have the opportunity and the resources to defeat the false claims of Darwinism. With all of the complicated scientific debate swirling around the topic of evolution, Christians need an easy way to understand the basic issues without oversimplifying. Phillip Johnson has the answer: the key to defeating the false claims of Darwinism is to open our minds to good thinking habits. Here is first-rate advice on avoiding common mistakes in discussions about evolution, understanding the legacy of the Scopes trial, spotting deceptive arguments, and grasping the basic scientific issues without getting bogged down in unnecessary details. In the bestselling and critically acclaimed *Darwin on Trial* and *Reason in the Balance*, Phillip Johnson took on the academic elites and exposed the misleading claims of evolutionary naturalism. *Defeating Darwinism by Opening Minds* provides a new and powerful treatment of these issues for high-school students, parents, teachers, pastors, youth advisors and ordinary readers. Johnson aims not just to defeat a bad theory, but to defeat it in the right way-by opening minds to the truth.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Johnson feels his successful antievolution books, *Darwin on Trial* (1991) and *Reason in the Balance* (1995), are more complicated than parents and teachers need to prepare students to take on the evolutionists. Hence, this shorter version of his overall thesis that also advises how to debate evolution. Johnson first makes clear what he perceives the real adversary to be: a dogma that

insists life arose solely by chance and that denies contrary evidence a hearing. He then counsels believers to avoid such common mistakes as retreating from theism to deism (and so transforming a continuously creative God into an uninvolved First Cause), to learn to spot faulty analogies and other forms of poor logic, to know the soundest scientific data casting doubt on classical evolution, and to persist--for, he says, the days of Darwinian hegemony are numbered. He firmly believes and seeks to persuade readers that his ultimate causes, aside from religious faith, are freedom of inquiry and the opening of now closed minds. Ray Olson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"By profaning the scientific establishment's most sacred cows, U.C.-Berkeley law professor Johnson has earned critical acclaim and brisk sales. Now, the witty iconoclast who questioned the scientific evidence for Darwinian evolution in his *Darwin on Trial* (1991) provides a short, simple manual to help students, parents, teachers and pastors debate evolution, 'a subject,' Johnson says, 'that has for too long been protected from critical thinking by law and academic custom.' Included in the book are tips for using what Carl Sagan once called a 'baloney detector kit' to verify the evidence used by opponents in an argument, as well as tips for detecting ad hominem and straw man arguments. Johnson's greatest contribution, however, is that he helps non-scientists distinguish between scientific fact, like microevolution within species, and unproved scientific theories, like macroevolution, which claims that molecules became men. He is also adept at exposing philosophical bias behind ostensibly 'objective' scientific arguments. With measured prose and systematic thinking, Johnson uses his legal expertise to demonstrate the ways in which arguments about evolutionary theory may be conducted." (Publishers Weekly)"Johnson feels his successful antievolution books, *Darwin on Trial* (1991) and *Reason in the Balance* (1995), are more complicated than parents and teachers need to prepare students to take on the evolutionists. Hence, this shorter version of his overall thesis that also advises how to debate evolution. Johnson first makes clear what he perceives the real adversary to be: a dogma that insists life arose solely by chance and that denies contrary evidence a hearing. He then counsels believers to avoid such common mistakes as retreating from theism to deism (and so transforming a continuously creative God into an uninvolved First Cause), to learn to spot faulty analogies and other forms of poor logic, to know the soundest scientific data casting doubt on classical evolution, and to persist--for, he says, the days of Darwinian hegemony are numbered. He firmly believes and seeks to persuade readers that his ultimate causes, aside from religious faith, are freedom of inquiry and the opening of now closed minds." (Booklist)

I love that this book is written by a former agnostic. It gives all of the arguments to dispute Darwinism in a way that my teenage son can understand.

Great book and easy to understand. This is a good book for any skeptics and for informing oneself on the false "theory of evolution".

Great read with many obvious facts that we need to accept!

Good book. Written so as to be understood by the common people. I would recommend this book to anyone seeing and despising the secular onslaught against Christian beliefs today.

excellent

Defeating Darwinism accomplishes exactly what it aims to do: give a "high-school education in how to think about evolution." And how does the author persuade the reader to think? That there is absolutely nothing venomous about science, but there are some catastrophic problems with Darwin's theory of macroevolution by natural selection. Hence, without using overly technical language or referring to advanced concepts, the author succeeds in placing "a wedge" in the log of "scientific materialism." What I enjoyed most about Defeating Darwinism is that it takes a step back from the often-heated debates between creationists and evolutionists. For proper orientation, it clarifies terms and equips you to detect deceptive arguments that are often made. The book also looks at the external factors persuading the Darwinian worldview. What the reader is left with is a better understanding of the creationist-evolutionist debate in general, as well as the presupposed scientific truth claims of Darwinism that are in fact quite unscientific. Examples include the philosophical assumption of Darwinism that all of reality can be explained by natural explanations (Where's the proof for that?) and faith in an idea that cannot be rigorously tested or falsified. Even in those cases where proof is offered (e.g. The Beak of the Finch) for evolution, Johnson reveals that such is evidence against an argument that no one is making. The bulk of the scientific critique happens in the chapter called, "A Real Education in Evolution" where the author highlights the deficiencies of the fossil record and shines a light on the evolutionist's worst fear:

describing the specific mechanism of evolution, the supposed cause of all of the diversity in nature. This book is a very quick and easy read; in fact, it moves along like a warm friend talking you through things over coffee in your living room. The main argument of the text ends before page 100. The final two chapters (Chapter 10 "Modernism" and Chapter 11 "Stepping of the Reservation"), respectively, describe the cultural developments in the 20th century that have shaped the modernist worldview and how creationists can approach Darwinism in the midst of a culture that can be hostile to the Bible. I highly recommend Defeating Darwinism to anyone who would like to explore the objections to Darwinism without drowning in technical gobbledygook. Indeed, this book will equip you to "defeat Darwinism" by learning the truth best: that is, by learning the objections to that truth. I think anyone with a genuine interest in objective Truth (with a capital T) will derive value from this worthwhile selection from Phillip E. Johnson.

Just as expected and delivered fast! Thanks!

Obliviously, most of the negative reviewers didn't even read this book. The main focus of this brief book is to give a quick introduction to philosophical, scientific and theological arguments against the Evolution. What most of the negative reviewers are missing is his main point: Evolution as asserted by Dawkins and other fanatics, means the universe and all life in it came by about by chance - it doesn't mean you disagree with Darwin's finches or other microevolution. He brings up cases of logical, particularly from microbiologists - objections to evolution that are shot down by 'fanatics' and just as illogical as fundamentalist creationists. For example a 15 year boy in denver objected to NOVA special on evolution being shown in his school. The press portrayed him as a fanatic, but his objection was that the flaws in the show, such as 'the first form of life was a bacteria that fed off of other bacteria' (!). In short, this isn't the either or argument that the press makes it out to be - evolution cannot and has not explained all aspects of life - and for example Richard Dawkin's reductionist theories that we are just walking bits of DNA meant to pass on DNA passes the line from science to fanatical dogma

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