

THE CREATION INVESTIGATION

(Colossians 4:5-6)

OVERVIEW:

1. “Absolute Truth in a Postmodern World”
(Establishing a Basis of Epistemology or "knowledge science" and the importance of Truth in the Christian Worldview)
2. “Answering Atheists”
(Philosophical Foundation for Theism & Importance of the Debate)
3. “Should the Evidence for Creationism Be Taught in the Public Schools?”
(History of the Controversy & Limitations of Science)
4. “Missing Links in the Theory of Evolution”
(Problems with Evolution: thermodynamics, fossils, biology, & the first life)
5. “The Early Earth: Eden or Ape-Men?”
(Age of the Earth, Creation’s Primeval Conditions, and the Curse)
6. “Faith, Flood & Fossils”
(Review of the Genesis Flood, Evidence for Catastrophism)
7. “The Truth about Dinosaurs”
(Evidence that Men & Dinosaurs Co-Existed, Pictures of Recent Expeditions)
8. “Evidence that the Bible is the Word of God”
(Evidence for Inspiration, Miracles, Handling Objections)

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ABSOLUTE TRUTH IN A POSTMODERN WORLD

(I Timothy 2:4)

Background:

- Why did Jesus come into the world?
- The Satanic assault on Truth (Isaiah 59:14)
- Primer on Postmodernism
- The Road Runner Argument

I. Defining TRUTH

- A. Jesus' claim to exclusivity in John 14:6
 - 1. Universal Truth exists if God exists.
 - 2. The nature of reality is not up for popular vote.
- B. Truth is that which affirms the nature of reality as it is (or we could say - as it is perceived by God).

II. Determining TRUTH

- A. Different types of truth propositions:
 - 1. True by Definition (ie mathematics or language)
 - 2. Scientific "Truth"
 - 3. Historical "Truth"
 - 4. Revealed Truth - John 17:17
- B. Truth is discovered, not invented.
- C. Truth is trans-cultural.
- D. Truth is unchanging, only what we believe to be true changes.
- E. All truth is absolute truth
- F. The Apostle John & Truth

III. Defending TRUTH

- A. Will we value truth in our lives (Proverbs 23:23)?
- B. Knowledge of the truth brings freedom (John 8:32).
- C. The issue of truth is fundamental to God (Jeremiah 5:1)
 - 1. Ephesians 6:14 - the 1st piece of the Spiritual Armor.
 - 2. II Thess. 2:11 - The End Times Lie

Conclusion: The enterprise of science itself is dependent on there being absolute truth and that truth can be known. Ultimately science is a pursuit after the way things really are (truth) wherever that leads, not creating a naturalistic metanarrative.

ANSWERING ATHEISTS

(I Peter 3:15)

I. What is an Atheist?

- A. Are there any REAL atheists (Psalm 14:1)?
- B. Are atheists religious?
- C. Why doesn't the Bible argue for the existence of God (Genesis 1:1)?
- D. Defining some similar characters...
 3. Agnostics: "Don't know if there is a god."
 4. Naturalists: "Only natural phenomena can be considered in science."
 5. Humanists: "Man is the ultimate authority in the universe."
 6. Rationalists: "If it doesn't seem rational, it's false."
 7. Modernists: "Science should supersede scripture."

II. The Influence of Atheism

Americans atheist are less than 10% of the population. Yet they are very active in the arenas that set the philosophical agenda, particularly in the scientific leadership.

III. Evidence for the Existence of God

- A. Cosmological--the effect of the universe's existence demands that there be a suitable cause! There are only three explanations:
 - Spontaneous Generation (not happening anywhere in the universe)
 - Eternality of Matter (runs counter the laws of thermodynamics)
 - A Creator (the most reasonable alternative)
- B. Teleological--the design of the universe implies a purpose behind it. We live in a world fine-tuned for life!
- C. Anthropological--the innate awareness of a higher moral law signifies that there is an absolute meaning to life!
- D. Ontological--the implanted idea of God and the universal desire for worship!
- E. Scriptural--the Bible's unique standing amongst books demands explanation.

IV. What are the Practical Implications for us as Christians?

- A. Unlike activist atheists, most Christians are not engaged in the battle. If they are, they are often focused on peripheral issues, not defending the foundation.
- B. Romans 1:19-32 details an important descent of ungodliness:
 1. Revelation rejected
 2. Atheistic sophistry
 3. Wrong worldview
 4. God gives them up to immorality
 5. They are filled with wickedness.
 6. They teach others their error.

While we are commanded to be salt and light, too many Christians go around living their lives practically like atheists!

SHOULD THE EVIDENCE FOR SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM BE TAUGHT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL? (I Timothy 6:20-21)

- I. History of the Controversy
 - A. Biblical Background
 - 1. commanded by God (Genesis 1:28)
 - 2. civilization developed rapidly (Genesis 4:19-22)
 - B. Classical scientists were creationists
 - C. The 1800's was a time of great turmoil & change.
 - 1. Erasmus Darwin (Charles' own grandfather) wrote *Zoonomia*, an early treatise exploring evolutionary ideas.
 - 2. Charles Lyell – *Principles of Geology*
 - 3. J. Lamarck – “Theory of Acquired Traits”
 - 4. Charles Darwin – “Theory of Natural Selection”
 - 5. Evolution was quickly spread by zealots like Huxley, Haeckel & Kingsley.
 - 6. The rise of social Darwinism & its evil fruit
 - D. The 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial
 - E. The 1981 Equal Treatment Laws and the Supreme Court Case “Edwards vs Aguillard.”

- II. Limitations of Science
 - A. What is Science?
 - 1. Science: knowledge obtained by the scientific method
 - 2. Scientific Method: observation, repetition, hypothesis, experimentation, and then fact/theory/law
 - 3. Creationism: abrupt appearance by design
 - 4. Evolution: molecules to man transformation
 - B. Weaknesses of Science:
 - 1. natural prejudice
 - 2. human fallibility in observation and deduction
 - 3. Science cannot speak authoritatively concerning origins because the scientific method demands observation and repetition.
 - C. Karl Popper's concept of testability/falsifiability as a condition for science
 - D. Teaching the evidence for design does not promote a particular religion. Evolutionary theory itself is metaphysical and has religious implications.
 - E. How about the “Separation of Church & State?”

- III. Teaching the two-model approach is legal and is supported in the polls.

Evolution Model	Creation Model
1. Natural Origin	1. Supernatural Origin
2. Uniformitarianism	2. Catastrophism
3. Increasing Complexity over time	3. Decreasing Complexity over time

Learn to distinguish between the scientific facts and scientist's unwarranted speculation. If the Bible had exactly matched the science of the 19th century, it would be inaccurate today because of all the changes in scientific theories since then.

MISSING LINKS IN THE THEORY

(II Peter 3:3-7)

- I. Variations of Evolution:
 - Cosmic Evolution: Evolution of matter & energy in the universe (Big Bang)
 - Chemical Evolution: Development of higher elements from Hydrogen
 - Stellar Evolution: Origin of the stars and planetary bodies
 - Organic Evolution: Origin of life from nonlife
 - Macro evolution: Development of new kinds
 - Micro Evolution: variation within kinds of animals. (Only this last one is observed. It is not sufficient to explain molecules to man transformation.)

- II. Critiquing the Evolutionist's Arguments
 - A. Biogeography
 - B. Embryonic Recapitulation Theory
 - C. The Fossil Record & Evolution
 1. It has been called the only proof of large-scale evolution because of general trends of simple to complex and layers of extinct animals that were "unfit."
 2. Problems with the record: abrupt appearance (Cambrian Explosion), stasis, and the lack of transitional forms
 3. Circular reasoning and index fossils.
 - EVOLUTION is assumed to date special "index fossils."
 - The index fossils are used to date the rock layers
 - These layers (called the fossil record) are considered to be the greatest proof of large-scale EVOLUTION!
 - D. Darwin's Riddles & Vestigial Organs
 - E. Nested Hierarchy and the Interpretation of the Pattern of Life
 1. Why would a designer use a pattern that looks like common descent?
 2. What about supposed intermediates?

- III. Challenges to Neo-Darwinism
 - A. Biological Complexity
 1. There is no such thing as a simple cell.
 2. The complexity of the DNA system in living things
 3. The Law of Biogenesis is well established: life only comes from life. This nullifies the story of "goo to you via the zoo."
 4. Biological systems (like the human eyeball) could not come along by chance. Even protein machines at the microscopic level are very complex. All the pieces have to be in place at the same time for it to work.
 - B. Mechanism Challenges
 1. Natural Selection problems
 2. Survival of the fittest is a tautology.
 3. Information Theory

The arguments of the modern evolutionists are not new. Their coming was prophesied in the Bible many years ago. God's Word helps us answer the arguments still today.

THE EARLY EARTH: EDEN OR APE-MEN?

(Genesis 1:1)

- I. The Evolutionary “Family Tree”
 - A. Notorious evolutionist “Ape-man” blunders & frauds
 - B. Currently postulated ancestral line:
 1. *Pitheciine*
 2. *Homo habilis*
 3. *Homo erectus*
 4. *Neanderthals*
 5. *Homo sapiens*
 - C. Neanderthal Superiority & Longevity

- II. The Age of the Earth
 - A. The Gap Theory (Genesis 1:2)
 - B. The Day-Age Theory
 - C. Theistic Evolution
 - D. Evidence for a Young Earth
 1. Lunar orbit
 2. Short period comets
 3. Mitochondrial Eve
 4. Earth’s magnetic field
 5. Erosion rates & ocean salinity
 6. Helium in zircon crystals
 7. C14 evidence
 - E. Old Earth Arguments
 1. Starlight & Time
 2. Radiometric dating problems
 - Assuming zero daughter at start
 - Assuming consistent decay rate
 - Assuming no contamination of sample
 3. Slow rock formation

- III. The Garden of Eden
 - A. Evidence of Ancient Civilizations
 - B. Pangea (Genesis 1:9)
 - C. The Early Earth Atmosphere (Genesis 1:6)
 1. Vapor Canopy Model (tropical climate, minimal storms, longer life, healthier life, quicker healing)
 2. Long-lived humans
 3. Giant organisms
 - D. Distinction of kinds (Genesis 1:12)

- IV. The First Catastrophe (Genesis 3:19)
 - A. New varieties (thorns & thistles)
 - B. Fundamental changes to organisms
 - C. Death & decay introduced

FAITH, FLOOD & FOSSILS

(Hebrews 11:1-3, 7)

- I. A More Reasonable Faith
 - A. Defining faith biblically
 - B. Christian faith is not a “leap in the dark,” but a reasonable trust in something that has not or cannot be empirically demonstrated.
 - C. The importance of catastrophism in the creation model (especially the singular judgment events of the Adamic Curse and the Genesis Flood)

- II. Analysis of the Genesis Flood Record in the Bible
 - A. The Preponderance of Flood legends in every major civilization
 - B. The size of the ark objection
 - C. Timeline of the flood:
 - onslaught (Genesis 7:11-12)
 - prevailing (Genesis 7:19-20, 24)
 - abatement (Genesis 8:1-3)
 - D. A post-Flood Ice Age
 - E. Scientific consequences of the Flood:
 1. fossil fuels rapidly formed
 2. fossils graveyards
 3. fossil sorting & layers

- III. Scientific Evidence for a Geological Catastrophe
 - A. Evidence for rapid formation of rock layers
 - *Polystrate fossils*
 - *Surface features* (rain drops, ripples, tracks)
 - *Lack of biosoils and erosion*
 - *Clastic dikes*
 - *Distinct layers bent together*
 - B. Geological relics of the flood (long-transported boulders, tall erosional elements, and wind & water gaps).
 - C. OOPARTS (Out of Place Artifacts)
 - Bell in coal
 - London Artifact
 - Forbidden Archaeology
 - A. Experiments in stratification
 - B. Grand Canyon – Icon of Geology
 1. Incised meander problem
 2. Colorado river flow problem
 3. Flood Hypothesis
 - C. Mount St. Helens – a laboratory for catastrophism

Conclusion: The story of Noah’s Flood is very relevant today because Jesus predicted that some of these same events would be repeated in the end times (Matthew 24:37-39).

THE TRUTH ABOUT DINOSAURS

(Isaiah 40:28)

- I. Dinosaurs: “Living Evidence of a Powerful CREATOR”
 - A. Living Evidence:
 1. A great creation tells of a great Creator: Psalm 19.
 2. Like all biology--dinosaur complexity points to God.
 3. Evidence that some dinosaurs still exist today
 4. Similar but smaller than in the past
 5. No plausible naturalistic origin
 - B. What happened to the dinosaurs?
 - Changes to their environment
 - Hunted because of their threat to men
 - Killed for food
 - Some DID survive till recent times

- II. DINOSAURS Coexisting with Man
 - A. Dinosaurs in the Bible
 1. Job: the oldest book of the Bible
 - a. The lesson of Job
 - *Tragedy in Job’s life*
 - *Job’s comforters*
 - *Job’s questions (Job 31:35)*
 - *God’s answer*
 - *Job’s response*
 - b. The identification of Behemoth (Job 40:15-19)
 - c. The fire-breathing dragon Leviathan (Job 41:1)
 - *Biblical evidence*
 - *Biological evidence*
 - *Historical evidence*
 - *Paleontological evidence*
 2. The fiery flying serpent of Isaiah
 - B. Dinosaurs throughout history
 - Ancient depictions
 - Historical accounts of dragons
 - C. Dinosaur Fossil Analysis (trace fossils, soft tissue in dinosaur bones, and C-14 dating of dinosaur bones)

- III. Dinosaur Hunting Expedition
 - A. Dinosaurs still alive today (cryptozoology)
 - Plesiosaur reports (Champ, Nessie, & Ogopogo)
 - Pterosaur reports (Ropen of PNG)
 - Apatosaurus reports (Mokele-mbembe of Africa)
 - B. Expedition slides from Papua New Guinea & Cameroon

The overlap of the Biblical clues, historical accounts, & cryptozoological reports is uncanny. Indeed, the Bible is more up-to-date than tomorrow’s newspaper!

EVIDENCE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

(Matthew 24:35)

- I. Evidence that the Bible is God's Word:
 - A. Uniqueness of the book
 - 1. unique in preparation
 - 2. unique in circulation
 - 3. unique in translation
 - 4. unique in preservation
 - a. The testimony of the Dead Sea Scrolls
 - b. The work of a scribe
 - 5. unique in message and influence
 - B. Historical accuracy
 - 1. The story of Jericho
 - 2. The story of Belshazzar
 - 3. Luke as a historian
 - C. Fulfilled prophecy
 - 1. Prophecies of ancient cities
 - a. The story of Tyre
 - b. The predictions regarding other ancient cities
 - 2. Prophecies of the Messiah: specific predictions fulfilled
 - 3. Prophecies concerning the Jews (Ezekiel 36:33-35 and 38:8)
 - D. Scientific accuracy (the Bible got it right before modern science did)
 - E. Demonstration of changed lives
 - 1. The power of the Christian experience
 - 2. The power of the Christian story
 - 3. The power of the Christian's departure
- II. Do Not Compromise the Scriptures.
 - A. Common compromises:
 - 1. Heresies regarding the Creation, the Flood, and the Resurrection
 - 2. Dealing with miracles in general
 - B. Problems of accommodation with rationalists and liberal theologians
 - 1. Philosophical inconsistencies
 - 2. Historical evidence
- III. The Bible and the Scientist
 - A. The impact of inspiration on scientific knowledge
 - B. Handling objections and apparent contradictions
 - C. The priority God places on contending for the faith!

Accurate science will never contradict the plain teaching of the Scriptures. Let us make it a point to treasure eternal Truth over variable human knowledge!