

# Session 1 Notes

## The Truth about Genesis and Evolution

1. Series Objectives – To equip you to share the evidence for creation with others.

- To understand the creation world view and learn the most powerful evidence that supports it.
- To be equipped with questions for evolution that reveal its most serious problems.
- To have a list of good resources to get more information.

All of us should be prepared to answer if somebody asks us: “What do you believe, and why?”

2. Worldview comparison – See separate handout.

- The Evolution worldview is a naturalistic explanation for the origin of the universe that assumes there is no God.
- The Biblical worldview holds the Bible as the ultimate source of truth and considers Genesis an historical account.

3. Why is evolution considered a fact?

Science today is based on Naturalism, and excludes any possibility of the supernatural, or God.

Naturalism: A philosophy or worldview that says there is no God, no supernatural. Nature is all there is.

Evolution is considered a fact because if there is no God (Naturalism) then evolution must be true because it's the best explanation available that explains how we got here. This is why it is presented as a fact in science classes.

4. Most of the founding fathers of science believed in a Creator.

- Past creation scientists: <http://creationsciencehalloffame.org/inductees/deceased/>
- Present day and scientists: <http://creation.com/creation-scientists>
- Pew Research Center, 51% of professional scientists today believe in God or a higher power: <http://www.pewforum.org/2009/11/05/scientists-and-belief/>

5. Experimental and Historical Science.

- Operational or Experimental science – Deals with observable and testable phenomena in the present. The scientific method applies.
- Historical or Forensic Science – Investigates past events. For something like evolution, no one was there to see it, and experiments aren't possible to repeat it.

When most scientists shift from studying experimental science to historical science, they bring their rule for Naturalism with them, an assumption that there is no God.

6. Science classes today.

Science teachers are discouraged from allowing discussion in their classrooms that challenges evolution.

See the California department of education policy on the teaching of natural sciences here:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/documents/scienceframework.pdf>

## 7. Facts

Everyone is looking at the same facts, or put more accurately, evidence. Example: A fossil is the evidence. How it got there could be “the fact.” Evidence is always interpreted into “facts” based on a person’s pre-suppositions.

Question 1: How do you know that?

When somebody makes a claim, try to find out why they believe what they are saying, or where they got that information. You may find that their source is not reliable.

Question 2: Could your source be biased?

We know that all science textbooks will be biased for Naturalism. Most magazines and TV shows, unless known to hold to the Biblical worldview, are likely to be biased.

## 8. The origin of the universe.

Can we know that God exists? Yes, there are several sound arguments that prove the existence of God beyond a reasonable doubt. Following is the Cosmological Argument.

- a. Every effect (everything that has a beginning) must have an adequate cause.
  - b. The universe had a beginning.
  - c. Therefore, the universe must have had a cause.
- All philosophers have asked: Why is there something, rather than nothing?
  - Law of Cause and Effect: Every material effect (anything that has a beginning) must have an adequate antecedent or simultaneous cause.
  - The material universe had a beginning. We know this for a number of reasons, but one of them is due to the laws of thermodynamics. Scientists generally agree that the universe is gradually “winding down”, so there must have been a time when it was “wound up.”

What was the cause? The cause of the universe must have been something with the following characteristics.

- a. Eternal. If there was ever a time there was nothing, there would still be nothing, unless the first cause was something that never had a beginning.
- b. Non-material or physical. Or else it would be subject to the same laws of decay as the material universe. (Second law of Thermodynamics.)

- c. All powerful. Consider the energy in the universe. The cause must be sufficient.
- d. All Knowing. Consider all the information contained in the universe. Information comes from a source with at least as much information, or more. (Information theory).
- e. Personal. A decision point was required to initiate creation of the universe. This required a conscious intelligence.

Doesn't this look like the God of the Bible? Confirm points a-e with these verses:

- a. Psalm 90:2, Genesis 1:1
- b. John 4:24
- c. 1 Chronicles 29: 11-12
- d. Psalm 139: 2-6, Isaiah 40:13-14
- e. Genesis 1:27

Question 3: What could have caused the material universe to come out of *nothing*?

Science and sound reasoning require an ultimate cause that looks like God. To believe in God is rational, so Christianity is not a blind faith.

Evolution requires a naturalistic cause for the universe. In the absence of any evidence for a cause like this, and against science and reasoning, it takes a blind faith to believe there is no God.

Questions for discussion:

1. Have you seen evolution shown as a fact recently? Where and how? Could the source have been biased that there is no God? Hint: Any textbook or secular science program will be biased for naturalism.
2. What are some examples of experimental science? What are some examples of historical or forensic science? Does all historical science exclude the possibility of intelligence? Hint: What about archaeology?
3. How can you respond to this: "Evolution is science and is based on facts. Creation relies on God, so is a matter of faith or religion." Hint: We're all looking at the same facts... or evidence. What matters is how the evidence is interpreted into facts based on one's worldview.

# Session 2 Notes

## The Truth about Genesis and Evolution

### 1. The origin of life.

- According to the evolution world view, the first life somehow emerged from a primordial ocean of non-living chemicals. The traditional formula is: Chemicals + Time + Chance = Life
- All mainstream scientists today would agree that even if amino acids were present in a primordial ocean, they would not self-combine just by chance to form any proteins. Chance is no longer an option.
- Evolutionary scientists believe there must be some other law or set of laws of chemistry or physics that we haven't discovered, that would cause the first life to form. But there is a problem with this, because the laws of chemistry as we understand them today would seem to prevent it from happening.
- Some scientists are suggesting that life came from other planets. But this just puts the problem somewhere else, because presumably the laws of chemistry and physics that operate on earth also operate throughout the rest of the universe. So that means that the spontaneous generation of life would be just as impossible on any other planet as it is on earth.

Question 4: How can non-living chemicals organize themselves into the first self-reproducing organism?

### 2. Protein Synthesis.

- We now know that proteins are assembled by other protein machines. First they extract the information required to do so from the DNA molecule, then they mechanically build the required protein by assembling the correct amino acids in the right sequence.
- The information in DNA is clear evidence of a Creator. We know that nature produces either randomness or simple patterns like sand dunes and crystals. The arrangement of nucleotides in DNA is not random, nor is it a repeating pattern. There is no naturalistic explanation for their arrangement because the chemical bonds that hold each of them in place are the same bonds.

Question 5: Where does all the information in DNA come from?

### 3. Irreducible complexity.

- Like a mousetrap, the cell contains many components that are irreducibly complex. For such assemblies to be functional, all components must be present at the same time. Examples include the ATP Synthase motor and the Kinesin motor. How can evolution, which by definition is a series of small steps of increasing complexity and value, produce such irreducible assemblies?

### 4. Natural Selection and Mutations.

- Charles Darwin recognized adaptations in finch beaks, and suggested that small changes could accumulate over time to cause bigger changes, leading from one kind of animal to another.

Natural Selection + Time = Evolution from one animal kind to another.

- Mendelian genetics tells us that Natural Selection only works with genetic information that is already available.

- The New Darwinism says:

Natural Selection + Mutations + Time = Evolution from one animal kind to another.

- Mutations do not add genetic information. They are DNA copy mistakes and gradually corrupt the information in DNA.
- There can be beneficial mutations, such as beetles on a windy island, or bacterial resistance to antibiotics. But none represent an increase in genetic information.
- There is no natural mechanism known to increase genetic information over time.

## 5. The Creation Model.

- According to Genesis, God created “...each according to its kind.” God would have created the original animal kinds with vast amounts of genetic information, because he would want them to be able to adapt to different environmental conditions.
- It is estimated that there were about 8,000 original land animal and bird kinds.
- The creation “orchard” model is in harmony with natural selection and mutations, because there is no need for the increase of genetic information. Rather, there is a decrease in genetic information as animal kinds quickly adapt to different conditions according to natural selection.

Example: The dog kind has produced Wolves, Coyotes, dingoes, Jackals, foxes, and domestic dogs.

- The ark was 450 x 75 x 45 feet. Volume calculations show that it could hold about 125,000 animals the size of a sheep. With approximately 8,000 animal kinds to save, 16,000 animals would be needed on the ark. The median size of all the animals on the ark is estimated to be about the size of a small rat, with only 11% much bigger than a sheep. See more information about the ark here: <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter13.pdf>
- Dinosaurs would have been saved on the ark. There were an estimated 30 original kinds, with an average size of a sheep. Most of the dinosaurs were small, and the large dinosaurs could have been brought on board as juveniles.

## 6. Science textbooks.

- Science books can be misleading because examples for evolution are examples of natural selection with no information created. There is a subtle suggestion that the small changes seen as animals adapt

(losing information) will accumulate over time to produce greater complexity (more information), but there is no evidence of this.

Repeat Question: Where does all the information come from?

Scientists know that neither natural selection nor mutations provide the increase in information required for evolution from simple to complex. There is no known mechanism that provides the new information required to go from non-living chemicals with no DNA, to the simplest cell with 580,000 DNA letters, to a human with 3 Billion DNA letters. Yet evolutionists still hang onto natural selection and mutations because it's all they have.

Discussion Questions:

1. Take a look at a science textbook if you have one. Does it present a confusing picture of evolution, natural selection, and mutations? How? Hint: Very often textbooks will cite examples of natural selection as examples of evolution. But there is no increase in information nor evidence of change into a different kind of animal. Do you see examples in books or documentaries where a claim is made that one animal evolved from a different one, without any evidence?
2. We discussed variation of beak sizes in Darwin's finches, and variations within the dog kind. Can you think of some other examples of variation within a particular animal kind? Think of other household pets or farm animals.
3. What can be some good questions to begin asking someone who believes in evolution? Hint: Start with our big questions for evolution and see if you can think of more of your own.

# Session 3 Notes

## The Truth about Genesis and Evolution

### 1. The age of the earth.

- The age of the earth is mostly derived from the rock layers that are found in the geologic column. They are presumed to be millions (and billions) of years old put down by very slow and gradual deposition.
- Geologists are making an assumption that the earth was shaped by the same forces we see today, so the process must have taken many millions of years. This is called Uniformitarianism.
- Charles Lyell played a key part in establishing the assumption of uniformitarianism with his book *Principles of Geology*. But his book was not so much about reporting observations, rather a way of explaining them through a new interpretive framework. The book was a masterpiece of persuasion and the idea took root. (Lyell was also a trained attorney).
- The Biblical view is that most of the rock layers were put down during Noah's flood, which lasted about a year. Fossils are plants and animals that appear in the order in which they were buried.
- When the assumption of uniformitarianism is removed, there is little reason to believe the rock layers are older than the Biblical timeline of 6000 years. However, evolutionists will point to rock dating methods as proof to support their idea of deep time.

### 2. Radiometric Dating.

- Scientists cannot measure the age of a rock. Instead, they measure chemicals in the rock and calculate an estimate of age. Scientists look at radioactive elements that are in the process of changing from one element (parent) to another (daughter). An hourglass is a good illustration. Theoretically, if they know the rate of change from parent to daughter element, then they can calculate when the decay process started with only parent material present. This is presumably when the rock hardened from a molten state.
- Carbon-14 is one form of radiometric dating and is used for samples of once living material, such as fossils of plants or bones.
- Radiometric dating relies on 3 unprovable assumptions:
  - a. The amount of parent and daughter material are known at the start.
  - b. The decay rate has always been the same as measured in the lab today.
  - c. There has been no contamination in parent or daughter elements over time.

It is known that all 3 assumptions have problems, causing resulting calculations to be off. Evidence of this is in the results. Samples from known lava flows show test results of millions of years older than they are. Also, samples within the same rock layers show conflicting dates.

The bottom line: Dating methods do not prove long ages. Rather, they have been shown to be unreliable.

An excellent explanation of radiometric dating can be found in this documentary: *Evolution's Achilles' Heels*, Available in the "Store" at Creation.com, as a DVD or MP4 download.

The following web site is a good source for more information on radiometric dating:  
<http://creation.com/radiometric-dating-questions-and-answers>

### 3. Evidence against slow deposition.

There is abundant evidence that causes real problems for the assumption of slow and gradual deposition, and is powerful evidence for a young earth and the global flood.

101 examples of evidence for a young earth: <http://creation.com/age-of-the-earth>

Evidence for the Flood:

<https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/geologic-evidences-for-the-genesis-flood/>

Question 6: Millions of years? How did they that?

When hearing a claim of an old age, it can be worth trying to get to the root source of information used to justify the claim. Sometimes it is very difficult to get this information because it is not made easily available. Or sometimes it is just the result of somebody's pre-supposition of long ages. If the claim is based on radiometric dating, we know that the age is just an estimate, not proof. We know we can take it "with a grain of salt" because radiometric dating has a known record of serious reliability problems.

### 4. The fossil Record – What does it really show?

- Sudden appearance of many kinds of animals, without sign of prior forms.
- Long periods, many millions of years, of no change (This is called Stasis).
- Extinction.
- Lack of transitional forms, such as from fish to amphibian, reptile to bird, reptile to mammal.

Question 7: Where are all the transitional fossils?

There are claims of many transitional forms, but the key is to ask for examples. There are really just a handful of them, and all are highly challenged within the scientific community. To research supposed transitions or "missing links", I recommend entering their names in the search fields of either of these sites:

[Creation.com](http://Creation.com) or [AnswersinGenesis.org](http://AnswersinGenesis.org)

### 5. Conclusions.

- Summary of the Big Questions for Evolution:
  1. How do you know that? – Is the source reliable?
  2. Could your source be biased? – Is a claimed "fact" really a biased interpretation of the evidence?



3. What could have caused the material universe to appear out of *nothing*?
4. How can non-living chemicals organize themselves into the first self-reproducing organism?
5. Where does all the information in DNA come from?
6. Millions of years? Exactly how did they get that?
7. Where are all the transitional fossils?

- We have 2 different creation stories, Genesis and Evolution. Evolution must say that everything created itself. Or that nothing created everything from nothing. Genesis says “In the beginning, God...” The Genesis account is better supported by real science and the evidence.

## 6. Why is it all important?

- Whether the earth is young or old is a very sensitive topic within the church. But it is not an essential doctrine. In other words, a person can believe in one view or the other and still be saved. The fact of creation is more important than the time of creation, and it is not an issue over which the body of Christ should be divided.
- But when Christians try to insert millions of years into the creation account, the question would be: Why? Maybe because it is easy to be persuaded that science has proven millions of years. But a history of millions of years has not been proven.
- The Biblical writers and Jesus considered Genesis to be real history. So did the early church leaders. See: <http://creation.com/genesis-bible-authors-believed-it-to-be-history>
- The majority of Hebrew scholars consider the Hebrew word for “day” as used in the creation account in Genesis to mean a 24 hour day. See: <http://creation.com/genesis-is-history>  
<http://creation.com/creation-compromises-questions-and-answers>

Inserting millions of years into the creation account can be problematic for the integrity of the Scripture and the Gospel message. Here’s why:

The Bible is clear that Adam’s sin brought death and all the rest of sin’s consequences into the world. (See Romans 5:12). The gospel message is that Jesus came to provide a rescue from that sin condition which affects all of us. But if there were millions of years of violence and death before Adam, it would mean the Bible is wrong. If death was just a part of God’s creation from the beginning, then Adam’s sin has lost its significance. So why would we need a savior?

See the *Creation Answers Book* chapter 2: <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter2.pdf>  
Also see: <http://creation.com/Did-god-create-over-billions-of-years>

The good news is that we don’t have to believe in millions of years because it hasn’t been proven. On the contrary, there is abundance evidence that creates enormous problems for long ages, and points to a young earth and Noah’s flood. We can read Genesis in a straightforward way, and take God for his word.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What would you say is some of the most powerful evidence for creation? Think of biology and the information in DNA. What about the evidence in geology for a young earth and the flood?
2. What do you believe are some of the biggest problems for evolution? Think of both biology and geology.
3. Think of some ways that you can respond when the topic of evolution comes up among friends. Are there any comments that you can prepare for in the event you are asked what you believe and why? If you are challenged about your beliefs in creation, what questions can you ask that would put evolution on the defensive?

# Recommended Resources

Books: Available at Creation.com:

- *The Creation Answers Book*  
Available to read on line here: <http://creation.com/the-creation-answers-book-index>
- *Refuting Evolution*  
Available to read on line here: <http://creation.com/refuting-evolution-index>
- *Refuting Evolution 2*  
Available to read on line here: <http://creation.com/refuting-evolution-2-index>
- *Evolution's Achilles' Heels* (See DVD option below)
- On Amazon: *I Don't Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist*, Norman Geisler and Frank Turek

## DVDs

- Evolution's Achilles' Heels, available at Creation.com
- The Case for a Creator, with Lee Strobel
- Illustra Media Documentaries: *Unlocking the Mystery of Life, Flight, Metamorphosis, The Privileged Planet*

## Web Sites

- Creation Ministries International: [Creation.com](http://Creation.com)
- Answers in Genesis: [Answersingenesis.org](http://Answersingenesis.org)
- Institute for Creation Research: [ICR.org](http://ICR.org)
- Discovery Institute: [Discovery.org](http://Discovery.org)
- Evolution News and Views: [evolutionnews.org](http://evolutionnews.org)
- Apologetics Press: [Apologeticspress.org](http://Apologeticspress.org)

101 Evidences for a young earth: <http://creation.com/age-of-the-earth>

Evidence for the Genesis flood:

<https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/geologic-evidences-for-the-genesis-flood/>

## Especially for Kids:

- *Jonathan Park Creation Adventure* Audio Series (Grades 1-5) <http://jonathanpark.com>
- Focus on the Family, *Adventures in Odyssey, The Truth Chronicles*, Audio Series (Grades 1-5)  
Available at Christianbook.com
- *Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis* DVD Series, Grades 3 and above, Institute for Creation Research.
- *Answers Academy* DVD series, Jr High and above.

## Especially For High School and College

- Focus on the Family True-U DVD Series: Does God Exist, Is the Bible Reliable, Who is Jesus?

For any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me!

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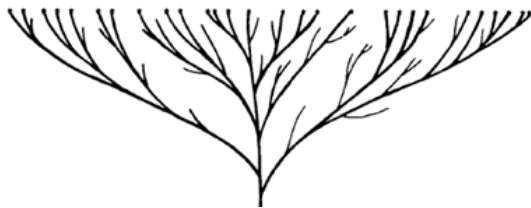
# Evolution Worldview

(No God)

# Biblical Worldview

(God)

1. Universe explodes into existence.
  - About 14 billion years ago, natural cause.
2. Earth is formed.
  - 4.5 billion years ago (age of earth).
3. Non living chemicals organize themselves into the first self reproducing organism.
  - 3 billion years ago.
  - Evolution begins – tree of life model.
  - Fossils tell the story of evolution on earth.
4. Humans arrive, 200,000 years ago.



Natural Selection + Mutations =  
Evolution from single cell to human

1. God creates everything in 6 days.
  - About 6000 years ago
  - Dinosaurs created day 6 with other land animals
  - Adam and Eve rebel , Sin, death, disease, and violence enter the world.
2. The flood covers the earth.
  - 1600 years after creation, lasts 1 year.
  - Animal kinds are saved.
  - Continents break apart.
  - Geologic column of layers laid down.
  - Fossils appear in the order they were buried.
  - Continents rise, sea beds drop.
3. After the flood
  - Flood effects trigger the ice age, 700 years.
  - Animals kinds adapt and diversify according to Natural Selection.
  - People migrate to populate the earth after Babel.
  - 4000 years after creation Jesus comes to provide salvation from the fall.

