

DISCUSSION 1

A DEEP

QUESTION

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**1. WHICH IS
TRUE, SCIENCE
OR THE BIBLE?**

1. WHICH IS TRUE, SCIENCE OR THE BIBLE?

The accounts of the origin of almost all things as given by science and by the Bible could hardly be more different from each other. Science proposes that the universe and life on earth evolved all by themselves over billions of years. The Bible proposes that God is the creator of all and that the earth was prepared and life was created during a six day creation week just a few thousand years ago.

Because both the Bible and science are highly respected, yet so divergent, many wonder **which story of origins is true. They can't both be real.**

1. WHICH IS TRUE, SCIENCE OR THE BIBLE?

Science is probably humanity's greatest intellectual achievement, and is usually highly respected in academic circles, courts of law and advertising endeavors. One only has to think about a computer, a scanning electron microscope, an orbiting satellite, or the production of new kinds of living organisms by genetic engineering, to be duly impressed by what science can do. The scientific community that accomplishes all this strongly endorses evolution as the accepted model of origins.

1. WHICH IS TRUE, SCIENCE OR THE BIBLE

On the other hand the Bible is also highly respected. It is by far the most popular book, with production levels in the billions. The only close competitor is the 800 million copies of the “red book” with the quotations of Mao Zedong that was distributed by the Chinese Government to its constituent population. The Bible appears to be at least a dozen times more popular than any secular book on the open market. It is the respected guide for Christians, and they represent one third of the world’s population.

1. WHICH IS TRUE, SCIENCE OR THE BIBLE

The question of whether science or the Bible is right has deep personal implications for each of us. The question of our origins is fundamentally related to our world view and our deepest questions such as: is there a God, could the universe just happen by lucky accidents, is there purpose to our existence and what is our ultimate destiny?

Some background information, presented below, is essential to answering the question of which is true, science or the Bible.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

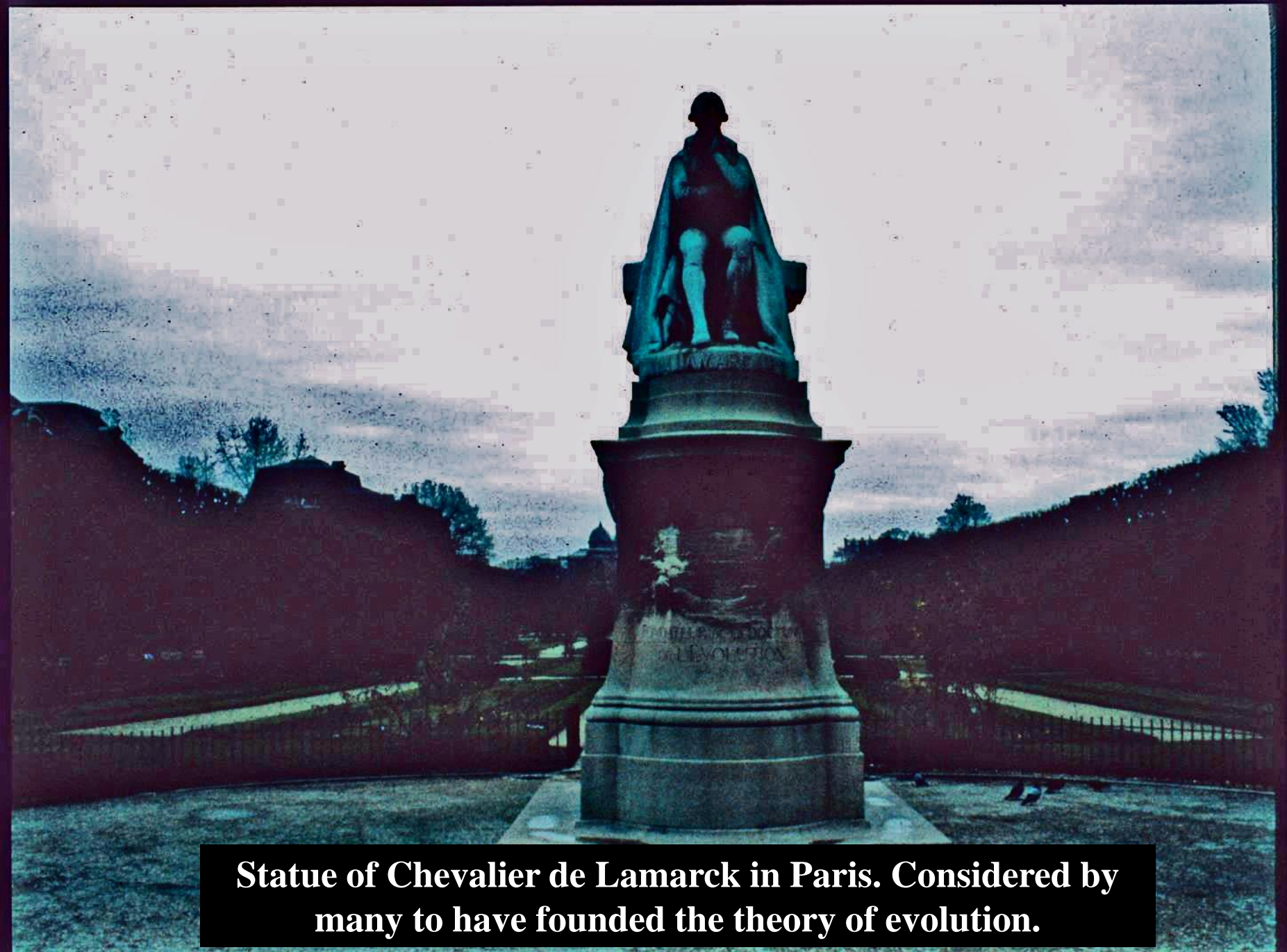
2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

Naturalism is a philosophy that excludes God. It is a **mechanistic** or **materialistic** outlook that emphasizes the observable, excludes the supernatural and tends to mitigate man's spiritual dimension. It has been around for a long time. It proposes that nature came into existence all by itself by various evolutionary processes. Many centuries before Christ the Ionian (Milesian) philosophers around Turkey and Greece advocated this secular idea.

Naturalism, which can also be called materialism is essentially atheism. It turns out that ideas related to evolution have been lurking around for millennia although they were not very popular until the last two centuries.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

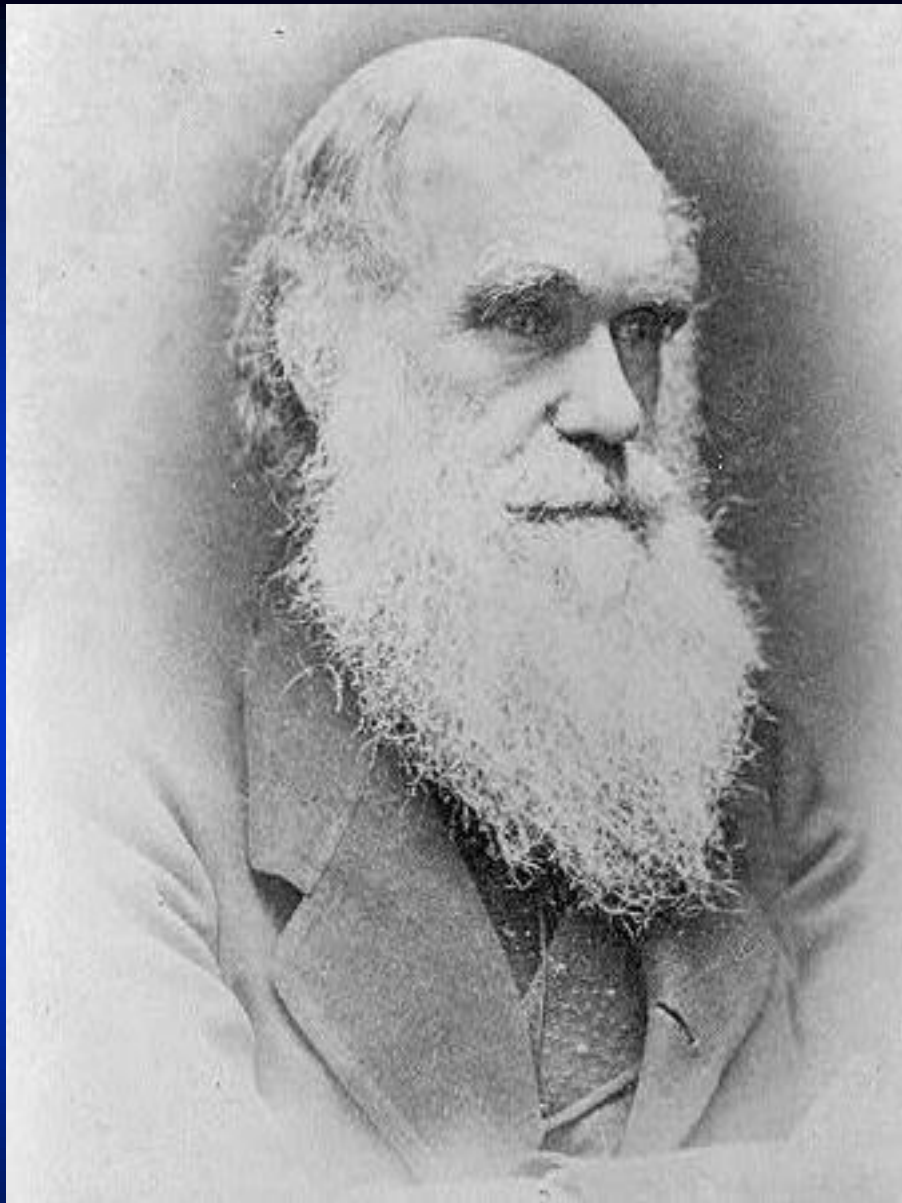
During the early 19th century, the French naturalist **Chevalier de Lamarck** proposed an evolutionary theory for advancement in living things. He suggested that organisms advanced when an organism used various parts of the body which then became more developed. For example, by stretching their necks and legs, animals somewhat like deer could eventually, over many generations, become giraffes. These acquired advances were passed on to their offspring. This incorrect idea did not gain significant acceptance.



Statue of Chevalier de Lamarck in Paris. Considered by many to have founded the theory of evolution.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

A major turning point occurred in 1859 in England when **Charles Darwin** published his famous book titled *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. The volume stressed the evolution of simple organisms into advanced ones and proposed a suggested mechanism, namely *natural selection by survival of the fittest*. Darwin proposed that small advantageous variations associated with survival of the fittest, resulted in more advanced forms of life. The reaction to Darwin's book was at first strongly mixed, but after a few decades a large number of scientists and theologians began to accept some form of evolution.



CHARLES DARWIN, author of the famous book *The Origin of Species*

Photo courtesy USA Library of Congress

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

Some continued to oppose Darwin's ideas, especially among theologians and biologists, including a notable group at Princeton University in the United States. Instead of following the Bible, they adopted views suggesting that God was involved over long ages in the gradual development of life on earth. In this perspective, God was somewhat involved in evolution.

Although some organized resistance to evolution appeared in early 20th century England, the strongest opposition developed in the United States. The most influential creationist of that period was George McCready Price (1870-1963), a Seventh-day Adventist, whose many books challenged both evolution and the validity of the order of the layers in the geologic column. The importance of this is that the fossil order in the geologic column was being used by evolutionists to illustrate evolutionary progression. We will consider that important topic in Discussion 10 titled **FASCINATING FOSSILS, and 11, **FOSSILS AND CREATION**.**



George McCready Price. Courtesy Pacific Press

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

One of the most famous events in the burgeoning controversy was the well publicized and often misrepresented Scopes Trial. This court case, which took place in 1925 in the little town of Dayton, Tennessee in the southern United States, generated worldwide interest and publicity.

The state of Tennessee had passed a law prohibiting the teaching of evolution in public schools, and a biology teacher by the name of John T. Scopes was found guilty of violating that new law. He was later acquitted on the basis of a minor technicality.



THE SCOPES TRIAL, in 1925, in Dayton, Tennessee. The attorney Clarence Darrow, defending evolution, addresses the capacity audience.

Photo courtesy of Bryan College.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

However, the real interest in the trial was not whether or not Scopes had violated a law, it was whether evolution or creation was true.

After the Scopes Trial, the battle seemed relatively quiet until the middle of the century, when several USA government financed textbooks of biology, that stressed sex education and evolution, angered parents who saw evolution as undermining the Bible. At that same time two creationists, **John Whitcomb and Henry Morris**, wrote a seminal book titled *The Genesis Flood*. It was based in part on George McCready Price's views that supported the biblical account of beginnings including the Flood. That book received widespread distribution and acceptance among conservative Christians and strongly stimulated the burgeoning creation movement.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

One of the major problems that fuels the fires of the controversy is that science does not concern itself with morality, and many perceive evolution as challenging the Bible which is highly concerned about moral standards. This is not to say that scientists themselves who promote evolution are not moral. Most of them live good moral lives, but morality is hardly a concern of either science or evolution. Parents who believe in the Bible, can become very apprehensive when teachers present evolution in the classroom as true and authoritative over the Bible and its moral principles.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

As the creation movement was growing rapidly in the United States, it was significantly constrained by the strict constitutional legal principle of **separation of church and state. There is no state religion in the United States, and any government participation in religion is considered illegal. Three times the United States Supreme Court has ruled that creation cannot be taught in the public schools because it is religion. These decisions are based on separating church from state and not on whether creation or evolution is true. Private schools are generally free to teach creation.**

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY

In response to these decisions, creationists have attempted to separate creation from religion, proposing *scientific creationism* that emphasizes the scientific evidence for creation. More recently the *intelligent design* movement has received considerable attention. That concept simply proposes that there has to be some kind of designer for all the complexities we are discovering in nature.

While the creation movement had its beginnings especially in the United States with help from England, it has spread over the world with creation societies being organized in most major countries.

How many people believe in creation or evolution? This is a complex question because there are many different definitions of evolution or creation. The next two slides give you the result of two major surveys.

GALLUP POLL

At least six Gallup Polls of adults in the United States since 1982 show little variation except a slight increase in the first choice given below, and strong support for creation. The figures for 2001 are:

1. Humans developed over millions of years.
No God was involved [i.e. the science evolution model]. 12%
2. Humans developed over millions of years.
God guided in the process. 37%
3. God created humans in present form
within the last 10,000 years [i.e. close to
the creation model]. 45%
4. No opinion 6%

OTHER COUNTRIES

A different kind of survey in 2005 generally shows lower support for creation in other countries. Some examples:

COUNTRY	PERCENT		
	EVOLUTION TRUE	EVOLUTION FALSE	DO NOT KNOW
Iceland	84	8	8
Sweden	81	14	5
France	79	13	8
Japan	77	14	9
United Kingdom	74	18	8
Germany	71	22	7
Switzerland	61	29	10
Greece	53	33	14
United States	40	39	21
Turkey	26	51	23

Source: Science 313:765-766 (11 August 2006)

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY BELIEFS OF SCIENTISTS

A survey querying 1000 scientists listed in *American Men and Women of Science* shows a surprising number of scientist who believe in a God that answers prayers.

Note that affirmation of belief in God in the survey required a rather restricted view of God as defined carefully in the footnote at the bottom of the next slide.

“SCIENTISTS ARE STILL KEEPING THE FAITH” by: Larson EJ, Witham L. 1997. Nature 386:435-436.

Survey of American scientists (1996):

40% believe in God*

45% do not believe in God

15% do not know

* ___ I believe in a God in intellectual and affective communication with humankind, i.e. a God to whom one may pray in expectation of receiving an answer. By “answer” I mean more than the subjective, psychological effect of prayer.

2. HISTORY OF THE CONTROVERSY BELIEFS OF SCIENTISTS

While many scientists believe in God, only 7% of the members of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), believe in the kind of God as defined in the survey. The National Academy of Sciences represent only 2% of United States scientists, but they tend to be the leaders in science and they take a strong secular and exclusive stance for science. On the other hand a 2009 Pew Research survey indicates that slightly over half of scientists believe in God or a deity.

The remarkable paradox is that while slightly over half of scientists believe in some kind of god, and 4 out of 10 scientists believe in a God that answers prayers, God is essentially excluded from scientific papers and textbooks. Authoritarianism, sociological and psychological factors fuel the paradox.

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

Many varied usages of the same terms occur in the extensive discussions about origins. Clarification of normal usage should facilitate understanding.

Creation as generally understood is the biblical model of origins. There an all powerful God prepares an earth for life and creates the various forms of life in six 24-hour days, each described with its own evening and morning. Traditional interpretations of biblical chronology imply that this creation week likely took place around 6000 years ago, but at least less than 10,000 years ago.

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

Some creationists believe that God brought the whole universe into existence during creation week; others believe that only the solar system, or that only life on a previously existing empty old earth were created during creation week, the rest having existed for a long time before. Related to this creation is a worldwide catastrophe, the **Genesis Flood. This Flood accounts for the fossil record in the context of a recent creation and as such, is a very important element in the biblical creation concept.**

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

The term *evolution* has many meanings. To some it represents the small variations we see, such as just a germ becoming resistant to an antibiotic (**microevolution**). Both creationists and evolutionists recognize this as normal minor biological variation. The more general meaning of the term *evolution* refers to the gradual advancement from simple chemicals or cells to complex advanced organisms like trees and humans (**macroevolution**). Creationists disagree with this concept. The term is also used in other ways and is sometimes even applied to the development of the universe. It is a **materialistic (mechanistic, naturalistic)** approach to the question of origins, where God is excluded as an explanatory factor of how things came to be.

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

According to the evolutionary scenario the universe was formed by natural causes many billions of years ago. Simple life arose on earth several billion years ago, and advanced forms of life evolved from simpler ones during the last few hundreds of millions of years. There are many variations in the details of this general theme.

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

There are a multitude of ideas that are intermediate between the major concepts of creation and evolution. Most of these are attempts to reconcile parts of the scientific model with parts of the biblical one. Only two common ones will be mentioned here: **Progressive Creation, and **Theistic Evolution****

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

Progressive creation proposes that the account of beginnings in Genesis 1-11 is not real history. Instead, God created many times over billions of years, providing progressively more advanced organisms, and finally creating humans. The model faces a logical conundrum. As we go up through the fossil layers from older to younger, we see first in the fossils the evil of rampant predation, like dinosaurs and other animals chewing each other up long before we find humans that are found much higher up. In other words, in the progressive creation model, evil, in the form of predation and suffering, appears long before humans were there to sin. Yet the Bible clearly indicates that evil came into the world **because of human sin (Romans 5:12)**. How could the effects of human sin appear in the fossil layers **long before humans are there to sin?** God's creation is described in the Bible as very good and would not include the evil of predation and suffering, as some fossils indicate, long before humanity is there to sin. The history of beginnings as given in the Bible makes more sense.

3. IMPORTANT IDEAS

Theistic evolution proposes that God used and helped the process of evolution as organisms gradually evolved to advanced forms over billions of years. A major problem of this model is the **ubiquitous absence of fossil intermediates between major groups**, which indicates that evolution never occurred. Furthermore, you have to postulate a different kind of God than the caring God of the Bible if He is going to use competition and survival of only the fittest, as evolution proposes, in order to create advanced forms.

More details about progressive creation and theistic evolution are considered in Discussion 11 titled **FOSSILS AND CREATION**.

4. A QUESTION OF INTEGRITY

4. A QUESTION OF INTEGRITY

In the acrimonious battle between science and the Bible, emotions often run high and sometimes supersede integrity. Under such circumstances false information is sometimes presented as fact. Both those who support evolution or the Bible have erred, hence caution needs to be exercised in accepting the arguments presented on both sides. Those who believe the Bible are especially commissioned to be honest in their presentations.

4. A QUESTION OF INTEGRITY

In the United States, it has been widely claimed that a computer system at the Goddard Space Flight Center, which was calculating planetary motions, shut down until corrections were made for Joshua's long day described in the Bible, thus substantiating that event and the Bible. A review of the computer's activity showed that this claim is untrue.

An evolutionary example is the famous Piltdown Hoax in England, where an apelike jaw was fitted to a humanlike braincase and held to be an intermediate in the evolution of man. Some forty years later it was discovered that the fossil was a forgery.

5. A BETTER QUESTION

5. A BETTER QUESTION

We have been asking the question: “Which is true, science or the Bible?,” because this is a question many ask. However, if we answer that question and select one or the other, we may miss out on important information because both these sources have important contributions to make to each other as we search for truth - especially our deep questions about our origin, purpose and destiny.

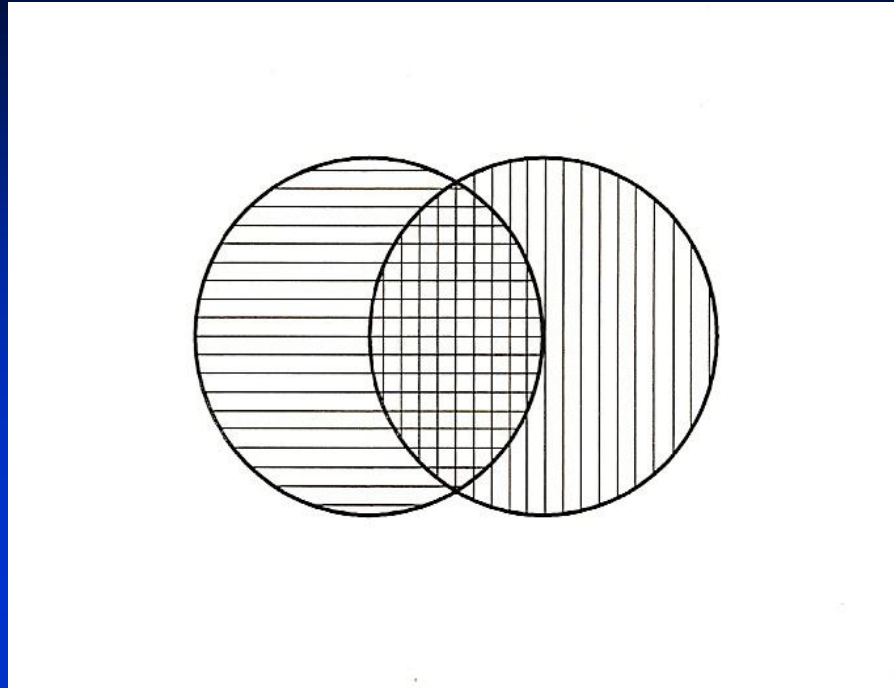
A better question is “What truths do I find when I examine both science and the Bible?” It is important to pay attention to both of these highly respected sources of information. We want the whole story. We need to keep in mind that there is both good science and bad science as well as correct and incorrect interpretations of the Bible.

5. A BETTER QUESTION

All kinds of ideas have been proposed for the relation of science to the Bible and/or religion. Some deny the validity of either or both. Others claim that the two do not conflict with each other because they are separate realms that are unrelated. This latter idea does not work when you dig deep and find overlap and conflict between the two. We need to keep in mind that there is but one truth, and truth cannot conflict with itself.

5. A BETTER QUESTION

There is a genuine warfare going on between science and the Bible, but this is based more on sociological factors than on rational factors. In terms of basic approaches to finding truth, there isn't such a strong difference between science and the Bible. Both science and the Bible encourage testing and both require some faith. But as we will see in subsequent discussions there is a **lot of scientific data that** is hard to explain unless you believe the biblical account of beginnings.



This simple diagram illustrates the advantage of a broad approach such as combining science (here considered as the study of nature) and the Bible. Either one alone can give valuable information as represented on the right and left ends. Richness of interpretation results when both are combined, as illustrated in the center overlapping portion.

5. A BETTER QUESTION

In the Bible, texts like Psalms 19:1 which states: **“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handywork.”** indicate how we can learn from nature. And texts like 1 Thessalonians 5:21 **“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”** delineate the scientific method of inquiry. In general, the Bible accepts science as the study of nature. On the other hand science, as practiced in the last century, has rejected God and the Bible.

5. A BETTER QUESTION

It turns out that the Bible is more open and broad in its approach to truth than science with its current **secular** (naturalistic) philosophy. In intellectual pursuits, one is more likely to find truth with a broad approach than with a narrow one. Hence, it is better to look for the truth using both science, as the study of nature, and the Bible as the word from God, than to just study science alone as some advocate. Keep in mind that science, especially the kind of science that deals with past events, often offers multiple interpretations.

**6. SCIENCE AND
THE RATIONAL
GOD OF THE
BIBLE**

6. SCIENCE AND THE RATIONAL GOD OF THE BIBLE

An intriguing idea promulgated by leading scholars during the past century challenges the dichotomy usually implied between science and the Bible. The thesis is that modern science (the science of the past four to five centuries) developed in the Western world especially because of its Judeo-Christian background. In other words, instead of science and the Bible being worlds apart, modern science owes its origin to the rational (reasonable) philosophy of the Bible.

Scholars supporting this thesis include Whitehead at Harvard University, Collingwood at Oxford University, Hooykaas at the University of Utrecht, and Jaki at Seton Hall University. The idea is that the **cause and effect principle, and the precision and consistency of having only one rational God, as depicted in the Bible, facilitated modern science.**

6. SCIENCE AND THE RATIONAL GOD OF THE BIBLE

Science did not develop in Hindu, Chinese, and Babylonian cultures, because they had many gods, capricious unpredictable gods, or no god, and views of an irrational universe that did not fit well with the consistency of science.

While the thesis cannot be unequivocally demonstrated, its very existence illustrates the close relationship one finds between science and the Bible. It is paradoxical that the very God of the Bible that may well be responsible for the development of modern science, **is now usually completely excluded from scientific explanations!**

**7. THE PIONEERS OF
MODERN SCIENCE
BELIEVED IN A GOD
WHO IS ACTIVE IN
NATURE**

7. THE PIONEERS OF MODERN SCIENCE BELIEVED IN A GOD WHO IS ACTIVE IN NATURE

Belief in a God who is active in nature was a dominant idea as the foundations of modern science were laid down. The scientific leaders of that time include well known scientists such as:

Johannes **Kepler** (1571-1630), mathematics, astronomy

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), mathematics, experimentation

Robert **Boyle** (1627-1691), chemistry, physics

Blaise **Pascal** (1623-1662), physics, mathematical probability

Isaac **Newton** (1642- 1727), mathematics, physics

Carl von **Linnaeus** (1707-1778), biology, classification of organisms

These intellectual giants who led in the establishment of modern science were devout believers in God and often mentioned God in their scientific writings. They saw no conflict between God and their science because they believed that God had created the laws of nature that made the study of science possible. As they made their discoveries, they showed that **science and God are compatible concepts.**



SIR ISAAC NEWTON, considered by many to be the greatest scientist of all time. Newton strongly believed in a God who created nature and who is active in nature. He illustrates how a scientist can believe in the Bible and also be a great scientist. (Photo courtesy Library of Congress Collection)

**8. GROWING
INTEREST IN THE
QUESTION OF
GOD'S EXISTENCE**

8. GROWING INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF GOD'S EXISTENCE

While the trend in the past century has been toward excluding God from intellectual pursuits, there has recently been a moderate rise in interest in God and creation.

The anthology *Cosmos, Bios, Theos* presents contributions from many distinguished scientists, including over 20 Nobel Laureates, discussing science, religion and the existence of God. A number of other similar collections have been published.

A recent book edited by John Ashton (1999) *In Six Days: Why 50 scientists choose to believe in creation*, presents the views of 50 scientists with doctoral level degrees who believe the biblical account of creation.

8. GROWING INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF GOD'S EXISTENCE

Leading science journals occasionally enter into the discussion, especially in the letters sections.

Some leading scientists like Paul Davies and John Polkinghorne in England have written a number of books supporting the idea of a God.

Major conferences on science and religion have been held, some including Nobel laureates. Their very occurrence reflects dissatisfaction with a purely naturalistic (materialistic) outlook. Examples follow.

8. GROWING INTEREST: SOME MAJOR CONFERENCES ON SCIENCE AND RELIGION

- 1994. “CAMBRIDGE ’94”** at Queens’ College, Cambridge University. Theme: Cosmos and Creation: Chance or Dance. Sponsored by the C. S. Lewis Foundation.
- 1996. “MERE CREATION”** at Biola University, Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Christian Leadership Ministries at Biola.
- 1998. “SCIENCE AND THE SPIRITUAL QUEST”** at University of California, Berkeley. Sponsored by the Templeton Foundation and the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, Berkeley.
- 2000. “THE NATURE OF NATURE”** at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. Sponsored by the Michael Polanyi Center at Baylor.
- 2008. “GOD, NATURE AND DESIGN”** at St. Anne’s College, Oxford University. Sponsored by the Ian Ramsey Centre, University of Oxford.

**9. IS CREATION
SCIENCE AND IS
EVOLUTION
RELIGION?**

9. IS CREATION SCIENCE AND IS EVOLUTION RELIGION?

In the persistent battle between science and the Bible, especially in the United States, there have been many disputations about what is meant by science, evolution, creation and religion. We usually associate evolution with science and creation with religion. However since there are no precise, generally accepted definitions of these terms, several alternative views have validity. These views add insights into the nature of the controversy.

9. IS CREATION SCIENCE AND IS EVOLUTION RELIGION?

Evolutionists have repeatedly tried to keep creation out of the United States public schools by suggesting that creation is not science because there is no way to test a miracle like creation scientifically. They then destroy that argument by writing many books and articles using science to try and destroy creation. If creation is not science, can you use science to disprove it? Can evolutionists have their definition of science both able and unable to test creation?

9. IS CREATION SCIENCE AND IS EVOLUTION RELIGION?

On the other hand, the loyalty, passion, and fervor some scientists exhibit during disputations about creation suggest that more than purely objective evaluation is involved.

The book *Evolution as a Religion*, by **Mary Midgley**, points out how the evolutionary interpretation of science can function as a religion in many ways. Other writers have also emphasized the religious aspects of evolution and Darwinism.

It turns out that reality is much more complex than the simple definitions we envision. We have to dig deeper to find truth because reality is complicated.

9. IS CREATION SCIENCE AND IS EVOLUTION RELIGION?

Some suggest that science is objective observation while religion is faith in the unobservable. However, as actually practiced, there is a great amount of unobservable speculation going on in science, like how did life get started all by itself. Assuming that it did is **faith**. On the other hand, in religious discussions, nature is often related to God and the Bible, and that is not just faith; a lot of it is **science**, like “Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered (Genesis 7:20). There can be a lot of science in religion. We must keep in mind the broad meaning and overlap of the terms used. Details of argumentation will follow in succeeding discussions.

The more important question is: **WHAT IS TRUE, WHAT IS REAL?**, regardless of the definitions of terms.

**10. SUMMARY
AND
CONCLUSIONS
ABOUT “A DEEP
QUESTION”**

10. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The question “Which is true, science or the Bible?” is not a very good question because there is validity in both of these respected sources of information.

A more useful question is “What truths do I find as I study both of these sources of information?”

The question of whether something is science or religion is often not very significant because these terms are ill defined and overlap.

While the disputations between science and the Bible tend to get bogged down in semantics (word meanings), this can only be a distraction. Far more important is **what is true, what is real**, regardless of definitions of terms.

Ahead we will concentrate on the search for truth as we look at both science and Scripture.

11. REVIEW QUESTIONS

(Answer given later below)

11. REVIEW QUESTIONS – 1

(Answer given later below)

1. Why is the question of ultimate origins so important to us?
2. Why is the battle between science and the Bible so intense?
3. Charles Darwin's famous book is titled: *On the Origin of Species ...*
Explain the mechanism for evolution that he proposed.
4. What was the technical legal issue in the famous Scopes Trial, and what was the real issue that stirred up so much controversy?
5. Forty percent of scientists in the United States believe in a God that answers prayers. Why does this fact raise a puzzling incongruity (paradox)?

REVIEW QUESTIONS – 2

(Answers given below)

6. Contrast the differences in time between creation and evolution. According to the Bible, how long ago was creation and how long did it take? Also how long a time do evolutionists propose for the gradual evolution of all living things?
7. What is a better question about the great origins issue than “which is true, science or the Bible?”
8. What is the difference between the *progressive creation* concept and the *theistic evolution* concept? Which of these two concepts is the most different from the *biblical creation* concept?
9. Why do many scholars believe that modern science developed in the Western World, instead of in stable civilizations like China and India that had plenty of time to develop science?
10. What were the religious beliefs of the leading pioneers of modern science, such as Kepler, Galileo, Boyle, Newton, Pascal, and Linnaeus?

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - 1

1. Why is the question of ultimate origins so important to us?

Because that question affects our very basic world view that involves our deepest questions such as: where did we come from; why are we here; is there a God; and what is our ultimate destiny after we die? Science suggests that when we die that is the end, while the Bible indicates that there is life after death.

2. Why is the battle between science and the Bible so intense?

Because the Bible appears genuine and true and so does a lot of science. However these two respected sources of information come up with very different views of origins. The Bible speaks of just creation, and science of just evolution. Those two concepts affect our basic world view and we are sensitive about such important fundamental questions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – 2

3. Charles Darwin's famous book is titled: **On the Origin of Species ... Explain the mechanism for evolution that he proposed.**

Small advantageous variations that survive competition (i.e. natural selection) provide evolutionary advancement.

4. What was the technical legal issue in the famous Scopes Trial, and what was the real issue that stirred up so much controversy?

The legal issue was whether or not John T. Scopes had violated a law that prohibited the teaching of evolution.

The real interest in the trial was whether creation (the Bible) or evolution (a popular interpretation in science) was true.

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - 3

5. Forty percent of scientists in the United States believe in a God that answers prayers. Why does this fact raise a puzzling incongruity (paradox)?

While 40 % of scientists believe in a personal God that answers prayers, and 45% do not, it is strange that God is essentially excluded from science books, scientific articles, and scientific conclusions. The practice of science does not reflect the beliefs of the scientific community as a whole.

6. Contrast the differences in time between creation and evolution.

Creation was a few (around 6) thousand years ago, and God took six days to accomplish it.

Evolutionists propose billions (around 3.5+) of years.

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - 4

7. What is a better question about the great origins issue than “which is true, science or the Bible?”

What truth do I find when I study both science and the Bible? Both the Bible and nature can give us information about origins.

8. What is the difference between the *progressive creation* concept and the *theistic evolution* concept? Which of these two concepts is most different from the *biblical creation concept*.

Both progressive creation and theistic evolution propose the gradual development of life involving God over billions of years. Progressive creation proposes that God created many times as He gradually developed more advanced forms of life. Theistic evolution proposes that God used the process of gradual evolution as more advanced forms of life developed. In this model, God does not step in many times to create new kinds of organisms, they gradually evolve.

Both progressive creation and theistic evolution are poorly defined concepts, that are very different from the rapid (6 days) recent biblical creation by God. Theistic evolution is especially in conflict with God’s powerful capabilities and His concern for His creatures as described in the Bible.

REVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - 5

9. Why do many scholars believe that modern science developed in the Western World, instead of in stable civilizations like China and India that had plenty of time to develop science?

The western world had the Judeo-Christian religious background of the Bible describing one God, a God of cause and effect and precision that works well with science in contrast with the many capricious Gods or no Gods of the eastern cultures.

10. What were the religious beliefs of the leading pioneers of modern science, such as Kepler, Galileo, Boyle, Newton, Pascal, and Linnaeus?

These pioneers who established the main laws of modern science believed in creation by God. They followed the Bible and often referred to God in their scientific writings. This is in sharp contrast to the practice in present day science, where God is not allowed in scientific interpretations, and evolution is advocated.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

For further discussions by the author (Ariel A. Roth) and many additional references, see the author's books titled:

1. **ORIGINS: LINKING SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE.** Hagerstown, MD. Review and Herald Publishing Association.
2. **SCIENCE DISCOVERS GOD: Seven Convincing Lines of Evidence for His Existence.** Hagerstown, MD. Autumn House Publishing, an imprint of Review and Herald Publishing Association.

Additional information is available on the author's Web Page: Sciences and Scriptures. www.sciencesandscriptures.com. Also see many articles published by the author and others in the journal **ORIGINS** which the author edited for 23 years. For access see the Web Page of the Geoscience Research Institute www.grisda.org.

Highly Recommended URLs are:

Earth History Research Center <http://origins.swau.edu>

Theological Crossroads www.theox.org

Sean Pitman www.detectingdesign.com

Scientific Theology www.scientifictheology.com

Geoscience Research Institute www.grisda.org

Sciences and Scriptures www.sciencesandscriptures.com

Other Web Pages providing a variety of related answers are: Creation-Evolution Headlines, Creation Ministries International, Institute for Creation Research, and Answers in Genesis.

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