

WitnessKit 2
God And Creation

Class 3
Resolving Science and
Religion

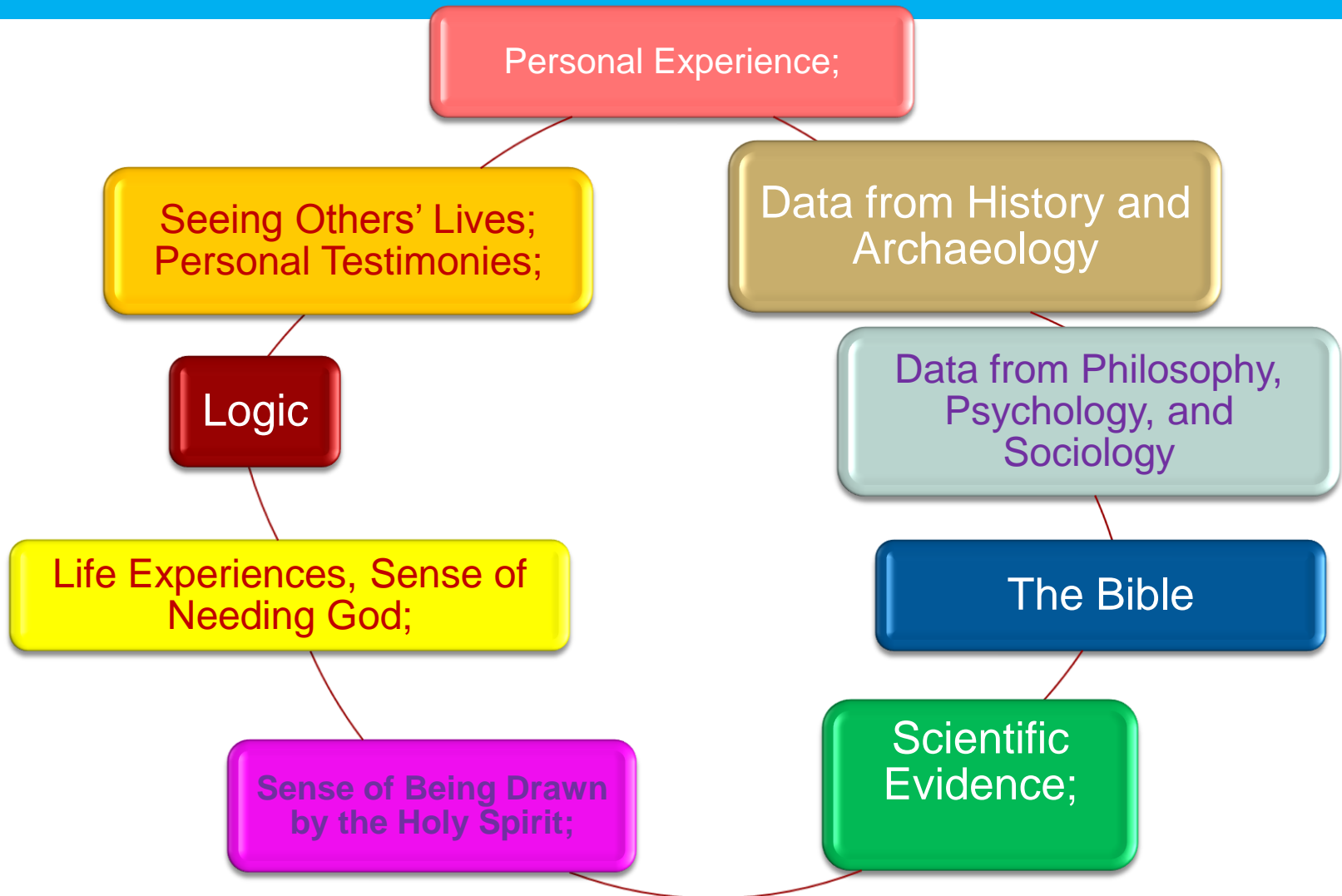
The Journey from Unbelief to Belief

People don't start the journey from the same place. People have various forms of evidence, wherever they are.

Some evidence leads toward faith, and some leads away from faith, depending upon what filter is used to interpret the evidence.

The Bible teaches that God judges for unbelief—implying that evidence is **available** in favor of belief for everyone.

Forms of Evidence in no particular order:



People Choose to Follow or Ignore These Steps:

Study Various Forms of Evidence, and weigh it all.

Rule out Other Explanations of Reality:

Modernism, Postmodernism, Other Religious
Worldviews.

Make up their minds about the existence of God and
about the Bible, perhaps choosing what pleases
them rather than what seems true.

Search for the path to eternal life.

Reach a Conclusion about the Truth of the Plan of
Salvation:

Conclusions

- Conclusions do not have to be absolutely 100% airtight for us to make a commitment.
- In fact, really important commitments usually occur where 100% certainty is not possible. Think about the choice of career—you cannot know what the future economy will do, but you can still commit to a field of study.
- God expects us to commit to follow Him when it is a faith decision, not a 100% certainty decision. But He also wants us to love truth and to be truth-sensitive in our decisions.

Statements I believe are true and obvious:

1. A GOOD God would be as the Bible describes Him—not a capricious or deterministic or unjust God—but a God willing to demonstrate His care for us in many ways, even to the point of rescuing us from death at great cost to Himself.
2. The Bible's picture of God is complicated and not one we would have thought up on our own.
3. The answers of the Bible to the problem of suffering are sometimes shocking, but they are consistent with God's GOODNESS.

I became a Christian long ago.

- If I had not, I believe I would become one now. The answers are better answers than any other worldview or religion has.
- I want to serve a GOOD God.
- The BEST part of making such a commitment, is this:
- God is able to let you know when He is in your life. God is able to make things better. He responds to our decisions about this, and we will eventually have more assurance from Him than our original basis for the decision.

When we have concluded that the plan of salvation is
TRUE to a reasonably small level of doubt,

- Then we are ready to go through the steps to salvation:
 - ▣ Repentance of sins
 - ▣ Belief in the Trinity
 - ▣ Belief in the Resurrection and Atonement
Jesus supplied to take away sins
 - ▣ Whole-hearted trust
 - ▣ Whole-hearted commitment

Salvation takes place in a moment of time and stretches to eternity.

- Believing that Jesus paid the ultimate price to take away your sins is the turning point.
- At that point, because He is alive, it is right to ask Him to take them away and to come into your life, as your King.
- Another way to think about it is to place your life under His Kingly authority, asking for the help of His Holy Spirit for all that you will do.
- Call upon His Name in prayer. “Everyone who calls upon the Name of the LORD will be saved.”

Salvation takes place in a moment of time and stretches to eternity.

- The prayer calling out to Him does not have to be a formal, elegant request—He hears the cry of our hearts.
- My prayer of commitment was something like “If You want me to be in Your family, I’m right here.” I don’t remember the exact words, but God knew the meaning from my heart. He gave me the assurance that He did welcome me into His family and Kingdom.

The Question of **God's Identity as Creator** has to be answered

- Before anyone can conclude that the plan of salvation is true.
- Thus the creation-evolution controversy is vitally important to **EVERYONE**.
- There are several ways to approach the issue.

An Integrated Worldview

- People cannot believe in something they think is outside the range of what is plausible, according to *Love the Lord Your God with All Your Mind*, by J. P. Moreland. That means the belief must be able to fit inside their worldview in some manner.
- Many people believe science has eliminated the plausibility of belief in the God described in the Bible. That belief is mistaken, and these courses show that.

An Integrated Worldview

- Many other people have believed the Modernist answer regarding physical reality and the Postmodernist answer regarding religion—that no God was involved in creation and that religion is an irrational realm. These individuals have accepted a fragmented worldview, and the idea of a real Creator is excluded from that worldview.
- The good news is that God is REAL and a viable worldview can be integrated, rather than fragmented.

An Integrated Worldview

- So one goal of this course is
 - To make the description of creation in the Bible at least PLAUSIBLE as a true description.
 - That is a smaller goal than a belief in the inerrancy of Scripture, but is it a GOOD goal.
 - Once an individual has placed his life in God's hands, the Holy Spirit will lead him into all truth, and if he continues to study the Bible, he will become aware of its precision. So a belief in the plausibility of creation as described in the Bible is a step toward that time.

3 Fields of Thought

Science		Philosophy		Religion
<p>An integrated life will be able to connect all these fields logically.</p>		<p>The beliefs of an integrated life will be consistent across disciplines .</p>		<p>The religious beliefs of an integrated life will be coherent with the rest of life.</p>

Course Textbooks That Help Build “Plausibility Bridges”

Science	Plausibility Bridge	Philosophy of Science	Philosophy	Philosophy of Religion	Plausibility Bridge	Religion
<p><i>Of Pandas and People</i> which explains basic issues in high school level biology, & <i>Bones of Contention</i> by Lubenow, & the math of Intelligent Design</p>	<p><i>The Case for a Creator, & Darwin on Trial, & The Wedge of Truth</i> start from science and look at philosophy and data.</p>	<p>“Schaeffer’s Search Engine for Truth” applied to scientific issues, & The philosophical implications of Intelligent Design</p>	<p><i>He is There and He Is Not Silent, & Reason in the Balance, & Postmodern Times, & The God Who Is There</i></p>	<p><i>The God Who Is There, & Postmodern Times, & He is There and He Is Not Silent</i></p>	<p><i>Bones of Contention</i> by Marvin Lubenow, & <i>The New Evidence That Demands a Verdict</i> start from religion and look at data.</p>	<p>The Bible, and especially the Letter to the Hebrews and Genesis 1-3, & <i>The Case for Christ, & Answering Islam, & The WitnessKit Bible Study</i></p>

The WitnessKit Courses,

- As a whole set, will build thought-bridges across the important fields of study to create an integrated worldview. This is a complex process, and it takes time. A sound-bite here and there is not enough, although good sound-bites help.
- The process of going through the courses will answer many questions that cause people to stumble away from their faith.
- If we take our time—perhaps setting aside Sunday evenings—to work through the courses, one class at a time, we will build those bridges.

Many Other Wonderful Books

Are on the market and address some portion of the fields shown on that slide. Discovery Institute and Biola University are good sources for further study. Some textbook Authors have websites, too.

- Our “Beginner level” textbooks give a background which makes all the other books more easily read and understood. The textbooks for our courses are framework books that can be built upon.
- The entire set of courses will help with integrating one’s entire worldview, and will make it easier to continue with lifelong learning.

For most of this *God and Creation* course

- We will build a “plausibility bridge” from science through philosophy of science, toward a Biblical worldview.
- Today we want to look at building the bridge from the other direction—from a Biblical worldview toward science.
- The real question is how to integrate the first three chapters of Genesis with scientific thought.

PART ONE

Reconciling Science and the Bible

What if we start with the Bible?

Many of us in the Christian Faith

- Approached this question from the Biblical direction first.
 - ▣ We knew that God is good and honest
 - ▣ And that His word is consistent.
- We gave greater weight to the Word than to scientific theories.
- So we developed methods of reconciling evolution and creation with the Word as priority.

Because the Bible is so self-consistent and so helpful for life decisions,

- Many Christians are satisfied to accept its answers and not even worry about other ideas.
- That kind of implicit, living faith has been a solid and helpful foundation for the freedoms we enjoy in the West. It encourages stretching beyond one's own strength in doing what is right. It is a foundation for actions that are good for others as well as oneself.
- It is real. It is not illusion.

Because the Bible is so self-consistent and so helpful for life decisions,

- It prevents a “postmodernist Christian” approach to issues, because truth is grounded in the Word.
- It keeps the standards of the Bible intact—not subject to the whims of public opinion.
- For those who are concerned about reconciling science and the Bible, three categories define ways of reconciliation, starting from the Biblical direction. These deal with the first three chapters of Genesis.

What are the methods

For reconciling the Bible and science,
starting from the truth of the Bible?

Here is a brief list of three methods for reconciling Genesis 1-3 and science:

- The Day-Era theory
- The Gap theory
- The Young Earth Creation theory

Genesis 1-3

- The first three chapters of Genesis describe God's acts of creation in an easy-to-remember poetic style. The basic description is of 7 days of alternating periods of dark and light, where God created the world for the purpose of its being inhabited.
- His Grand Finale was the creation of human beings in His image.
- Then He rested.

Genesis 1-3

- In Genesis chapter 2, He provided for the first people, giving them the tasks of caring for a beautiful, fruitful garden, and naming the animals. He gave them one rule to obey.
- In chapter 3, the people chose to go away from God spiritually by breaking His rule.
- Consequences followed.

1. The Day-Era theory
2. The Gap theory
3. The Young Earth Creation theory

Most other theories are a variation of one of these categories.

- The first Day-Era theory is the “default theory” of many Christians. It is consistent with Intelligent Design in science, where a Mind’s involvement in origins is taken on the evidence of science.
- It accepts some of the assumptions of science that predict the age of the universe, and it tends to trust rock-dating methods.

If the starting point is science,

- The answers are limited by human limitations—
- ▣ the level of advancement science has reached,
 - ▣ the sophistication of the tools of the trade,
 - ▣ the fact that no humans were present at the Big Bang,
 - ▣ the assumptions behind the conclusions.
- HOWEVER, the beginning of the human race is considered a descent from animals by science's story of origins, a very different description from the Bible's. This is a big conflict.

If the starting point is science,

- If the human evolution story were true, the Genesis account of creation would have to be interpreted as a “spiritual” description—of the beginning of the human soul as made in God’s image. That is one way to look at the chapters, but that approach stretches the text beyond its limits.
- So the biggest question is “Are we descendants of animals, or not?” The Biblical account does not agree with such an idea, but views us as a special and separate creation of God.

A decorative horizontal bar at the top of the slide, consisting of a yellow rectangular section on the left and a blue rectangular section on the right.

What if we start from God?

What if we start from the Bible?

If the starting point is communication from God,

the answers are only limited by His character—

- ▣ Is the information He gives us honest?

And by our adequacy to understand His
communication—

- ▣ to be able to accurately know which
communication is from Him
- ▣ and what it means.

Clearly

- If we are able to accurately receive communication from God, we can know more about origins **from Him** than science can tell us, because **He was there**.
- However, He gave the Biblical information to people during a time when science was not invented yet.
- So He spoke poetically and memorably.

Clearly The question of which source gives the best information is an important question.

We found many reasons to trust the Bible as communication from God in the first WitnessKit course.

- Science is changeable by its very nature.
- God is not changeable by His very nature.

So we can expect the Bible's information to be the central, unchanging set of facts we need, but not the detailed description of mechanisms God used.

First Important Conclusion:

The Bible's information should be the central, unchanging set of facts we need, but not the detailed description of mechanisms God used.

An integrated worldview demands that we reconcile science and the Bible.

Theories:

- From the Biblical direction, we can reconcile science and the Bible by choosing one of three theories of interpretation.
 1. **The Day-Era theory**
 2. The Gap theory
 3. The Young Earth theory

Genesis chapters 1-3

- Genesis chapters 1 through 3 are expressed poetically, with profound insights presented in few words.
- Biblical poetry allows figures of speech without demanding precise scientific definitions of words and phrases.
- It is possible to interpret these chapters “literarily” rather than literally—but there are limits to such interpretation. Biblical poetry expresses reality—not fiction.

Second Important Conclusion:

Biblical poetry expresses reality—not fiction. A proper literary approach is limited to non-fiction.

Looking at Genesis Chapter 1

- **The Day Era theory** can assume a short creation day of alternating dark and light followed by an era, then another short day of creation, followed by another era, etc. ... This is consistent with Intelligent Design publications regarding fossils.
- Or the Day-Era theory can assume each day of creation was an era, with the word Day used to express the meaning of era. (This is further removed from Genesis, which defines the days as alternating periods of dark and light—so this is almost certainly going beyond the limits of the poetry.)

Looking at Genesis Chapter 1

- The Day-Era Theory can assume theistic evolution, or it can assume special creation of various kinds on each day/ era. These represent different viewpoints within that category.
- The study of fossils actually is more consistent with special creation of different kinds—the Cambrian period shows the sudden appearance of various kinds of animals in a brief span of geological time. Sudden appearance does not fit Darwinism.

Fossils Fit the Day-Era Approach.

The fossil record is dramatically unresponsive of Darwinism at the point of the Cambrian era. Prior to that point, only single-celled and extremely uncomplicated life-forms are found. At the Cambrian strata, many different body plans suddenly appear, including the phylum that mammals are in—expected to be the last one formed by slow processes.

Fossils Fit the Day-Era Approach.

This fits a special creation explanation better than an unguided evolution explanation. It is consistent with a special creation of various kinds of creatures in a short span of time, while allowing change to occur from that point.

Many people (who have not looked into the subject in great detail) assume that “God guided evolution to create the species we observe today,” and that simple statement resolves the entire problem. But it does not resolve anything in actuality.

Theistic Evolution

Theistic evolution is a term that scientists often consider self-contradictory. They assume “Evolution” has to mean UNGUIDED change from molecules to humans.

The general public assumes

- ▣ that Theistic Evolution, or guided change, is the way to resolve the apparent conflict between science and religion,
- ▣ and that Theistic Evolution is within the realm of legally allowed public discussion.

Theistic Evolution

- Both of those assumptions are in error.
- The scientists who fight against Intelligent Design are just as adamant against any kind of “GUIDED change,” and the idea is just as legally excluded as any other option.
- So the “easy resolution” of “theistic evolution” is illusion. We have to study to reach a real resolution. “Theistic evolution” is also pretty vague—so study should bring a better answer.
- The study is challenging.

Theistic Evolution

- Some scientists will talk as though they accept some sort of “Theistic Evolution” even when they do not, because they will accept the term as long as it means that “Theistic” input cannot be found in any data.
- If you assume anything God did could not possibly be visible in the reality science studies, then that kind of theism is tolerated. Miracles are ok so long as they are limited to what is totally undetectable.

Theistic Evolution

- This is one confusing aspect of the debate—that the scientists who demand philosophic materialism will sometimes act as though they have resolved science and religion.
- One test for their kind of “Theistic Evolution” is their reaction to “Intelligent Design” principles for looking at data. If the scientist refuses the idea that God’s action could be visible in data, he is actually demanding philosophical materialism.
- If he refuses to allow critiques of Darwinism, that implies the same philosophic materialism.

Third conclusion:

The “easy resolution” of “theistic evolution” is illusion. We have to study to reach a real resolution. It is a starting point toward finding resolution, however. (The good news is that we can look at Lubenow’s BONES OF CONTENTION, and see that special creation of humans fits the data better than any human evolution story.)

Integrating Day-Era and ID

- The Day-Era theory of Genesis 1 is compatible with Intelligent Design,
 - ▣ which could accept either theistic evolution
 - ▣ or special creation as possibilities.
 - ▣ Intelligent Design can be agnostic about the Creator as well—it simply looks for evidence of design in nature.
 - ▣ If Darwinism is atheistic, and Intelligent Design is agnostic, then we NEED to study to resolve science and religion. The bridges need to be built.

The Day-Era theory: This view may or may not include theistic evolution.

- From a Biblical perspective, when the Day-Era Theory of interpreting Genesis 1 allows for *theistic* evolution, it then has problems with Genesis 2 and 3. It takes a poetic approach to Genesis 1-3—and may extrapolate this approach improperly to other passages.
- This interpretation often accepts the conclusions of evolution-science, by faith in the authority of the scientists, without delving into evolution's poor fit with reality.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview—theological limitations

- When the worldview includes theistic evolution, it is more comfortable with secularism, but much less comfortable with theology—and really is not consistent with either. It is a hodgepodge rather than a truth search. But it is a good starting point for a truth search.
- The Bible holds together very consistently from Genesis 1 onward.
- If a person holds the Day-Era theory only for chapter 1, and with special creation of human beings, it may resolve the controversy acceptably from a theological perspective.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

- The Day-Era view can lead to problems with the problem of evil.
- It can doubt the explanation of God's goodness and human free will and the human fall into sin as explained in Genesis chapters 2 & 3.
- This explanation is tremendously important, because it gives us the truth about God's goodness, in spite of the existence of evil in this world.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

- It gives us a basis for moral universals proceeding from God's good character. It is the only explanation that is not a leap in the dark. It is the only foundation that gives us an objective way to even DEFINE good and evil.
- The Day-Era theory can doubt the special creation of human beings in God's image— yet this is a critically important concept.
- **This concept is the basis for human worth, and for purpose in life, and for belief in an eternal soul, and for the inherent value of each individual's life.**

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

- **Creation in God's Image is the basis for "Thou shalt not murder."**
- It is the basis for the value of human life, above and beyond animal life.
- Civilization itself is suspended from this concept. Without it, human life becomes cheap and endangered by those in power.
- The search for truth, happily, is on the side of the value of human life.

The Special Creation of Humans

Is the most critical turning point in the controversy—more important than choosing one of the 3 theories of reconciling Genesis and science.

- We will look at the question of human evolution in BONES OF CONTENTION (by Marvin Lubenow), later in the course.
- It is clear from the evidence in that book that the secular human evolution story is VERY shaky.
- Special creation of human beings is obvious from the data of science—even though the materialists will not admit that truth.

The Special Creation of Humans

Thousands of hominid or supposed human ancestor fossils have been discovered.

Only a few dozen fossils claimed to be human ancestors actually fit the human evolution story.

There are 2 very different scientific stories told as well, and they do not agree with each other.

Each of those different stories has at least one point that matches the special creation story.

Having looked into all this in some detail, I can cheerfully affirm a strong belief in the special creation of humankind.

The Special Creation of Humans

Looking at the whole set of data reveals NO PROGRESSION from simpler to more complicated forms.

The data overlap in time, and human fossils have been found from the earliest periods.

In addition, the dating methods over the time-span in question are not independent of the theory.

We will cover these topics in greater detail later.

None of the data actually contradict Genesis.

Conclusions and assumptions about the data do.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

I repeat: The explanations of who we are, of who God is, of why evil exists, and of the real existence of goodness are found in chapters 1-3 of Genesis.

- That explanation is foundational to all understanding of right and wrong and human worth.
- That explanation is the groundwork for moral universals and human equality.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

- People who hold a combination evolution/creation worldview past Genesis 1 are likely to view faith as somewhat irrational in view of the evil in this world.
- Since the problem of suffering is one of the biggest spiritual questions of all, a somewhat irrational answer is no real help.
- Taking that approach makes the cross of Christ ALSO less clear in purpose.

The Day-Era theory: One foot in each worldview

- Depending upon how soon someone approaches the Scriptures less allegorically, there also may be difficulty believing the Ten Commandments, which supply a universal framework for understanding right and wrong, and human equality.
- So we can see a “cascade of dominoes” of important ideas if we are not extremely careful with Scripture.

Another Conclusion:

We can lose many foundational ideas if we are not extremely careful with Scripture—including the first chapters of Genesis.

The Good News:

- The difficulties with evolution are insurmountable without the existence of God.
- The space alien/“directed pan-spermia” theory of Dr. Francis Crick, who discovered the shape of the DNA molecule,
 - ▣ A theory which is accepted as a valid direction for scientific inquiry by Dr. Richard Dawkins,
 - ▣ is an admission that the difficulties are insurmountable without an Outside Agency.

Evolutionist Richard Dawkins,

In the movie EXPELLED, says that he can consider **intelligent design** as an **explanation for the origin of life**, if it means space aliens brought life to Earth, but he could **not** allow any possibility that God might have had a role in design.

Dawkins seriously thinks it is **more scientific** to believe in the possibility of space aliens than in the possibility of God, according to an article called “An Intelligent Discussion about Life,” in *The Seattle Times*, April 17, 2008.

Do you begin to see how

Science itself starts to break down when you go all the way back to the beginning?

- Science has different ways of knowing things than History. History has different ways of knowing things than Religion.
- Origins studies go back through History and Religion—and an eyewitness account would be VERY helpful. That is what Genesis presents.

We can all benefit from careful study of other views.

- It is important, *whatever view one takes*, to respect others in their search for truth.
 - We should not assume another believer is failing God if he or she holds a view different from our own.
 - We all need to grow in faith.
 - We also need to have enough expertise to help unbelievers on their search toward God, **so we all need to study these issues.**
- The study is challenging.

From the Biblical direction,

Theories

We can reconcile science and the Bible by choosing one of three theories.

1. The Day-Era theory
2. **The Gap theory**
3. The Young Earth theory.

The Gap theory

- accounts for the fall of some of the angels between Genesis 1:1 and Day 4 of creation, and interprets a time gap prior to Day 4.
- This interpretation allows starlight to travel normally.
 - This accepts the appearance of long ages of time for the universe. This theory has “room” for the non-linear nature of time at velocities near the speed of light, as predicted by the theory of relativity.

The Gap theory

- If God created the earth separately from the universe as a whole, and put them together on Day 4 of creation, their velocities relative to each other could account for some differences in perceived time and starlight travel. The words in chapter 1 of Genesis sound like that is what happened.
- Time itself is different, in this view, between the days of creation and the universe's age.

The Gap theory

- If the sun, moon, and stars did not affect earth until Day 4 of creation, the lengths of days prior to Day 4 are less specifically defined than 24 hours. The days of creation are from earth's perspective rather than the perspective of the universe as a whole.
- The time frame of the universe is different from earth's time frame, so the age of the universe is indeterminate from the earth's age.

The Gap theory

- This theory is quite speculative regarding angels, but that part of the theory does not affect its view of physical creation. The Bible gives incidental accounts of angels scattered through its pages, but the book's focus is on God and humans.

If one assumes

- The MOST literal approach to Genesis 1 is correct, the chapter really sounds like the Gap theory. The stars and sun and moon don't come into the account until Day 4, where they are purposed for times and seasons and days and years. In 1993, according to *The Case for a Creator*, scientists learned that the moon is exactly the right mass and on exactly the right orbit of the earth to stabilize the earth's axis, giving us stable seasons. God appeared to want us to know that in Genesis 1 and Psalm 104:5,19—one of those amazing facts that support a literal approach to the chapters.

The Gap Theory

- Being dogmatic about the Gap theory is not necessary, though, because it does not matter for the theme of the chapters.
- The Day 4 appearance of sun, moon, and stars is a detail that one would not expect unless it were true—it is not a detail that fits a “made-up story.”
- The Gap theory seems likely to me to be the best of the three approaches. The next slides give a bit more detail about the theory.

The Gap Theory

Isaiah 45:12, 18—¹² I made the earth and created man on it; it was My hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host. ...For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is God!), who formed the earth and made it (He established it; He did **not** create it **empty**, He formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:18 (ESV)

The Hebrew word *TOHU* is the same word in Genesis 1:2—formless.

The Gap Theory

Isaiah 45:18—earth was **not** created “formless” or a waste place. One speculative idea about this is that the fall or revolt of the angels could have made the earth “formless and void” so that the days of creation represent re-creation of the earth at that point. In that case the days of creation would be days of re-creation.

The Gap Theory

The use of the word Day in Genesis 1 does appear to involve alternating periods of darkness and light. “The evening and the morning were the ___ day.”

The Gap Theory

- Here are some passages in the poetic and prophetic books of the Bible which are consistent with the idea of a separate creation of the earth and of the starry universe, and of putting them together on Day 4 of Genesis 1.
- Job 38:1-7
- Isaiah 42: 5
- Isaiah 48:12-13
- Psalm 33:6-9
- Psalm 104:1-2, 5, 19

The Gap Theory

- Job 38:1-7—seems to imply that the stars were created prior to the earth's foundation.
- **¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:
² “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.
⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶ On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷ when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
Job 38:1-7 (ESV)**

The Gap Theory: this sounds like God put the earth and starry universe together at a specific time.

- Isaiah 42: 5 ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: Isaiah 42:5 (ESV)
- Isaiah 48:12-13 ¹² “Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last. ¹³ My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together. Isaiah 48:12-13 (ESV)

The Gap Theory: This sounds like starry universe prior to earth.

- Psalm 33:6-9 ⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Psalms 33:6-9 (ESV)

The Gap Theory

- Psalm 104:1-2, 5, 19
- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, ² covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent. (ESV)
- ⁵ He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved (totter). (ESV)
- ¹⁹ He appointed the moon for seasons; The sun knows its going down. (NKJV)

These Passages...

- Show us that it is not always easy to decide which phrases are poetic figures of speech and which are basic facts, and whether facts are in time order or not. So we can be accepting toward others and ourselves when we hold some ideas tentatively or with varying conclusions.
- **It is possible to believe God's word is totally true and yet have varying understandings about the exact meaning of the words.**
- We also must realize that any explanation is a drastic simplification, because our minds are not capable of following God's scientific powers.

Simple and True

- For instance, how many of us would be able to understand God's description of how He used the general theory of relativity during His creation processes?
- He gave true and poetic descriptions of His actions, without demanding that we understand His level of expertise.

The New Testament

- Tells us that the Scriptures are **not** a matter of private interpretation.
- In other words, there are right and wrong answers to these questions.
- However, in our limited understanding, we may not get exactly the right answers. We **SHOULD** study these matters anyway.
- We should hold our conclusions with respect for other points of view when the right answer is not totally obvious.

The Gap theory

- This theory has no theological difficulties. It integrates Genesis 2 and 3 as well as the Young Earth theory, and actually accounts for more data from the Bible.
- It explains an apparent contradiction between Genesis 1:2 and Isaiah 45:18 by the fall of the angels and consequent destruction, requiring a re-creation of earth. I lean toward this theory because it explains more data.
- The materialist scientists despise it.

The Gap theory

- People who believe this theory will benefit very much by understanding difficulties with Darwinism.
- From Day 4 onward, this theory is very similar to the Young Earth Creation theory.
- One reason I like this theory is that it is a bit complicated, and reality usually is complicated. It also takes the words of Scripture very seriously, and since the book is from God, that is important.

From the Biblical direction,

Theories

- We can reconcile science and the Bible by choosing one of three theories.
 1. The Day-Era theory
 2. The Gap theory
 3. The Young Earth theory.

The Young Earth Creation theory usually

- Assumes that the days of Genesis 1 are approximately 24 hours long, and that God created starlight in transit.
- This approach does not try to account for the fall of the angels in time—and it is really not necessary to do so.
- It takes the Bible at its word in the most obvious way.
- It resolves the Day 4 question by assuming the sun, moon, and stars became visible to earth at that point.

The Young Earth Creation theory

- People holding this view have done the church a great service by studying and publishing materials which encourage faith.
- They have been the target of much disrespect by the media and the elites in the field of science.
- Usually, reading Creationists' material is a great help for getting past the disrespect. They have done some excellent work.

The Young Earth Creation theory

- In particular, young earth creationists have joined with earth scientists who study catastrophes to see what their results predict.
- They have made helpful contributions to our understanding of the formation of the Grand Canyon and coal bed formation.

For Example:



Scientists who believe in long geologic ages attribute the Grand Canyon to the Colorado River's cutting through the rock over long ages. However, the 1980 volcanic eruption of Mount Saint Helens has called that theory into question.

For Example:

At Mt. Saint Helens, the eruption created a mud dam on the Toutle River. Then in 1982, the debris or mud dam was breached and a 1/40 scale canyon with a stream in it, similar to the Grand Canyon, formed in a **single day**. -- (S. Austin, *Mount Saint Helens, Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe*, Video, Institute for Creation Research, 1993.)

Toutle River Canyon

- (S. Austin, *Mount Saint Helens, Explosive Evidence for Catastrophe*, Video, Institute for Creation Research, 1993.) The March 19, 1982 breaching of a mud dam on the Toutle River created a branching treelike drainage pattern, including 5 canyons, some over 100 feet deep. Even solid rock was gouged 100 feet deep. It was gouged out in one day. The canyon drainage system created the little river.

A large scale flood ...



A catastrophe near the magnitude of Noah's flood could easily account for the Grand Canyon's rapid formation, as well as the plastic-looking rock formations in the Garden of the Gods in Colorado.

A large scale flood ...

It would account for massive numbers of fossils of the same geologic age in sedimentary rock, since animal carcasses have to be buried in order to fossilize. (It would account for the Cambrian Explosion, where members of many phyla appear suddenly in an instant of geologic time.)

It would also disrupt the assumptions involved in slow geologic ages, since massive flows of mud of varying ages could occur and then become rock.

The Young Earth Creation theorists...

- have made helpful contributions in critiques of dating methods.
- They have noticed anomalies that do not fit the materialist story of evolution.
- We will study their critique of the human evolution story in **BONES OF CONTENTION**. It is **very** good work.
- The inadequacy of the human evolution story is also the point that matters most.

We who are believers in God can fulfill the goals of Scripture

Truths

By keeping these truths in mind.

1. The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith—I Timothy 1:5.
2. Theories which add detail to Scripture are less important than the Scriptures themselves.

The goal of our instruction is love,

- from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith—I Timothy 1:5.
- **If we love people outside the faith, we will want to communicate reasons for faith to them.**
- We want to persuade them to choose heaven.
- This class is geared toward reaching out to them, whatever starting point they have.
- We also want to be gentle in our communications with each other. We want to hold our conclusions firmly, but with gentleness toward other people.

Jesus' Opinion Matters.

- In any case, Genesis should be taken historically, no matter which creation view you believe is correct.
- Jesus Christ treated Genesis as historically correct.
- The Apostle Peter treated the flood as a literal event, and said that in the last days, scoffers would not take it into account. 2 Peter 3:1-10

The age of the earth

- The Day-Era theory and the Gap Theory of reconciling Genesis and science do not predict an age for the earth based upon Scripture. The Young Earth Creation Theory predicts a much younger age for the earth than science predicts.
- An estimated minimum age based upon Biblical genealogies was calculated by Bishop Ussher in the 1600's, but the Young Earth Creation Theory is not restricted to that calculation.

None of these theories depends upon Bishop Ussher's dating method.

- Even if one believes the young earth creation theory is correct, one does not have to accept Bishop James Ussher's dating system based on genealogies. (b.1581-d.1656—Ireland)
- His method assumes the Biblical genealogies are both continuous and complete.
- If genealogies only report more important personages, the actual time span would be larger than Bishop Ussher calculated.

None of these theories depends upon Bishop Ussher's dating method.

- We can agree perfectly well that the Bible is true, even if we don't agree on how to interpret all the details.
- We should be honest with each other, and realize which things are most important.
- It is important for those of us who believe in God as Creator to keep the unity of the faith.
- Jesus prayed about that in John 17:17.

We who are believers in God can fulfill the goals of Scripture

Truths

By keeping these truths in mind.

1. The goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith—I Timothy 1:5.
2. Theories which add detail to Scripture are less important than the Scriptures themselves.

Theory Versus Revealed Truth

- I Corinthians 4:1-2 says that “stewards of the mysteries of God must be trustworthy.”
- Being trustworthy means placing the Scriptures on a higher plane than interpretations of them. We defer to God’s wisdom.
- Because so much of the Scripture is verifiable from multiple witnesses, it is right to respect the portions that do not have outside attestation.

Dating Systems are separate from the facts of Scripture.

- It is more important to stick with the facts of Scripture, since they are the thoughts of God, than to choose a dating system to believe.
- The truth of Scripture is not a function of human dating systems.
- We will look at scientific dating systems later in the course, and will realize that they are rather shaky. They are not able to be calibrated, for instance, which is critical for analyzing data.

PART TWO

Reconciling Science and the Bible

What if we start from skepticism?

People outside the faith

Remove Barriers

Can benefit from studying the problems with Darwinism, to remove barriers to faith.

1. The barrier of doubt about God's existence
2. The barrier of doubt about moral realities
3. The barrier of doubt about the possibility of heaven.

The Barrier of Doubt about God's Existence

- The inadequacies of the Darwinian explanation make the existence of God obvious.
- The assumption of God's non-existence acts like a filter. The filter censors God out of every discussion of the data.
- Remove the filter, and God's existence becomes **OBVIOUS** from the data.
- This course will do that.

The Barrier of Doubt about Moral Realities

- Once we establish God's existence, we are set free from the moral bankruptcy of "survival of the fittest." If our culture accepts "survival of the fittest" as its basis for morals, we are all in trouble.
- If "survival of the fittest" cannot account for the existence of the spectrum of living things, **then it cannot account for moral reality either.**

The barrier of doubt about the possibility of heaven.

- The possibility of heaven is inevitable if God exists. God, who is eternal, has a dwelling place—a realm that fits His perfection. God is Spirit and created us in His image—so an eternal dwelling place for us is plausible.
- The possibility of hell is inevitable if God is just and people have the capacity to make real choices. Hitler did NOT go to heaven.
- The moral reality of God's character supplants the moral bankruptcy of "survival of the fittest."
- Thus, the search for God has urgency.

The barrier of doubt about the possibility of heaven.

- The God of Genesis is the RIGHT GOD. He is the one who is totally GOOD, and whose character gives us consistent moral standards. He has a few simple and clear rules that He demands that we obey, and those rules operate for the good of everyone—the person who obeys as well as the people around him.
- Not just any god will do. A god whose character includes both evil and good will not do. That kind of god gives no answer to the problem of suffering in this world. So we need Genesis.

We need God, and that need is a hint about His reality.

- One of the characteristics of being human is a concern for the problem of suffering in this world. We call people who have no such concern “inhuman”—so this concern practically defines our humanness.
- The Bible has real answers to that concern, and no other holy book has answers. Some of those answers are based in Genesis chapters 1-3.
- Darwinism gives the inhuman idea of “survival of the fittest” as the ultimate source of progress. So Darwinism has no answer to the concern that defines us as human.

If a GOOD God exists

- He SHOULD want us to have answers to the problem of suffering.
- IF the Bible has the only answers to the problem of suffering, and is also the only book that consistently describes a God who is totally GOOD and not the source of evil,
- And if the Bible's creation story is plausible,
- All of that is consistent with a REAL GOD who cares enough about us to communicate with us.

The God described in Genesis is the Right ONE.

Darwinism is used to call Genesis false. If Genesis is true, then Darwinism must have flaws.

So Let's Look at Problems with Darwinism.

- *We must start with an understanding of what Darwinism CAN explain.*
- Then we can move to what it CANNOT explain.

Everyone can improve their understanding of the controversy

Categories

By learning which ideas fit which categories:

1. Things Darwinism can explain
2. Things Darwinism cannot explain.

PART THREE

What Can Darwinism Explain?

Where is Darwinism strongly supported by data?

Neo-Darwinism applies Survival of the Fittest to Genetics.

- Neo-Darwinism can account for differences within kinds – from one side of a large geographic region to another for one species.
- Frogs in New England may be able to interbreed with frogs in Virginia and not with frogs in Florida of that same species.

Neo-Darwinism applies Survival of the Fittest to Genetics.

- Those frogs in Florida may be able to interbreed with the ones in Virginia as well.
- Population genetics may produce barriers to interbreeding *within one species* at great distance.
- Why?

Neo-Darwinism applies Survival of the Fittest to Genetics.

- Each geographic segment can interbreed with those near it, and survival of the fittest governs which animals reproduce in each segment.
- The animals in the middle of the range have a *broader gene pool* than those near the edges.
- Extremes of climate at either end of the range tend to eliminate portions of the gene pool.
- If enough of the gene pool differs, interbreeding may be inhibited or prevented.

Domestic Breeding may give similar results.

- Genetics can create barriers to interbreeding—between Great Danes and Chihuahuas, for example—where size differences would prohibit a female Chihuahua from producing live offspring from a Great Dane. She would not be able to carry the puppies until delivery, even with “test-tube conception.”
- Enough differences exist between the two breeds for eliminating crosses of the two.
- They are still members of the same species.

These are examples of Micro-Evolution—Unguided and Guided

- Yet both breeds may be able to produce live offspring with an intermediate-sized dog as the sire.
- Test-tube breeding is genetics-limited.
- Micro-evolution is validated by data.
- The Darwinian story **extrapolates** these sorts of examples to explain the existence of all species—the Macro-Evolution story.

PART FOUR: WHAT CAN DARWINISM NOT EXPLAIN?

Why Can't We Extrapolate
Darwinian Unguided
Changes **WITHIN** Species
to the Unguided
Emergence of **ALL**
Species?

Is this a logical extrapolation?

The study of birds

- By Hermon Bumpus showed the influence of survival of the fittest upon FIXITY of species—which is a contrary phenomenon to the creation of new species. Bumpus collected sparrows that died in a severe winter storm, and compared them to surviving sparrows. The fallen sparrows tended to be more extreme in their physical characteristics, and the surviving sparrows more mid-range in characteristics.
- This shows that survival of the fittest can act as a mechanism to conserve a species' characteristics.

The fossil record

- Supports fixity of species—sharks are sharks as soon as they appear in the record. They are still sharks now.
- Big gaps in the record correspond to large differences in body plan.
- If Darwinism were correct, all the species in the fossil record should blur together, but instead, they are quite distinct, and follow categorical differences.

At the level of genetics, two problems are obvious

if we extrapolate from micro to macro evolution.

1. The mechanism of survival of the fittest can explain loss of genetic material. The frogs at the extremes of the range have reduced information in their genomes, compared to the middle.
2. The mechanism is inadequate to explain the gain of organized layers of new genetic material.

The Usual Darwinian Explanation

- Says that mutations account for the gains in genetic information—with perhaps some modification from events like crossing over of chromosomes.

The Usual Darwinian Explanation

- This explanation is much more likely to account for extinctions than genetic gains, because on average, only one mutation in 1000 is likely to be neutral or favorable, with the 999 equally likely others harmful or fatal.

Let's suppose this simplified thought experiment:

- Suppose five mutations are needed to create a new organ system. That means $999 \times 999 \times 999 \times 999 \times 999$ (about one quadrillion) other harmful mutation combinations are as likely to occur.
- If mutations are happening often enough for 5 favorable ones to happen in one organism, the rest of the population is probably dead.

The Usual Darwinian Explanation

- That math was estimating for ONE organ system alone. Many organ systems vary in the emergence of a new body plan.
- Thus unguided evolution from one body plan to another seems prohibitively unlikely.
- Darwinists get around this to some degree by assuming neutral mutations “accumulate” and then suddenly “kick in” to make the new system work. This still sounds more like guided than unguided change.

Some Laws within Genetics

Cast doubt upon the neutral accumulation idea.

- The **Hardy-Weinberg Law** states “that, in the absence of selection or other outside forces, the proportions of these five mutated genes to their non-mutated counterparts in the rest of the species’ population will remain the same from generation to generation.” So the production of more offspring does not make the combination of rare mutations within one individual more likely.

The Hardy-Weinberg Law

- Says that mutations, even neutral ones, do not “accumulate.” Their population frequency remains static at the frequency level of introduction, unless something unusual is happening to the rest of the population to shift overall gene frequencies.
- So the scenario Darwinism requires runs counter to normal reality.

Remember about Mutations

- Mutations are known to occur in only once in every 100,000 to 1 million replications (or new individuals).
- Of these, only one mutation per 1000 mutations is neutral or positive. The other 999 are harmful or fatal.
- The fatal ones cannot accumulate, of course.

For Perspective

According to BONES OF CONTENTION, 2nd edition, page 62, evolutionists claim that about **5 million successful** mutations were required for human beings to evolve from an animal called *Australopithecus afarensis*. They estimate that it would require at least **3 million years** for that to occur by chance.

So 5 concurrent mutations required for a new organ system is not a silly idea. Intermediates between functioning organ systems would not work.

And other complications exist,

Demanding multiple layers of fortuitous coincidence.

The new system has to be integrated into the functions of the other body systems and the brain—layers of complexity—

and the development of the embryo.

If you have to have God working the Darwinian Machine

- Then you can't rule out the possibility that He told the truth about creation in the Bible.
- After all, He was there.

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" TOWNHALL.COM July 16, 2009

Conclusion: change within a species—like moths that change from dark to light—

Is a different category of change

than change from one kind of animal to another.

One category involves loss of genetic information. The other category requires organized GAIN of genetic information. We cannot extrapolate between categories.

Homework in

3 sets

Homework Class 3 Set 1

- Read the flood story in Genesis chapter 6 - 9.
- Assuming the flood story is true, would genetic isolation be expected to occur as animals left the ark and their offspring dispersed over the changed earth?
- Read Excursion Chapter 3 in OF PANDAS AND PEOPLE. Some evolutionists believe macroevolution can only occur in genetically isolated sub-groups, and then that it occurs rapidly. What two things must occur in a short period of time for this to be correct?

Homework Class 3 Set 1

- What is allopathic speciation?
- What did the Bumpus study of birds and the Muller experiments with fruit flies discover?
- Is the fossil record consistent with the Bumpus and Muller results of change within limits?

Homework Class 3 Set 1

- What did W. H. Thorpe say about this phenomenon of diversity within limits?
- If classical Darwinian evolution were correct, what would one expect the fossil record to show?
- If punctuated equilibrium were correct, what would one expect the fossil record to show?
- If intelligent design were correct, what would one expect the fossil record to show?
- What does the record show?

Homework Class 3 Set 2

- Consider the flood story again. Would one expect extinctions of animals to occur during and after such an ecologically catastrophic event?
- Would one expect fossils to form during and after a flood that doubtless created mudslides which buried animals?
- Read Overview Section 4 in OF PANDAS AND PEOPLE.
- What is punctuated equilibrium?

Homework Class 3 Set 2

- Without looking at the fossil data, would it seem likely that major changes would take place with great rapidity, -- too fast to make their steps known in the fossil record -- but that minor changes would take millions of years?
- What does punctuated equilibrium imply at the genetic level?

Homework Class 3 Set 2

- What is meant by “At best, punctuated equilibrium advances an explanation for evolution’s lack of evidence?”
- If intelligent design is the source of the overall physical body plans of animals, we would expect to see exactly what we do see in the fossil record -- an absence of transitional forms.

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- Read Acts 17:16-32.
- What did Paul present to the learned Greeks of Athens related to what can be known about the unknown God?
- Read Excursion Chapter 4 in OF PANDAS AND PEOPLE.
- List the four major features of the fossil record.

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- Variations between phyla are large compared to variations within phyla. The huge differences between phyla show up in the first 5% of the fossil record, and the gaps are never bridged in the remaining 95% of the record. What are the three main schools of thought to explain the gaps, and how do they explain them?

Homework Class 3 Set 3

- Explain the difference between the terms *intermediate* and *transitional*.
- What did Colin Patterson say about the matter of transitional forms?
- Is the evidence in the fossil record abundant and certain for human evolution from primates?

Job 38:36

- ³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

Topics for further thought:

How does Intelligent Design fit today's discussion?

How does the choice of education method relate to an integrated worldview?

Intelligent Design

- Applies the tools of mathematics to the question of Intelligence as a causative agent.
- The Intelligent Design movement disassociates itself from Creationism, because it tries to restrict itself to only those matters that can be answered with the tools of science, and not to speculate beyond them.
- One of our goals is quite different. We do want to understand what the intelligent design movement has to offer toward integrating science and faith, so we will speculate beyond the boundaries of science.

A Major Goal


- A major goal of Biblical Apologetics is developing **an integrated worldview**. We want to be able to bridge across various fields of study consistently, so that we have not placed science in one compartment and religion in another and workplace activities in another. That would be fragmentation rather than integration. Integration is much more helpful for consistency. We want to make our lives whole, not fragmented.

So TODAY we went beyond

- Intelligent Design and into the realm of Creation theory in order to make our worldview and our lives integrated.
- However, if we must deal with public arenas where religion is forbidden by legal precedent, in those arenas we should limit our discussion to those topics that are effective for the issues.
- The Intelligent Design movement has shown us how that can be done.

Considerations about an Integrated Worldview

Choices of education methods have an effect on whether a worldview is integrated or fragmented. Parents' decisions about their children's education strongly influence the worldviews of their children. Long-term goals and multigenerational goals are involved.



Children need an integrated worldview for choices they must make as they grow up.

One of the problems of life—people have to make the most profound choices during the time of life when they are least prepared and the most flighty. Think about all the choices a student makes between age 14 and 24. An integrated worldview leads toward wiser choices than a fragmented worldview.

Students need a coherent worldview for decisions they must make.

- **Private and homeschooling are FAR more helpful toward an integrated worldview than public schooling.** Young adults don't handle fragmentation well.
- **Public schools are actually prohibited** from opening the discussions to an integrated worldview when dealing with decision-making skills.
- We will look at legal issues in the second half of the course.

College Level Courses

- Which train our public school teachers NEVER deal with integrating worldviews, either. The concepts are prohibited in college classrooms as well as the lower grades. The concepts are prohibited in research funding, as well. The results are a monolithic silence about integrating worldviews.
- In fact, any integration of worldviews that takes place in the classrooms tends to go AWAY from morals and toward nihilism. Fragmentation is better than nihilism. So we have a problem. It is a bigger problem than we realize.

The Downward Spiral of Education

- Nobody knows how to proceed to keep from fragmenting students' worldviews. Students experience MUCH confusion because of this. It has a great deal to do with incidents like the Columbine school shootings.
- Private and Home Schools can manage to give students an integrated worldview. The colleges are guaranteed to do their best to tear that worldview apart.
- But at least the students will make it through high school well. They will have a foundation upon which to rebuild after they unlearn the errors of college.

If you are a parent and you want your children to have an integrated worldview,

What are your options?

1. You can try to learn the topics so well that you can teach them to your children, even if their schools undermine what you say.
2. You can find a private school that shares your concerns and arrange your life to make private education possible.
3. You can research homeschooling in your area and find a curriculum that meets your needs.

If you are a parent and you want your children to have an integrated worldview,

What are your options NOT?

1. You cannot expect the problem to take care of itself.
2. You cannot expect your local church to solve the problem for you.

Deuteronomy chapter 6 emphasizes the teaching responsibility of parents for a worldview that can be transferred to the next generation.