

X-Niilo Files

Volume 2, Number 5

Exposing the evolutionary agenda one file at a time.

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OVER the years, many people have challenged me with a question like:

I've been trying to witness to my friends. They say they don't believe the Bible and aren't interested in the stuff in it. They want real proof that there's a God who created, and then they'll listen to my claims about Christianity. What proof can I give them without mentioning the Bible so they'll start to listen to me?

Briefly, my response is as follows.

Evidence

Creationists and evolutionists, Christians and non-Christians all have the same evidence — the same facts. Think about it: we all have the same Earth, the

same fossil layers, the same animals and plants, the same stars — the facts are all the same.

However, if we weren't there in the past to observe events, how can we know what happened so we can explain the present? It would be great to have a time machine so we could know for sure about past events.

Christians of course claim they do, in a sense, have a "time machine." They have a book called the Bible which claims to be the Word of God who has always been there, and has revealed to us the major events of the past about which we need to know.

On the basis of these events (Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel, etc.), we have a set of presuppositions to build a way of thinking which enables us to interpret



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the evidence of the present.

Evolutionists have certain beliefs about the past/present that they presuppose, e.g. no God (or at least none who performed acts of special creation), so they build a different way of thinking to interpret the evidence of the present.

Thus, when Christians and non-Christians argue about the evidence, in reality they are arguing about their interpretations based on their presuppositions.

It's not until people recognize the argument is really about the presuppositions they have to start with, that they will begin to deal with the foundational reasons for their different beliefs. A person will not interpret the evidence differently until he puts on a different set of glasses — which means changing

Past and present

We all exist in the present — and the facts all exist in the present. When one is trying to understand how the evidence came about (Where did the ani-

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suppositions.

I've found that a Christian who understands these things can actually put on the evolutionist's glasses (without accepting the presuppositions as true) and understand how they look at evidence. However, for a number of reasons, including spiritual ones, a non-Christian usually can't put on the Christian's glasses — unless they recognize the presuppositional nature of the battle and are thus beginning to question their own presuppositions.

It is of course sometimes possible that just by presenting "evidence," you can convince a person that a particular scientific argument for creation makes sense "on the facts." But usually, if that person then hears a different interpretation of the same evidence that seems better than yours, that person will swing away from your argument, thinking they have found "stronger facts."

However, if you had helped the person to understand this issue of presuppositions, then they will be better able to recognize this for what it is — a different interpretation based on differing presuppositions — i.e. starting beliefs.

As a teacher, I found that whenever I taught the students what I thought were the "facts" for cre-

ation, then their other teacher would just re-interpret the facts. The students would then come back to me saying, "Well sir, you need to try again."

However, when I learned to teach my students how we interpret facts, and how interpretations are based on our presuppositions, then when the other teacher tried to reinterpret the facts, the students would challenge the teacher's basic assumptions.

Debate terms

If one agrees to a discussion without using the Bible as some people insist, then they have set the terms of the debate. In essence these terms are:

1. "Facts" are neutral. However, there are no such things as "brute facts"; all facts are interpreted. Once the Bible is eliminated in the argument, then the Christians' presuppositions are gone, leaving them unable to effectively give an alternate interpretation of the facts. Their opponents then have the upper hand as they still have their presuppositions.
2. Truth can/should be determined independent of God. However, the Bible states: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10); The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Proverbs 1:7). But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit



of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).

A Christian cannot divorce the spiritual nature of the battle from the battle itself. A non-Christian is not neutral. The Bible makes this very clear: The one who is not with Me is against Me, and the one who does not gather with Me scatters (Matthew 12:30); And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19).

Agreeing to such terms of debate also implicitly accepts their proposition that the Bible's account of the universe's history is irrelevant to understanding that history!

Ultimately, God's Word convicts

1 Peter 3:15 and other passages make it clear we are to use every argument we can to convince people of the truth, and 2 Cor. 10:4-5 says we are to refute error (as Paul did in his ministry to the Gentiles). Nonetheless, we must never forget Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing apart of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Also, Isaiah 55:11: So shall My word be, which goes out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do.

Even though our human arguments may be powerful, ultimately it is God's Word that convicts and opens people to the truth. In all of our arguments, we must not divorce what we are saying from the Word that convicts.'

— Ken Ham, Director, Answers in Genesis

Notes

1. In fact, science could avoid becoming still-born only in a Christian framework. Even secular philosophers of science are virtually unanimous on this. It required Biblical presuppositions such as a real, objective universe, created by one Divine Lawgiver, who was neither fickle nor deceptive — and who also created the mind of man in a way that was in principle capable of understanding the universe. [Ed. note: Refuting Evolution, Ch. 1, discusses this in more detail]
2. This assumption is even defended, as a "practical necessity" in discussing scientific things including origins, by some professing Christians who are evolutionists.

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The dam building ability of beavers is fairly well known, but beavers possess other amazing design features which God has included in their anatomy. Beavers are air-breathing mammals which spend a great deal of time in water. For this reason they need special equipment.

First, the beaver has special valves in its ears and nose. When the beaver dives below the water these valves automatically close so that no water can enter. When the animal resurfaces, the valves reopen and it breathes again.

Perhaps their more amazing piece of equipment is their eyelids. If you have done any diving or snorkelling you will know that water and materials in it can irritate your eyes and wash out natural lubricants. Not only that, but your eyes do not see well under water. That is why snorkellers wear goggles.

Were we original to think up this idea of goggles?

Not really. God designed beavers with "built-in" goggles. Their eyelids are transparent, so they can close their eyes underwater and still see extremely well. Their transparent eyelids give protection to their eyes from waterborne irritants.

During winter, beavers must feed on the bark of trees they have cut and stored in the autumn, using their specially designed, self-sharpening front incisors (perhaps one of the beaver's better known pieces of equipment).

The beavers collect the young trees (usually two to five centimeters — one to two inches — in diameter) for food, cut them to suitable lengths and then transport them, by holding them in their teeth, to their underwater cache, forcing the branches into the mud at the bottom of the pond.'

—Denis Dreves

D. Russell Humphreys, Ph.D.

Creationist, physicist,
AiG guest lecturer



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TidBits

What were your favorite subjects in high school?

All the sciences: general science, biology, chemistry, physics.

What are your favorite “extracurricular” activities?

Hiking, camping, reading.

What does the term “creation scientist” mean to you?

A scientist who investigates how God created the world, and how He has intervened in it since then, such as at the Genesis flood.

Do you like being labeled a “creation scientist?”

I prefer “creationist scientist.”

What is your advice to young people who are interested in pursuing a career in “creation sci-

Dr. Humphreys was awarded his Ph.D. in physics from Louisiana State University in 1972, by which time he was a fully convinced creationist. For the next 6 years he worked in the High Voltage Laboratory of General Electric Company, designing and inventing equipment and researching high-voltage phenomena. While there, he received a U.S. patent and one of Industrial Research Magazine’s IR-100 awards.

Since 1979 he has worked for Sandia National Laboratories (New Mexico) in nuclear physics, geophysics, pulsed-power research, and theoretical atomic and nuclear physics. Since 1985 he has been working with Sandia’s “Particle Beam Fusion Project,” and was co-inventor of special laser-triggered “Rimfire” high-voltage switches, now coming into wider use.

The last few years have seen greater emphasis on theoretical nuclear physics and radiation

hydrodynamics in an effort to help produce the world’s first lab-scale thermonuclear fusion. Besides gaining another U.S. patent, Dr. Humphreys has been given two awards from Sandia, including an Award for Excellence for contributions to light ion-fusion target theory.

Education:

- “ B.S., Duke University, Durham, NC, 1963
- “ Ph.D., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 1972

Honors / Awards / Associations

- “ Creation Science Fellowship of New Mexico, President
- “ Industrial Research Magazine’s IR-100 award
- “ Award for Excellence for contributions to light ion-fusion target theory
- “ Adjunct professor at the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego, CA

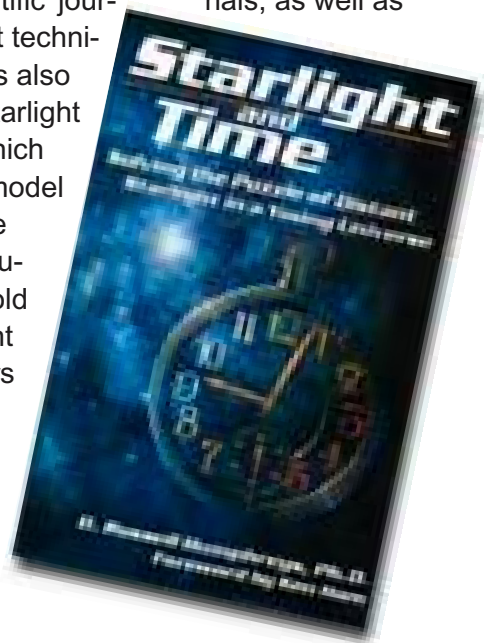
ence.”

Get the best science training you can, even if from a secular school. But be sure to supplement it with training from creationist schools, such as the Institute for Creation Research graduate school, which can be done in the summers. Learn Greek and Hebrew and study the whole Bible thoroughly. When you reach college age, join the Creation Research Society, and get connected to other creationist organizations, such as Answers in Genesis. Also in your college years, subscribe to the Ex Nihilo Technical Journal. In the meantime, get Creation magazine and check out the AiG website and bookstore materials. ’

” Board member of the Creation Research Society

Publications

Dr. Humphreys has published some 20 papers in secular scientific journals, as well as many creationist technical papers. He is also the author of “Starlight and Time,” in which he proposes a model that the universe may only be thousands of years old even though light from distant stars appears to have taken billions of years to reach Earth. ’



Galaxies wind up too fast!

What’s the significance of galaxies winding up too fast?

Actually, the fact that galaxies do wind themselves up is a BIG problem for those who believe the universe is billions of years old. The stars of our own galaxy, the Milky Way, rotate around its center with different speeds. The stars on the inside rotate faster than the outer ones. Our galaxy is a spiral shape, so because of the difference in the rotation of the stars, over time, the spiral would wind itself up until there’d be no spiral left at all!

Evolutionists claim that our galaxy is at least 10 billion years old. Now here’s the dilemma for evolutionists. On the basis of the speed at which the spirals of the galaxy are winding up – it could only be a few hundred million years old at the most.

And of course, if God created the galaxy with a spiral shape to start with, then it could only be thousands of years old.

This winding up problem applies to MANY galaxies in our universe. The only solution is to believe the answers in Genesis – that God created a fully functioning universe just a few thousand years ago. ’

—Answers with Ken Ham radio program, December 15, 1998

Some questions you may be asked by your science teacher...

Problem #1: Consider the human jaw. Human's have too many teeth for the jaw's size, so that wisdom teeth need to be removed, and orthodontists make a decent living straightening the other teeth. If creation is true, should we blame God for such a defective design?

Solution #1: The evolutionary solution is that the human brain has enlarged over time, remodeling the skull to fit the larger brain and thus entailed the reduction in the size of the jaw!

The Truth: God designed our jaws just fine, and the purpose of teeth is chewing, not necessarily a "beautiful smile." What God did He did well (perfect in fact). Furthermore, many people do NOT lose their wisdom teeth. Some would have to blame God for this "defective design" because they believe that God used a process which inevitably produces imperfect design. Jerry Bergman had an article in *Technical Journal* 12(3): 297-304, 1998. He points out that the change to a soft western diet was a major factor in the problem. Also, the

problem was probably exaggerated by the evolution-inspired tendency to remove wisdom teeth routinely even when they produced no problems (just like the appendix and tonsils).

Problem #2: Why are our arms and legs, which are used for different functions, made of the same materials (bones, muscles, and nerves) all arranged in the same overall pattern?

Solution #2: According to the evolutionary theory our ancestors' forelimbs were legs. After our ancestors became bipedal and started using their forelimbs for functions other than walking, these became gradually modified, but retained their original composition and arrangement. Do we blame God for the early defective design?

The Truth: Who says they are "defective?" "They seem to work fine, and one has to ask who could make something better! Take a look at <http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs/4117.asp> on the non-evolution of the horse. '

Creation Secret Agents?

SOME of the Answers in Genesis staff told Executive Director Ken Ham that they felt like spies when they attended the Dinofest conference in Philadelphia (in 1998). Our research staff attended this dinosaur program so they could learn about some of the latest developments in evolutionary thought.

Right from the opening session, participants heard the speakers condemn creationism. It amounted to a bitter hatred. It was even stated that if anyone believed in creation, they had no business attending the meetings.

The irony of this was that some of the speakers stated that scientists should investigate all possibilities and biases and be open to all interpretations of the evidence. What a contradiction –

one thing they clearly wouldn't tolerate was an explanation involving the supernatural!

Christians need to be aware of how anti-Christian these leading scientists have become. In fact, we need to come to grips with the stark reality that public schools and colleges are brainwashing coming generations with this same anti-Christian philosophy.

It certainly speaks of how far once Christian America has fallen, when Christians feel like spies when they attend scientific meetings! The nations of the world need to hear the answers in Genesis – help us spread the word!



AMAZING ADMISSION

Quoted in: Creation Ex Nihilo 20(3):24, June-August 1998

Professor Richard Lewontin, a geneticist (and self-proclaimed Marxist), is a renowned champion of neo-Darwinism, and certainly one of the world's leaders in evolutionary biology. He recently wrote this very revealing comment (the italics were in the original). It illustrates the philosophical bias against Genesis creation — regardless of whether or not the facts support it.

We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door. '

— Richard Lewontin, 'Billions and billions of demons', The New York Review, January 9, 1997, p. 31.

I want to thank you and the folks there at AiG for the outstanding work that you are doing for the glory of God. Our teens have benefited greatly from "X-Nilo Files," videos, pamphlets and books. One girl who has just started coming to our club and is still searching for spiritual things, came last week asking for the next "X-Nilo File." She thought we gave one out each week. She said they were very interesting and that they definitely got her attention and she couldn't wait for the next one!
—T.B., via e-mail

To keep up to date on what's happening in "science in the news" please visit the Answers in Genesis website at <http://www.answersingenesis.org>. The site is updated daily and is well-archived. These items could be used as sources for term papers and research projects. You are welcome to copy anything you wish from our web page. Plagiarism (using someone else's writing as your own) is wrong, so be sure to reference AiG in all materials you find on our website.

Note from the cartoonist:

The Bible is the infallible Word of the Creator God, (2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23-25, Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 33:6, Mark 13:31) and as such, has not changed over time because it needs no correction. Time and again, alleged Biblical “errors” have been shown to be unsubstantiated (see, for instance, the “Countering the Critics” section on the AiG Web site). On the other hand, throughout history, many theories and ideas opposing God’s Word have come and gone or have been revised to include the “latest discovery.” While this “flexibility” may seem advantageous to some, using “evidence” which will be shown to be in error in the future is hardly a good basis for “proving” that the Bible is wrong. I choose to stand on the SOLID ROCK of the Word of God and not trust in the shifting sand of fallible man’s opinion.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

1 Peter 1: 23-25 having been born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the living word of God, and abiding

forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of men as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls out, but the Word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the Word preached as gospel to you.

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

Psalm 33:6 By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away. ☒

CREATIONWISE



DAN LIETHA

ClubCounter: 120 Creation Clubs in existence as of April 11, 2000!