

Genesis: A Foundation for Christian Doctrine

Many people think the creation/evolution debate is simply an interesting side issue compared to "more important" things such as homosexuality, pornography, and abortion, when in fact, evolution is the cause of many of these societal problems. Evolution cannot really cause moral values to diminish. After all, it's only science isn't it? Before we can answer this question we must first look at what science really is. Science can be summed up as, "the total collection of knowledge gained by man's observations of the physical world, using one or more of his five senses, taste, smell, sight, hearing, or touch, to investigate the world that only exists in the present, and observations can be repeated" (Ham, Relevance p. 5). The average high-school student defines science as cutting up animals, mixing chemicals, or childhood torture. However, without the proper understanding of what science really is children cannot actually know which learning is scientific. Scientists claim "scientifically" that the earth is very old. Is this true or just a conjecture of a biased religion? What about fossils? Do fossils tell us about the past or the present? Ask your child that question and see if the answer is correct.

With opinions and conjectures flying around the scientific community we simply can't tell fact from fiction, or creation from evolution. Scientifically fossils tell us about the present because they can only be observed and tested in the present. Dry bones only tell us that this animal once existed. Unless the skin has been fossilized or other rare



Figure 1: Christianity cannot stand without Genesis as literal truth. (Reprinted by permission of *Answers in Genesis*, PO Box 6330, Florence, Kentucky, 41022, from the book The Lie: Evolution, by Ken Ham).

circumstances occur, bones cannot tell us what the creature looked like exactly, what it ate, if it had hair, etc. When a paleontologist finds a fossil, he takes it back to his lab where he examines it and forms his own opinions about that bone. Once his theory is complete he has an artist draw a picture of what he feels this animal and the landscape around it looked like. From an unscientific background, we see these murals on the museum walls and our brain registers this information as fact, when it is merely artistic license.

Evolution is a belief system, not a science. We cannot test evolution in the present because it doesn't take place today, although some try to claim it does. Today, we do not observe animals turning into people. Again, if real science is what can be tested in the present, evolution is not science. Creation is a belief system, but contrary to popular belief, it *does* hold some scientific value, as even some evolutionists admit. Dr. Lipson, a professor of Physics at the University of Manchester, admits, "If living matter is not caused by the interplay of atoms, natural forces and radiation, how has it come into being? There is another theory,

now quite out of favor, which is based upon the ideas of Lamarck: that if an organism needs an improvement it will develop it, and transmit it to its progeny. I think, however, that we must go further than this and admit that the only acceptable explanation is creation. I know that this is anathema to physicists, as indeed it is to me, but we must not

reject a theory that we do not like if the experimental evidence supports it" (Lipson, p. 138). Also, Dr. Edward Tryon of City University of New York writes, "In 1973, I proposed that our Universe had been created spontaneously from nothing (*ex nihilo*) as a result of established principles of physics. This proposal variously struck people as preposterous, enchanting, or both. The novelty of a scientific theory of creation *ex nihilo* is readily apparent, for science has long taught us that one cannot make something from nothing" (Tryon, p. 14).

How can we be sure about information we receive about the earth's origin? According to the scientific practice, we must either be omniscient or have been there to observe its beginnings. For scientists this is dismal, but for Christians inspiring, because we know Someone who was there and is omniscient - - God our Creator. With God as our foundation for truth, science, and history, we can be sure of our beliefs.

A good example of how the pseudo facts of evolution are formed can be seen in a murder mystery on television. Shortly after the program begins we think we know who is guilty. Half-way through the program we know the guilty one and are waiting for the show to end so we can tap ourselves on the back for such skill. But just before the show is over, our pride is squelched as we realize we were wrong. Why were we led to this wrong conclusion? Because we did not have all the evidence. This is the same problem

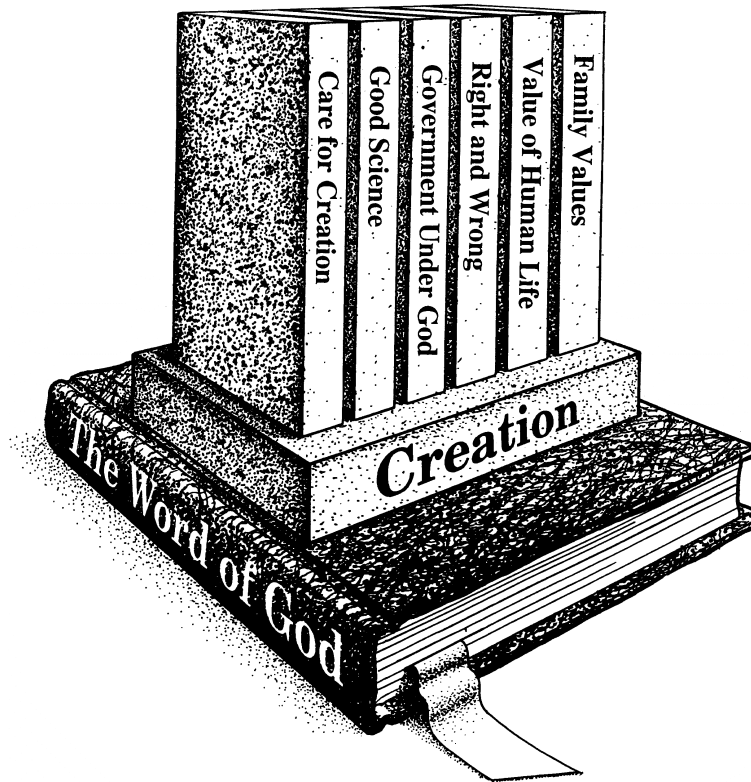


Figure 2: Bible as truth is foundational for life and society.

we have with science because all the evidence is not there for us to see or understand; hence, as history teaches, we draw premature and inaccurate conclusions. Science has changed many times in the past and reputable men have had to recant their beliefs because new evidence proved old evidence incorrect. Accordingly, we can also suspect that science will continue to change because of emerging, new evidence. However, to an evolutionist, new evidence disproving evolution elicits the likely answer, "Oh no, evolution is fact." Unfortunately this is the mind-set we are dealing with today. Ken Ham comments on this mindset: "No matter how much you know there is always an infinite amount more to know; which means no matter how much you know, you don't know how much more there is to know anyway; which means you don't know how much you do or don't know, which means you just don't know much at all" (Ham, *Creation* video).

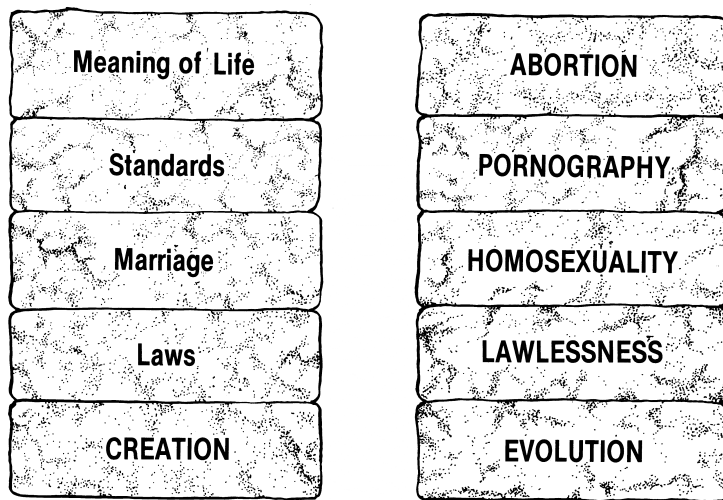
Today we tend to form opinions based upon human wisdom. We must abandon this opinion-oriented philosophy of life and "start with the One who was there and who does know everything, not with the words of man who wasn't there and doesn't know

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everything" (Ham, *Creation* Video). Only when we admit human fallibility can we be sure about anything.

The premise from which to begin is that Scripture is the foundation for truth. Many people are ignorant of Genesis as the foundation for much of our church doctrine. Over 165 times Genesis is quoted in the New Testament alone. In fact, every New Testament author quotes it at least once and, therefore, it must be a book of high standing and importance. Why, then, is Genesis the most attacked book we have today? Christ's words in John 5:45-47 provides the answer, "Do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?" Again, in Luke 16:31, Jesus quotes Abraham as saying, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." These verses become so much more meaningful when we realize that it was Moses who wrote Genesis; therefore, our warning is made clear. If we do not believe Moses (Genesis) how can we believe Christ's Words, let alone His resurrection from the dead? For this reason the devil certainly knows Psalm 11:3 by heart. It reads, "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Today our foundation (Genesis and God as Creator) is being destroyed and we have little, if any, support left to stop the demise of our society.

To illustrate this further, consider the parable of the wise and foolish builder in Matthew 13. Taking the parable slightly out of context, we see that a house built on a solid foundation will stand firm, but if our foundation is weakened or shaken for some reason, the structure will collapse. Today our foundation, God as Creator, is being shaken by evolution, leaving us with a crumbling society filled with divorce, homosexuality, pornography, and various other forms of godlessness. Our Christian framework can only stand when a foundation exists, but it has been slowly removed by the evolutionary termites who eat away at it without being noticed. Though our weak foundation goes



unnoticed, the effects of it speak loudly through our lifestyles. Not to worry, however; we are not left foundationless, because the public education system, in many cases, is replacing it with the theory of evolution. (As mentioned at the start of this chapter, I have personally felt the detrimental effects of this teaching).

Often we don't realize what Christ as Creator means for us. If God is our Maker, He owns us and, therefore, sets the rules for our lives; nothing depends upon human opinion. On the other hand, if evolution is true, the belief that we are

Figure 3: If Adam is not our ancestor, we make our own rules and morality. (Reprinted by permission of *Answers in Genesis*, PO Box 6330, Florence, Kentucky, 41022, from the book The Lie: Evolution, by Ken Ham).

a product of chance resulting from lightning striking some primordial soup billions of years ago, then we make our own rules and have no one to answer to. When this happens

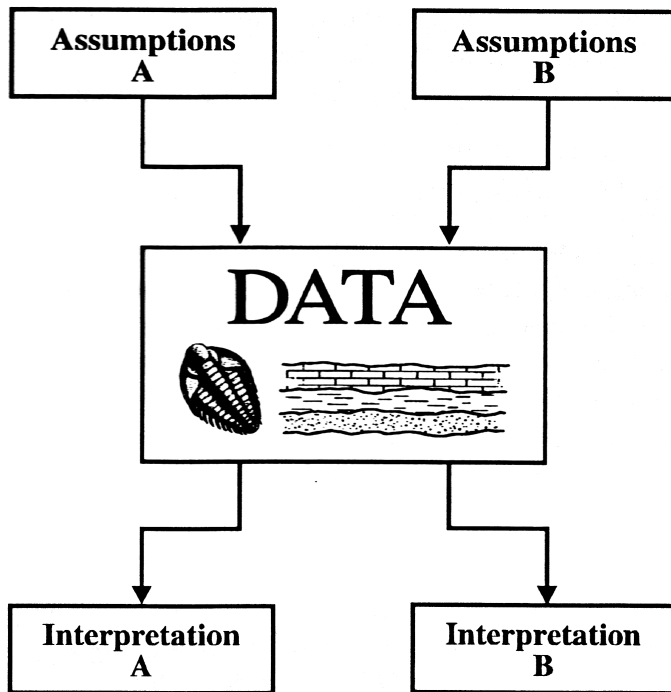
we become like the Israelites in the book of Judges when, "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit" (Judges 17:6). For many, our king is being dethroned and we are all doing what is right in our own eyes as we practice homosexuality and perform abortions. The new god is that of human wisdom and tolerance of all opinions, provided it's not the Christian opinion because of its intolerance - - (something society refuses to tolerate).

The fundamental issue is church doctrine. If a person wants to find the true meaning of something, the primary source is paramount. For example, the meaning of the word "door" requires its use in an initial context. Simply put, "The meaning of anything is tied up in its origins." I believe Christ understood this principle, because in Matthew 19:4-5 the Sadducees and Pharisees were questioning Jesus about divorce. To answer their question Christ took them all the way back to the origin of marriage, Genesis. Here Jesus pronounced, "Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?'" Jesus quoted Genesis to set the standard for marriage and give it its foundation. First of all, this passage gives us the spiritual meaning of marriage. The husband and wife became one flesh; therefore, divorced persons are incomplete, only half of what used to be a whole. If one rejects this oneness, what is to stop us from living together before we are married? After all, we are just two individuals living our lives independently, and after divorce we may go on as if nothing ever happened. Second, we find the origin of the family unit tied up in this passage. God created one woman for one man, not two men or two women. Again, God set the standard, but homosexual couples continue to claim themselves a family despite this sanction. Finally, we learn about the roles of a husband and wife. In today's marriages there has been a breakdown in the family roles, but for a marriage to be truly successful, I believe a man and a woman must enter into the marriage with a proper understanding of those roles. The woman's role is to be submissive to her husband, yet many women don't want to be obedient; but again, it's not a matter of our opinion but rather what God has ordained. As Scripture points out, submission is not a matter of equality but rather a matter of roles for, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). To illustrate this truth one can ask whether a horse is better than a cow or is a cow better than the horse? Neither is better than the other. If you want a ride into town the horse is a better choice, but if you want milk for your cereal I would choose the cow. Both have been created for different purposes and roles. The same is true of a man and woman.

On the other hand, the husband's role is to love his wife as Christ first loved the church and gave Himself for it. How many husbands love their wives like that today? Christ did not come to be served, but to serve, so husbands, you better start following Christ's example and serve your wives.

Husbands and wives are to procreate, which also ties directly into parenting. The role of the father is made clear in Ephesians 6:4 where we read, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Or Isaiah 38:19 which states, "Fathers tell their children about your faithfulness." It's obvious that the role of a father is to be the spiritual head of the house. How many fathers are abandoning this role? It often seems to be the mother who gets the children out of bed on Sunday morning to make sure they get to church and Sunday school. Sometimes they must even get their husbands out of bed so they go to church rather than going golfing, fishing or whatever their hobby may be. Or if there is a Christian school in your area, how many fathers make sure their children are enrolled? Again, it's not a matter of what we feel like doing, rather it's our God-given responsibility and we must follow it.

Why do we wear clothes? The meaning of clothing also looks at origins. Here, we must go all the way back to Genesis and the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. We see



Adam and Eve sinning and becoming aware of their nakedness. God then killed the first animal as a blood sacrifice and a covering for their sins. There it is - - sin is why we wear clothing today - - and consequently, a man and woman can no longer look at each other in the perfect way they once could because sin has distorted their relationship. Therefore, what we wear can put a stumbling block in another person's path, thereby causing them to sin. We are told that if a man lusts after a woman's body he commits adultery. Why are men singled out? I would probably get little argument from males when I declare that a man responds very easily to a woman's body sexually and, therefore, what

Figure 4: Our belief in Creation is our starting point for

she wears can put a stumbling block in a male's path, causing him to sin. Matthew Henry, a popular Bible commentator, once said, "Men sin but devils tempt to sin." How true this is. We are all sinners and need the support and guidance of others to help us along. When a woman wears clothes that are indecent she is tempting the male into sin, maybe not intentionally, but nonetheless she is tempting. This does not relieve the male from his responsibility to keep his eyes from wandering. Nor does it relieve the female from her responsibility of dressing decently.

As fathers, we need to explain to our children what men are like so they may have a better understanding of the importance of dressing decently. This very argument often becomes a battle of opinions when one's daughter wants to leave the house in a revealing outfit. The father objects to her attire followed by the daughter asking "why?" Father responds, "Because it's not right." "Why not?" asks the daughter. "Because it's wrong," answers the father. "Why is it wrong?" "Because it's not right," announces the father as it starts all over again. Rather than fighting battles based on opinions, we must turn the table and fight at a foundational level, with God as the ultimate authority. Set your daughter down and show her in Scripture why we wear clothing and what the effects of indecent clothing are. Show her how God has commanded you to raise her in a Godly fashion and whether you, as a father, like it or not, must step in and obey God rather than your own emotions. In doing so the battle of opinions becomes a battle of God's Word verses your daughter's opinion. "But who are you, O man, to talk back to God?" (Romans 9:20).

A FOUNDATION FOR CHRIST

By far the most calamitous outcome of evolution is destroying Christ as Savior. Evolution claims that death and disease resided for millions and billions of years before man ever existed and, therefore, death is not a direct result of sin as Scripture clearly

points out. To an evolutionist, the fossils are a record of death and disease that occurred long before man. However, the Bible states, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--" (Romans 5:12). Also, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). If we believe these promises are true, death could not have existed before man; however, the fossil record, according to evolutionists, was laid down before man existed. If death is not the payment or wages of sin, Christ's death on the cross is meaningless and has no power or purpose. Unfortunately, evolutionists understand this concept much more than Christians. Richard Bozarth, an evolutionist writes, "Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the Son of God. Take away the meaning of his death. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins - - and this is what evolution means - - then Christianity is nothing!" (Bozarth, pp. 19,30). Evolution and Scripture are in total conflict; one says death and disease caused man's existence, but Scripture shows that it was man's existence (sin) that caused death and disease.

*I pray that Christians who are out spreading the Good News of Christ crucified do not take evolution in any way, shape, or form, because in so doing, one destroys the very Gospel message. God Bless all of you in His service as creationists, not theistic evolutionists. For those who find some way to twist the Scriptures to fit millions of years, you must read the book, *Refuting Compromise* by Jonathan Sarfati.*