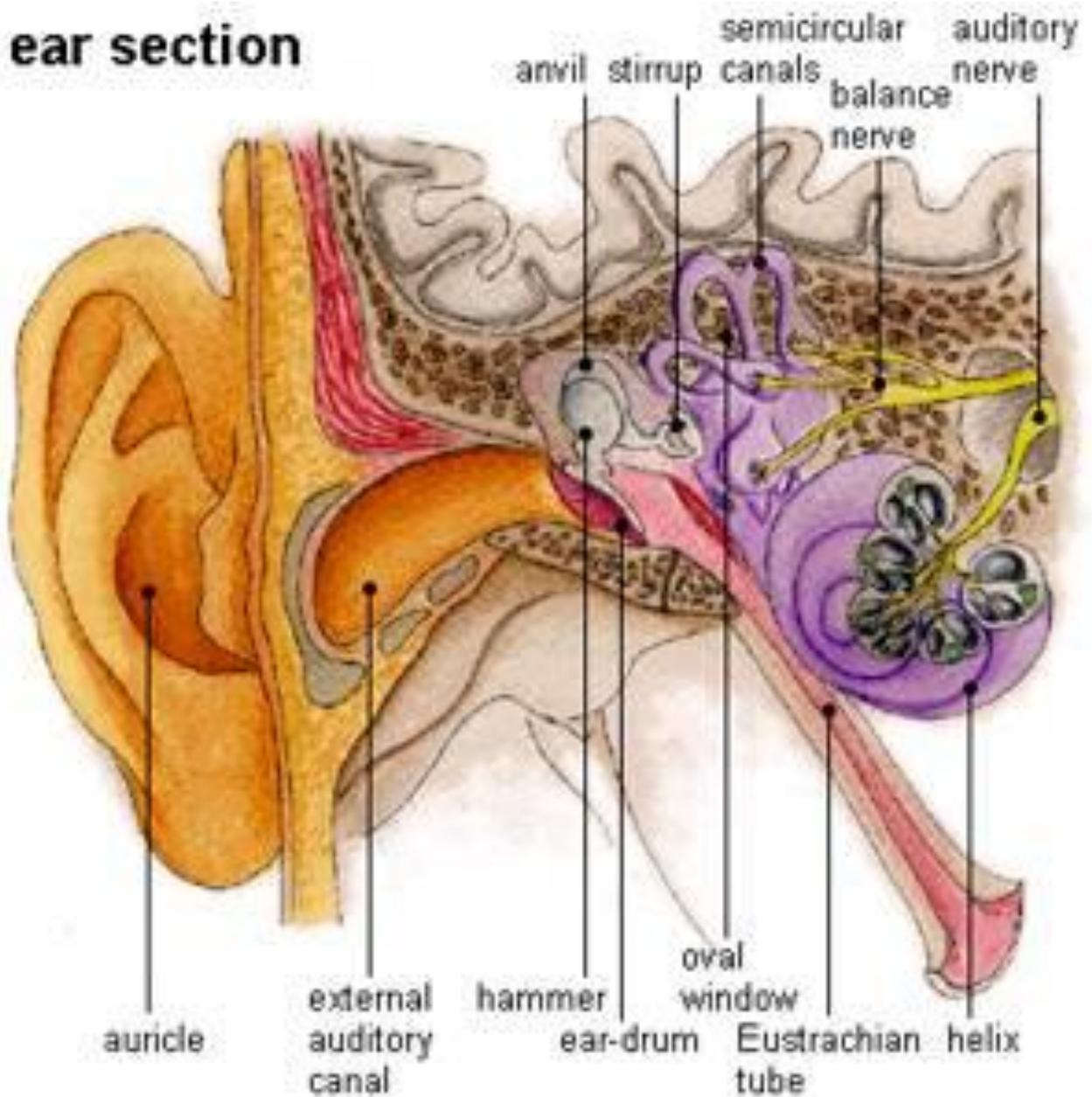


Human Ear Ossicles

Dr Michael Jarvis

The human ear: **Bones that do not grow from the cradle to the grave!**



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My father, Dr John Jarvis, was lecturer in anatomy at Cape Town university medical school. He was also an ear, nose and throat specialist. It was therefore not surprising that he pointed out to me the unique features of the three little bones called the hammer, anvil and stirrup.

These three bones transmit sound waves from the ear drum to the inner ear, where the various sounds are translated into nerve messages that are sent to the brain for almost instantaneous analysis. In order for these three tiny bones to perform this task accurately, they have to be a very precise shape and size.

Furthermore, in order for a newly born baby to hear correctly, these tiny bones have to be the same size at birth as they are in an adult.

**This is where an even more remarkable fact comes to light:
These three tiny bones are the ONLY bones in the human body that do not change in size from the cradle to the grave !**

This example again challenges us to ask ourselves the question. Has intricate design such as this come about ONLY through mutations and natural selection processes, as suggested by classical Darwinian Evolution Theory, or does it point us to the conclusion that the Creator is the designer and that he has GUIDED whatever processes he may have used as part of his creative acts ?

I have no problem with the Creator having used the laws and processes within nature, that are part of his creation, and which science is slowly bringing to light. Discovering processes and long time-scales, in no way compels us to do away with a designer of the processes, nor with the need for his guiding inputs.

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I maintain that the key, to reconciling the discoveries of science with our belief in the Creator, is to greatly expand our concept of God. He has to be aware of every detail of his creation and he has to be able to guide outcomes through the power of his super Mind. He has to be as big as Jesus said he was when he told his disciples, *Your heavenly Father notices when one sparrow falls to the ground and he even knows how many hairs are on your head* (Matthew's gospel 10:29-30)

Considering the vastness of His universe and the smallness of our Earth, that statement by Jesus has to imply a wisdom, power and presence too great for our human minds to fully grasp.

In my book 'God by Evolution' and in my DVD series 'Awesome Universe', I go into these questions in detail. Fortunately, for the many of us raised in this scientific and technological generation, it is possible to reconcile a Big Bang creation, the evolution of the heavens, the great age of the universe and earth and the various evolutionary processes that are progressively being revealed by science, with an acceptance of God as the Creator.

Furthermore, for those people who fear that this reconciliation contradicts the Bible accounts of creation, or any fundamental Christian belief, their fear is unjustified. You may or may not agree with this statement of mine. However, I challenge you to look at the evidence with an open mind, not through the 'lenses' of some traditional interpretations or through the viewpoints of Creationist web pages.

Unfortunately some so-called Creationist presentations give the impression that their interpretation is the only valid one. This attitude has the effect of alienating vast numbers of people who have accepted the overwhelming evidence for an earth that is

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billions of years old and for a long history of life on earth, stretching back at least 600 million years.

In other words, although someone with Creationist views is entitled to such views and I will never say that this makes them an inferior Christian, I hope and pray that they will at least admit in public that it is possible to be someone who accepts the Bible as ‘our ultimate authority in matters of faith, doctrine and practice’, and yet also accepts that it is possible to reconcile this with an ancient earth containing evolutionary processes stretched over millions of years.

If Creationists are not prepared to allow for this alternative viewpoint, they will place an enormous ‘stumbling block’ in the path of many people who are seeking for an enduring meaning to life. The Creationist viewpoint often leads such seekers after truth to place the Bible in the category of Myth. This in turn will make it far less likely that they will look further into the other great truths that can be found in the Bible, not least of which are the truths relating to Jesus.

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