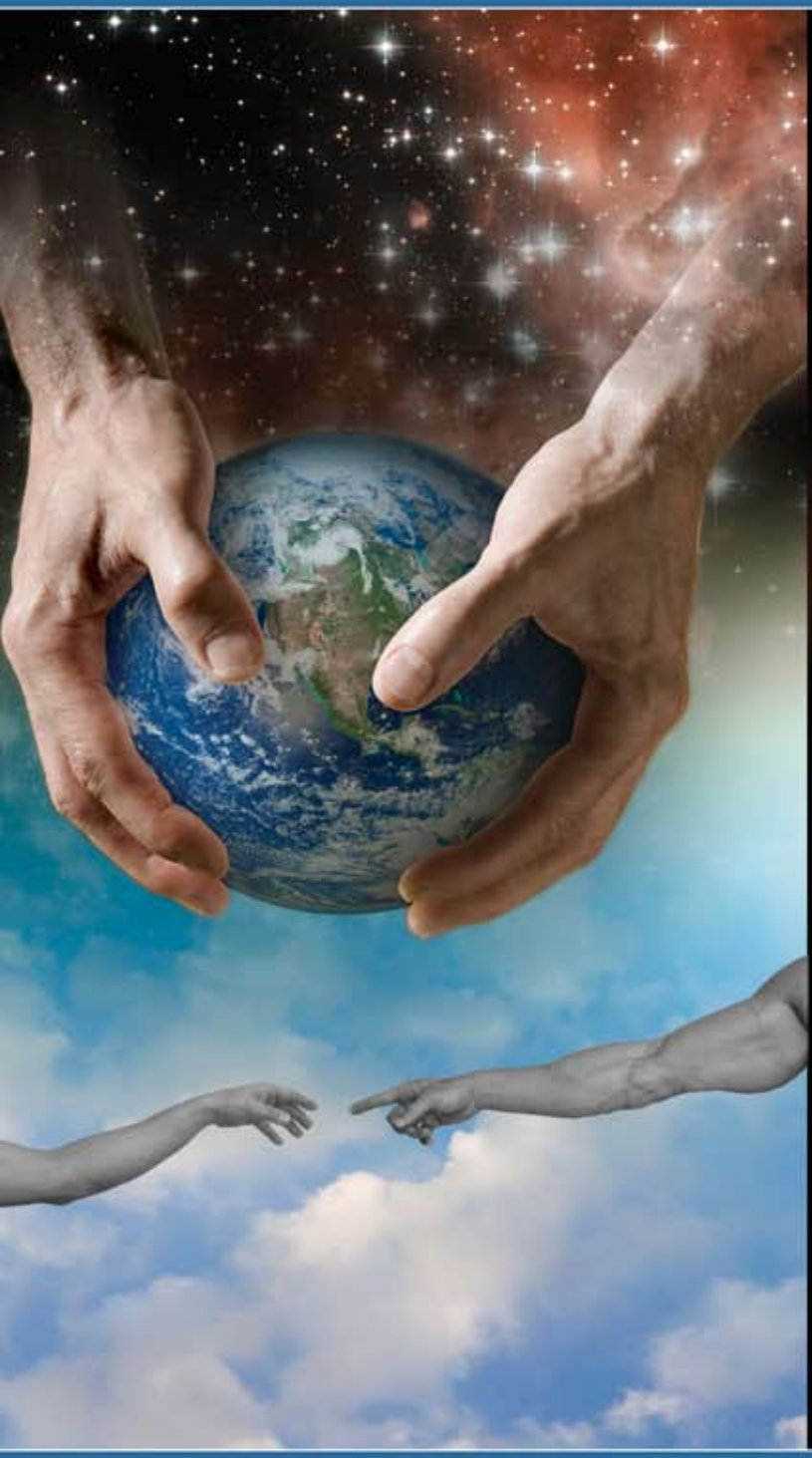
Creation / Evolution

6-hours of teaching on the Creation / Evolution controversy



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Dear Non-Evolutionary Being,

God bless you richly. We are very glad to be able to present this seminar for you, and we trust it will be most enlightening and edifying.

Since man's early history, the creation-evolution controversy has been raging. On one hand, the Word of God clearly states that He is the Author and Designer of creation (falsely called "nature," as if it just happened "naturally"). The magnificence of His glorious handiwork also bears eloquent witness to His grace and goodness.

On the other hand, Satan, the "god of this age," continues his attack on God's Word by telling mankind his original lie: "You shall be as gods." That is what the so-called "theory of evolution" is all about. Though, by definition, a "theory" is something that has never been conclusively proven, evolution is today taught as fact in most educational institutions.

The doctrine of evolution is, in fact, the basis for a religion, whose god is "chance." Though its "high priests" admit that their doctrine is full of problems, their inherent antipathy toward God will not allow them to consider the alternative of Him as the Creator.

As Christians, we must know the truth about this subject, both biblical and scientific. Then we must boldly share with others the good news that there is a beneficent Creator who loves them and whose Word they can trust to guide them in this life, secure in the knowledge that His purpose of the ages will one day be consummated and they will live forever with Him in Paradise.

We love you and would be happy to hear from you in response to this seminar.

In His service,

John Schoenheit

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❖ Creation

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- Evolutionary thinking has hindered science
- The erroneous belief in spontaneous generation of organisms prohibited the medical world from discovering "the path of disease." Louis Pasteur was a Christian who believed the Bible. He knew that everything re-produced after its kind, and that life cannot arise from non-life. Thus he was instrumental in discovering the organic cause of disease and in promoting proper hygienic practices. (This point is not on the tape).

❖ Darwin rejected God

The following quote is not on the tape and we want you to have it. It is from *Darwin On Trial* by Phillip E. Johnson, (page 163 and 164).

> Darwin's "uncompromising philosophical materialism" is the subject of the first two essays in Gould's collection *Ever Since Darwin.* Gould points out, "Other evolutionists spoke of vital forces. Directed history, organic striving, and the essential irreducibility of mind—a panoply of concepts that traditional Christianity could accept in compromise [Our note: compromise has been too typical of "traditional" Christianity], for they permitted a Christian God to work by evolution instead of creation. Darwin spoke only of random variation and natural selection." (pp.24-25.) Gould also thinks that Darwin's turn to materialism may have been partly a reaction against the religious fundamentalism of the overbearing Captain Fitzroy, whose conversation he endured for five years on the *Beagle* [the ship on which Darwin and Fitzroy went around the world]. "Fitzroy may well have been far more important than finches, at least for inspiring the materialistic and antitheistic tone of Darwin's philosophy and evolutionary theory." (p.33.)
>
> Gould's candid portrayal of the role that philosophical preference an even personal prejudice may have played in Darwin's theorizing is refreshing, because the impression is often given that Darwin was a devout creationist who developed his theory only because of the irresistible pressure of the empirical evidence. Darwin's indifference to the empirical objections to gradualism offered by T.H. Huxley and others shows how false this picture is. Like his friend Charles Lyell, the founder of uniformitarian geology, Darwin was sure the evidence must be misleading when it led in a direction contrary to his philosophy. See also Gould's fascinating essay on Lyell, which observes, "To circumvent this literal appearance [of geologic catastrophes], Lyell imposed his imagination upon the evidence. The geologic record, he argued, is extremely imperfect and we must interpolate into it what we can reasonably infer but cannot see." (*Ever Since Darwin,* p. 150.) As we shall see in the next chapter, Darwin took this example much to heart.
>
> Gertrude Himelfarb's biography of Darwin is revealing on the question of his religious inclinations (and on other subjects as well). Darwin's father Robert was a secret unbeliever who maintained a façade of orthodoxy so thorough that it included planning a clerical career for Charles. According to Himmelfarb:
>
> Although Robert's mode of expressing, or rather suppressing, his disbelief did not commend itself to his son, the knowledge of that disbelief may have been of some influence. Not only did it make disbelief, when it came, appear to be a natural, acceptable mode of thought, so that loss of faith never presented itself to him as a moral crisis or rebellion; more than that, it seemed to enjoin disbelief precisely as a filial duty. One of the passages which was deleted from the autobiography explained why Charles not only could not believe in Christianity but would not wish to believe in it. Citing the 'damnable doctrine' that would condemn all disbelievers to eternal punishment, he protested that 'this would include my father, brother, and almost all my best friends'—which made it an unthinkable, to say nothing of thoroughly immoral, idea. There may be more sophisticated reasons for disbelief, but there could hardly have been a more persuasive emotional one. (p.22.)

This sort of information should not lead anyone into the "genetic fallacy," by which a theory is held to be wrong if caused by irrational factors. The correct conclusion to be drawn is merely that Darwinism should not be excused from the rigorous empirical testing which science requires of other theories.

Session Seven

The Bible:

- Does <u>not</u> say animals evolved—they reproduce after their own kind
- Does <u>not</u> say or imply that God used the cruel system of evolution
- Does say that God created the heaven and the earth
    a) Not via a "big bang
    b) God has never created anything that was less than magnificent
- The earth <u>*became*</u> formless and empty
    a) Isaiah 45:18; 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-17; Revelation 12:4
    b) Without this "gap" in time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2, there is nowhere in the chronology of early Genesis for the rebellion of Lucifer.
- And God said…"
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- Evening and morning—*Polarmerismos:* (Cp 2 Chronicles 9:29)
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    b) God testifies of Himself in the world around us (Romans 1:18-20)

Scientific Classification

KINGDOM

PHYLUM

CLASS

ORDER

FAMILY

GENUS

SPECIES

SUBSPECIES

Appendix A - Bibliography

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Appendix B - Glossary

Anthropology

The study of mankind, of man's origin and behavior as well as his physical, social and cultural development. From the Greek *anthropos*-man. Paleoanthropology that focuses on the study of man-like creatures supposedly more primitive than *homo sapiens.*

Biology

The study of life and life processes, including the study of structure, functioning, growth, origin, evolution and distribution of living organisms. From the Greek *bios*-the period, means and manner of existence.

Botany

The study of plant life. Together with zoology it makes up the science of biology, the study of living things.

Catastrophism

The doctrine that changes in the earth's crust have in the past been brought about suddenly by physical forces operating in ways that cannot be observed today.

Entropy

A concept of thermodynamics. It is a measure of the randomness, disorder or chaos in a system. Objects in nature that are left to themselves create entropy. A bouncing ball comes to rest, a watch runs down, organisms die, etc. The entropy of the universe is increasing.

Evolution

The word "evolution" simply implies change and can be used in a great number of different contexts such as the evolution of a company, the evolution of a state or country, or even the evolution of a person's thinking or writing. For this seminar, however, "evolution" is the godless, mindless, naturlis5tic, mechanistic process that is supposed to have brought the life we know today from non-life. This might be called the "mud to man" theory. It is also sometimes called macroevolution.

Genus

A taxonomic category (ranking between the family and the species) comprising a group of structurally or phylogenetically related species or an isolated species exhibiting unusual differentiation. (See Species).

Geologic Column

The standard geologic column used today is composed of ten strata systems: Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous and Tertiary. This "column" was devised, it was simply used to classify rock systems, there was no dating attached. Later, dates were imposed on the system and it became a "geologic timetable" in spite of the fact that assigning dates causes many problems. The rock systems that make up the column are never once found as an intact "column" from "earliest to latest." Many times layers are missing and many other times layers are "upside down."

Geology

The study of the earth, including its origin, history, structure, and composition. From the Greek *ge*-earth.

Geophyscis

The physics of geological phenomena, including such fields as meteorology, oceanography, geodesy and seismology.

Horse

Some textbooks give the "evolution" of the horse as follows: eohippus, mesohippus, merychippus, pliohippus, and finally equus. For years this has been known to be false. In reality, the evidence for the evolution of the hors is so confusing that no ancestral tree can be determined.

"Kind"

The term used in Genesis Chapter One to categorize animals that will naturally reproduce viable offspring that can also reproduce. Often the "kind" in Genesis will roughly correspond to "genus." An exact definition of "kind", genus and species may be impossible (see Species).

Macroevolution

The process of transformation from one "kind" to another "kind" via mutation and natural selection. (See "evolution").

Microevolution

Genetic variations existing within a "kind," that may be discovered in the course of breeding. Selective breeding makes use of the understanding of genetics to "evolve" cows that give more milk, faster horses or special breeds of dogs, cats, roses, etc. Microevolution is not actually evolution at all, since it is simply using the genes already existing in the breeding population. Nothing with "new" genes ever evolves. Selective breeding simply brings to the surface characteristics that were not visible before the selective breeding. Since there is visible change, this process is sometimes called microevolution.

Mutation

An inheritable alteration of the genes or chromosomes of an organism. Proposed as one of the mechanisms of evolution, there is in fact no evidence (and even evidence to the contrary) that mutations have ever contributed to macroevolution.

Natural Selection

The process proposed by Charles Darwin as the primary mechanism of evolution. The main idea is that animals and plants have more offspring than just those that survive. Therefore, the ones that did survive must have had some small advantage over the ones that died. Over millions of years, these small advantages add up to major changes and explain the life forms we see in the world around us. Actually, natural selection (and even artificial breeding) has never produced anything outside of its own "kind."

Paleontology

The study of fossils and ancient life forms. This is a broad field of study of study with many specific disciplines such as paleobotany and paleozoology.

Species

A fundamental category of taxonomic classification, ranking after a genus, and consisting of organisms capable of interbreeding. If this sounds confusing, it is. The Bible uses the word "kind" (Hebrew text=*min)* for animals that reproduce. No completely satisfactory definition of a species has ever been found. Macbeth writes in *Darwin Retried:*

> What is a species? The answer is neither clear nor easy. Hardin says bluntly: "…no thoroughly satisfactory definition of a species can be given." G. Ledyard Stebbins, Jr., Hardin's botanical colleague at the University of California, after pointing to twelve different definitions in the recent literature, takes comfort from the fact that there is at least a "large common ground of agreement among them." One reputable scientist attempted to solve the problem by asserting that a species was what a taxonomist was willing to classify as a species…" I assumed that this was a sort of joke until I found Sir Julian Huxley calling it "a quite reasonable definition of the term species."

Tautology

A needless or meaningless repetition in close succession of an idea, statement or word. In case of "survival of the fittest, becomes "the survival of those that survive—an obvious tautology.

Thermodynamics

The branch of physical science that addresses the relation of heat energy to energy of other kinds, and particularly of the convertibility of heat energy into mechanical energy and the converse. There are two laws of conservation of energy, which states that whenever heat energy is converted into mechanical energy (or vice versa), then for each unit of one kind of energy that disappears there is always an equal amount of the other energy that appears.

The second law of thermodynamics simply states that heat always tends to pass form a hotter object to a colder one. The law states the fact that all processes involve energy changes, and that these changes, and that these changes always tend to go in a "downward" direction so that there is a net decrease in the availability of the converted energy for further useful work. Although the first law says that no energy will be lost, the second law says the energy will continually proceed to a lower level of utility (see "entropy").

Uniformitarianism

A geological doctrine that existing processes acting in the same manner and with essentially the same intensity as at present are sufficient to account for all geological changes.

Zoology

The study of animal life. Together with botany it forms the science of biology, the study of living things. From the Greek *zoe*-life or existence.

THE COMMONLY ACCEPTED GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	YEARS BEFORE THE PRESENT	CHARACTERISTIC LIFE
Cenozoic	Quarternary	Holocene (recent)	11,000	Rise of modern plants, animals and men
		Pleistocene (Glacial)	500,000 to 2,000,000	
	Tertiary	Pliocene	13,000,000	Rise of mammals and Development of highest Plants
		Miocene	25,000,000	
		Oligocene	36,000,000	
		Eocene	58,000,000	
		Paleocene	63,000,000	
Mesozoic	Cretaceous		135,000,000	Modern insects abundant, extinction of dinosaurs
	Jurassic		180,000,000	First birds, first Angiosperms---dinosaurs Abundant
	Triassic		230,000,000	Earliest dinosaurs, flying reptiles, marine reptiles and primitive mammals
Paleozoic	Permian		280,000,000	Primitive reptiles, earliest conifers, first modern corals
	Pennsylvanian (Upper Carboniferous)		310,000,000	Insects, abundant spore Plants
	Mississippian (Lower Carboniferous)		345,000,000	Rise of amphibians
	Devonian		405,000,000	Seed plants, first evidence of Amphibians
	Silurian		425,000,000	Earliest known land animals rise of fish
	Ordovician		500,000,000	Earliest vertebrates, oldest land plants
	Cambrian		600,000,000	All subkingdoms of invertebrate animals, brachiopods and trilobites are common
Precambrian				Primitive water dwelling plants and animals