

WitnessKit 2
God And Creation

Class 15 Of Chimpanzees
and Mice and Men and
Moses

II Corinthians 3:4-6

“And such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.”

Life

- How is life different from non-life?
- We have an intuitive knowledge of the spirit as animating living physical beings. The physical is not the same as the spirit. Physical things can exist without having spirit, and as a consequence, without having life.
- That intuitive knowledge also becomes a metaphor for the spirit of the law—that there is a difference between law and the spirit of the law.

Life chemistry \neq inorganic chemistry

- Even in the physical world, the chemistry of life is different from the chemistry of the inanimate world.
- Much of evolutionary theory tries to reduce life chemistry to randomness, but life chemistry is not random. Inorganic chemistry is random.
- We cannot use physical tools to measure spirit. But we can define some of the differences in life chemistry and inorganic chemistry. A major difference is information.

Dr. Francis Collins, leader of the human genome project, speaking about his work...

"Together, we determined all three billion letters of the human genome, our own DNA instruction book, and made all those data freely available on the Internet every 24 hours. It is hard to get your mind around how much information this is. ...

Suppose we decided to take a little time this morning to read the letters of the human genome together, just to express our awe at God's creation. If we took turns reading, and agreed to stick with it until we were all the way through, we would be here for 31 years! And you have all that information inside **each of the 100 trillion cells of **your body.**"** —Cal Thomas, "President Obama's Excellent Choice"

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During the last 50 years or so

- We have watched scientists and engineers create artificial intelligence, starting with computers that filled entire rooms, and moving down to the tiniest miniature chips.
- None of those amazing efforts have reached the level of information density of the living cell.
- We stand in awe of the changes accomplished by artificial intelligence, but we take for granted the information density of the natural world.
- Today we want to catch a glimpse of that world. That glimpse will help us counter some mistaken ideas.

Everyone can counter some common misstatements in the origins debate, such as

Propaganda in the debate

1. Extravagant reports of common Chimpanzee, human, and mouse DNA
2. What the data actually are
3. What the data imply for the existence of the soul

Occasionally one will hear

- Extravagant claims for similarities in chimpanzee and human DNA, such as Dr. Lubenow quoted from SCIENCE (1992) and NEW SCIENTIST—
“For almost thirty years, researchers have asserted that the DNA of humans and chimps is at least 98.5% identical.”
- Note that this assertion was made long before the human genome was mapped. It sounds very much simpler than Dr. Francis Collins’ quote.
- If that 98.5% identical DNA were correct, it would constitute SHOCKINGLY STRONG EVIDENCE for the human soul and MASSIVE EVIDENCE against biological determinism.

It is comical to think that the vast

differences between humans and chimps could be reduced to a 1.5% difference in DNA. And the materialist tries to make that case!

Dr. Lubenow's explanation:

The 98.5% was calculated by ***skipping*** sections of the DNA molecule that were different between the two species, and only counting sequences that were alike, but that had a letter or two variation.

Then in 2002, *NEW SCIENTIST*

Did it again.

- “What’s the difference between Stuart Little and William Shakespeare?”
- Answer (to a very rough approximation): about 300 genes.” ... “Both humans and mice have about 30,000 genes, and 99% of mouse genes have a human counterpart.”
- Again, either we have strong evidence for the human soul and strong evidence against genetic determinism, or we have an absurd and misleading report of the data!

Everyone can counter some common mis-statements in the origins debate, such as

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Some of the miscommunication

- was due to a mistaken assumption about DNA.
- Scientists assumed much of the DNA in the nucleus was “JUNK.”
 - Dr. Francis Collins was one of those using the “junk DNA” in the mouse genome to support macro-evolution—in spite of his grasp of the size of the genome. (See page 23-24 in *The Myth of Junk DNA*.)
 - It turns out that “junk” is not junk. “Junk DNA” has important work in the cell.

The more science learns

About the genome,

The more complicated the picture becomes.

- A good reference for the complications is Dr. Jonathan Wells', ***The Myth of Junk DNA***, Discovery Institute Press, 2011.
- Facts in the next portion of slides will refer to page numbers in that book.
- This book is quite technical, and worth reading. It reveals the complicated nature of the genome. It explains new discoveries about how some of the genome works.
- **Genome studies** focus on the DNA in the **nucleus**, rather than the mitochondrial DNA.

Much of the genome

- Has been mapped for various species. However, only a small portion of the DNA in the nucleus actually goes into **formation of proteins** by RNA transfer of information. This portion is called **“protein-coding DNA.”**
- The remaining DNA that does **not** code for proteins was thought to be junk—leftover “vestigial DNA” not needed by the organism. Scientists felt justified leaving out the degrees of difference in those portions of the DNA molecule, when looking at various species.

Much of the genome

- This was a mistake. Such “junk DNA” has extremely important work in the cell. It was NOT leftover, vestigial, Darwinian refuse after all.
- In fact, the “junk DNA” has numerous functions in the cells.
- It is so important that....

The work of the “junk”

Has led to redefinition of the gene.

No longer can a gene be defined precisely in terms of coding for a particular protein.

The “junk DNA” has an impact upon which portions of the DNA molecule unzip, and when.

The “junk DNA” influences which disconnected portions of DNA the messenger RNAs and transfer RNAs pull together to form particular proteins.

It is no longer a linear match-up but is more like a library look-up—with instructions at different locations along the chromosome.

The New Knowledge

Modifies former knowledge.

Genes are harder to define now.

Because

- multiple sections of DNA are involved producing particular proteins,
- and some of those sections overlap in the production of OTHER different proteins,
- and the same sections of DNA act differently in different organ systems of the same body,

the definition of a gene has become pretty messy.

Now

Genes are called “**Open reading frames.**” Open reading frames make up about 27% of DNA. However, this is divided into two portions of DNA—**2%** called Exons, which **directly** code for protein, and **25%** called Introns, which do not code for protein.

- The other approximately 73% of the DNA is 50% repetitive DNA that does not code for protein, in **5 different known categories**, and 23% Other non-protein coding DNA.
- See page 59 in *The Myth of Junk DNA*.

Open Reading Frames

- The entire DNA sequence of an **open reading frame** is transcribed into RNA, but only the Exon protein-coding portions transfer their information along the path all the way into proteins. The non-coding Introns' RNA sequences are **edited out**.
- Most **open reading frames** DO contain non-protein-coding Introns in cells that have nuclei. Only bacteria are different.
- DNA from only one side of the molecule goes all the way to protein, but the DNA on the other side of the chromosome (after it unzips) does go into RNA production. (page 35)

The RNA

- The sum of all the RNA is called the **transcriptome** rather than the genome. The transcriptome of 2 chromosomes of humans has about ten times more RNA than the protein-coding portions. (page 34)
- **That means the editing process is even more important than the production process.**
- It turns out that the editing process is controlled by “junk DNA” and that one Open Reading Frame can actually produce hundreds or sometimes thousands of different proteins—depending on how the RNA strands are edited. This is called “**alternative splicing**.”—page 39.

Alternative Splicing

- Alternative splicing produces different proteins in the embryo, compared to the adult, and different proteins in different organs.
- So one Open Reading Frame does not correspond very well to the idea of one gene, and certainly not to one protein. It is more complicated than that.
- Example: “The mammalian thyroid hormone receptor gene produces two variant proteins with opposite effects, and the alternative splicing of those variants is regulated by an intron.”—page 41.

Much is unknown

About how all these sections of DNA work.

- *The Myth of Junk DNA* details many different functions that have been discovered, and more should be discovered as well, because the science is so new.
- This multi-layered, complicated, molecular dance does not support simplistic statements.
- The New Scientist's 2002 statements are far too simplistic. "...The difference between Stuart Little and William Shakespeare...(is) ... about 300 genes." ...
"Both humans and mice have about 30,000 genes, and 99% of mouse genes have a human counterpart."

When the idea of a gene has become so difficult to define,

Implying that “Stuart Little” and William Shakespeare had almost all the same genes is just as imaginary as “Stuart Little.”

It’s a story, not science.

So the question becomes

- Does the genome of various species confirm the Darwinian “tree of life?”
- The answer is “no.”
- If one studies a particular portion of the genome across species, a particular tree can be constructed.
- If one studies a different portion of the genome across species, a DIFFERENT tree can be constructed, but NOT the same tree.

For Darwinism to be correct,

- All the trees would have to be the same tree.
- Instead, the geneticists talk about “bushes” or “clades.” Different proteins follow different paths of constructed descent.

(A Primer on the Tree of Life (Part 2): Conflicts in the Molecular Evidence

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2009/05/a_primer_on_the_tree_of_life_p_1.html)

Design trees or random trees?

- We know that one can construct a tree of descent for just about any designed object—whether it is cars or fasteners or computer chips, or tablets. Being able to construct a tree of descent for one section of the genome does not confirm Darwinism.

Divergence or Convergence

If the constructed trees of descent diverge over the genome going backward in time, that divergence confirms design. The tree of life should diverge going forward in time, but NOT backward.

Divergence going backward in time is what we see where designers draw from different technologies to tweak their new models. If you construct a tree of descent for computer tablets looking at chips, and then another tree of descent for software, and another for hardware, those will be different trees.

A Primer on the Tree of Life (Part 2): Conflicts in the Molecular Evidence

http://www.evolutionnews.org/2009/05/a_primer_on_the_tree_of_life_p_1.html

- “For a long time the holy grail was to build a tree of life,” says Eric Bapteste, an evolutionary biologist at the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, France. A few years ago it looked as though the grail was within reach. **But today the project lies in tatters, torn to pieces by an onslaught of negative evidence. Many biologists now argue that the tree concept is obsolete and needs to be discarded. “We have no evidence at all that the tree of life is a reality,”** says Bapteste. That bombshell has even persuaded some that our fundamental view of biology needs to change.²

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So what does this tell us about souls?

- Much of the difference between humans and chimpanzees and mice is SOUL difference.
- Animals do limited and repetitive building—nests, burrows, anthills.
- People build
 - ▣ skyscrapers, and
 - ▣ dynasties, and
 - ▣ economies with abstract monetary symbols guiding vast arrays of human decisions.

So what does this tell us about souls?

- Protein coding can only give **physical results**. Protein coding does not produce poetry.
- The similarities within protein coding are large enough **to connect us to this earth physically as fellow-creations**.
- **They are NOT DIFFERENT ENOUGH to explain soul differences.**
- ***The more physical similarities are revealed, the greater the mystery of soul differences.***

Science

- Is very good at describing physical entities.
- Science does not have the tools to describe soul differences.
- The solution to the mystery of soul differences must come from somewhere else.
- A random mechanism for evolutionary change (in protein synthesis) really has nothing to do with soul differences. It cannot explain human origins. The human soul is magnificent, and not composed of protein.

What is the Best Source

Of information about human origins,
since the evolution story is obviously
wrong?

The Human Soul

- The human soul is so far beyond any corresponding entity in the visible world, that it cries out for a Source that is above and beyond the physical universe.
- The other alternative source for human life is a Mind outside the physical universe and preceding it.
- To know any answer to the mystery of the human soul, we need to hear from that Mind.
- Numerous religions have sourcebooks that purport to have answers to the question of the human soul.
- But choosing a sourcebook at random is just as poor an answer as choosing random chemistry for the source.

We need a sourcebook that meets a number of criteria.

It needs to match our intuitions about ourselves. It needs to be consistent with the things we observe in the world about us. It needs to be realistic. It needs to be honest, and historically accurate. It needs to have answers that are too hard for us to figure out on our own—since a human could produce that other, simple sort of book.

What is the Best Sourcebook?

The Bible truly is the best sourcebook. The Bible gives us a Source for moral universals holding everyone accountable to the same general standard of right and wrong.

- The standard matches the sense of right and wrong written in our own consciences.
- The Bible gives us a reason to believe in the equality of all individuals before God—an idea our intuitions associate with inherent goodness. (The people who don't believe that tend to be very unfair to their fellow humans—if they get the chance.)

What is the Best Sourcebook?

- The Bible gives us reason to believe God is GOOD in spite of evil in the world. No other holy book does that.
- The Bible tells us our choices are real—not predetermined by our situations or by God. This matches what we know about ourselves when we make choices.
- The Bible is realistic about people—including their faults. And it is compassionate about people, striving for their best interests.

The first WitnessKit course

- Gave us many reasons to trust the Bible as real communication from God.
- God was present at the creation.
- The Bible gives His eyewitness account—admittedly in poetic terms—in the first book of Moses—Genesis.
- So we should review some reasons to trust the Genesis account.

Skepticism

- Much skepticism about the Bible originated in skepticism about Moses as author of the first five books. If Moses did not write them, and they claim Moses as writer, then their inspiration from God is called into question. Those are the oldest books, and are, therefore, the easiest to discredit. Supporting data are harder to find the further back in time one studies.
- They also reflect a more primitive time. God's actions and directions specific to that time seem somewhat foreign to modern circumstances—at least when viewed superficially.

Everyone interested in origins should know about

Three reasons for faith

Three reasons for faith regarding the first five books of the Bible.

1. The critics' documentary hypothesis has damaged faith unnecessarily.
2. Good reasons exist to believe Moses wrote the books.
3. The colophon theory is intriguing regarding an extremely old age for Genesis sources.

The critics' documentary hypothesis has damaged faith unnecessarily.

- Wellhausen (1895, Germany) was not the first skeptic to propose multiple authors for the Torah, instead of Moses, but Wellhausen gained the largest number of followers. His theories are still taught in some seminaries today.
- German higher critics had been severely skeptical of the Old and New Testaments for about a century prior to Wellhausen's publication, **based upon the idea that miracle reports had no place in history**. A German historian named Leopold von Ranke popularized that view.

Von Ranke demanded that

History reject miracle. Miracle stories were always treated as fiction in his view.

This would be a fine direction to go if God does not exist. But it is not a very good way to decide whether a book *might* represent communication from God.

The Documentary Hypothesis elaborated on that idea.

The Wellhausen theory, (1895 Germany), attempted to deny the honesty of the Old Testament books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The Documentary hypothesis turned the Pentateuch or Torah into fiction.

(Never mind that fiction and drama in the ancient world were generally found in epic poetry format. Prose was reserved for biography and history. Much of the Torah is prose, and very little is poetry. Some of the Torah matches a form of formal treaty in the ancient world—appropriate for a covenant with God.)

The Wellhausen theory claimed multiple authors for the books and a much later compilation, based on the following assumptions:

The Assumptions of Wellhausen

- (1) Philosophic Naturalism = No miracles are possible
- (2) Scholarly Opinion counts as much as fact—archaeology was not referenced because it was not fully developed yet. Scholarship was literary rather than physical in orientation.
- (3) Religious evolution assumed: multiple spirits to ancestor worship to fetishism to totemism to mana to magic to polytheism to monotheism.
- (4) Environmental conditioning assumed —that polytheistic neighbors convinced Israel to be monotheistic.
- (5) No law code possible in Moses' time – too primitive an era
- (6) No writing existed in Moses' time—too primitive
- (7) The Hegelian Dialectic was an appropriate method to put the books together.

Each assumption is wrong—a trendy application of the bad ideas of the nineteenth century.

- The scholarly community sometimes fails to correct course when assumptions are found in error. That is what has happened with the Documentary conclusions about the Torah.
- If we look at each assumption, each one is out of date and not very probable.
- Archaeology has shown numbers 2, 5, and 6 to be in error. Number 3 is illogical—the shift in number of gods is random. The documents themselves show number 4 to be wrong. Number 7 has shown itself to be a disastrous method when applied in the real world. It only works for opinion, not fact.

Detail: Wellhausen's terms for spiritual evolution

multiple spirits to ancestor worship to fetishism to totemism to mana to magic to polytheism to monotheism.

- Fetishism = spirit dwelt objects,
- totemism = tribal god,
- mana = indwelt power,
- Magic
- Polytheism = many gods
- Monotheism = one god

The religious evolution idea: not a particularly logical progression

- multiple spirits (many gods) to
- ancestor worship (human gods) to
- fetishism (spirit dwelt objects or idols with spirits inside) to
- totemism (one tribal god) to
- mana (power from a god inside a human) to
- magic (human access to the power of spirits) to
- polytheism (many gods) to
- monotheism (one god).

Environmental conditioning assumed

- “Environmental conditioning assumed — that polytheistic neighbors convinced Israel to be monotheistic.”
- The primary documents show the opposite direction of change.
- Actually, the Israelites had to continually be on guard against being enticed into the hedonistic polytheism of their neighbors.
- The One True God demanded faithfulness and honesty and righteousness.

Not even one of the assumptions of the documentary hypothesis is correct.

- Therefore the theory is incorrect.
- The most reasonable alternative is that Moses wrote the book as described.
- Good reasons exist to believe Moses wrote the book.

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES

WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

- The scrolls describe desert conditions, consistent with the time of writing during the wilderness wandering and not consistent with editing after the return from Babylonian captivity.
- The author mentions Egyptian cities as known.
- Many borrowed Egyptian words appear in the text.
- Certain Hebrew words are archaic, and do not appear in later texts— so the texts are very old.

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The book **SAYS** Moses wrote it under God's command and the book counts as a first person primary source.

Exodus 24:3-4, 7, ³ So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do." ⁴ **And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD....** ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." (NKJV)

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The book says Moses wrote it under God's command, **and the book accounts for its preservation by the priests**—charged with the mission of preserving it for the future king.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20, ¹⁸ "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment *to* the right hand or *to* the left, and that he may prolong *his* days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel. (NKJV)

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The book SAYS Moses wrote it under God's command and the book counts as a first person primary source.

Deuteronomy 31:9-13, ⁹ So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, saying: "At the end of *every* seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, ¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹² Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger who *is* within your gates, that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and carefully observe all the words of this law, ¹³ and *that* their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess." (NKJV)



REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The book SAYS Moses wrote it under God's command, and the book says Moses completed the task.

Deuteronomy 24-26 ²⁴ So it was, when Moses had completed writing the words of this law in a book, when they were finished, ²⁵ that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying: ²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you; (NKJV)

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The next book in the Bible SAYS Moses wrote the Law under God's command and the book commands that Joshua continue to use it.

Joshua 1:8⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. ⁸ **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**
(NKJV)

REASONS TO BELIEVE MOSES

WROTE THE FIRST BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The author of the book matches Moses' credentials.

- The author was well-educated and familiar with Egypt and the desert, unfamiliar with Canaan, and from Moses' time.
- The Israelites were slaves, brick makers, not scribes. Moses was the exception—educated in the courts of the Pharaoh.

All of these facts are consistent with Moses as author.

In addition, the description of tabernacle construction is specific to the time—wilderness wandering.

(The Wellhausen theory offers no explanation for why so much scroll space was given to tabernacle construction by supposed redactors after the Babylonian captivity.)

The construction methods for the tabernacle match temporary housing construction of Egyptian royalty from 800 to 1200 years before Moses.*
Guess who would have known about THAT?

* Reference: McDowell, Josh, THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT, page 475

Wellhausen's "post exile redactors"

- Would not have been likely to know ancient Egyptian building practices for the "fiction" they were compiling, and would have been unlikely to give so much emphasis to building a congregational tent.
- Moses would have been in a very good position to know details about Egyptian royal construction methods, and would have been likely to emphasize building such a structure.

Why Would Moses Emphasize Construction of the Tabernacle?

- God promised to dwell there with the Israelites as they traveled—Exodus 25:8, and 29:42-46.
- God promised to meet with Moses there before the Propitiatory or Mercy Seat, the covering of the Ark of the Covenant, to communicate the truths Moses would tell the people—Exodus 25:22, 33:7.
- God provided a place of atonement for all the people at the tabernacle, so that they could be in right standing with Him and have their sins forgiven—Leviticus 5:5-6.

History is not on Wellhausen's side.

- Wellhausen chopped the documents into pieces based on the name for God in each portion and its literary style.
- Then he used the Hegelian dialectic to put the portions together again.
- He assumed the Pentateuch was begun around 800 BC and completed around 400 BC—during the era from the first temple to the return from Babylon, and edited after the exile.

Clearly, Moses is a better candidate for author...

than Wellhausen's post-captivity scribes.

The 1895 theory is out of date and unreasonable. The primary documents list Moses as author and should be trusted.

One document does not list Moses specifically as author, and that is Genesis, although he is the traditionally understood author. That brings us to Dr. Lubenow's idea about colophons. This is a speculative theory, and could be wrong.

Genesis is organized with the phrase translated...

“These are the generations of...”

This phrase appears in the following locations:

Genesis 2:4, 5:1, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10 & 27, 25:12 & 19, 36:1 & 9, and 37:2.

The word translated “generations” can also be translated “**records or history.**”

Dr. Lubenow subscribes to a theory that the phrase marks the end of each family record for a particular time, and that Moses compiled the records.

If so...

- Writing would have existed extremely early in human history.
- Archaeology has confirmed that writing was common in Moses' time. The colophon theory pushes that possibility further back in time.

The colophon theory is speculative.

- However, Moses was in a good position to collect such records if they existed, particularly since Joseph's family had formerly held a position of power and influence in Egypt. Moses was in a similar position of privilege as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter.
- It is equally possible that God revealed the material in Genesis to Moses directly and enabled Moses to write it.

One small bit of information might lend support to the colophon theory.

Genesis 35:20 reports a pillar Jacob set up near Bethlehem to memorialize Rachel's grave, and the verse reports the pillar is standing "to this day." Since Moses did not have the privilege of going to Bethlehem, either God revealed that information directly to him, or someone else wrote it. The record could be older than Moses and older than the years of slavery in Egypt. The words "to this day" would represent the time of writing. Of course, it could be an added comment from a different time, but such additions are rare. I Samuel 10:2 reports that the location of Rachel's tomb was known in Samuel's time.

We don't have to know everything

- About how Genesis came about to be able to trust it.
- Elements of scientific truth in Genesis reveal that God was the Ultimate Author behind the human author.
- Genesis has the **ONLY** answer as to the existence of moral universals and good and evil in the world, yet with a Creator who is totally **GOOD**. The only book that answers this universal philosophical difficulty has to be from God.

The Mystery of the Human Soul

- The Bible has answers to the mystery of the human soul. It says God created human souls in His image. It says they have a Source in His Mind, and that the magnificence of the human soul reflects something of His magnificence.
- Further, the Bible says that God Himself values human souls. He values us more than the entire inanimate universe. “What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”

Everyone interested in origins should know about

Two more reasons for faith

Two more independent reasons for faith—in Genesis' authenticity as a book from God.

1. Genesis reveals scientific knowledge too advanced for humans of its time.
2. Genesis reveals a philosophical basis for moral universals in a flawed world.

Advanced Scientific Information in Genesis:

Genesis 1:14, as well as Psalm 104:5 and 19 describe the moon as involved in the **seasons** on the earth. We hear from Genesis 1 that the sun is also involved, as people have known for a very long time. The discovery of the moon's involvement is much more recent. In 1993, according to *THE CASE FOR A CREATOR*, scientists discovered that the moon stabilizes the earth's axis so that it does not wobble. This gives stable seasons as the earth orbits the sun at a fixed angle relative to its axis.

Another example of advanced scientific information in Genesis:

Chapters 30 and 31 respectively give Jacob's human incorrect understanding of sheep and goat breeding, and God's correct understanding. If the book were a simple human construct, it would not have the contrast, because Jacob's form of misunderstanding persisted well into the 1800s AD. A "human construct" would present God's answer with the human misunderstanding rather than the correct information.

The Problem of Moral Universals:

One of the most profound philosophical problems is the ethical problem. How can one define moral universals and objective right and wrong? Who decides?

How can one believe God is good when the world is full of suffering?

Only one answer satisfies both difficulties, and that answer is found in Genesis. No other religious book has the answer.

Francis Schaeffer (in *He Is There and He Is Not Silent*) describes it thus:

- If the world has always been the way it is now, suffering is intrinsic to the world. It is very hard to believe God is good if His world has intrinsically **in its nature** the profound suffering we now see.
- However, if God made the world good, in keeping with His good nature, and then by human choice against His wishes, the world changed to become what it is now, we have both problems answered.

God is good and His creation was good.

- People made in His image, with REAL choices, decided to go against God. Evil is choosing against God's goodness. Their choice brought evil into the world.
- God remains good and desires to restore the creation to a good state.
- A partial restoration is possible in this life by accepting God's right to be King of one's life and by facing and repenting the evil that one's own choices have brought into that life.

Good has a source, and evil has an explanation that matches observation.

- God's goodness is the most important fact of the universe.
- Because He is good, His laws are good. Being in right standing with Him is good. Loving Him is good. Hating evil is good.

Religious alternatives that deny the truth of Genesis

- Have no real answer to these two problems: How to define good and evil, and how to know that God is good.
- Christian churches that deny the truth of Genesis do so **at the expense of knowing God is good**. They take a blind leap of faith in the dark to believe He is good in the face of suffering in this world.
- Other religions make God the author of both good and evil, a HORRIBLE mis-characterization.

If God were the author of both

Right and wrong, it would be wrong to love Him supremely. We are supposed to love what is good and hate what is evil.

We are supposed to love God most of all because He is the most completely GOOD of All.

We are supposed to want His kingdom in our hearts for the same reason.

Who we are—Creations of God,

Originally made in His image—intertwines with the explanation of good and evil and God's goodness.

The human evolution story messes up all these matters and leaves people with a blind, irrational leap of faith to believe God is good.

We have no reason to discard the truths of Genesis. The human evolution story is a false picture of reality.

Our understanding of ourselves

As worthy beings whose lives matter for eternity
-- beings created in God's image--

That understanding is the correct one. The Ten Commandments, as well as the command to love God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, are expressions of objective spiritual realities, and so is the description of human beings as created in God's image.

Human worth and dignity and value are eternally real.

There is a time to search for truth

- **and a time to recognize when we have found it.**
- We can trust the first five books of the Bible, even though they are very old, because they are true.
- Enough information is there to know they are from God.

Proverbs 30:5

Every word of God is tested. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

Next week we will begin studying
the legal aspects
of the origins controversy.

Homework

In 3 Sets

Homework Class 15 Set 1

- Read I Peter 3:3-7.
- Does this passage agree or disagree with the idea of the universe as a closed system, with no outside influence from God changing things since the Big Bang? What motivation does it state for some people who **mockingly** follow that idea?
- This is one source of bias that affects science. Scientists are not immune from the desire to be their own boss in regard to moral issues. God's Presence is an impediment for being one's own boss when a person wishes to do wrong. Sometimes our culture treats scientists as unbiased and religious people as biased—but BOTH sets have biases.

Homework Class 15 Set 1

- If the judgment of God is true, it is a much better to find out what to do about it in the present than to wait for that time to come. God promises that the Holy Spirit will work to convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment. People not only have their perceptions and learning experiences working on their intellect regarding God's existence, but God's own Spirit acts because of His concern for their souls. (John 16:5-15) Does this passage mean that a selfish motivation is always present for all who believe in the Big Bang and hold an atheistic worldview?

Homework Class 15 Set 1

- Read BONES OF CONTENTION chapter 30.
- What is the “urban myth” Dr. Lubenow challenges regarding human and chimpanzee DNA, and how does he explain it?
- What absurd example does Dr. Lubenow give to show the falseness of using these comparisons to “prove” evolution?
- What are three unsolvable problems for naturalistic evolution?
- What is the one distinction the Bible makes between humans and animals?

Homework Class 15 Set 1

- Given the variation in brain size among living adult human beings today, is brain size a definite dividing line between humans and animals?
- How are man-made religions alike, and how is Christianity different?

Homework Class 15 Set 2

- The Colophon theory Lubenow mentioned in this chapter is intriguing, although quite speculative. It would be wrong to dogmatically state it as fact. However, it is not wrong to consider it and to think of ways to test its validity. Let's pursue it a bit on our own. Read Genesis 2:4, 5:1-2, 6:9, 10:1, 11:10, 11:27, 25:19. and 37:2 and any passages mentioned in the chapter for today's assignment.
- Would Moses, as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter, have had possible access to any library treasures of Egypt?

Homework Class 15 Set 2

- Would Joseph, as a powerful leader in Egypt, have been able theoretically to preserve family records that could survive the transition to slavery among his descendants?
- The idea of extremely early written records of eyewitness events comprising Genesis is theoretical and speculative, since the Bible does not give an explanation of how Moses acquired the information in Genesis. If such early records were used, does that process fit the idea of direct inspiration from God in the writings?

Homework Class 15 Set 2

- If the use of a colophon was commonplace and understood at the time Moses wrote, would Moses need to explain the source of the Genesis record?
- Can you locate references in the first five books of the Bible, when God gave Moses direct information to write down plus time to write books? Please list any you find. The slides list some, and an analytical concordance such as Young's or Strong's might be helpful to find more. Suggestion: Look up words such as "write" and "record."

Homework Class 15 Set 2

- One of the mandates of a search for truth is the willingness to thoughtfully consider ideas and to test them. I Thessalonians 5:21 commands us to “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.” The colophon theory is not fact, but rather intriguing speculation. Dr. Lubenow lists several supporting ideas in the chapter.

Homework Class 15 Set 2

- Read Chapter 31 in BONES OF CONTENTION.
- How long ago was writing present, as shown by the cuneiform tablets of Mesopotamia?
- As shown by the Ebla tablets of Syria?

Homework Class 15 Set 3

- Read Genesis 3:20.
- What is the meaning given for Eve's name? What bearing does that have on the definition of human being?
- Read Genesis 9:1-7 where God distinguished between the value in His sight of animals and human beings. What basis did He give for defining human beings?

Homework Class 15 Set 3

- Read Chapter 32 in *Bones of Contention*.
- How do the charts at the end of the book falsify the story of human evolution?
- What is one evidence of human behavior on the part of long ago people?
- Dr. Lubenow discusses the Laetoli footprints, dated between 3.6 and 3.8 million years ago, in some depth. Why did Professor Tuttle reject the idea that the footprints were made by *Australopithecus afarensis* individuals, and select an unknown hominid as their source?