

THE BIBLE VS. EVOLUTION

LESSON 4. THE RELEVANCE OF CREATION

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KEY SCRIPTURE: “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” Psalms 118:8

Preparing to Teach the Lesson:

Some of the best material available showing the importance of the creation/ evolution controversy comes from an Australian teacher named Ken Ham. If you have an extra week available in your class schedule, you would do well to show his excellent 45 minute film *The Genesis Solution*, available from Films For Christ. Much of the material in this lesson is from the film and his books. Even if you cannot show the film, it would be helpful to familiarize yourself with one of his books such as *The Genesis Solution*, *Genesis and the Decay of the Nations*, or *The Lie: Evolution*. You can obtain these through Christian bookstores or on the Internet at Answers in Genesis via <http://www.christiananswers.net>.

Today’s Aim:

Many professing Christians see no conflict between evolution and their faith. This lesson is intended to shake them up and get them off the proverbial fence. By the end of the lesson the students should understand that:

- If we want to know what something means, we have to know the intent of whoever started it.
- Evolution cannot tell us the meaning of anything; the Bible tells us the meaning of everything.
- Evolution and the Bible contradict each other in many key areas. If one is true the other must be false.
- Evolution destroys the foundation of Biblical morality.
- Evolution destroys the reason for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If evolution is true, we are fools to call ourselves Christians.

Introducing the Lesson:

We saw in the last lesson that science is limited to things that can be observed, repeated, and tested. Since none of these apply to the earth’s beginning, we cannot scientifically prove either creation or evolution. All we can do is look for circumstantial evidence to support one or the other, then take a step of faith.

Many scientists fight to keep this from the public. At least one organization, the National Center for Science Education, was established specifically to prevent students from learning the evidence for creation. Why do they fight so hard against it? Because they recognize that where we came from is not just a matter of intellectual curiosity, but that it affects almost every area of our lives.

The key to the creation/evolution controversy is a simple principle:

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**.

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If we want to know why the American flag is red, white and blue we have to go back to the intent of the designers. If we want to know why a baseball field has four bases we have to go back to the intent of the designers. If we want to know why life exists we have to go back to the intent of the designer.

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**.

For instance, what is the meaning of the Fourth of July? In the United States it's Independence Day; everywhere else, it's just the day before the fifth of July. Since we invented the holiday, we decide what it means. On the other hand, what is the meaning of life? If God designed it, only He can tell us; if it's just an accident, maybe it doesn't mean anything at all.

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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:

Most of these are self-explanatory. Cover as many or few as you think necessary. Since few people have studied the creation account in detail, you should read the Scripture passages aloud.

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EVOLUTION	GENESIS
<p>a. The universe, earth, and life were produced by purely natural processes.</p> <p>b. Space, time, and matter are eternal.</p> <p>c. Evolution is an ongoing process.</p> <p>d. Everything has evolved by continuous processes.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Even Punctuated Equilibria is supposed to be continuous, though jerky.</p> </div> <p>e. The universe began in a flash of light (the Big Bang). The earth appeared billions of years later. Light came first, then earth.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>The "big bang" is the idea that billions of years ago all the matter and energy in the universe was concentrated into a single point perhaps the size of an atom. It then exploded and evolved into the present universe. We will discuss the evidence against a big bang in a later lesson.</p> </div> <p>f. The sun and stars appeared billions of years before the earth. Sun and stars came first, then earth.</p>	<p>a. The universe, earth, and life were produced by the direct action of a supernatural being (God).</p> <p>b. God, who is eternal, created time. He created matter and energy from nothing.</p> <p>c. Creation is a completed event.</p> <p>d. Everything was created in distinct, clearly defined steps (Gen. 1).</p> <p>e. The earth was formed in darkness first, THEN God said "Let there be light." (Gen. 1:1-3) Earth came first, then light.</p> <p>f. The sun and stars were created on the fourth day, after the earth. (Gen. 1:14- 17) Earth first, then sun and stars.</p>

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EVOLUTION

We will discuss evolutionary ideas about the origin of life in a later lesson.

l. All living things evolved from one common single-celled ancestor. Variation is unlimited.

m. There is a basic continuity between all forms of life.

Everything is genetically related to everything else.

n. The first plant life evolved in the ocean. Seed-bearing land plants evolved billions of years later.

o. The first members of the animal kingdom were **microscopic** single celled organisms.

They would have been extremely primitive, probably similar to the first living cells supposed to have evolved from lifeless chemicals.

p. Birds evolved from reptiles after millions of years.

q. Animals had been eating each other for hundreds of millions of years before man appeared.

r. Man has been in existence for only the last 1/1000th of earth's history.

About 4.5 billion years after the earth began.

s. The first man was an already living, highly evolved apelike creature into whom God infused a soul.

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GENESIS

l. God created distinct "kinds" of creatures. Each reproduces only "after its kind." (Gen. 1:24-25, I Cor. 15:39) Variation is **limited**.

A Genesis "kind" is not necessarily the same as a species. A kind may diversify into multiple species, but they all still belong to the same kind.

m. There is a basic discontinuity between all forms of life. Each reproduces only "after its **kind**."

Only creatures belonging to the same kind are genetically related.

n. Seed-bearing land plants were among the **first** living things. (Gen. 1:11-12)

o. The first animals included fish, birds, and "great whales." (Gen. 1:20-22) Whatever these were, they were not microscopic.

p. Birds were created the day **before** .creeping things.. (Gen. 1:20-25)

q. At least until after man sinned, animals ate only plants. (Gen. 1:29- 30)

r. Man has been here almost since the beginning of the earth.

Day 6 of the creation week.

s. The first man's body was miraculously formed from the **dust** of the earth. (Gen. 2:7) His body did not exist before this.

EVOLUTION

- t. Human females evolved at the same time as males. The first human male was born of a female.
- u. The earliest humans were meat eaters.
- v. The first humans gathered food. Thousands of years later, they began to hunt. Many thousands of years afterward they developed agriculture.
- w. The first humans were primitive and brutish. They had no true culture for tens of thousands of years.

x. Language developed slowly.

y. Marriage is a cultural development from late in our evolution.

Early male humans made it up. They thought they were doing so to protect their own property - females - but they were unknowingly ensuring the survival of the species.

z. Clothing is also a cultural development.

aa. Animals had been competing and dying for billions of years before the first humans evolved. From birth, they too were destined to **die**.

GENESIS

t. Woman was formed from man in a miraculous operation. (Gen. 2:21 - 22)

u. The earliest humans were **vegetarians**. (Gen. 1:29)

v. The first man, Adam, was a **farmer**. So was his son Cain.

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)

x. Adam had a large vocabulary from the day he was created. Languages multiplied suddenly at **Babel**.

y. Marriage was directly established by **God**.

z. Clothing was directly furnished by God after the Fall, because of man's inability to deal with nakedness in his fallen condition.

aa. If Adam had never sinned, he and Eve would have lived forever (Gen. 2:19, 3:17-24)

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EVOLUTION	GENESIS
<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 Flood. The fossil record is the result of slow, gradual processes that took place over billions of years.</p>	<p>bb. Before Adam sinned, there was no death 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> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Though humans and animals were eating plants before the Fall, plants do not die in the same sense that we do. A piece of fruit is consumed when we eat it, but the tree it came from is not harmed.</p> </div> <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>

You should read this passage (2 Pet. 3:3-6) aloud. It gives a brief description of, and warning against, the modern geological doctrine of uniformitarianism. This is the belief that the earth’s geologic features form over millions of years by slow, gradual, uniform processes. In short, it denies that there has ever been a world-wide flood. This is how evolutionists justify their claims that the earth is billions of years old.

Despite the contradictions between Genesis and evolution, some well-meaning Christians say that the Bible speaks in terms of creation because the concept of evolution was too complex for the Jewish people to understand. This is ridiculous. Evolutionists believe the universe began in a “big bang” and later evolved to its present condition. Use the overhead to show how such a sequence of events could be expressed in ordinary words found in the King James Bible. Even the very ignorant could understand if God told us about such a process. The fact that He did not use such language shows that He did not use evolution.

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5. Evolution (**could** / could not) be expressed in Biblical terms.

If Genesis is not true, then, we must wonder: just when does God start telling the truth? With the Ten Commandments, the historical books, the prophets, the Gospels, the epistles, Revelation? Or does He ever tell us the truth at all? Either you can trust all of the Bible or you can’t trust any of it.

Now that we’ve seen that creation and evolution can’t both be true, let’s see why it matters which you believe.

THE MEANING OF LIFE AND DEATH.

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According to evolution, life began at an unknown location billions of years ago when some unknown collection of chemicals was zapped by some unknown energy source and went through many unknown steps to produce the first living cell. We don't even know how life began, much less why. Death began some time later when the first cell died, but we do not know the circumstances of that either. We have no way to know the meaning of life and death, if they mean anything at all.

6. If evolution is true, we have no way to know the origin and meaning of **life** and **death**.

Evolutionists base their belief in "survival of the fittest." According to this idea, animals had been struggling and dying for billions of years before man came along. The less fit died, making room for the fittest to evolve into higher and higher creatures. Man is merely the culmination of this process. In a sense, death caused man.

Creation, on the other hand, says that man is directly responsible for the entrance of death into the world.

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7. According to evolution, **death** is responsible for man's existence. According to creation, **man** is responsible for death's existence.

Unlike evolution, the Bible plainly tells us the origin and meaning of death.

(1) It's obvious from Genesis that death was a punishment for sin.

(2) It's less obvious that it also shows God's mercy.

God created Adam and Eve in perfect fellowship with Him. When their sin broke that fellowship, they were separated from Him with no hope of ever getting back. He could have left them that way forever. Instead, He made an escape hatch - death - to release them and their descendants from their miserable state of existence. Then, in the ultimate expression of His mercy, He sent His beloved Son through the escape hatch to bring us back to Himself. For a Christian, death is not something to fear - it means God loves you so much He'll do anything to get you back!

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This is only correct if Genesis is true. Those who believe in evolution can never have this assurance.

8. If creation is true, God brought death into the world for two reasons: punishment, and **mercy**.

WHO MAKES THE RULES?

Though an evolutionist cannot be assured that his life means anything, there is an aspect of evolution that is very attractive to sinful mankind. It gives us the excuse to live any way we want to.

Atheistic evolutionists believe there is no God. Theistic evolutionists believe in a higher power that started evolution billions of years ago and has not intervened in nature. Either way, God is not involved with their lives. They own themselves. They are not accountable to anybody.

9. According to evolution, **you** own yourself. You decide what's right and wrong. According to creation, **God** owns you. He sets the standards.

This is the real reason people defend evolution so zealously. It lets them make their own rules and live any way they want - a very attractive concept for rebellious mankind.

Of course, it also places them in an impossible position. Suppose you are an evolutionist. Your belief system says that everybody gets to make their own rules. Fine. Do I get to make my own rules?

"Of course!" you say.

Well, one of my rules is that you are dangerous and that I will kill you.

"You can't do that!"

Why not? Don't I get to make my own rules?

"Yes, but it's wrong!"

What do you mean, "wrong"? Everybody gets to decide what's right and wrong for themselves. I've decided it's right to kill you.

"But you can't!"

Oh, yes I can. **Your** system of values says so.

The evolutionist has a problem! He wants to set his own rules, but he is only willing to let others do so if their rules agree with his. In trying to do away with absolute standards he must set up his own standards as absolute. He must assume the role of God..

Now let's consider some of the moral issues that come out of the creation / evolution controversy. We will see that our belief about where we came from affects almost every area of our lives.

ABORTION.

One of the most violent emotional battles of our day is over abortion. Those who oppose abortion on demand are labeled fanatics who are trying to impose their morality on others. "Pro-choice" advocates say that a woman should have a right to do anything she wants with her body. In support of this belief they say that even the U.S. Supreme Court has held that a developing embryo is not fully human until birth (Roe v. Wade, 1973). Many people have heard something similar in biology class: that the human embryo displays all the stages of evolution as it develops from a fertilized egg to a newborn baby. This is called "embryonic recapitulation." Even if the Supreme Court believes it, it's a lie!

This idea has been around for several hundred years, but the one person who did the most to spread it was a German doctor named Ernst Haeckel. Haeckel was a professor of zoology at Jena (pronounced yay-nuh) University in Germany in the latter 1800s. He was an influential scientist who happened to hate God, and dedicate much of his effort trying to persuade people that the God of the Bible did not exist. He was not above lying.

When Darwin's *The Origin of Species* was translated into German in 1866, Haeckel seized the opportunity to strike a blow against God. He combined Darwin's ideas with his own ideas about embryological development, producing drawings showing the embryos of various species at various stages of development. They showed pig, rabbit, bull, and human embryos looking almost identical in early stages and gradually diversifying as they approached birth. Since he was a professor of zoology, most people believed him. Though a few scientists (such as

Swiss embryologist Wilhelm His) pointed out his deception as early as 1874, not many listened to them.

Haeckel taught embryonic recapitulation for over 40 years until he was convicted of fraud by a Jena University court in the early 1900s. Over a hundred years later, many people (including the U.S. Supreme Court) still believe his lie.

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 1900s. ¹⁻⁷

Note: it was not a court of law but a university court of his peers that disgraced him. Educators stick together, but his lie was so blatant that they had no choice. He had traveled through Europe for over 40 years persuading people to believe something he knew was false.

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.

The Bible tells a different story. The problem is not sex and nakedness, but our inability to deal with them because of sin. God invented sex and marriage. He created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve. Because of their inability to deal with nakedness in their fallen condition, He killed innocent animals to furnish a temporary covering for them. This foreshadowed the death of the Lamb of God who would furnish us a permanent covering from sin.

Many immoral behaviors arise from belief in evolution. However, people don't consciously think, “Because I believe in evolution, therefore I will do this behavior.” The behavior - abortion, pornography, promiscuity, and so on - is a natural consequence of their view of the world and of life. If we build our world view on the wrong foundation, the world view will also be wrong. Which foundation are you building on, evolution or the Bible?

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DRUG ABUSE.

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.

This is especially true because evolution means you can't be sure why you are here. Perhaps all there is to life is that you go through a meaningless existence then die. Why not use a few drugs to help you forget how hopeless your life is?

RACISM.

13. Evolution says that some races are more highly evolved than others; Creation says that the “races” are nothing but extended families that probably diverged after the Tower of **Babel**.

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There is far more difference between breeds of dogs than between the ethnic groups we call “races.” Our differences are determined by our genes. To consider an obvious characteristic: we all have the same color in our skin, a pigment called melanin. Darker skinned people have more of it and those with lighter skin have less. A combination of four genes is the main factor in determining how much we have. Depending which of these genes are present in an individual, they can produce skin colors from very light to very dark.

In order to produce offspring of all different skin shades, Adam and Eve must have had all four genes and would have probably been medium brown. Though some of their descendants would have been very light and others very dark, the majority would have been medium colored. As long as they were freely interbreeding the genes would combine freely. There would not have been clearly defined groups with different skin shades.

For the first few centuries after the Flood, Noah’s descendants continued to interbreed freely. It was not until the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9) that they divided into groups because of their inability to communicate. And who decided which individuals would speak which languages? God, who knows not only how many hairs we have on our heads but also what genes are in our DNA. It was only at this point, when free interbreeding ceased, that the genes were able to become sorted out to produce clearly defined skin color groupings. The existence of “races” is a visual reminder that God will not allow sinful mankind to unite in rebellion against Him. It has nothing to do with one group being superior to another.

White supremacist groups who say black people look like apes should realize three things: 1. Ape hair is straight, not curly; 2. Ape lips are thin, not thick; and 3. Underneath all that ape hair is very light skin. These characteristics are much more typical of white people. If evolution is true, then we Caucasians must be closer to the apes.

MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN AID: Am I my Brother’s Keeper?

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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.

HOW COULD A GOOD GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

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.

(The following was inspired by Rev. Charles Swindoll.)

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Suppose you drive past a vacant lot on your way to work every day. One day you notice some workmen marking it off with stakes. A few days later the pile driver crew shows up. Next, the cement crew pours the foundation. Each day you admire the skill of the designer more and more as a beautiful building takes shape. Even the landscaping is delightful.

Finally, the big day arrives. The designer signs a lease with his tenants giving them control over the building for a specified period of time. They move in. A few

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days later you notice that the tenants have broken some of the windows. Day by day they do more damage. They uproot the trees, they paint obscenities all over the building, they dump trash everywhere. Some of them get sick because of their disregard for hygiene. They even begin to throw each other out the windows. The once beautiful building becomes a riot zone. Your response? “I can’t believe in the existence of an architect who would allow such suffering in the building he designed.”

It’s not his fault! He turned the building over to the tenants and is honoring his end of the bargain. Likewise, God designed a beautiful world and turned it over to us. We’ve been messing it up ever since Adam. Some day, though, the lease is going to expire. The master Architect will take over and fix it all up again. The universe will once more be the way He intended it to be.

EVOLUTION VS. THE GOSPEL.

Many professing Christians see no problem with believing in evolution. They don’t seem to realize that evolution destroys the reason for the Christian faith.

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The clearest definition of the Gospel can be found in I Corinthians Chapter 15, commonly called the “Resurrection Chapter.” Paul says that we are saved by believing that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, and that He rose again from the dead. But some in Corinth had a problem with the Gospel. They didn’t believe in the resurrection of the dead.

Paul responded that to deny a future resurrection is to deny the promise of the Gospel - resurrection and the restoration of all things. For those who didn’t believe in the future resurrection, Paul pointed out (v. 19) that “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” In order to establish the reality of the future resurrection, he went back to the resurrection of Jesus. Because He is risen and is alive in the present, we have the power of the Gospel in the present: salvation, forgiveness for our sins, the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live a holy life, healing, deliverance, peace, etc.

Some still didn’t believe in resurrection. To settle the issue, Paul went back to why resurrection is needed in the first place - the origin of sin and death in the past.

The first Adam brought sin and death into the world and so sin and death spread to all mankind (Romans 5:12-21). Because we are all descended from him, we are all fallen beings who need a Savior. Jesus, the “last Adam,” came to undo what the first Adam did. Adam brought unrighteousness and death; Jesus came to restore righteousness and bring resurrection to all who will receive Him (I Cor. 15: 21-22, 45-49). If there was no first Adam who brought sin and death into the world, what do we need a last Adam for? Jesus might just as well have died because of what the Easter Bunny did! For a Christian, then, the creation/ evolution question is crucially important. Is Jesus who He said He is, or is He a liar or a fool? Our eternal destiny hangs in the balance.

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!

If some of your students still don’t see a problem with evolution, perhaps an

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atheist can convince them. Show them the slide quoting Bozarth's article "The Meaning of Evolution" in *The American Atheist*. Anyone who claims to be a Christian but doesn't see anything wrong with evolution had better think carefully about his beliefs. If the story of Adam's fall is just a quaint story, the Gospel is a myth and we are fools to call ourselves Christians.

Trans-
parency
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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.

Use the slide to show the students Paul's method of evangelism. Since the Jews knew they were a fallen race in need of a savior, he started with Christ crucified. He had to take a different approach with the Greeks. Darwin didn't invent evolution; it goes back at least as far as Aristotle, Empedocles, and other pagan Greek philosophers who lived centuries before Christ. To correct the Greeks' belief that mankind was continually improving, Paul started by telling them about the Creator who made all men from one (Acts 17:22 ff). Only then did the Gospel make sense.

Since our society has become like that of the Greeks, we should learn a lesson from Paul. Though very few people will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior just because we show them the evidence for creation, many will be kept from faith in Him because of their belief in evolution. We must be prepared to pre-evangelize with the message of creation. Only then will the Gospel make sense.

LESSON REVIEW:

18. Many of the issues the church is fighting in the modern world are rooted in **evolution**.

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So is much of the resistance we encounter when sharing the Gospel. If we visualize the situation as a large tree with many branches springing out of a single root, we can see that the most effective way to kill the tree is not to cut off the branches but the roots. In order to achieve maximum impact, we must be willing and able to deal with the lie of evolution. Let's go after the roots!

Lesson References

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