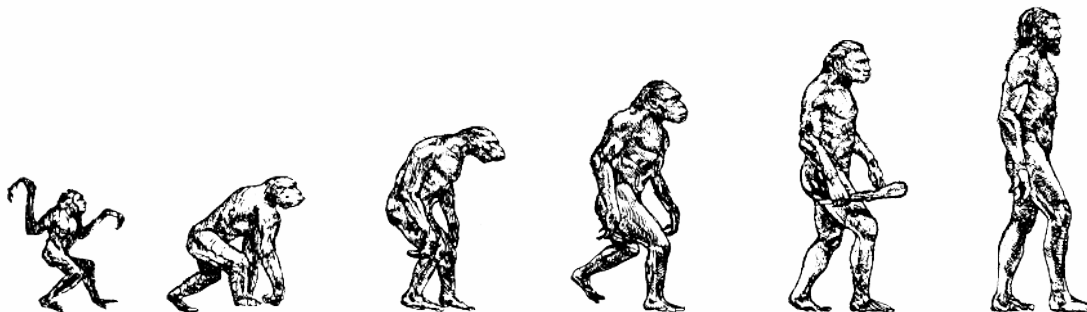


The Bible vs. Evolution



STUDENT WORKBOOK

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If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest expression every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ.

Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace, if he flinches at that point.

- Martin Luther

The Bible

VS.

Evolution

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THE BIBLE VS. EVOLUTION

LESSON 1. SCIENCE, CREATION, AND EVOLUTION

KEY SCRIPTURE: For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Ex 20:11 (NKJV)

1. Evolution is the concept that the universe, earth, and life were **DISORGANIZED** when they came into existence. Later changes tended toward increasing organization and complexity.
2. Creation is the concept that the universe, earth, and life were already **COMPLEX** when they came into existence. Later changes might result in diversification, but there should be a built-in tendency toward deterioration throughout nature.
3. There are two main variations of evolution:
 - a. **THEISTIC** (evolution occurred under God’s guidance) and
 - b. **ATHEISTIC** or materialistic (everything happened by Random Chance).
4. When it comes to living things, there are two opposing beliefs about evolution:
 - a. Neo-Darwinism: evolution occurred by the accumulation of thousands of **SMALL (GRADUAL)** changes.
 - b. Punctuated Equilibria: evolution occurred in **SUDDEN** **JUMPS**.
5. There are three main variations of creation:
 - a. Recent creation, within the last few **THOUSAND** years.
 - b. The **GAP** Theory: an original creation billions of years ago, followed by complete destruction and re-creation within the last 7,000 years or so.
 - c. Progressive Creation or the **DAY**-Age Theory: The “days” of Genesis really lasted millions of years. God gradually created new types of creatures by modifying existing ones.

This is not creation in the same sense as “a” and “b”; it is actually the Punctuated Equilibria version of theistic evolution.

6. The scientific method requires **OBSERVATION**. Since a process or event must be **REPEATABLE** in order to allow testing and since we cannot repeat the past, science has to do with the **PRESENT**.
7. History occurred in the **PAST** and cannot be **REPEATED**. It requires at least one **EYEWITNESS** account.
8. When we deal with a PAST event or process which is NON-REPEATABLE and for which we have NO EYEWITNESSES, all we can do is express our **BELIEF**.
9. Creation is either **HISTORY** or **BELIEF**, depending on whether the Bible is reliable. Evolution is only a **BELIEF**.
10. Recorded human history only goes back a few thousand years. Anything anybody tells us about events that took place millions of years ago is nothing but a made-up **STORY**.
11. A belief on which we build a system of values and ethics becomes a **RELIGION**.
12. Creation is a religion that claims to be based on **REVELATION**; Evolution is a religion based on **SPECULATION**.
13. Whether we believe in God or Random Chance, either one would have to have at least six identical characteristics:
1. **INVISIBLE**
 2. **SUPERNATURAL**
 3. **ETERNAL**
 4. **OMNIPRESENT**
 5. **OMNIPOTENT**
 6. **SELF-EXISTENT**
14. Creationists believe in an “invisible **INTELLIGENCE** in the sky” who is responsible for all the organization and complexity in the universe.
Atheists believe in an “invisible **NON**-intelligence in the sky” which is responsible for all the organization and complexity in the universe.
15. Though nature can show us a few things about God, We can only know Him if He gives us a **REVELATION** about Himself.
16. The only three books in the world that make the specific claim to be divinely revealed are the Bible, the **QUR'AN**, and the Book of **MORMON**.
17. All the rest of the world's “Holy Books” claim nothing more than to be the wisdom of the “**ASCENDED** **MASTERS**.”

18. The religions based on these other books all accept evolution. According to their own religions, then, the ascended masters (like all humans) are nothing more than highly evolved APES.
19. If evolution is true, we are thinking with modified APE BRAINS. We may have just invented the concept of “God” as we were evolving. We can never be sure about anything.
20. We can only be sure about what happened in the beginning if we have an EYEWITNESS account. God was there and knows what happened; the scientists were not, and are only guessing.

LESSON 2. ALL RELIGIONS ARE NOT THE SAME

KEY SCRIPTURE: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them." Eph. 5:11 (NKJV)

1. SOME COMMON FALSE IDEAS:

- a. The **BIBLE** is no better than any of the world's other holy books.
- b. It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are **SINCERE**.
- c. Christianity is just one of **MANY** ways to get to God.
- d. The Bible has been copied and recopied so many times that we can't be sure that what we have is what was originally written.
- e. You don't need a book to show you the way to God anyway. You can just follow your **FEELINGS**.

2. Only three of the world's so-called holy books specifically claim to be divinely **INSPIRED**: the Bible, the Qur'an, and the Book of Mormon.

3. All the "holy books" in the world **CONTRADICT** each other. If any of them is right, all the others must be wrong.

4. Beliefs most Christians share:

- a. God is a personal being. He has revealed Himself in the persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- b. Jesus is the Son of God. He is not a **CREATED** being; He created the universe.
- c. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal **FORCE** but the third Person of the Godhead.
- d. All humans have a **SIN** nature. We cannot save ourselves from our sins.
- e. Jesus was born of a virgin and lived a **SINLESS** life. He became a human to die in payment for our sins. We can only be saved through faith in Him.
- f. Humans die once and then face **JUDGMENT** before God.

5. Some anti-Biblical Muslim doctrines:

- a. Allah, the God of Islam, has no **SON**. It would be blasphemy to say He does.
 - b. No one can have a personal relationship with **ALLAH**. Not even Muhammad did.
 - c. One is saved by following a system of works known as the **PILLARS** of Islam.
 - d. The only way one can be assured of salvation is if he dies while fighting for Allah in **JIHAD**, or holy war. (Sura 3:157)
 - e. The “holy spirit” is not God but the angel **GABRIEL**, who delivered Allah’s messages to the prophet Muhammad.
 - f. Jesus was a great prophet, but not **GOD**. He did his first miracle when he spoke from his cradle while still a newborn baby.
 - g. Sura 4:157 says that **JESUS** did not actually die. However, in 19:33 he prophesied his own death, and 3:55 says he did die.
 - h. A man may have up to four wives, and many have sex with an unlimited number of slave girls. (4:3, 4:24, 33:52, 70:28).
6. The Qur’an was written in the early 600's when **MUHAMMAD**, whom Muslims believe was the greatest of the prophets, claimed to be receiving revelations from Allah.
 7. The Qur’an has very few credentials.
 - a. It admits that though God could have furnished **SIGNS** to confirm it (6:35), He did not (Sura 10:20, 13:7, 17:59, 29:50).
 - b. Muslims are not allowed to doubt the Qur’an because it says “This book is not to be **DOUBTED**.” (Sura 2:1).
 - c. The Qur'an claims to be of such quality that no one could produce even one chapter of literature like it (2:23, 10:38). Elsewhere (11:13) it challenges the unbeliever to produce ten such chapters. No **STANDARD** is given by which one can determine whether his work is of the same quality as the Qur'an, so this is purely a matter of opinion.

d. Muslims believe Muhammad did not simply make up the Qur'an because it says, "Had he invented lies concerning Us, We would have seized him by the right hand and severed his heart's vein..." (69:45) And since no such MISFORTUNE befell Muhammad, the Qur'an must be what he said it is! (11:35, 52:30)

8. In the entire Qur'an, there are a total of TWO prophecies predicting events that were still in the future when they were written.

a. The first had to do with a war that had been going on for many years. Sura 30:1 says that "The GREEKS have been defeated in a neighbouring land. But in a few years they shall themselves gain victory..."

The Persians had defeated the Greeks in 615 A.D. but the two had been fighting for years. It was not dangerous to predict that the Greeks would eventually win a battle, especially since Muhammad did not say when it would happen.

b. The second passage we could consider a prophecy was written after Muhammad was driven away from MECCA. He said that he would return. It came true when he returned to enter the city with a band of armed followers.

This was a safe prediction: before he wrote it, he had already signed a TREATY saying that he would be allowed to return to Mecca in peace.

9. Many Mormon doctrines do not come from the Bible but from two other books Mormons accept as inspired: *Doctrine and Covenants* and *Pearl of Great Price*.

10. Some anti-Biblical Mormon doctrines:

a. God the Father used to be a MAN. He had a father, grandfather, and so on.

b. Any man (not woman) has the potential to some day become the "Heavenly Father" in his own spiritual kingdom.

c. God became the biological father of JESUS through sexual relations with Mary.

d. Jesus and Lucifer are BROTHERS.

- e. In order to achieve maximum exaltation to godhood, each man should have as many WIVES as possible.
- f. When they die, men can become ANGELS or else disembodied spirits who can eventually come back into a body and become human again.
- g. Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin. However, it is not the blood of Jesus but of the SINNER himself.

11. Some problems with Mormonism: ¹

- a. No one knows where the plates are today because Smith said he returned them to Moroni.
- b. The “Three Witnesses” who Mormons claim saw the plates actually said they saw a *vision* of the plates. All three were later EXCOMMUNICATED from the church.
- c. There were another “Eight Witnesses” who claimed they had encountered the plates. One said the plates were in a covered box. Of the eight, five later left the church. The only three who remained were Joseph Smith’s FATHER and two BROTHERS.
- d. Archaeologists have never found any trace of a system of WRITING called “Reformed Egyptian Hieroglyphics.”
- e. When the first edition of the Book of Mormon was published, Joseph Smith said it was “the most correct of any book on earth.” However, when the second edition was released, it had at least 3913 CORRECTIONS.
- f. Mormon missionaries have claimed that the Book of Mormon is used as a guidebook for archaeology in the Americas. In response, the SMITHSONIAN Institution in 1982 issued a letter saying that it had never used the Book of Mormon for any such purpose. In 1998, the Smithsonian reissued the letter to reiterate its earlier statement. ²
- g. The fundamental premise of the Book of Mormon has been falsified. DNA studies have shown that American Indians are not closely related to

Israelites, but are much closer to East Asians. ³

- h. There is only one statement in the Book of Mormon that can be considered a predictive prophecy: Alma 7:10, allegedly written before the birth of Jesus, says

“... the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth. And behold, he shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem which is the land of our forefathers...”

Joseph Smith wrote this more than 1800 years after Jesus was born. But Jesus was born in **BETHLEHEM**, NOT Jerusalem!

12. Some key Watchtower doctrines:

- a. One can only please Jehovah by belonging to the Watchtower and following its instructions.
- b. Jesus is not Almighty God, but is a **LESSER** god created by Jehovah.
- c. Jesus was known as the archangel **MICHAEL** until he took on a human form.
- d. The Holy Spirit is not a person but instead an impersonal **FORCE**.
- e. Jesus died on a torture stake rather than a **CROSS**.
- f. After Jesus rose from the dead, he had a new “**SPIRIT** body” rather than one of flesh and bones.
- g. There is no such thing as an eternal **HELL**. Evildoers (and Jehovah’s Witnesses who are not good enough) will simply go out of existence.
- h. Heaven is unavailable to most people who please Jehovah. 144,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses went there, but the rest will live forever in an earthly **PARADISE**.
- i. Jehovah’s Witnesses have an annual “Memorial Service” (the equivalent of Communion or the Lord’s Supper), but only the 144,000 early Witnesses can partake. Since most or all of them have died, the rest can only **WATCH**.
- j. Holiday and birthday celebrations are considered “creature worship” and are

FORBIDDEN. So are military service and patriotic activities.

k. **BLOOD** transfusions are absolutely forbidden, even if the patient is going to die without one.

13. Some common beliefs of Hinduism.

a. There are hundreds of millions of **GODS**.

b. There is no such thing as sin, only **IGNORANCE**.

c. You will go through repeated **REINCARNATIONS** in which you may come back as a higher or lower being, anywhere from an insect to a member of the highest caste.

d. Your status in the next life depends on **KARMA**, which is determined by how good you were in this life.

e. You do not need a **SAVIOR**; you save yourself by good works.

f. Your sense of personhood is an illusion. You are not really a personal being, but a part of a **DREAM** in the mind of one of the highest gods such as Vishnu.

g. There is no such thing as heaven. If you attain high enough spiritual wisdom, you may be able to achieve *nirvana*, in which you will lose your sense of **PERSONHOOD** and merge with the impersonal essence of the universe.

14. Fundamental Problems with Buddhism.

a. Buddha started with the Hindu belief that there is no such thing as right and wrong, only ignorance. How, then, could there be “right” anything?

b. Unlike many Hindus, Buddha was an atheist. Rather than millions of gods, he (and many of his Buddhist followers) believed in **NONE**.

c. Buddhists try to do good works such as meditating in order to work out their karma and eventually reach nirvana. If there is no **GOD**, though, who decides they have done enough to be reincarnated at a higher level?

15. Some other religions (e.g., Freemasonry) follow books they believe to be holy, but these books do not claim to be **REVEALED** by an all-knowing God.

Believers can only hope they are right.

16. Many religions (Voodoo, Santeria, spiritism, etc.) do not even have holy books to follow, but depend only on what they believe are revelations from **SPIRITS**. Christians believe these spirits are actually demons.

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through **ME**." (NKJV)

Unless you stand for something, you'll **FALL** for anything.

Lesson references:

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LESSON 3. CREDENTIALS OF THE BIBLE

KEY SCRIPTURE: "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." Matt 5:18 (NKJV)

1. Only three of the world's so-called holy books specifically claim to be divinely **INSPIRED**: the Bible, the Qur'an, and the Book of Mormon.
2. All the "holy books" in the world **CONTRADICT** each other. If any of them is right, all the others must be wrong.
3. The Bible was written over the space of about 1600 years by about **40** human authors.
4. The Old Testament was written almost entirely in **HEBREW**, with a few passages in Aramaic (same alphabet, different vocabulary).
5. The New Testament was written in the common language of its day, Koine **GREEK**.
6. Different types of Bible versions.
 - a. Many versions (KJV, NKJV, NIV, NASB and many others) attempt to be as close as possible to a **WORD FOR WORD** translation from the Greek and Hebrew texts.
 - b. At least one version, the Amplified Bible, seeks to give the sense of the original by adding as many **EXPLANATORY** words as needed.
 - c. Other versions (e.g., the *Living Bible* and *The Message*) are **PARAPHRASES** rather than translations.
7. Has the Bible been copied and recopied so many times that we cannot be sure that what we have is what was originally written?
 - a. Old Testament Manuscripts.
 - **JESUS** and those of His day accepted the first five books of the Bible as the work of Moses. Besides receiving direct inspiration from God, he might have also used some of the oral tradition passed down

from his ancestors.

- Even in modern times, oral traditions are usually extremely accurate.
- Writing was no problem for **MOSES**. It was invented no later than the Ebla Kingdom, many centuries before him.
- Until the 1940's the oldest known Hebrew text was the Massoretic Text, dated to about 980 A.D. Then the **DEAD SEA** Scrolls were discovered, dating about a thousand years earlier. During that time only a few letters difference accumulated between the DSS and the MT.
- The Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) was also preserved in Yemen. In over a thousand years of copying, a total of **NINE** letters out of 304,805 were changed.
- The Hebrew text was translated into a Greek version known as the Septuagint about 250 B.C. Differences between the Hebrew and Greek are very **SMALL**, usually having to do with numbers.

NO doctrines of Christianity or Judaism are affected by any of the variant readings.

- Followers of Christ accept Him as the final authority. He said, "...assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot [the smallest Hebrew letter *yodh*] or one tittle [the smallest pen stroke used to distinguish one Hebrew letter from another] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Matt 5:18 (NKJV)
- Jesus disagreed with the lack of understanding of Jewish scholars about the meaning of the Scriptures, but He never disagreed about which books were accepted as **SCRIPTURE**.

b. New Testament manuscripts.

Long before the bishop of Rome began to claim authority over other bishops (4th century), Christians had already decided what books were considered Scripture.

- Even if no one had compiled a list, we could reconstruct almost the **ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT** from the writings of second and third century Christian writers.
- In the year 180 A.D., Irenaeus listed 21 of the 27 New Testament books as Scripture.
- Either Origen or his translator Rufinus listed all 27 books of the New Testament as early as 250.
- In 303, the Edict of Diocletian ordered the destruction of the sacred books of Christianity under penalty of **DEATH**. This forced Christians to decide which books were worth dying for.
- In 367, Athanasius of Alexandria listed the **27** books of the New Testament. He was followed shortly afterward by Augustine and Jerome.
- The councils of Hippo (393) and Carthage (397) did not add any books to the New Testament, but merely put their stamp of approval on which books were accepted as inspired.

i. How can we tell that the New Testament we have is what was originally written?

- We have more manuscript evidence for the **NEW TESTAMENT** than for any other ancient manuscript. The commonly estimated numbers ² of other ancient documents accepted as authoritative:

Document	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Time Lapse	# Copies
Herodotus	488-428 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs.	75
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1300 yrs.	20
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs.	20
Caesar's <i>Gallic War</i>	58-50 B.C.	900 A.D.	950 yrs.	9-10
Livy's <i>Roman History</i>	59 B.C.-17 A.D.	900 A.D.	900 yrs.	27
Homer's <i>Iliad</i>	ca. 700 B.C.	13th century	2,000	643
New Testament	by 100	325 A.D.	225	24,000+

- There is no known single volume containing the complete New Testament from the first three centuries, but there are over **24,000** ancient manuscripts or fragments. About 5,000 are Greek, 10,000

Latin, and the rest translations into other languages. The manuscripts in other languages agree almost completely with the Greek texts from which they were translated.

ii. Why are there variant readings in the New Testament?

- Early manuscripts were written on extremely durable material such as parchments, papyri, or animal skins. These could last **HUNDREDS** of years.
- The manuscripts were copied by **HAND** and sent to various churches. Sometimes the copyists inadvertently changed spelling or word order, or repeated words in a chapter.
- All later copies made from that scroll would contain the new variant.
- Beginning in the fourth century, the scrolls were assembled into books called **CODICES**.
- The three manuscript families (Textus Receptus or **TR**, Majority Text or M, and Critical Text) on which modern Bible versions are based developed out of the early families.
- The TR and the Majority text have several hundred trivial variants such as **SPELLING**. None of them affects any New Testament doctrines.
- A third group of manuscripts, the Critical Text, has been compiled into the Nestle-Aland and United Bible Society texts (abbreviated **NU**). The NU uses the oldest available manuscripts, some of which were not discovered until recently.

Though there have been many arguments about which is the best Bible version, there is less than **1/2** of **1%** difference between what we might consider the best and the worst manuscripts. No variant readings affect any of the doctrines of Christianity.

- Some claim that the copyists of the manuscripts compiled into NU deliberately **OMITTED** certain verses.
- Others think that the copyists of the documents included in the TR accidentally copied verses from one book to another, or copied **FOOTNOTES** as if they were part of the text.

There is no way to know for sure, but:

- Making deliberate changes would have required extensive **TRAVEL** in the early centuries to all the locations where the manuscripts were being copied.

iii. Significant variants:

- Mark 16:9-20 (miraculous signs)
All of the concepts included except drinking **POISON** are also found elsewhere in the New Testament.
- Mt. 17:21 - prayer and **FASTING**. (Taught through the New Testament.)
- Mt. 18:11 - “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.” TR includes the verse, whereas NU omits it. However, the verse is also found in Lk. 19:10. No **DOCTRINES** change if it is left out.
- Mt. 23:14 - condemnation of scribes and Pharisees
- Mk. 7:16 - “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.” Found **9** other places in the New Testament.
- Mk. 9:44, 46, 48 (the worm dies not and the fire is not quenched)
Some manuscripts have “Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” in only verse 48, whereas other manuscripts also have it in verses 44 and 46. There is no difference in the **MEANING**.
- Mk. 11:26 - “But if ye do not **FORGIVE**, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” The same princi-

ple is expressed in Mt. 6:12. Leaving it out here would not change any Christian doctrine.

- Mk. 15:28 - “And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.” This is not an exact quote from any Old Testament passage. Some think it was a FOOTNOTE in an early manuscript that was accidentally incorporated into later copies. It does not change the sense of the passage at all.
- Lk. 17:36 - “Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.” The same phrasing is used in Matt 24:40, so including or deleting it here does not make any difference in DOCTRINE / MEANING.
- Lk. 23:17 - Pilate’s custom of releasing a prisoner. Mt. 27:15 says the same thing. Including or leaving out this verse makes no difference in meaning.
- Jn. 5:4-5 (the pool of Bethesda)
Whether the water was stirred by an angel or not, Jesus HEALED the man.
- Jn. 7:53-8:11 (the woman caught in adultery)
Even if we were to never use this passage again, the principles of repentance and FORGIVENESS are found throughout the New Testament.
- Acts 8:37 (the Ethiopian eunuch)
Other passages (e.g., Acts 10, Acts 16:33, Acts 19:5) also show that belief was required before BAPTISM.
- Acts 15:34 - Does Silas’s decision to stay in a particular region change any DOCTRINE?
- Acts 24:7 - Does it matter whether Lysias used force to rescue Paul?
- Acts 28:29 - “And when he had said these words, the Jews departed,

and had great reasoning among themselves.” Does it make any difference if the hearers kept discussing Paul’s preaching when they

LEFT ?

- Rom. 16:24 - “ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” Paul wrote this in many of his letters. Including or omitting it here does not change the MEANING.
- 1 Jn. 5:7 (the Father, Word, and Holy Spirit)
Even if we ignore the verse, the THREE persons of the Godhead are seen throughout the New Testament.

All the other New Testament variants consist of no more than a few words.

All in all, there is less than ½ of 1% DIFFERENCE between the manuscripts considered the best and those considered the worst.

It is not true that translators of versions based on NU deliberately leave out words to support their doctrines. The differences are not because of MALICE, but because the words sometimes vary slightly between the two ancient manuscript families.

It is better to read a Bible version you are COMFORTABLE with than to not read it at all.

LESSON 4. THE RELEVANCE OF CREATION

KEY SCRIPTURE: “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”

Psalms 118:8

1. If we want to understand what something means, we have to know the intention of whoever started it. If there was no specific intent, there is no meaning. In other words, the meaning of anything is tied up with its **ORIGIN**.
2. If humans invented something, **HUMANS** decide the meaning. If God did, He does. If we don’t know how something began, its meaning is **UNKNOWN**.
3. Almost every major Christian doctrine has its roots in the book of **GENESIS**.
4. A few of the dozens of direct contradictions between evolution and Genesis:

EVOLUTION	GENESIS
a. The universe, earth, and life were produced by purely <u>NATURAL</u> processes.	a. The universe, earth, and life were produced by the direct action of a <u>SUPERNATURAL</u> being (God).
b. Space, time, and matter are eternal.	b. God, who is eternal, created time. He created matter and energy from nothing.
c. Evolution is an <u>ONGOING</u> process.	c. Creation is a <u>COMPLETED</u> event.
d. Everything has evolved by <u>CONTINUOUS</u> processes.	d. Everything was created in distinct, clearly defined <u>STEPS</u> . (Gen. 1)
e. The universe began in a flash of light (the Big Bang). The earth appeared billions of years later. <u>LIGHT</u> came first, then earth.	e. The earth was formed in darkness first, THEN God said “Let there be light.” (Gen. 1:1-3) <u>EARTH</u> came first, then light.
f. The sun and stars appeared billions of years <u>BEFORE</u> the earth. Sun and stars came first, then earth.	f. The sun and stars were created on the fourth day, <u>AFTER</u> the earth. (Gen. 1:14-17) Earth came first, then sun and stars.

EVOLUTION	GENESIS
<p>g. The earth began as molten rock. For billions of years it was too hot for <u>WATER</u> to exist as a liquid. Land first, then liquid water.</p> <p>h. It has always rained on the earth.</p> <p>i. Evolution occurred over four eras ranging from hundreds of millions to billions of years. The “evenings and mornings” of Genesis are <u>MEANINGLESS</u>.</p> <p>j. In order for evolution to fit into Genesis, each “day” would have had to last for millions or billions of years.</p> <p>k. The early earth’s atmosphere was <u>POISONOUS</u>, consisting largely of hydrogen, methane, ammonia, and water vapor. It could not support modern-type plants and animals for billions of years.</p> <p>l. All living things evolved from one common single-celled ancestor. Variation is unlimited.</p>	<p>g. From the very beginning the earth had a liquid <u>WATER</u> surface. (Gen. 1:2, 9-10) Water first, then dry land.</p> <p>h. At least until after Adam sinned, it had never rained on the earth. (Gen. 2:5-6)</p> <p>i. Creation was completed in <u>six</u> days, each consisting of an evening and a morning. (Gen. 1)</p> <p>j. The sun was created a day after plants, insects a day later. Plants can survive just a few 24-hour days without direct sunlight. Most cannot reproduce without insects. They would have become <u>EXTINCT</u> within a few years. The .days. could not have been millions of years long.</p> <p>k. By the third day, the earth’s atmosphere was capable of sustaining plants. By the fourth day, it was suitable for air-breathing animals.</p> <p>l. God created distinct “kinds” of creatures. Each reproduces only “after its kind.” (Gen. 1:24-25, I Cor. 15:39) Variation is <u>LIMITED</u>.</p>

EVOLUTION	GENESIS
<p>m. There is a basic continuity between all forms of life.</p> <p>n. The first plant life evolved in the ocean. Seed-bearing land plants evolved billions of years later.</p> <p>o. The first members of the animal kingdom were <u>microscopic</u> single-celled organisms.</p> <p>p. Birds evolved from reptiles after millions of years.</p> <p>q. Animals had been eating each other for hundreds of millions of years before man appeared.</p> <p>r. Man has been in existence for only the last 1/1000th of earth's history.</p> <p>s. The first man was an already living, highly evolved apelike creature into whom God infused a soul.</p> <p>t. Human females evolved at the same time as males. The first human male was born of a female.</p> <p>u. The earliest humans were meat eaters.</p> <p>v. The first humans gathered food. Thousands of years later, they began to hunt. Many thousands of years afterward they developed agriculture.</p>	<p>m. There is a basic discontinuity between all forms of life. Each reproduces only "after its <u>KIND</u>."</p> <p>n. Seed-bearing land plants were among the <u>FIRST</u> living things. (Gen. 1:11- 12)</p> <p>o. The first animals included fish, birds, and "great whales." (Gen. 1:20-22) Whatever these were, they were not microscopic.</p> <p>p. Birds were created the day <u>BEFORE</u> creeping things.. (Gen. 1:20-25)</p> <p>q. At least until after man sinned, animals ate only <u>PLANTS</u>. (Gen. 1:29-30)</p> <p>r. Man has been here almost since the beginning of the earth.</p> <p>s. The first man's body was miraculously formed from the <u>DUST</u> of the earth. (Gen. 2:7) His body did not exist before this.</p> <p>t. Woman was formed from man in a miraculous operation. (Gen. 2:21-22)</p> <p>u. The earliest humans were <u>VEGETARIANS</u>. (Gen. 1:29)</p> <p>v. The first man, Adam, was a <u>FARMER</u>. So was his son Cain.</p>

EVOLUTION	GENESIS
<p>w. The first humans were primitive and brutish. They had no true culture for tens of thousands of years.</p> <p>x. Language developed slowly.</p> <p>y. Marriage is a cultural development from late in our evolution.</p> <p>z. Clothing is also a cultural development.</p> <p>aa. Animals had been competing and dying for billions of years before the first humans evolved. From birth, they too were destined to <u>DIE</u>.</p> <p>bb. Evolution worked by the survival of the fittest and the death of the less fit over billions of years. The first humans were merely products of this process. Thus, MAN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DEATH.</p> <p>cc. There has never been a worldwide <u>FLOOD</u>. The fossil record is the result of slow, gradual processes that took place over billions of years.</p>	<p>w. By the second generation, people were building cities. (Gen. 4:17) Abel, in the second generation, raised sheep. By the eighth generation, men were using musical instruments, raising cattle, and working with bronze and iron. (Gen. 4:20-22)</p> <p>x. Adam had a large vocabulary from the day he was created. Languages multiplied suddenly at <u>BABEL</u>.</p> <p>y. Marriage was directly established by <u>GOD</u>.</p> <p>z. Clothing was directly furnished by God after the Fall, because of man's inability to deal with nakedness in his fallen condition.</p> <p>aa. If Adam had never sinned, he and Eve would have lived forever. (Gen. 2:19, 3:17-24)</p> <p>bb. Before Adam sinned, there was no <u>DEATH</u> in the world. (Gen. 3:17-24, Rom. 5:12-14) All of creation suffers because of his sin. (Rom. 8:19-22) Even the ground was cursed because of Adam's sin. (Gen. 3:17) MAN CAUSED DEATH.</p> <p>cc. The Flood devastated the entire earth, but in the last days scoffers will deny that it ever took place. (2 Pet. 3:3-6)</p>

5. Evolution (**COULD** / could not) be expressed in Biblical terms.
6. If evolution is true, we have no way to know the origin and meaning of **LIFE** and **DEATH**.
7. According to evolution, **DEATH** is responsible for man's existence. According to creation, **MAN** is responsible for death's existence.
8. If creation is true, God brought death into the world for two reasons: punishment, and **MERCY**.
9. According to evolution, **YOU** own yourself. You decide what's right and wrong. According to creation, **GOD** owns you. He sets the standards.
10. Many people who support abortion believe in "embryonic recapitulation." Ernst Haeckel, the German doctor who popularized this belief, was convicted of **FRAUD** for it in the early 1900's. ¹⁻⁷
11. According to evolution, **HUMANS** made the rules for sex, marriage, and clothing. We can change them whenever we want. There is nothing wrong with homosexuality, pornography, or sexual promiscuity.
12. According to **EVOLUTION**, life began as a chemical accident. Humans evolved as the result of millions of chemical accidents during reproduction. "From chemicals you came, unto chemicals you shall return." Since **DRUGS** are nothing but chemicals, there is nothing inherently wrong with using them to make you feel better.
13. Evolution says that some races are more highly evolved than other; Creation says that the "races" are nothing but extended families that probably diverged after the Tower of **BABEL**.
14. Since evolution works by the survival of the fittest and death of the less fit, those who help the weak are **HINDERING** evolution. If we really believe in evolution, we should let the sick and weak **DIE** to keep them from contaminating the human gene pool.
15. Evolution says that suffering and death have always been here; the Bible says that God made a perfect world, but **MAN** caused suffering and death.
16. The Bible says that Adam brought sin and death into the world. Jesus, the "Last

Adam,” came to bring righteousness and resurrection. If the first Adam was a MYTH, what do you need a last one for? Jesus would be a liar or a fool!

17. The Gospel was a stumbling block to Jews, but foolishness to Greeks (1 Cor. 1:23). It was foolish to them because they didn’t believe they were a lost race. They believed in EVOLUTION. Our society is like that of the Greeks.
18. Many of the issues the church is fighting in the modern world are rooted in EVOLUTION.

LESSON 5. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW?

KEY SCRIPTURE: ""The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Prov 9:10 (NKJV)

1. Both creationists and evolutionists use exactly the same evidence, but interpret it according to our **PRESUPPOSITIONS** (also called postulates or axioms).
2. We know many things because we have experienced them through our five **SENSES**.
3. We think we know many things because we hear them from an **AUTHORITY** we decide to trust.
4. We think we know many things because they seem to make sense though **LOGIC**.
5. Some of the things we think we know are because of a "gut feeling" or **INTUITION**.
6. People sometimes falsely claim to know something that is actually only **WISHFUL THINKING**.
7. Sometimes people deliberately lie to get us to believe things for some ulterior motive. This is nothing but **BLUFFING**.

8. PRESUPPOSITIONS OF

EVOLUTION:	CREATION:
a. Everything must be explainable by purely <u>NATURAL</u> processes. (Either there is no God, or if there is, He does not get involved in nature.)	a. Since the God who created the universe is not limited to natural processes, some things may require a <u>SUPERNATURAL</u> explanation.
b. <u>EVOLUTION</u> is the only possible explanation for the origin of everything.	b. Since God is all-powerful, He could have used any process He wanted to. He could have used evolution, or He could have created everything the way the <u>BIBLE</u> says.
c. The universe and earth have to be <u>BILLIONS</u> of years old.	c. Creation in and of itself does not require the earth to be any specific age.

EVOLUTION:	CREATION:
<p>d. There has never been a worldwide <u>FLOOD</u>.</p> <p>e. Similarities between living things are due either to common <u>ANCESTRY</u> or random chance.</p> <p>f. The majority opinion of <u>SCIENTISTS</u> is the final authority on everything.</p>	<p>i. Recent Creation: the earth is <u>THOUSANDS</u> of years old.</p> <p>ii. Gap Theory/Progressive Creation: Because evolutionists must know what they are talking about, the earth has to be <u>BILLIONS</u> of years old.</p> <p>d. Recent Creation: <u>ONE</u> worldwide Flood. Gap Theory: <u>TWO</u> floods. Progressive Creation: <u>NO</u> floods.</p> <p>e. Except in closely related groups that belong to the same kind, similarities between living things are due to common <u>DESIGN</u>.</p> <p>f. Recent Creation: the Word of <u>GOD</u> is the final authority on everything. Gap Theory: the Word of God is the final authority on everything except the age of the earth and when <u>DEATH</u> entered the world. Progressive Creation: the Word of God is the final authority only on <u>SPIRITUAL</u> matters.</p>

9. Evidence may be **INCOMPLETE**, **WITHHELD**, or **FALSIFIED**.

10. An example of incomplete evidence: “Nebraska Man” or *Hesperopithecus* was built up on the basis of a single tooth. The tooth later turned out to be from a **PIG**.

11. Withheld evidence: Eugene Dubois, discoverer of *Pithecanthropus* (“Java Man”) for thirty years hid the fact that he had discovered **HUMAN** skulls in the same rock layer.

12. Falsified evidence: “Piltdown Man” (*Eoanthropus dawsoni*) consisted of a human skull stained to make it look old, and an **APE** jaw filed to make it fit the human skull.

13. When we hear a supposedly scientific statement we cannot test for ourselves we should ask questions:

a. **WHO** says they saw it? (WERE YOU THERE?) Does someone claim this is an eyewitness account?

b. **WHAT** did they actually see? (How much is data and how much is guesswork?)

c. **WHAT** are they **NOT** telling us? What assumptions (presuppositions) does the statement depend on? How reasonable are they? Is there bias involved?

d. **HOW** can we repeat and test it? If it can't be tested, it's not science.

e. How does it compare with the word of **GOD**, the only one who was there and knows for sure what happened?

LESSON 6. CLEARING UP COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

KEY SCRIPTURE: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” Col 2:8 (NKJV)

1. Evidence may be incomplete, withheld, or falsified.
2. Misconception #1: Creationists do not believe living things change.
NOT TRUE. Change (is / is not) the same thing as Evolution.
3. Evolution requires change in the direction of **INCREASING** complexity (simple to complex);
Creation also expects change, but toward **DECREASING** complexity (complex to simple).
4. Misconception #2: There is a trend toward self-organization throughout nature.
NOT TRUE. Nature goes the **OPPOSITE** way.
5. Throughout nature, scientists have discovered a universal tendency toward **DECREASING** organization and complexity, the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics.
6. In order for entropy to decrease in an open system, there must be:
 - a. A supply of **USABLE** energy from outside the system. *A bomb contains a great deal of energy, but it's not in a form useful to a baby.*
 - b. A **CONVERSION** mechanism to use the energy properly. *Unless a baby has a digestive system to properly use the energy in its food, the food is useless.*
 - c. Pre-existing **INFORMATION** to direct the way the energy is used. *No DNA = no growth.*
 - d. An energy source that will **INCREASE** in entropy at least as much as the local system decreases.
7. There is no more information in ice than in liquid water. The **STRUCTURE** of the water molecules is always present, but it does not become visible until they link together into crystals.
8. Misconception #3: Creationists believe every species is exactly the same as when it was created. NOT TRUE. A “ **SPECIES** ” is different from a Genesis

“ **KIND** .” A kind may include several species and possibly multiple genera.
New species may appear within the limits of the Genesis kinds.

9. Misconception #4: Creationists do not believe in “Descent with Modification.” NOT TRUE.

a. Evolutionists believe that new features appear because of the accumulation of a great many beneficial mutations (copying mistakes during reproduction). There must have been a great deal of change for the **BETTER** .

b. Creationists believe that variation occurs only within the limits set by each kind’s DNA. Mutations damage DNA, so they should be harmful or at best neutral. Things change, but usually for the **WORSE** .

10. Misconception #5: **MUTATIONS** would furnish the raw material for evolution. NOT TRUE.

11. Most mutations are **HARMFUL** . If they were not, evolutionists would be eager to build houses next to nuclear power plants so they could advance to the next stage of evolution.

12. There are a total of **ZERO** known mutations which are completely beneficial to the affected species. No mutations are known to increase genetic **INFORMATION** .

13. The only known human mutation that conveys a benefit to an individual is sickle cell anemia, which makes him immune to **MALARIA** if he gets the gene from only one parent. However, if he gets the gene from both he will probably die from it.

14. Even though a person with one sickle cell gene receives a slight benefit, the **SPECIES** suffers.

15. Misconception #6: Evolution means simply that species change over time. NOT TRUE. Evolution requires the appearance of **NEW** types of animals and plants. The technical term for this is macroevolution. This is different from variation within a species, a common occurrence sometimes called microevolution.

16. Misconception #7: **ADAPTATION** to the environment is the same as evolution. NOT TRUE.

17. **Adaptation** occurs when individuals change to fit their environment through

LEARNED behavior, or species change through the expression of already existing INFORMATION.

18. Misconception #8: Organisms can pass on characteristics acquired through USE and DISUSE of body parts to their offspring. NOT TRUE.
19. A characteristic acquired through use and disuse of body parts (is / IS NOT) passed on to offspring.
20. Giraffes have long necks not because their ancestors stretched them, but because their DNA contains the information to produce the long necks.
21. Misconception #9: Selective breeding shows how evolution would happen. NOT TRUE. Selective breeding does not add anything NEW.
22. Selective breeding does not produce any new features. It only emphasizes features that are already PRESENT.
23. The farther selective breeding takes a group of animals or plants from its natural condition, the (better / WORSE) it is for that group.
24. Misconception #10: The Peppered MOTH is an example of evolution in action in the world today. NOT TRUE.
25. The “peppered moth” is an excellent example of natural SELECTION, but nothing has evolved.
26. Misconception #11: The human body contains many VESTIGIAL organs left over from earlier stages in our evolution. NOT TRUE.
27. Evolutionists used to think that the human body contained about 180 “vestigial” organs which had no function. They were wrong. We now know the function of all but about six. For instance, the tonsils and appendix help fight infection, especially in infants.
28. Misconception #12: Like other species, human EMBRYOS go through all the stages of evolution. NOT TRUE.
29. Despite what you might have heard in biology class, a human baby does not go through the stages of EVOLUTION before birth. The “tailbone” is the anchoring point for the pelvic muscles; the “yolk sac” contains blood, not yolk; and the “gill slits” are neither gills nor slits. They are pouches which house several

glands, as well as the middle ear canals.

30. In every case where a baby was supposedly born with a tail, the “tail” was nothing but a fatty TUMOR (GROWTH).

31. Correcting these false ideas does not prove creation, but it shows that most people’s belief in evolution is based on FAITH, not evidence.

Lesson References

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LESSON 7. EVIDENCE OF DESIGN IN NATURE

KEY SCRIPTURE: “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know That the hand of the Lord has done this, In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?” Job 12:7-10 (NKJV)

1. The search for DESIGN is a normal part of science.
2. In order to prove that life was not designed, evolutionists would have had to OBSERVE it since the beginning.
3. Our disagreement with the way a living thing is put together may simply mean that we have a different sense of style from the designer of life, or that we don't understand his MOTIVES (REASONS).
4. Arguments for design based upon OPINION are not very persuasive to evolutionists.
5. Though there is no theoretical barrier that says extremely IMPROBABLE events cannot happen by themselves in nature, they simply do not.
6. A MOUSETRAP is an example of an irreducibly complex machine.
7. Besides the minimum number of parts, a useful machine must have at least minimal FUNCTION.
8. Because of the need to maintain at least minimal function, an irreducibly complex machine could not come together by GRADUAL changes in the parts of a different type of machine.
9. Natural selection would work to ELIMINATE partly formed machinery, not encourage it.
10. The structure and operation of DNA are clear evidence of design.
11. It is not possible to put together an irreducibly complex mechanism such as blood coagulation one step at a time by modifying a previously existing mechanism of a DIFFERENT type in a lower life form. It had to be designed.
12. DNA is put together so efficiently that it uses less than 300 genes to produce over 10 billion different types of antibodies.
13. INVERTEBRATES (animals without backbones) do not use the anti-

body system we do. There is nothing ours could have evolved from. Since it is irreducibly complex, it had to come into existence all at once. It had to be designed.

14. There is no known mechanism in any living thing from which the electric **MOTORSs** in certain types of bacteria could have evolved. Their swimming apparatus is irreducibly complex. It had to be designed.
15. If any piece of the bombardier beetle's defense mechanism does not work properly the whole thing has no function and just wastes precious resources. Natural selection would serve to **ELIMINATE** it, not develop it.
16. **CLEANING** symbiosis requires specific types of cleaners willing to enter a predator's mouth, and a predator willing to not eat those exact types. It is an irreducibly complex system.
17. When we look at the evidence of nature, it is plain that there must be a **DESIGNER**.

LESSON 8. THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

KEY SCRIPTURE: “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:6-9 (NKJV)

1. Creation says that life should be far too **COMPLEX** to develop from non-life. Also, since the earth was able to sustain modern-type plants and animals by the end of the creation week, we should find evidence that the environment on the early earth was fairly similar to the way it is today.
2. Evolution says that life developed from non-living **CHEMICALS** . We expect that under the right conditions, it could happen again. Also, since the conditions needed would be very different than those in the world today, there should be evidence in nature that conditions on the early earth were very different than at present.
3. Science can describe how **LIFE** operates but cannot tell us what it is nor why it exists.
4. The basic unit of life is the **CELL** .
5. Even the simplest known cell is made up of hundreds of various types of protein molecules linked together into an intricate structure. The protein molecules themselves are composed of hundreds of smaller components known as **AMINO** acids.
6. In order for life to begin from non-living chemicals, the **RIGHT** mixture would have to come together in the **RIGHT** place at the **RIGHT** time and experience exactly the **RIGHT** conditions.
7. Besides the fact that **NO** traces of the primordial soup have ever been found, there are at least eight reasons to believe that conditions on earth have never been right for life to begin on earth by natural chemical processes.

a. Oxygen in the Atmosphere.

- i. If OXYGEN were freely available in the early atmosphere, the resulting compounds would be useless in forming living cells. They would produce biological “garbage compounds.”
- ii. The evidence from geology indicates that from the time sediments began to accumulate, the earth's atmosphere has always contained free OXYGEN. This fits far better with creation than with evolution.

b. The Oxygen-Ultraviolet Dilemma.

If there was free oxygen in the early atmosphere the CHEMICAL reactions needed to produce life could not have occurred;

If there was no free oxygen the sun's long-wave ultraviolet radiation would have DESTROYED any amino acids as fast as they could form.

c. The Trapping Mechanism.

No one has identified a plausible TRAPPING mechanism in nature or demonstrated how one might have operated. There is no evidence that such a mechanism ever existed.

d. The Problem of Nitrogen.

Cells are made up of proteins, which are made up of amino acids. These require *amine* groups (-NH₂), which require individual atoms of nitrogen, not the atmospheric form of N₂.

N₂ molecules in the atmosphere are bound together in a very strong triple bond. They are useless until they are separated (“fixated”) into two individual atoms. Most nitrogen fixation is done by BACTERIA, which would not have existed before the first living cells because they are living cells themselves.

The other way nitrogen can be fixated is by LIGHTNING.

- i. It would have had to strike to fixate nitrogen so amine groups could form.

- ii. Then it would have had to wait exactly the right amount of time for them to diffuse through the environment.
 - iii. Then it would have had to strike again at a greatly reduced strength at exactly the same spot to make them combine into amino acids without DESTROYING them.
- e. Optical Isomers: Left-Handed Amino Acids.
- i. Contrary to the 50/50 results of origin-of-life experiments, living things use 100 % left-handed amino acids in their proteins, while the sugars in their DNA are 100% right-handed forms.
 - ii. Even if the first cell had only 125 proteins of 100 amino acids each, the odds of it having all left-handed amino acids would be about 1 in 10³⁷⁶⁰.
- f. The Problem of Chemistry.
- i. Even under tightly controlled conditions, origin-of-life experiments produce mostly USELESS material.
 - ii. Biochemists attempting to manufacture more complex substances do not start with the kind of chemical soup that comes out of an apparatus like Miller's. They BUY the correct amino acids, bases, and sugars in purified form from a chemical supply house.
 - iii. Besides the ELEMENTS available in the “primordial soup” used in experiments, living things also need sulfur, phosphorous, iron, copper, calcium, magnesium, and many others.
 - iv. Even if all the right chemicals came together in the right order, the whole collection still would not be ALIVE. We do not know what causes life.
- g. The DNA/Enzyme Dilemma.
- DNA is needed to make ENZYMES, but enzymes are needed to make DNA.

h. The Cell Membrane.

Without gateways called *ion channels* or *permeases* through the cell MEMBRANE, DNA could not come together. However, DNA is needed to form these gateways. You can't have one without the other.

8. Directed Pan-Spermia.

Rather than turn to creation, some evolutionists have embraced a model called “Directed Pan-Spermia,” which says that life was sent to this planet by another civilization somewhere out in SPACE.

9. Is there life on other planets?

- a. We have never actually observed other planets outside the SOLAR system.
- b. The data available indicate that if there are planets around distant stars, they would be too large and too close to the stars to support CARBON-based life. Carbon-based compounds break down at the temperatures which would exist on either.
- c. The whole universe is decaying. If beings out in space never sinned, it would be UNJUST/UNFAIR of God to subject them to decay because of something we humans did here.
- d. Adam's sin affected not only the earth but HEAVEN itself. Jesus had to take his blood into the Holy of Holies in heaven to purify it (Heb. 9:22- 24). What happened in the Garden of Eden was so significant that the Son of God had to die to undo its effects.
- e. If extraterrestrials sinned, God did not give them the same chance for REDEMPTION He gave us. This would be unjust, contrary to His nature.
- f. The Bible says Jesus died ONCE and for all (Heb. 7:27, 9:26-28). If He needed to die on another planet for another race's sin, then the Bible is wrong.

g. All God needs are the flesh-and-blood beings on this ONE planet to show the spiritual beings who did not rebel against Him that they made the right choice.

10. What about UFOs?

a. In the last days Satan will be allowed to DECEIVE many for a short time (2 Thess. 2:9-12, Mt. 24:24).

b. Either the aliens and their ships have EVOLVED a great deal in the last few decades, or else Satan knows what we expect to see and makes sure we get it.

11. Life is far too COMPLEX to be an accident. The most reasonable explanation for its origin is that God created it.

LESSON 9. AGE OF THE UNIVERSE AND EARTH

KEY SCRIPTURE: “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” Psalms 19:1 (NKJV)

1. BIBLICAL ARGUMENTS FOR A YOUNG UNIVERSE AND EARTH.

- a. The Hebrew word for day is “yom.” It occurs with a specific number over 350 times throughout the Old Testament. Every time, it refers to a literal 24-hour day. This is the same way it is used in Chapter One of Genesis.
- b. Exodus 20:11, written by God’s own finger, confirms the creation timetable of Genesis One. It says that in SIX DAYS the LORD made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that is in them.
- c. If the “days” were millions of years long, PLANTS would have become extinct. God created them on day 3, the sun on day 4, and insects on either day 5 or 6 (Gen. 1:11-25). Plants can only live without sunlight for a short time, and need insects to reproduce.
- d. The genealogies in Genesis imply that man came into existence a few THOUSAND years ago. Genesis says that he was created during the earth’s first week. Creation must have been relatively recent.
- e. At the end of the creation week everything was “very GOOD” (Gen. 1:31). God could not have said this if Satan had already destroyed the world and every living thing in it, and was lurking around waiting to cause more mischief.
- f. The Bible tells us (Rom. 5:12 ff) that death entered the world only after ADAM sinned, not the devil.
- g. Since fossils are the preserved remains of dead things, animal and human fossils must have formed after Adam’s sin. They must be only a few thousand years old. Most probably formed in or after the FLOOD.

2. REASONS PEOPLE BELIEVE THE UNIVERSE IS OLD.

- a. If the universe is only a few thousand years old, what was God doing all that time before He created it?
- b. Starting from a BIG BANG, it would have taken billions of years for the

universe to reach its present size.

- c. How could light from STARS billions of light years away reach us in only a few thousand years?

3. ARGUMENTS FOR AN OLD EARTH:

- a. Most people think that RADIOMETRIC/RADIOACTIVE dating proves the earth is billions of years old.
- b. Geologic features such as the GRAND CANYON are supposed to have taken millions of years to form.

4. RESPONSE TO OLD-UNIVERSE ARGUMENTS:

- a. God was not doing anything before He created the universe because “before” requires the passage of TIME. Time is a measurement of change in a physical system. Until the physical universe began there was no time, because nothing changed.
- b. The size of the universe at the beginning is UNKNOWN. God did not need a big bang; He could have created it close to its present size.
- c. It did not necessarily take billions of years for light to get here.
- i. God could have created LIGHT PATHS in place.
- ii. Light may somehow travel in curved space. If this is correct, MIT astronomers Moon and Spencer calculate that it would take no more than 15.71 years for light to cross the universe.
- iii. Some believe light may have traveled much FASTER in the past.
- iv. Since light slows down in the presence of strong gravity, it may travel much faster in interstellar space where gravity is WEAK/WEAKER.
- v. Some believe that during the creation week God used RELATIVITY to let the far reaches of the universe age a great deal while only six literal days passed on the earth.
- vi. There may be other factors we just don't KNOW about.

5. In order for any clock to be reliable, we must know:

- a. INITIAL conditions. What time did the clock say when it was wound up?

- b. Rate of **CHANGE** the entire time. It need not have been constant, but if it varied we must know when and by how much.
- c. It must not have been **RESET** or tampered with at any time.
6. Out of all the dating methods we could use to estimate the age of the universe, less than **TEN** percent point toward a maximum age measured in billions of years. The rest point toward millions or even thousands.
7. POSITIVE ARGUMENTS FROM SPACE FOR A YOUNG UNIVERSE:
- a. The **ARMS** of spiral galaxies would have wound in to the center in a few hundred million years.
- b. The number of **SUPERNOVA** remnants (SNR's) in the Milky Way is about what it should be if the galaxy is no more than 7,000 years old.
- c. The presence of large numbers of short-period **COMETS** in the solar system points toward an age of less than 10,000 years.
- d. **VOLCANIC** activity on Jupiter's moon Io indicates an age of a few thousand years.
- e. The Poynting-Robertson Effect on space **DUST** points to an age of the solar system of less than 189,000 years.
- f. The rate at which the moon is **RECEDING** indicates a maximum possible age for the moon and earth of 1.37 billion years -- far less than evolution requires. The actual age could be anything less.
- g. Since the sun is gradually heating up because of fusion, it would have been about five percent cooler a billion years ago. The earth would have been covered with **ICE**. It would have been far too cold for the kind of plants we see in the fossil record.
- h. Since the sun is supposed to be billions of years old, the standard model for a star of its type says it should be about 15 million degrees. However, the presence of large quantities of Beryllium in the sun indicates a temperature of less than **FOUR** million degrees. This points toward a much younger sun.
- i. Since the sun is supposed to have been performing nuclear fusion for billions of years, current evolutionary theory says it should have a very **DENSE**

core surrounded by a gaseous outer layer. However, the frequency at which it expands and contracts (due to the opposing forces of gravity and heat) is consistent with a uniform ball of gas instead. This too points to a much younger age.

8. We can't prove the universe is young, but evolutionists can't prove it is old either.

Either way, we have to take a step of **FAITH** .

LESSON 10. THE MEANING OF THE GEOLOGIC STRATA

KEY SCRIPTURE: “You who laid the foundations of the earth, So that it should not be moved forever, You covered it with the deep as with a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them.” Psalms 104:5-8 (NKJV)

1. The 4.55 billion year age assigned to the whole Earth comes from a radiometric test done on a single **METEORITE** found at Meteor Crater in Arizona.

2. In the last days scoffers will say:

- a. **JESUS** is not going to return to Earth in bodily form.
- b. Everything always proceeded at the same rate.
- c. There has never been a worldwide **FLOOD** .

3. PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE FOSSIL RECORD.

a. UNIFORMITARIANISM vs. CATASTROPHISM.

i. Evolutionists believe in *uniformitarianism*. They usually say animals turn into fossils when they die and fall into a lake or other body of water, where they are **GRADUALLY** covered by sediment. Over millions of years the minerals in the sediment replace the animal’s natural components. Over millions more years, they are eventually brought back to the surface by erosion.

ii. Creationists believe most of the fossils were formed as a result of Noah’s **FLOOD** .

iii. Our observations are far more compatible with catastrophism than with uniformitarianism.

- There are **MILES** of sediment covering many areas of the continents around the world.
- There are estimated to be tens of **THOUSANDS** of dinosaurs fossilized together in the Lance Creek Formation of Wyo-

ming. It would be difficult for all these animals to die at the same time and place and be turned into fossils by uniformitarian processes.

- There are many vast fossil GRAVEYARDS around the world containing millions of fossils.
- Hundreds of billions of fossils have been found worldwide. Some estimate that there may be as many as a TRILLION.

b. *Prediction*: MEANING OF THE ROCK STRATA.

- Evolution: The strata represent TIME PERIODS.
- Creation: The strata represent ecological COMMUNITIES, or BIOMES.
- Actual observation*: Rock strata around the world are identified by clearly defined communities or “suites” of fossils that are essentially the same no matter where they are found. This is exactly what CREATION leads us to expect.

The lowest sediments preserve fossils of types that would be best suited to the ocean BOTTOM, then to progressively shallower environments until sea level and beyond.

c. *Predictions*: INITIAL NUMBER OF HIGHER TAXA.

Taxa are categories such as kingdom, phylum, class, order, and so on.

- Evolution: We should find a gradual INCREASE in the number of higher taxa. The number of lower taxa may vary over time because of diversification and extinction.
- Creation: We should find MANY higher taxa even in the lowest fossil-bearing strata. The number of higher taxa should not increase in rocks supposed to be more recent. It may decrease due to mass extinction.

Because of diversification, extinction, and uncertainty of classification, the number of lower taxa (species, genus, and possibly family) may

vary in different rock layers.

iii. *Actual observation:* There are few fossils below the Cambrian layer.

Suddenly, representatives of every phylum of the animal kingdom and many divisions of plants appear in the “Cambrian

EXPLOSION.” They are all complex creatures.

None has any known **ANCESTORS** in lower rock layers.

There is much less variety in the marine creatures of today than the variety found in the Cambrian Explosion. The vast majority of the Cambrian fossils later became **EXTINCT**.

d. *Predictions:* SUDDEN APPEARANCE vs. GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT.

i. Evolution: It would take millions or billions of

TRANSITIONS for the first cell to evolve to the “terminal forms” living today or preserved in the fossil record.

If enough fossils were preserved, we should find at least a few of these transitions along with the terminal forms.

ii. Creation: The earliest representatives of each kind should be

FULLY **FORMED** with all their *ordinal characters* present. In no case should we find a series of living or fossilized creatures showing the gradual development of a new kind from a previously existing one.

iii. *Actual observation.* The trillion or more fossils that have been located

have been grouped into about **250,000** fossil species.

Millions of transitions would have been needed to produce the 250,000 terminal forms. However, only a few types of fossils are even claimed to be transitional.

Darwin admitted that the “most obvious and gravest objection” to evolution was the lack of **TRANSITIONAL** fossils. He believed that this was due to incomplete evidence and expected that further discoveries in paleontology would show that his theory was correct.

More than 150 years later, a trillion or more fossils have been discovered. Darwin has not been vindicated. The transitions are still

MISSING.

Because of the lack of transitional fossils, some have developed a newer model of evolution, “Punctuated Equilibria.” It says that the reason transitional fossils are missing is that the process was too **FAST**.

Darwinian evolution says the transitions are missing because evolution was too slow. Punctuated Equilibria says they are missing because it was too fast. The third alternative is that evolution **NEVER** **HAPPENED**.

e. *Predictions:* CONTINUAL GRADUAL CHANGE vs. STASIS.

i. Evolution: Since evolution is a continuous process, there should be **CONTINUAL** change from the first appearance of any type of ancestral fossil until the latest forms.

ii. Creation: Since everything reproduces only “after its **KIND**,” the “latest” specimens of each kind should be readily identifiable as the same kind as the “oldest.” From the lowest appearance of any kind until the highest, there should be a resistance to basic change. This is called **STASIS**.

iii. *Actual observation:* Professional paleontologists admit that two of the most obvious characteristics of the fossil record are **SUDDEN** **APPEARANCE** and **STASIS**.

All in all, the characteristics of the fossil record match much more closely with the predictions of **CREATION** and catastrophism than they do with either gradual evolution or punctuated equilibria.

LESSON 11. RADIOMETRIC DATING AND THE AGE OF THE EARTH

KEY SCRIPTURE: "...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water." 2 Peter 3:3-6 (NKJV)

1. There are three main arguments for an old earth: (a) Belief that it takes millions of years to form a FOSSIL, (b) Radiometric DATING, and (c) GEOLOGIC features such as the Grand Canyon that are supposed to have taken hundreds of millions of years to form.
2. Lab experiments have turned chicken bones into fossils in 5 to 10 years and garbage into crude oil in 20 minutes.
3. Radioactivity received its name because decaying atoms release energy in the form of RADIATION.
4. The Bible tells us why all the ATOMS in the universe do not fly apart: "He is before all things, and by Him all things consist" (Col. 1:17).
5. An unstable radioactive element is known as a PARENT; the element it decays into is called the DAUGHTER.
6. A HALF LIFE is the amount of time it takes for half of the atoms in a radioactive sample to decay. After one half-life, 50% of the parent is left. After another half-life only 25% of the original amount remains, and so on.
7. We must know three things in order for radiometric dating to be accurate:
 - a. Initial ratio of PARENT -to-daughter.
 - b. DECAY rate must have remained absolutely constant the entire time.
 - c. No parent or daughter can have been added or REMOVED the entire time.
8. Because of these uncertainties, radiometric dating is UNRELIABLE.

We can only use it to determine maximum possible ages. True ages could be

anything less.

9. Problems with C-14 dating:

- a. The CARBON in most fossils has been replaced by other minerals.
- b. If the animal or plant lived in an environment unusually low in C-14, carbon dating will give a FALSE result much greater than the true age.
- c. Carbon dating works by the assumption that the ratio of C-14 to C-12 in the atmosphere is CONSTANT. This is not true.
- d. Because of its short half-life, C-14 dating works for ages of only a few THOUSAND years.
- e. External factors such as FIRES can interfere with the accuracy of carbon dating.

10. Many obviously wrong radiometric ages show us that radiometric dating is UNRELIABLE.

11. Geologic dates depend on a circular argument: the rocks date the FOSSILS, but the FOSSILS date the rocks.

12. Strata of the geologic column are identified by a characteristic group or SUITE of fossils, not by radiometric means. The members of the suites are the same basic types no matter where in the world we find them.

13. The foundation of the geologic time scale is “uniformitarianism,” the doctrine that everything happens by slow, gradual, uniform processes. In other words, there can never have been a worldwide FLOOD.

14. If there really was a worldwide flood, we would expect to find billions and billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by WATER all over the earth, even on top of the highest mountains. This is exactly what we find in nature.

15. Since the Grand Canyon is full of FOSSILS from bottom to top, this supports the belief that the sediment was deposited rapidly.

16. If the Colorado River slowly carved the Canyon, there should be an enormous

- DELTA** at its mouth. There is not.
17. The Colorado River could not have reached behind all the mesas and buttes in the Canyon to carve them out. There must have been a much larger quantity of **WATER** some time in the past.
18. The presence of thousands of trees with no **ROOTS** at the Petrified Forest indicates that a great flood occurred in the area, floated them in, then flowed away very rapidly.
19. The eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980 produced “Engineer’s Canyon” on the North Fork of the Toutle River. It is 1/35 the scale of the Grand Canyon and took one **DAY** to form.
20. With the demise of uniformitarianism, there is no compelling reason to believe the earth is billions of years old. **EVOLUTION** has lost its foundation.
21. If every bit of the helium in the atmosphere came from the radioactive decay we are aware of, it would have taken less than **4** million years to reach the present amount.
22. The rate of carbon-14 production indicates an age of the atmosphere of considerably less than **20,000** years.
23. The complete absence of **METEORITES** in lower geologic layers indicates that the geologic column did not accumulate over billions of years.
24. The presence of polonium haloes in granite does not prove the earth is young, but it cuts hundreds of millions of years off its possible age and shows that whenever it was formed, the process may have taken as little as a few **SECONDS** .