

THE LIE

THE LIE: Evolution/Millions of Years

KEN HAM



LIE

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Evolution/Millions of Years

KEN HAM


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DEDICATION

This updated version is still dedicated to the same three special people without whom this publication would not have been possible.

To my mother and father for their stand on the Scriptures, their insistence on purity of doctrine, and their uncompromising acceptance of God's Word and the principles therein, which they applied to every area of life. Their example equipped me so a higher authority (the Lord) could call me into full-time service for Him. I thank God for this Christian training and my parents' stand on the infallible Word of God. As of this writing, my mother still lives in Australia, but my father has passed on to glory. In the Creation Museum (opened in 2007) there is an exhibit with my father's Bible and a small Noah's Ark model he built me, together with video and photographs of my father and mother. This exhibit stands as a testimony to godly parents and a challenge to others concerning what kind of legacy they are leaving in their children.

To my dear wife, Mally, who has truly been one with me in all aspects of our married life (in our 38th year of marriage as of the updating of this book) and in our participation in creation ministry. Her sincere Christian dedication and devotion in regard to my involvement in this vital ministry can be summed up by the words of Ruth, in Ruth 1:16, "For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge." A special chapter entitled "A Girl Called Ruth," in the book my brother Stephen and I authored called *Raising Godly Children in an Ungodly World*, explains more about this special Ruth testimony. Mally's special, God-given abilities and her love for children have been a real blessing to our five dear children (and at the

writing of this dedication, our ten grandchildren — one of whom is still in the womb) and have enabled me to widely proclaim the message of the authority of Scripture and the gospel to millions of people in various parts of the world through the creation ministry now known as Answers in Genesis. Truly, the Creation Museum (which has seen over a million visitors since opening) is a legacy of godly parents and a godly, devoted wife.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is now a culmination of over 30 years of experience in the creation/biblical authority ministry that began in our house in Australia and has now spread around the world — one of the climaxes being the opening of the Creation Museum in the Greater Cincinnati area (USA) in 2007.

It would be impossible to recall all those who have helped and influenced me along the way.

When we inaugurated the Creation Science Foundation ministry in Australia in the late '70s, we certainly did not realize the far-reaching effects this ministry would have in different parts of the world.

The original manuscript of *The Lie* was typed by Carol Van Luyn. Little did she know that this work would be a bestseller in the creation ministry for 25 years before it needed revising and updating. I would like to acknowledge my good friend and artist Steve Cardno, who, with tireless expenditure of his God-given talents, produced the original illustrations used in the first publication of this book. Other artists have now built on the work that Steve accomplished and have updated the illustrations. The “castle diagrams” Steve originally drew, even though now modified, still remain to this day the classic illustrations that portray the message of the Answers in Genesis ministry. The name of Dr. Gary Parker appears on occasion throughout this book. Dr. Parker is a well-known creationist speaker and author who became an integral part of the initial outreach of Answers in Genesis when it was founded in 1994. I have had the privilege of appearing with him on various platforms in Australia and the United States. Many experiences we shared together before the manuscript was first written have contributed to parts of this book.

I would like to thank Dan Lietha, AiG's long-time cartoonist and illustrator, for the many hours he devoted to preparing the illustrations for this new edition. I would also like to thank Steve Golden, my research assistant, for the considerable time he spent in research for this updated manuscript, and also in its editing.

Last, I would like to sincerely thank the late Dr. Henry Morris, who is considered the father of the modern creation movement. He, along with Dr. John Whitcomb, authored the classic *The Genesis Flood*, which was the first major biblical creationist book that had a great influence on my thinking. Also, Dr. Morris's book *The Genesis Record* had a profound influence on my understanding of the relevance of the book of Genesis. It was this book that inspired my first sermon on "The Relevance of Genesis," which really began my main teaching ministry in the creation movement. To all my friends and colleagues who have been towers of strength to me over the past many years — thank you.

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FOREWORD

THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN in 1986 and first published in 1987. In 2012, I set out to revise and update this work, which still represents the essence of the message the Lord has called me to proclaim to the church and world. I have received more testimonies concerning changed lives from this book than any other I have written. Even though the basic message has not changed in the 25 years since I wrote this work, that same message has matured considerably, and I believe this updated version to be many times more powerful than the original.

The late Luther D. Sunderland wrote the original foreword. Since the basic message of the book has remained the same, I want this original foreword to remain also, as a tribute to the creation ministry of Luther Sunderland.

Ken Ham

Perhaps you have not been notably successful in winning friends and acquaintances to the life-changing belief in God and His Son, Jesus Christ. You might have wondered why the Christian church in general seems to be losing ground in its battle with the evils of the secular world. Not only does this book identify the reason for such problems, but it also offers an effective solution. When you read Ken Ham's logical analysis of the situation and the straightforward way

in which he proposes to correct it, you will likely say, “Why didn’t I think of that?”

At an ever-accelerating pace, society is putting its stamp of approval on practices that just several decades ago were not only frowned upon but were outright illegal. Whereas once the Christian church had a significant impact on society, today almost every vestige of our Christian heritage is being eradicated. After spreading like wildfire from a tiny handful of believers to the four corners of the world Christianity today is in retreat at an even more rapid rate than that by which it spread.

There must be a root cause for this reversal that the Christian Church is overlooking — a fundamental flaw in our approach. Why did Christians once exert influence on both social customs and laws of government but today are finding that even in the United States, the so-called land of the free with a constitution that guarantees the free exercise of religion, their rights are being flagrantly violated?

Ken Ham gets to the bottom of the problem in this book. He shows how we have been simply fighting the symptoms of overlooking the root cause. Why have we not been able to convince the world of the evils of abortion, divorce, homosexuality, pornography, and drugs? Mr. Ham has identified the real crux of the matter. The cause is so subtle that even most of the large religious denominations have been deceived and have failed to recognize it.

With public education and even seminaries teaching that evolution, just like the law of gravity, is a scientific fact, students have decided that there must be a naturalistic explanation for everything, so they forget all about God. Anyway, they knew that His Ten Commandments put a crimp on their sexual lifestyles, so they were quite eager to escape from such constraints. They adopted the new morality; if it feels good, do anything you can get away with without being caught.

If there is no Creator, there is no purpose in life. There is thus no one watching over us to whom we must someday have to account for our actions. So we come to the root of society’s problems. When God the Creator is removed from the picture, there are no absolutes; there is a loss of respect for law and absolute principles, and man is

set adrift in a purposeless universe, guided only by his fickle passions and the situation of the moment.

Mr. Ham shows that Genesis in particular is a dependable account of actual events that are supported by solid scientific evidence. Furthermore, he shows how the questioning of this foundational book of the Bible, even by many Christians, has led to the degeneration of society so that the only moral codes it accepts are based upon “survival of the fittest,” “do your own thing,” and “if it feels good, do it.” There are no moral absolutes.

This book is a must read for all Christians. It gives them much-needed answers to the common questions of the unbeliever and advice for parents who must prepare their children to face a rebellious secular world. Mr. Ham calls upon a wealth of experience in answering questions during years of lectures throughout both America and Australia.

Luther D. Sunderland

Author of *Darwin's Enigma:*

Ebbing the Tide of Naturalism

INTRODUCTION

(FIRST EDITION)

I WAS REARED IN A CHRISTIAN HOME where the Bible was totally accepted as the infallible, inerrant Word of God that provided the basis for the principles to be applied in every area of life. I recognized the conflict when as a high school student I was taught the idea of evolution. If Genesis was not literally true, then what part of the Bible could I trust?

My parents knew that evolution was wrong because it was obvious from Genesis that God had given us the details of the creation of the world. These details were important foundational truths for the rest of Christianity. At that time, the current wealth of materials now available on the creation/evolution issue was not even foreseen. I recall going to my local minister and asking him what to do about the problem. He told me to accept evolution but then add it to the Bible so that God used evolution and millions of years to bring all forms of life into being.

This was an unsatisfactory solution to the problem. If God did not mean what He said in Genesis, then how could one trust Him in the rest of the Scriptures? Not only this, but believing in evolution and millions of years meant allowing death, disease, fossils, thorns, animals eating each other, and suffering to be in existence millions of years before man! How could this be when the Bible teaches that God called His creation “very good” *before* sin? The Bible says that

thorns came after the Curse and that animals (and man) were originally vegetarian. The Bible relates that man was made from dust and woman from his side. How could this correlate with man and woman evolving from ape-like creatures?

I went through my science degree and my teacher training year pigeonholing this problem, regurgitating to the lecturers what they told me concerning evolution. I did not know from a scientific perspective why I did not believe in evolution — but I knew from a biblical perspective it had to be wrong or my faith was in trouble.

Just before I received my first teaching appointment, the late Mr. Gordon Jones (who went to be with the Lord in 2012), then the associate director of a teachers' college in Australia, gave me a small book outlining some of the problems with evolution. He also told me about books that were becoming available on this topic — books authored by such people as Dr. Henry Morris. I searched the bookshops to try to collect as much of this material as possible. *The Genesis Flood* by Morris and Whitcomb was one of the first books I read on the subject. When I realized there were easy answers to the creation/evolution/millions of years dilemma, I felt a real burden from the Lord to go out and share this information with others. I call that burden a “fire in my bones,” identifying with Jeremiah 20:9: “But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.” I could not understand why the Church at that time, from what I had experienced, had not made people aware of this information — information that had really helped restore my faith in the Scriptures and set me on fire for the Lord.

Understanding the foundational nature of the Book of Genesis to all Christian doctrine was a real awakening. This book is the result of a series of messages developed so Christians could better understand the significance and relevance of Genesis, the real nature of the creation/evolution issue, and why we are living in times where we can observe the collapse of Christianity in our Western world. Over and over again, people have come to me and said that they had never realized the importance of Genesis — in fact, for many

of them it meant a complete revival of their faith. Some say it was like a conversion experience all over again. This book deals with the relevance of a literal Genesis for the church and culture. I pray that it will challenge the minds and hearts of pastors, laypeople, scholars, and students alike.

INTRODUCTION

(2012)

IT HAS BEEN 25 YEARS since my first book, *The Lie: Evolution*, was published. It is remarkable that it has still remained a strong seller after all these years. As this year marks the 25th anniversary of the publication of *The Lie*, I thought it was about time to revise and update it.

As I read through the book, I was amazed to find that most of the arguments used in 1987 against evolution/millions of years and to defend a literal Genesis are still used today. But as I thought about it more, I remembered that God's Word does not change. Furthermore, the primary arguments used in this book are obtained from the Scriptures and point out the incompatibility of the Bible with evolutionary ideas.

With that in mind, I began to update and revise this book, but I wanted to keep the basic content intact and maintain the same chapter order, while also adding modern examples and making the book more current. As I read the real-life examples of conversations and conflicts with people from over 25 years ago, I could not help but think of the verse of Scripture that reads, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccles. 1:9). The same conflict over origins occurs today, even if some of the arguments against the authority of God's Word have changed in some ways.

I decided to delete the two appendixes in the original edition. These were included because in 1987 there was not the plethora of information that is available today to equip people with answers to the skeptical questions that are used to attack Genesis 1–11. Now there are numerous resources (books, DVDs, curricula, and more), including websites like www.AnswersInGenesis.org, which houses thousands of articles and resources with answers to virtually any question a person may have about origins.

However, I have added three new appendixes in this edition that help detail the reasoning behind the considerable changes made throughout this new edition:

1. Even though the main arguments have remained intact, the presentation of the message has greatly matured over the past 25 years. In the original edition, I outlined the foundational argument in terms of creation versus evolution. However, to help people more fully understand and explain the message, this new edition of *The Lie* now presents it as God’s Word verses man’s word. See appendix 1 for the details about this change.
2. The original title of the book was *The Lie: Evolution*. And, honestly, I think that 25 years ago when I saw so many in the Church compromising with evolution, I realized this was an attack on the authority of God’s Word. However, as the biblical creation movement has grown and matured, we understand more clearly that biological evolution is really the symptom of what I call the “disease” of millions of years (geological and cosmological evolution). Thus, I have added considerable sections to help people understand that even if a Christian rejects evolution but accepts an old earth and universe (millions of years), they have unlocked a door to undermine biblical authority. Not only this, but to allow for death, disease, and suffering (as exhibited in the fossil record) millions of years before man sinned is an attack on the Cross — which is a serious problem. For this reason, I have changed the title of the book to *The Lie*:

Evolution/Millions of Years to better reflect the arguments. See appendix 2 for details.

3. Throughout *The Lie*, I reference a number of compromise positions on the creation account in Genesis, such as the gap theory, progressive creation, theistic evolution, the day-age view, and others. Some of the compromise positions have not changed since the original publication of *The Lie*, while others have been popularized within the last 25 years. In order to help readers understand the positions better, I have included a section that defines each position and points out the problems with it. See appendix 3 for details.

Even though I did not use the actual term *presuppositional apologetics* in the original book, this was certainly the apologetic approach I had — and have now strengthened in this 25th anniversary edition.

Genesis 3 and the Original Cover

When *The Lie* was first published in 1987, artist Marvin Ross produced the cover design. At that time, Marvin worked as a full-time artist for the Institute for Creation Research.

I really liked the cover, as it represented what I like to call “the Genesis 3 attack” of our day. In 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul has a warning for us:

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Let me paraphrase this for you. Paul is warning us that Satan is going to use the same attack against us (and on our children, grandchildren, friends, family, and others) as he did against Eve to get us to a position of not believing the things of God.



We need to then look carefully at that attack and understand it so we can be prepared. To do that, we have to go back to Genesis 3:1:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said [Did God really say] . . .”

The first attack was on the Word of God. Satan’s method was to cause Eve and Adam to doubt the Word of God, so that doubt would lead to unbelief. And that is exactly what happened.

This attack has continued unabated since Genesis 3. The Genesis 3 attacks have continued down through the ages. However, these attacks have manifested in different ways in different eras of history. For instance, Peter and Paul, when preaching on the Resurrection, would not have been asked questions about carbon dating!

The point is, down through the ages God’s Word has come under attack in different ways in different periods of history, and God’s people have had to deal with these attacks as they have contended for the faith. We need to be asking ourselves a question: What is the Genesis 3 attack in our era of history? What is the “Did God Really Say” attack of our day that will be used to cause people to doubt and ultimately disbelieve the Word of God?

I believe the teaching of evolution and millions of years is that attack. The focus of the main Genesis 3 attack in our day has been leveled at the first 11 chapters of the Bible. That is what *The Lie* is all about. And that is what this original cover illustration was meant to portray. A few years after the first printing, the publisher decided to change the cover but still have an illustration that represented this Genesis 3 attack. Even though I loved the original cover (and personally still think it is the best), I understood the change because certain people felt the cover was a bit too scary looking.

Of course, the Bible does not say the fruit Adam and Eve took from the forbidden tree was an apple, as has become a sort of tradition in our culture. We do not know what the fruit was. In the Creation Museum’s diorama showing Eve with the fruit in her hand, the fruit looks like small red berries of some sort. We did this to make the point the Bible does not say it was an apple — in fact, the Bible gives us no description of the fruit.

However, the cover illustration does portray the fruit as something like an apple because we wanted to grab people's attention. Because of the cultural tradition that the fruit was an apple, the artist used this fruit as a symbolic illustration so people would immediately think of the temptation when Eve, and then Adam, took the fruit in disobedience to God's clear command not to do so.

How the Ministry Has Changed

Much has happened over the course of the last 25 years. As a ministry, we have been able to reach people through a growing number of mediums — and we find more new ways each year! We praise God for how the ministry has grown.

Early in our ministry, in 1994, Answers in Genesis began to hold major conferences. Today, we receive several hundred requests each year to conduct meetings.

Later in 1994, our radio program *Answers . . . with Ken Ham* began airing on 45 stations. The program was recently reformatted and is now heard on hundreds of stations (plus podcast via iTunes and also through our website).

Our website, www.AnswersInGenesis.org, now averages around a million visits each month. Not only that, but in 2006 and again this year, our website received the prestigious “Website of the Year” award from the National Religious Broadcasters, a group of 1,300 ministries.

In January 2007, AiG launched Answers Worldwide. This division trains Christian leaders around the world in creation apologetics and works to increase the number of translated materials and articles.

In May 2007 we opened the Creation Museum in the Greater Cincinnati area. The number of visitors has been tremendous (over 1.6 million and counting!), and we trust the Lord is using the ministry of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum to show people the truth of the gospel and the importance of a literal Genesis to the authority of God's Word. Indeed, the Creation Museum sees visitors from a number of atheist and agnostic groups, who are often at the forefront of Genesis 3 attacks on Scripture.

I pray this book will challenge you to seriously ponder the Genesis 3 attack of our day — an attack that I believe has greatly undermined

the authority of Scripture and now permeates the world. I pray this revised and updated edition of *The Lie* will make the message even more powerful in challenging the Church and the culture to return to the authority of the Word of God from the very first verse.

— Ken Ham

CHRISTIANITY IS UNDER MASSIVE ATTACK

AFTER A CHURCH SERVICE where I gave a sermon, a young man stated, “Understanding what you taught about the importance of standing on God’s Word beginning with Genesis was like a conversion experience all over again for me.”

Another time after a lecture, a young man approached me and said, “What you said . . . it’s suddenly like a light bulb lighting up in my head!” A young lady standing nearby stated, “I realized today that my understanding of Christianity was like starting in the middle of a movie. *You* took me back to the beginning, and now I understand what it is all about.” A middle-aged man approached and said, “This information is like a key. It not only unlocks the reason as to why we have problems in society today; it’s also the key to knowing how to be much more effective in witnessing for Jesus Christ. . . . Thank you.”

We are living in challenging times. On the whole, our Western culture, which was permeated by Christian thinking in the past, is becoming more anti-Christian. We are seeing steady increases in gay marriage, support for abortion on demand, unwillingness to obey

authorities, unwillingness to work, marriage being abandoned, clothing being abandoned, an increase in pornography, an increase in lawlessness, and aggressive marketing campaigns by atheists promoting their religion — to name but a few areas. Christians are fighting for their freedom and being labeled as the bad guys, even in a so-called Christian nation.

What has happened in society to bring about these changes? Why is it that many people are cynical and seem to be closed to the gospel when we talk about Christ? There must be some foundational reason for this change. In 1 Chronicles 12:32, we read of “the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times.” Do we have real understanding of the times we live in? Why are we seeing the collapse of Christianity in the Western world? What is the fundamental cause? What are the basic reasons for why modern society has turned more and more away from Christ?

Even in the great nation of America, with the greatest Christian influences in the world, with more Christian resources at this time than any other time in its history, we see this nation becoming less Christian every day. More each year are using the phrase “Happy Holidays” instead of “Merry Christmas.” Nativity scenes, crosses, and the Ten Commandments are being banned from view in public



places. Creation, prayer, and the Bible have largely been eliminated from the nation's secular education system.

And for all the churches, mega-churches, and church programs, the Church is not touching the culture as it used to; I contend it is because the culture has by and large invaded the Church.

Years ago, our Western society was based largely on Christian absolutes, built on the Bible. People knew what was right and what was wrong. Behaviors such as sexual deviancy, easy divorce, public lawlessness, gay marriage, abortion on demand, pornography, and public nudity were considered to be wrong. Varying punishments for offenders were meted out by society. Moral judgments were basically built on biblical principles (for example, the Ten Commandments). Most people accepted or respected a belief in God and to a large degree, held to Christian morality.

In recent times, however, more and more people have rejected the Bible as the absolute authority on which to build one's worldview. As people have increasingly rejected belief in God's authoritative Word as the foundation for their thinking, they have also questioned the basis of the morals of the society in which they live. For instance, if there is no God, then why should they obey any of the Ten Commandments? Why should anyone say gay marriage is wrong? Why should women be barred from having abortions whenever they desire? Once people eliminate God's Word as the basis for their morality, they set about to change any laws based on Christian absolutes that held God as Creator (and thus owner) of everything.

Christian absolutes have been diluted or removed as the basis of society and replaced with a worldview that says, "We do not have to accept that the Christian way of doing things (basing our world and life views on biblical principles) is the only way; we must tolerate all religious beliefs and ways of life. We determine right and wrong." I believe we are increasingly in a situation similar to that described in the book of Judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judg. 21:25). When there is no absolute authority (i.e., when the Bible is not the foundation of our thinking), moral relativism permeates the culture.

We live in an era when people are demanding "tolerance" of different moral views. However, this tolerance really means an *intolerance*

of the absolutes of Christianity. This false idea of tolerance has subtly undermined Christianity, and most Christians have not recognized what was really happening. Many Christians have been deceived into believing they have no right to impose their views on society. We are told, for instance, that anti-abortionists have no business impressing their particular bias on society. Have you ever heard anyone say this about the pro-abortion groups? The result is that one bias is imposed on society by the pro-abortionists — *legalized abortion* on demand! No matter what you do, you cannot avoid the fact that in these situations, one view is being imposed on someone by someone else. There is no such thing as neutrality, although many Christians become ensnared in the trap of believing there is.

In fact, in America, this false idea of neutrality, I believe, has resulted in a major problem for the Church and nation. For instance, take the issue of so-called separation of church and state. This has been used to eliminate the Bible, prayer, creation, and other Christian thinking from most of the secular education system. Most Christians have been duped into thinking that in allowing this to happen, the secular schools are now neutral places. On the contrary, the secular education system is not neutral at all.

The Bible teaches that one is either for Christ or against Him (Matt. 12:30). One walks either in light or darkness (Eph. 5:8); one either gathers or scatters (Luke 11:23). There is no neutral position. An education system is either for Christ or against Him.

When the Bible, prayer, creation, and other aspects of Christian thinking were basically eliminated from the secular education system in America, religion was not thrown out of the schools; Christianity was. And it was replaced with the religion of naturalism or atheism. One only has to open one of the main biology textbooks used in the secular education system to see how students are taught that the whole universe (including humans and all life) is explained by naturalism. The students (and 90 percent of students from church homes attend the secular schools in the United States)¹ are being indoctrinated in the religion of atheism. They are being indoctrinated against the Bible.

1. Ken Ham and Britt Beemer, *Already Gone: Why Your Kids Will Quit the Church and What You Can Do to Stop It*, with Todd Hillard (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009), p. 170.



Secular
Presuppositions



Biblical
Presuppositions



Some have falsely believed the assertion that students can learn about God in their religion classes or at church and home — but not in science classes because this would be allowing religion in the classroom. However, if in science class students are taught that all life (including humans like themselves) is explained by natural processes — that nothing supernatural was involved — then who is the God of the religion classes or of church? It

cannot be the God of the Bible, because this God is the Creator and students are told that no Creator had anything to do with anything in the universe. Thus, students are being indoctrinated against Christianity — right under the noses of their parents and pastors.

What is happening is that the world is capturing the hearts and minds of generations of kids. And whoever captures the hearts and minds of the children will rule the culture! Interestingly, after an atheist toured the Creation Museum (opened in 2007 in the Greater Cincinnati area), which walks people through the history of the world as outlined in Genesis, he said:

For me, the most frightening part was the children's section [in the Creation Museum]. It was at this moment that I learned the deepest lesson of my visit to the Museum. . . . It is in the minds and hearts of our children that the battle will be fought.²

2. "August 10, 2009, What I learned from the Creation Museum," posted by a member of the Secular Student Alliance, <http://pnrj.xanga.com/709441435/what-i-learned-from-the-creation-museum/>.

God's people have to abandon this false idea of neutrality! It is causing believers to basically hand their children and the culture over to the secularists. Sadly, this idea of neutrality also invades Christian institutions.

It is like the many theological and Bible colleges that say, "We do not take a dogmatic stand on Genesis. We tolerate all views." But what happens when someone comes along and says, "Will you allow the view that says you *must* take Genesis literally?" "Oh, no!" they say. "We cannot allow that view because we tolerate all views!"

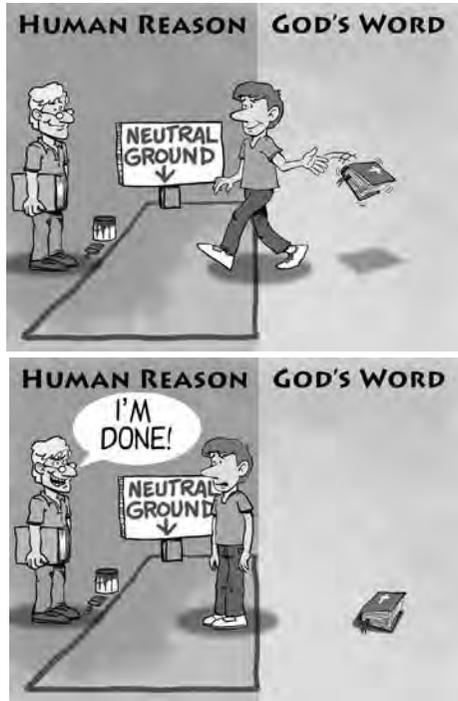
In reality, they have taken a dogmatic stand to teach a dogmatic view to their students — a view that claims people do not have to take Genesis literally if they do not want to do so.

At one lecture I gave, a person said to me in an angry tone, "This is not fair. You are insisting that we take Genesis literally, that God actually took six days, that evolution is not true, and that there really was a worldwide flood. You are being intolerant of other people's views. You must show tolerance for people like me who believe God used evolution and that Genesis is only symbolic."

I then asked, "Well, what do you want me to do?"

The person replied, "You must allow other views and be tolerant of opinions different from yours."

"Well," I said, "my view is that the literal interpretation of Genesis is the right view. All other views concerning Genesis are wrong. Will you tolerate my view?"



The person looked shocked, and he hesitated. I could almost hear him thinking, *If I say yes, then I've allowed him to say you can't have another view such as mine; if I say no, then I've obviously been intolerant of his view. What do I do?* He then looked at me and said, "That's semantics!" What he really meant was that he had lost the argument and did not want to admit his intolerance of my position. The fact is, he had taken a dogmatic, closed-minded position.

Occasionally people are upset when dogmatic statements are made. They say, "You cannot be dogmatic like that." This in itself is a dogmatic statement. *Many think that some people are dogmatic and others are not. It is not a matter of whether you are dogmatic or not but of which dogma is the best dogma with which to be dogmatized!*

At one time in Australia many years ago, a group called "Toleration" began. They were insisting on a tolerance of all religious ways, beliefs, and customs. They said that we had to stop intolerance in society. In their promotional leaflet explaining their particular view, it was very interesting to note that they listed all the things they were against, and most of the things of which they were intolerant were related to Christianity. What they really meant was that they wanted a tolerance of anything in society *except Christianity. They were against the absolute authority of the Word of God.* The idea of open-mindedness comes from the notion that there is no such thing as absolute truth, or that truth cannot be absolutely known. Some say, "There are no absolutes." Ironically, this premise has become their one absolute. Such ideas are derived from an anti-biblical philosophy that holds that everything is relative.

Christian absolutes — those truths and standards of Scripture that cannot be altered — are becoming less and less tolerated in society because increasingly God's Word is no longer the foundation for building a person's worldview. Eventually this must result in the outlawing of Christianity — a possibility that seems more and more real with legislation that not only restricts Christian activities even in America but that also lays a foundation for Christians to be viewed as criminals because of the way hate crimes legislation and other laws can ultimately be used.

When Christian absolutes were the basis of society, immoral activities such as homosexual or lesbian lifestyles and abortion were

outlawed. There has been a fundamental shift. Our society is now based on a relative morality: that is, a person can do what he likes and is answerable to no one but himself as long as the majority of people can be persuaded that their interests are not being threatened. This relative morality results in society being told that no one can say anything against those who choose to be sexual deviants, to be public nudists, or to do whatever they want (largely within the confines of the law, which is also changing to become more tolerant of people's actions). Yes, we even see this kind of tolerance in regard to nudity. In 2009 there was a case in Oregon in which a town was tolerating nudity within certain limits. A man decided to walk naked near three city schools, one of which was an elementary school. It was interesting to see one of the leaders for the local authority quoted in a news report:

But Councilor Carol Voisin said she didn't think that parents' desires to protect children from seeing naked adults should trump freedom of expression. "Where does it end?"³

And of course, we ask the same question! Where does it end! If there are no absolutes, then all is relative; anything ultimately goes.

God's absolutes dictate that there are rules by which we must abide. Christianity cannot coexist in a world community with relative morality as its basis. One or the other will yield. There are two worldviews with two totally different belief systems clashing in our society. The real war being waged is a great spiritual war — God's Word versus autonomous human reasoning, Christian absolutes (built on the Bible) versus moral relativism (man determining his own rules). Sadly, today many Christians fail to win the war because they fail to recognize the real nature of the battle.

It is my contention that this spiritual conflict is rooted in the issue of authority — God's Word or man's word. And in this era of history, the origins issue (creation/evolution/millions of years) has had much to do with the undermining of God's Word to generations of people. Although the thought may sound strange or new to

3. Vickie Aldous, "Nudity Issue Sparks More City Council Debate," *Ashland Daily Tidings*, <http://www.dailytidings.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091118/NEWS02/911180316>.

some readers, biblically and logically the origins issue and its effect on biblical authority in the culture is central in the battle for people's souls in our culture today.

Most people have the wrong idea about what the creation/evolution/age of the earth questions involve. Instead of perceiving the real issue, they have been deceived into believing that evolution/millions of years is science and that the Bible's account of origins is religion. But this is not so (see chapter 2 for further discussion).

The word *science* basically means knowledge, and there is a big difference between knowledge gained by observation (i.e., the knowledge that helps us build our technology) and knowledge concerning the past and how the universe and life originated.⁴ The origins issue concerns that second type of knowledge, belief systems about the past. We do not have access to the past. We only have the present. All the fossils, all the living animals and plants, our planet, the universe — everything exists in the present. We cannot directly test the past using the scientific method (which involves repeating things and watching them happen) since all the evidence we have is in the present.

It is important to understand that special creation, by definition, is also a belief about the past. The difference is that creationists base their understanding of creation upon a book that claims to be the *Word of the One who was there*, who knows everything there is to know about everything, and who tells us what happened. Evolution/millions of years comes from the words of men who *were not there* and who do not claim to be omniscient. This whole issue revolves around whether we believe the words of God who was there or the words of fallible humans (no matter how qualified) who were not there.

It is astonishing in this so-called scientific age that so few people know what science really is or how it works. Many, when they think of the origins issue, think of scientists as unbiased people in white laboratory coats objectively searching for the truth. However, scientists come in two basic forms, male and female, and they are just

4. For more information on observational science and historical science, see Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed* (Hebron, KY: Answers in Genesis, 2006), p. 24–26, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/ee/what-is-science>.

like you and me. They have beliefs and biases. A bias determines what one does with the evidence, especially the way in which one decides that certain evidence is more relevant or important than other evidence. Scientists are not objective truth seekers; they are not *neutral*.

Many people misunderstand bias, thinking that some individuals are biased and some are not. Consider an atheist, for example. Such a person believes there is no God. Can atheists entertain the question, “Did God create?” The answer is no. As soon as they even allow it as a question, they are no longer atheists. So, to an atheist scientist looking at the fossils and the world around him, it would not matter what evidence he were to find. It could have nothing to do with biblical events such as Noah’s Flood. Even if he found a big boat on the top of Mount Ararat, he could never allow that evidence to support the claims of the Bible regarding Noah’s ark. As soon as he did, he would have abandoned his atheistic religious framework. An atheist is 100 percent biased. This should be kept in mind whenever one reads a textbook or sees a television program produced by an atheist.

Now please do not misunderstand. Evolutionists and creationists can both do great science — in regard to observational science. That is why an atheist evolutionist and a biblical creationist can both be part of a team building a space shuttle — and they will agree on how to build this technology. But they will disagree when discussing the origin of Mars or of the universe because of their biases. They both agree when it comes to observational science but disagree when it comes to origin science.

I have seen many examples of bias exhibited in various ways. I was on a talk-back radio show in Denver, Colorado, and the radio announcer said I had seven minutes to give the evidence for creation. He would just sit back and listen. So I went into detail about what the Bible says concerning Noah’s Flood, the Tower of Babel, and other related topics. I explained how evidence from various cultures and from the fossil record supports what the Bible says. I explored various other aspects of creation to demonstrate the truth of the Bible. At the end of the seven minutes, the announcer made this comment on the air, “Well, I didn’t hear any evidence for creation at all; so much

for that!” Of course, what he meant was that he was not prepared to accept the evidence I had given him because he wanted to hold on to his own bias — agnosticism.

An agnostic is 100 percent biased. He believes one cannot know anything for sure, so no matter how much evidence he hears, he can still say, “I do not know.” As soon as he knows, he has stopped being an agnostic. From a biblical perspective, Romans 1 teaches that the evidence for creation is all around us; therefore, anyone who does not believe in the Creator and Savior is condemned. It is also important to recognize that one does not have to see the Creator to recognize the fact of special creation. Just because one cannot see the architect and builder who designed and constructed a house does not mean that there was not an intelligent designer behind it.

But what about a revelationist — that is, a person who believes that the God of history has revealed the truth about Himself by means of a book? (A book that claims over 3,000 times to be the Word of God.) Can such a person consider the opposite question, that God did *not* create? No! Because he starts with the premise that God is Creator and His word is true.

Atheists, agnostics, and revelationists (and theists) hold to religious positions; and what they do with the evidence will again be determined by the assumptions (beliefs) of their religious positions. *It is not a matter of whether one is biased or not. It is really a question of which bias is the best bias with which to be biased.* That is why at the Creation Museum, one of the first exhibit rooms is called the Starting Points room. A series of signs teaches people that we all have a starting point on which to build our worldview — and ultimately there are only two starting points. We either start with the Word of One who has always been there, who knows everything, and who reveals to us the truth of the past so we can correctly understand the present or we start with ideas of fallible man, who has not always been there and who does not know everything.

Glaring examples of bias can be seen in public education in response to creation ministry. The following conversation, which is rather typical of students in the public school system, shows what bias is all about. After a presentation on creation, one student stated, “There is no way Noah’s ark could be true; he couldn’t have fit all the

animals on board.” I then asked the student, “How many animals would he have needed to put on board?” The student gave the usual reply: “I don’t know, but it certainly couldn’t have happened.” I then asked him, “How big was the ark?” Again he answered, “I don’t know, but he couldn’t have fit the animals on board.” In other words, here was a student who did not know how big Noah’s ark was or how many animals God would have needed to put on board, but he had already decided it is a fairy tale that could not have happened.

At one town an enthusiastic supporter of our creation ministry told how he had spoken to fellow academics at a local university concerning Noah’s Flood. They, of course, mocked and scoffed at the idea. He then mentioned that someday someone might find Noah’s ark on Mount Ararat.⁵ One fellow academic turned to him and said that even if they found a big boat that looked like Noah’s ark on the top of Mount Ararat and dragged it to the main street of the city, he would still refuse to believe it. His bias was showing.

There have been many occasions where I have been able to give a convincing and logical presentation to the students. Many of them then looked to their teachers to try to make some point that could demonstrate where I was wrong. It is easy to read the expressions on the students’ faces. Their expressions seem to say that this all sounds convincing, but surely there must be something wrong with it because they really do not want to believe that the Bible is true. A teacher may respond by asking a question that sounds to the students as if the teacher has proven me wrong. In the students’ eyes, there is no way I would be able to answer the question. Often students spontaneously break into applause (their way of rejoicing over what they think is my demise). However, it is interesting to watch their faces and see their jaws drop when I am able to give a reasonable answer to the question; they are back where they started. It is sad that, for many of them, they have already made up their minds and decided they really do not want to believe the Bible.

I am often asked how people change their biases. This is a good question. As a Christian, the only way I can answer is to say that in this

5. For more information on Noah’s ark and the Flood, see Ken Ham and Tim Lovett, “Was There Really a Noah’s Ark and Flood?” in *The New Answers Book 1*, Ken Ham, editor (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006).

area it has to be a work of the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that we walk in either the light or in darkness (Acts 26:18), gather or scatter, are *for* Christ or *against* Him (Matt. 12:30). The Bible clearly declares that no person is neutral and that each one does have a bias. We are all dead in trespasses and sin. Our very nature is that we are against God. Since it is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin (John 16:8) and convinces people of the truth through the proclamation of the Word of God, then it is only through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that our biases can change. As Christians, our job is to bring the Word of God (which is sharper than any two-edged sword) to people in a clear and gracious way and pray that the Spirit might use what we say (as we honor God's Word and give reasons to defend our faith) to open hearts and minds to Christ. I believe Christians understand bias better than others. All Christians were once lost sinners biased against God. They have seen how Jesus Christ can change their bias as He transforms their lives through the power of His Spirit.

One of the reasons why creationists have such difficulty in talking to certain evolutionists is because of the way bias has affected the way they hear what we are saying. Some evolutionists already have preconceived ideas about what creationists do and do not believe. They have prejudices about what they want to understand in regard to our scientific qualifications and so on.

There are many examples of evolutionists who have totally misunderstood or misinterpreted what creationists are saying. They hear us through their evolutionary/millions of years ears, not comprehending in the slightest the perspective from which we are coming. As biblical creationists, we understand that God created a perfect world, man fell into sin, the world was cursed, God sent Noah's Flood as judgment, and Jesus Christ came to die and be raised from the dead to restore all things. In other words, our message is one of creation, Fall, and redemption. At the Creation Museum, we summarize biblical history as the Seven C's of History — Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation.⁶ However, because

6. For a more detailed description of the Seven C's of History, see Stacia McKeever, "What is a Biblical Worldview?" in *The New Answers Book 2*, Ken Ham, editor (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008), <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/what-is-a-biblical-worldview>.

evolutionists are used to thinking in uniformitarian terms (i.e., basically the world we see today — the world of death and struggle — has gone on for millions of years), they do not understand this creationist perspective of history.

An interesting example came up in a debate between Dr. Gary Parker and a professor from LaTrobe University in Victoria, Australia. One of the evolutionist's refutations of creation centered on his assertion that there were too many imperfections in the world to have been made by a Creator. This particular evolutionist would not understand, even after it was clearly presented, that the world we are looking at today is not the same world God created because of the effects of the Fall and the Flood. To understand the creation/evolution/age of the earth issue correctly, one must have a complete understanding of the beliefs adhered to by both biblical creationists and secular evolutionists.

In another example, an evolutionist biologist said that if God made all the animals during the fifth and sixth days of creation, why do we not find parakeets and mice in the Cambrian strata alongside trilobites? Dr. Parker explained that parakeets and mice do not live in the same environment as the trilobites. He also explained to this scientist that the fossil record should be seen in terms of the sorting action of a worldwide flood.⁷ Because animals and plants live in different areas, they would have been trapped in sediments representative of their particular environment. Again, we see bias causing one of misunderstandings that so many have of the creationist position.

The reader needs to be aware that, when discussing creation/evolution and the age of the earth, we are talking about beliefs of two different religions — religions that have two different starting points: God's Word or man's word. The controversy is not religion versus science, as the evolutionists try to make out. It is religion versus religion, the science of one religion versus the science of

7. For more information on fossils and the fossil record, see Andrew Snelling, "Doesn't the Order of Fossils in the Rock Record Favor Long Ages?" in *The New Answers Book 2*, Ken Ham, editor (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2008), <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/do-rock-record-fossils-favor-long-ages>.

the other — God’s word versus man’s word. Or, as we will discuss later on, God’s account of historical science versus man’s account of historical science.

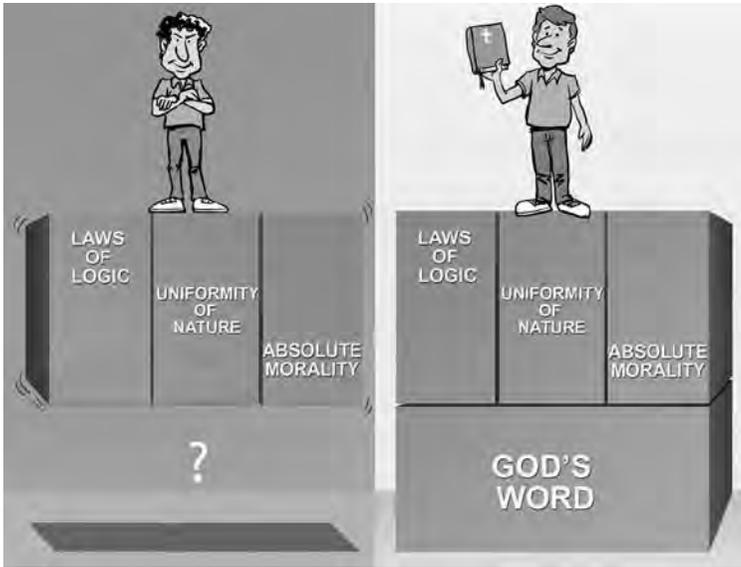
Now it is true that creationists and evolutionists both use observational science in their efforts to defend their beliefs. For example, evolutionists use natural selection as supposed evidence for a Darwinian process. However, creationists agree that natural selection occurs, but they point out that this is not a mechanism to change one kind of animal into a totally different kind. It only operates on the genetic information already available within each kind. Thus, one can observe different species within each kind — but that only confirms that animals and plants exist in groups (or kinds). A kind is in most instances similar to the *family* level of classification.

The idea of molecules-to-man evolution is a religious position that makes human opinion supreme.⁸ As we shall see, its fruits (because of the rejection of God the Creator and Lawgiver) are lawlessness, immorality, gay marriage, abortion, racism, and the mocking of God. To be clear, evolutionary ideas themselves are not the cause of such things; note the use of the word *fruits*. But the more people believe in evolution and millions of years, and the more they reject the Bible as absolute truth, the more they will do what is right in their own eyes. In other words, moral relativism permeates their thinking.

Belief in creation (the creation account as recorded in Genesis) is a religious position based on the Word of God, and its fruits (through God’s Spirit) are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23). In other words, when one builds one’s thinking on the Bible, then there are moral absolutes because the Bible is the Word of God, who is the absolute authority and who sets the rules and determines right and wrong. The creation/evolution/age of the earth issue and its effects on people’s attitude toward biblical authority (i.e., is God’s Word the absolute

8. Molecules-to-man evolution is what I call the evolutionary idea of one kind changing into another, such as the dinosaur kind changing into the bird kind. Molecules-to-man evolution is different from variation within a kind. For example, the different species of dogs we see are still all part of the one dog kind (dog family).

THE LIE: EVOLUTION/MILLIONS OF YEARS



authority?) is the crux of the problems in our society today. It is the fundamental issue with which Christians must come to grips. We need to understand the times we live in and that the fundamental battle is God's Word versus man's word. The origins issue of our day has been the way that this attack on the foundation of biblical authority has been manifested.