WP-09 SCRIPTURE & SCIENCE

Life Comes Only From Life

STATEMENT

Every living thing ever observed came from a living parent, and offspring reproduce after their own kind. Genesis stated both principles thousands of years before science confirmed them.

Read time **2 min** | Sources & resources **4** | Series **Scripture & Science**

01 ABSTRACT

For about 2,000 years, educated people accepted spontaneous generation: the idea that maggots arise from meat and mice from grain. In the 1860s Louis Pasteur disproved it experimentally, and Gregor Mendel showed that traits pass from parent to offspring in predictable ways. This paper compares those findings with Genesis 1 and looks at where origin-of-life research stands today.

02 EVIDENCE

OBSERVATION	DATA & SOURCE	CONFIDENCE
Pasteur's swan-neck flasks (1859–1864)	Boiled broth in flasks with curved necks stayed sterile indefinitely; once the neck was broken, microbes grew. Life did not arise from non-life under any condition he tested. The result became the Law of Biogenesis and led to sterilization, pasteurization and vaccines. Pasteur publicly professed belief in a Creator.	HIGH
Mendel's laws of inheritance (1866)	Mendel, an Augustinian friar, showed that traits are inherited in discrete units (now called genes), passed predictably from parents to offspring.	HIGH
Genesis: "after their kind"	Genesis 1 (written c. 1400 BC) says ten times that plants and animals reproduce "according to their kinds," and presents life as created, not self-generated.	INTERPRETIVE
Origin of life is unsolved	After 70 years of research since the Miller–Urey experiment (1953), no experiment has produced a living cell, or a self-replicating system with its own genetic code, from non-living chemistry.	HIGH
Information in DNA	A living cell runs on coded information (DNA), translation machinery, and error correction. In every other context, coded information traces back to an intelligent source.	MODERATE

High = directly measured or widely accepted across worldviews. **Moderate** = well-supported, with recognized scholarly debate. **Interpretive** = consistent with the text, but depends on how the passage is read.

03 OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

OBJECTION

Pasteur only showed life doesn't arise quickly in a flask; billions of years of chemistry could be different.

RESPONSE

That is a hypothesis, not an observation. The scientific record still shows life coming only from life. Origin-of-life researchers themselves describe the problem as unsolved.

OBJECTION

"Kind" is not a scientific term.

RESPONSE

Correct. Genesis uses ordinary language, not modern taxonomy. The observable point holds: offspring resemble parents, and heredity is stable and predictable.

OBJECTION

The RNA World explains the first life.

RESPONSE

RNA-world models are active research, but RNA is fragile, hard to form without guidance, and no self-sustaining RNA system has been shown to arise on its own.

04 CONCLUSION

Observation and experiment agree with Genesis: life comes from life, and kinds reproduce after their kind. The claim that life began without a cause is the one that lacks experimental support.

> *"Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind." Genesis 1:24*

05 FURTHER RESOURCES

ARTICLE **Can Bible-Based Predictions Lead to Scientific Discoveries?** Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell, AiG
https://answersingenesis.org/creation-science/can-bible-based-predictions-lead-to-scientific-discoveries/

VIDEO **Secrets in the Cell** Dr. Michael Behe
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw94qm4qdn8

VIDEO **Why This Atheist Became a Believing Christian** Dr. Sy Garte
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMBQwGzn_TE

VIDEO **The BEST FACTS: Science in the Bible** GCA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FioB4CTj7OE&list=PL59Qh4Scw7PebBz1Q-ixu5G7RPxCLWMt1&index=11

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