

Charles Darwin has been called "the Newton of biology." T. H. Huxley said that "the publication of the Origin of Species marks the Hegira of Science from the idolatries of special creation to the purer faith of Evolution." Many have spoken as though the idea of evolution started in 1859 when Darwin's book appeared but this idea is quite erroneous.

In 1959, one hundred years after the publication of Darwin's book, Professor Loren C. Eiseley of the University of Pennsylvania published a book entitled Darwin's Century. After saying that he would not in this book discuss the ancient Greek ideas of evolution, but simply look at the precursors of Darwin within the preceding two centuries, Eiseley describes in detail evolutionary views held by a number of previous writers. He declares that many of these views were very similar to the views later advanced by Darwin and he says that at least one previous writer presented views almost identical with what Darwin later taught.

It would come as a shock to those who imagine that evolution began with Darwin if they were to look into Disraeli's novel Tancred, published twelve years before Darwin's Origin of Species appeared. In this book a fashionable lady speaks as follows: "You know, all is development. The principle is perpetually going on. First, there was nothing, then there was something; then--I forget the next--I think there were shells, then fishes; then we came--let me see--did we come next? Never mind that; we came at last. And at the next change there will be something very superior to us--something with wings. Ah! that's it: we were fishes, and I believe we shall be crows. But you must read it." When her companion replies, "I do not believe I ever was a