

Select Quotes from Man: His Origin & Destiny, Book by Joseph Fielding Smith against Darwinian Evolution

(Blue text quotes Smith)

All of this ‘reconciliation’ of Christianity and evolution hasn’t set well with the prophets. Look at what Joseph Fielding Smith taught about trying to mix the two, and the historic parallels of these dangerous methods. He said, “So now, in the twentieth century, the doctrines of the critics of the Bible and the teachings of the organic evolutionists, have gained the ascendancy in the scientific world. It is true that in former years we lived in a Christian nation, the fact persists that now many Christian ministers, so-called, have been caught in the web of **modernism and organic evolution and have rejected the fundamental doctrines of Christianity; and they, like the Christians in the days of Rome, have mingled their religious views with these modern (pagan) teachings.** Because of the influence of destructive criticism and these theories of the descent of man, many ministers have rejected the fall of Adam, the atonement of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection of the dead. In fact they have come to the point where they have discarded the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that he is the Only Begotten Son of God. **Their Christianity, filled with abundant errors before, has sunk to a lower level.** These advocates of modernism and evolutionary teachings, glory in the fact that their influence has helped to eliminate from Christianity, the "dogma of Adam's fall," (White, Dr. A. D., History of the Warfare of Science with Christian Theology, Vol. 1, pp. 222) and the "Legendary husks and rinds of our sacred books" (White, Dr. A. D., History of the Warfare of Science with Christian Theology, Vol. 1, p. 56). One day, when they come to the judgment, they will have to give an accounting for all this mischief they have done. It may be imagined how they will feel, when they are forced to confront the thousands who have been turned away from faith in God and acceptance of his divine plan of salvation, because these enemies of truth were eager to destroy the scriptures and the mission of Jesus Christ. If great joy will be felt by the individual who has, through his humble effort, saved one soul, then how great must be the remorse of these learned men when they discover that their efforts have been the means of **destroying thousands of souls?**” (D&C 18:10-16) (Joseph Fielding Smith, Man: His Origin and Destiny).

Nephi spoke of how sinful man will lose the ability to hear God. He said, “...**ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words;...**” (1 Ne. 17:45)

This very thing happened to Darwin. Joseph Fielding Smith described, "It seems that Darwin himself underwent the same experience. He lost his religion when he lost confidence in Paley's evidences. He says: "The old argument from design in Nature, as given by Paley, which formerly seemed to me so conclusive, fails, now that the law of natural selection has been discovered. We can no longer argue that, for instance, the beautiful hinge of a bivalve shell must have been made by an intelligent being, like the hinge of a door by man." "At the present day," he continues, "the most usual argument for the existence of an intelligent God is drawn from the deep inward conviction and feeling which are experienced by most persons." Formerly he was led by feelings such as those just referred to, to the firm conviction of the existence of God and of the immortality of the soul. The grandeur of the Brazillian forest, he says, used to inspire him with religious awe. "But now the grandest scenes would not cause any such convictions and feelings to arise in my mind. It may be truly said that I am like a man who has become color-blind." In another passage he mentions the fact that his love for poetry has gradually

disappeared—a proof of the withering effect which continual scientific investigation may exert upon the soul!" (quoting from *Introduction to Philosophy*, by Dr. Friedrich Paulsen, pp. 159-160.) (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Man: His Origin and Destiny*, Ch. 4 The Doctrine of God)

Joseph Fielding Smith taught that animal life also fell at Adam's fall, and that before the fall, neither man nor animal had blood: "Thus when man fell the earth fell together with all forms of life on its face. Death entered; procreation began; the probationary experiences of mortality had their start. Before this fall there was neither mortality, nor birth, nor death, nor — for that matter — did Adam so much as have blood in his veins (and the same would be true for other forms of life), for blood is an element pertaining only to mortality." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Man: His Origin and Destiny*, pp. 362-365; *Doctrines of Salvation*, vol. 1, pp. 76-77)