

## The Story of a Grandfather



Do you have grandparents? Do they teach you things? My grandparents taught me. It was fun!

Here is the story of a grandfather. He was not a good grandfather. He did teach things but they were wicked things. His name was Erasmus Darwin. His grandson was Charles.

Erasmus Darwin was a doctor. He was a very clever doctor. He was interested in many different things. He was interested in plants. He was interested in animals. He was interested in poetry. He was interested in inventions. He was very interested in food. So interested that he ate too much of it. He was very, very fat.

Erasmus Darwin did not like the Bible. The Bible tells us how we should live our lives. It shows us we are sinners. We cannot live our lives how God says we should. The Bible tells us about Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. He came to die. He died to take our punishment for sin. Erasmus Darwin did not like all this. He wanted to live how he liked. He wanted to do things the Bible says are bad. He did not like the Bible saying that what he did was bad. "I can live how I like," he said. "My way of living is good. The Bible is wrong."



Erasmus Darwin's family had a special badge. There were three seashells on it. The badge was on their carriage and on their books. Erasmus Darwin thought of some words and he put them on the badge: "Everything came from shells". What did it mean? It meant something about where all the animals came from. It meant something about where people came from. The Bible says in the beginning God made everything. Erasmus Darwin said, "No, things came by themselves. First there were tiny creatures. Like the ones we find in shells. They changed into fish. It took a long time. Then they changed into animals. That took a long time too. Then they changed into birds. That took a long time as well. But it all started with shells." Now he could do as he liked. That was how he thought. He did not have to please God. He had decided there was no God.

Erasmus Darwin wrote his ideas down in books. Charles Darwin read the books. He read them carefully and he made notes as he read. He thought about his grandfather's ideas and decided they were right. He spent his life trying to prove that they were right.

He travelled to islands far away. He found some little birds on the islands. They were finches. Some had big beaks. Some had small beaks. Some had fat beaks. Some had thin beaks. Charles remembered what his grandfather had written:

Some birds have gradually got harder beaks. They crack nuts with them. Parrots are like this. Some birds eat hard seeds. Their beaks have gradually changed too. It happened slowly. The birds needed food. Their beaks changed to help them.

“Aha!” thought Charles. “All these finches have different beaks. My grandfather was right. This proves it. Things change gradually. Once there were just shells.” He forgot that the birds were all finches! Not half finch and half parrot!

God tells us where things came from. He tells us in His Word. God made everything in the beginning. They did not come slowly. God made them all at once in six days!