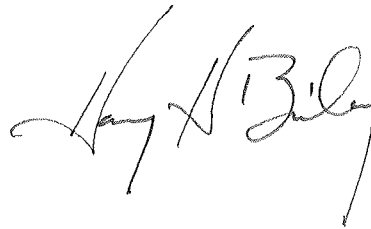


Letters and Papers On Faith and Practice: A Theological Notebook

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry H. Briley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

[Two Papers about Evolution]

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PAPER 2010: Evolution and Creation

August 2010

Abstract

The pastor of Trinity Baptist Church invited me to present this lecture as part of his Hot Topics series. With so much material, I presented it as a testimony of what particularly affected me.

A full 80% of the larger church would disagree with me on the topic, maybe even 90%. I claim the Rapid Creation side of the camp. I hope some material is new or presented in a new way.

I graduated from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. This geology school has a paleontology department. Its prior name was New Mexico School of Mines. It emphasizes evolutionary biology, astronomy, computer science, engineering, and petroleum extraction. Nearly every student took Geology 101, and learned the geologic evidences for evolution.

Scientists Who Believe

My biology professor, David Shortess, a plant genetics specialist in corn, was persuaded towards Rapid Creation because of his research. He mentored me in my college ministry efforts. He and his wife stood in for my parents at my wedding and gave the homily. The wisdom of church scholars did not convince him of Rapid Creation, but his deep understanding of cellular biology.

A chemist at Lawrence Livermore National Lab (from where I retired in 2013), whose brother-in-law is Phillip Johnson, the former UC Berkeley lawyer who wrote the book "**Darwin on Trial**" (Second Edition), remained an ardent evolutionist. However, during the physical birth of his grandchild, his whole worldview changed towards Rapid Creation. Clever arguments did not convince him. It was being in a birthing room.

An engineer at this Lab, who worked on the Manhattan Project, was equally devoted to evolution. The late Curt Sewell was a member of Trinity Church but I only met him at work as he neared retirement. He collected scientific evidences, which emphasized an intelligent designer that had earlier rattled him to his core. He wrote a book about his path to faith called "**God at Ground Zero**". The Bible did not convince him of Rapid Creation. It was the physical data.

My favorite book, probably out of print now, is: "**Evolution and Christian Faith**" by Bolton Davidheiser (Ph.D. Zoology/Genetics at John Hopkins University). He remarks, "*My impression of fundamentalists and anti-evolutionists was that they were dull, ignorant, and uninteresting people.*" He changed towards Rapid Creation after getting his PhD. His book therefore is heavily data centric. He speaks about the Bible only in his brief life story as an appendix.

3 min Video clip from "**Time Bandits**", Closing Scene

God: "*They will probably think I have lost control again and chalk it up to evolution*"

Definitions

I need to define key terms. **Micro-evolution** is the environmental effects on the species, where the general population of specie adjusts within the variations found within a specie gene pool.

The pepper moth of England is an example. With sooty residue on trees, the birds easily found and ate the light-colored moths, increasing the proportion of dark colored moths in the population. Upon recent industrial clean up, the birds now easily find and eat the dark-colored moths, inverting the ratio of dark to light. The moth remained a moth and the gene structure was unchanged. The following generation has the same probability of prior generations of hatching light or dark colored moths. The dark moths will survive on dark colored bark, and the light will survive on white ash trees. We call this adaptation within a species.

Some uncovered fraud in the pepper moth evidence for evolution, such as gluing moths to trees. Even with fraud by the researchers, the data for creation is all the stronger. The moth gene pool was unaffected by the supposed population shifts.

Macro-evolution is wholesale undirected cross-over by random events from phylum to phylum, specie to specie, reptiles becoming birds, a cow becomes a whale (which is the current theory), and sea sponges becoming fish. Macro-evolution starts with the diverse current state and presumes an unbreakable path backwards to a common self-sustaining single-cell bacterium. Darwin called this the tree of life, taken from taxidermy charts of the time. The branches of the tree constantly diverge or die out, but once launched, branches continue to diverge. Branches do not converge nor conjoin on Darwin's diagram. Theistic evolution follows this model.

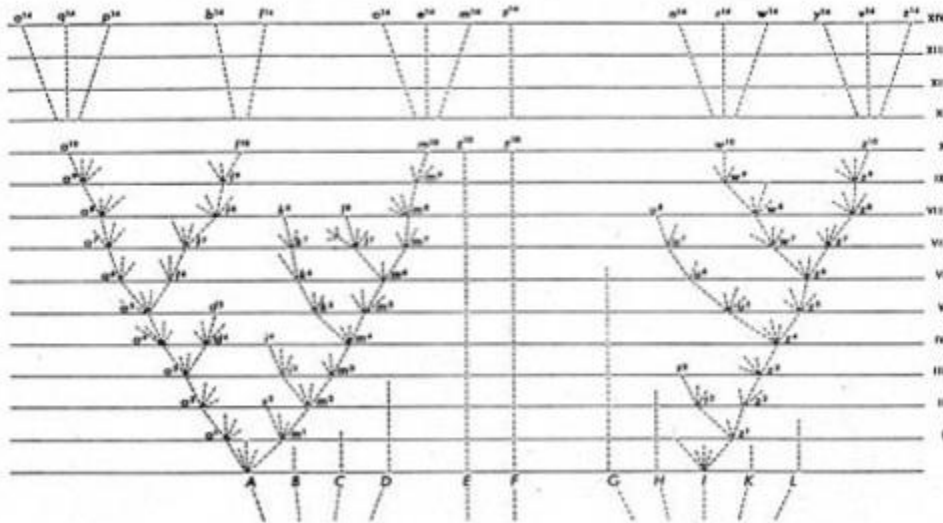


Figure 1 - Darwin's Tree of Life (Public Domain)

Creation, in opposition, is directed, intentional intervention by an intelligent designer. The study of creation does not specify the source of the intelligence, but both the old and new testaments lay claim to that role for both God as Tri-unity and specifically Jesus, as the human representation of that God. Such rash assertions require faith that these statements have merit. But, when speaking expressly about creation alone, we are harshly limited to some unknown source of intelligence which imposed intentional design upon the natural order.

Influenced: “On Principal” or “By Reading”

Few people agree on the topic of macro-evolution, even among atheists, much less among church-goers. There is an evolution creation continuum. It is not perfect but it helps frame how the population prefers to handle this hot topic.

Evolution Level	Category	I believe on Principal . My acceptance is heavily influenced when:	I believe from Personal readings of the evidences. My interpretation of that evidence is filtered by:
Macro	Non-Theistic	Science says so	Reason alone
Macro	Theistic	Seminary says so	Reason ...and Faith Secondary
Micro	Creationist	Scripture says so	Faith ...and Reason Secondary

Table 1 - On Principal or by Personal Reading?

Some will spend tonight either trying to refute my wrong-headedness or cheering me on. But beware. Joshua asked the armed man on the road near Jericho, “*Are you for us or against us?*” The angel’s reply was “*Neither, I am the Captain of the Lord’s host.*”

Therefore, your question might be, “*Did life come about from slow undirected random processes or was there a rapid intentional design of the original phylum?*” I think that is the wrong way to start the debate. The writer of Hebrews adjusts the starting focus by saying:

1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. – Hebrews 11:1-3

This verse refers to the theological concept of Ex Nihilo (Latin for: Out of Nothing).

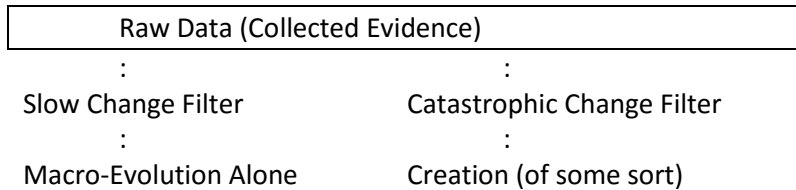
6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. – Hebrews 11:6

This verse means our view of evolution and creation depends upon whether we think God even exists. If God is not real, then evolution is the only game in town. Something had to come from nothing by random undirected self-sustaining replicating accidents.

In other words, we come to the debate with bias. We each have a set of obligatory filters.

Filtering Data

This diagram shows common data and a problem of what I call 'filtering'.



The same source data going through different filters can come up with opposite conclusions.

- If you are expecting macro-changes for the tree of life, then you will focus on data samples and dating methods to show long ages. You would consider contrary data to be an error in the sample data.
- If you believe God used random, undirected, events to create life, then you will focus on data that show long ages. You would be hard pressed to show how God initiated these random events, for by definition, they must be undirected. The closest theory I have heard is seed pods of living cells imbedded into the interstellar gas prior to the big bang. This premise sometimes proposes that God intervened by pruning the tree of life to limit the kind of diversity available. Regardless, it falls back on ordinary untestable "god-is-absent" evolution for all its evidence. As such, it uses the macro-change filter.
- If you are predisposed to an actively intervening God then you will focus on data and dating methods to favor the conclusion of rapid creation. The speed of the term "rapid" is up for hotly contested debate, largely influenced by evolutionary thought, but it would be significantly shorter than allowed by an atheist.

The same Identical Data, with Different Presumptions, yields Opposite Conclusions. I see the similarity among species and see God using a common set of body templates, all were present in the Cambrian strata, and easy to refashion for other uses, much like software programming. This leads me to believe one designer was responsible. The exact same data led Darwin to exclude God, because the observed similarity in the data to him showed a sequenced chain of progression from simple to complex forms.

This leaves us with the quandary of, how do you know which filter objectively leads to the truth. If both sides are filtering their best evidence, the more forceful, most polemic, or better forensic debater wins the day, but I find that kind of verbal bullying to be an unsatisfactory way to make a decision. It sounds too much like a political campaign.

Therefore, we must continue our own personal reading in archaeology, data summaries, and interpretations from specialists. Researchers tend to be specialists in a few fields. We should read well across many fields as reasonably needed to avoid throwing up our hands and taking the easy path of public opinion.

Why Scientific Method Fails

The reason we often find rancor in the discussion is that we cannot regenerate the basic universe. Otherwise, it would be a bi-verse, or a multi-verse.

Creation and evolution both claim to explain the historical origins of life. We best handle this kind historical debate of a past unrepeatable event with courtroom concepts using circumstantial, documentary, testimonial, and inferential evidences rather than in a laboratory using the scientific method. Thus, assertions by scientists are not always necessarily scientific.

The weakness is that the formal scientific method requires testing a hypothesis by an experimental means repeatedly to garner enough sample data points to find a pattern in the data that either affirms or denies the hypothesis.

Hypothesis = Hypo (Under) + Thesis (A Proposition)

We frame each hypothesis with a set of premises and a conclusion. Experiments are set up as if the premises are true and focus on reaching the conclusion since the premises are deemed true.

Given PREMISES → and if a CONDITION (e.g. the hypothesis) → then a CONCLUSION

If we cannot prove certain premises as true, then we must form a hypothesis and experiments that validate the weaker premises. We continue working backwards until we eventually reach an untestable premise, which we then must accept as true or false based upon **our best guess**.

Macro-Evolution is too big to test scientifically. The proposed time spans exceeds our ability to rigorously garner sufficient data points. The sheer emphasis upon undirected random events denies the basic principle of the scientific method. If you ran the experiment 10 times and got the same answer 8 times, it would, by definition, not be random, but instead would point to an imposed law (like gravity). The best we can do is to find data points in the fossil record and rock formations and propose a theory based upon our untestable premises.

In 2015, John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics in Oxford, refreshed my memory that many famous European scientists started with the premise that an orderly God must therefore have established predictable rules and exposable constant mechanisms that sustain the universe.

I had already known that the mantel of science passed from Islam to Christianized Europe over this very point. While Islam preserved ancient Greek knowledge about mathematics, medicine, and astronomy, their theology emphasized our inability to discern divine intentions, which yielded no significant drive to discover underlying mechanics beyond their assertion of creation.

Why Debate Fails

I prefer relational bridge building. Without a channel of humane communication, we are not communicating, but are rather bombarding a person. We need the lost art of transcendence conversation. Once we build a bridge, and evolution comes up as a topic, it can lead to talking about God **with** the person and not **at** the person. Unfortunately in a lecture format, like this paper, I can only bombard you with material to discuss later. ☺

Debates using the Bible alone leave us with mere coincidences and assertions, but no hard data. The Bible merely affirms the fact of creation. The Bible does not defend nor explain creation.

Genesis presents an orderly sequence as expected in the fossil record, but it does not explain it scientifically. It just asserts that God created. Therefore, we must look elsewhere for evidence to verify both the nature of this assertion and of our interpretation of it.

Hot-tempered rhetorical questioning never wins a debate. People are attracted to those who genuinely live out their faith (even if their trust in an intelligent Creator seems bizarre).

Our life story about trust in such a God opens the door,

- and THEN we can talk about objective data
- and THEN we can talk about God as an intelligent creator
- and THEN we can finally talk about the Book of Genesis

Until then, Genesis is proof to atheists of our blind unthinking faith in the “god-of-the-gaps”. [Dr. Lennox termed this atheist definition of god-of-the-gaps as our inability to explain things today that will be certainly explained away by god-absent science in the future.]

The usual presentation of Genesis walls off people from the Bible in general. The disbelief in Rapid Creation in American churches started in (1880's) with Boston School of Theology training pastors in the new evolutionary theory. Evolutionists at debates want to fight over how the Bible is wrong or misinterpreted. Therefore, after 100 years, a traditional understanding of Genesis needs a radically different bridge to gain a hearing with the general public.

That bridge is science, but only when done through civil conversation about transcendence. My early arguments (which were data centric) became unsatisfactory because winning an argument was not addressing the other person's heart-level transcendent needs. I only created enemies.

Partial Life Story

My first experience addressing evolution started in the third grade of arguing in class while the teacher was out of the room that humans did not come from monkey ancestors. I did not know the Bible, had never read Genesis, and had no church experience, but I inwardly knew as a nine year old that it was not logical that we were random mutations. The teacher returned and that prevented the classroom from turning into a schoolyard scuffle.

Major data problems that affected me

The theory of evolution has bigger problems than the “Descent of Man” for third graders. Here are four figures that my wife used back in college. She risked a good grade for using this topic in speech class. Many of us students rallied around Anne to help her practice. I miss her dearly.

Here are the immediate problems we noticed in college back in 1973. The following figures came from illustrations by Dr. Duane Gish. The commentary is my own.

Figure 2: The Fossil record does not show slow growth of the tree of life. Eleven phyla out of the 40 suddenly appear in the Cambrian. Most of these fossils are water laid and rapidly buried.

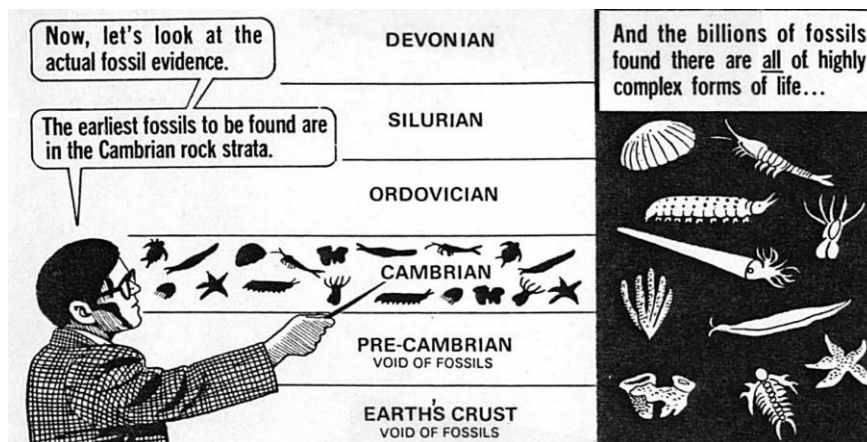


Figure 2 - Explosion in Cambrian Rock layer (Gish)

Some fossils in British Columbia shale are so fresh that the fleshy parts are imprinted in the mud and did not have time to decay. These were not slow accumulations of dying matter falling to the seabed. Most tasty morsels like that would never have reached the bottom anyhow.

The circular reasoning in my 1972 Geology 101 class bothered me greatly. I asked, “How do you know the age of a rock?” The instructor replied, “By the age of the fossils in the strata bearing the rock.” I continued, “So how do you know the age of the fossils?” Without a beat, he answered, “By the age of the rock as defined by which layer it is found. “ “Oh!” said I.

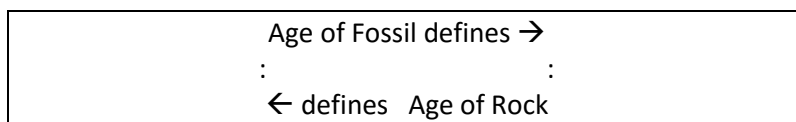


Figure 3: There is, according to Evolutionary Theory, 1.5 Billion years of missing fossil evidence between a single cell and complex forms.

Trilobites in particular seemed to be a poster child for a line of proof. Unfortunately, they appear fully formed in various versions in the Cambrian layer, and a possible relative, the large horseshoe crab is a fun “dinosaur” exhibit at most petting aquarium pools today. Instead, microfossils of fragile sea urchin eggs were discovered. Since these exist, which are as close to single cell organisms as we can get, where is the Pre-Cambrian fossil evidence?

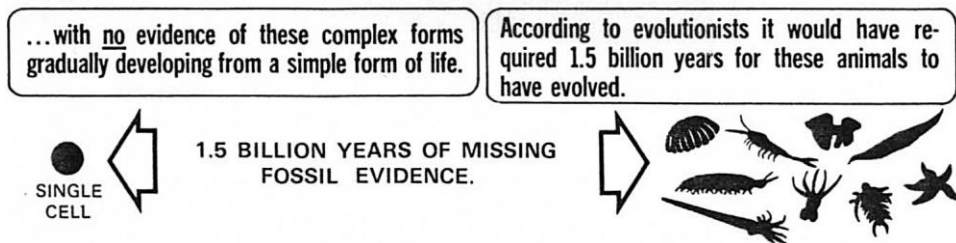


Figure 3 - Single cell to Complex Body Structures (Gish)

The missing evidence is not for lack of hunting or motivation. Since the late 1800's, the planet was scoured for transitional forms. A fossil find of consequence would nearly guarantee a promotion, not to mention fame and fortune to fund further digging.

Figure 4: The prime directive of evolutionary theory is that simpler forms give rise to more complex forms. Single cells became invertebrate (boneless) animals and plants. Then, fish appeared. Where are the crossovers between the sea squirt (an invertebrate) and the modern fish (a vertebrate)? For that matter, how did exo-skeleton animals, having an external skeleton, like clams, sea urchins, and beetles transition to animals with an interior skeleton?

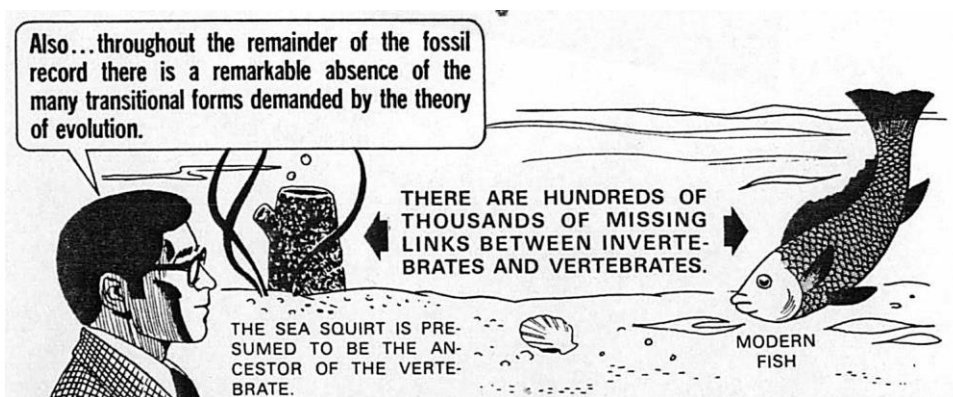
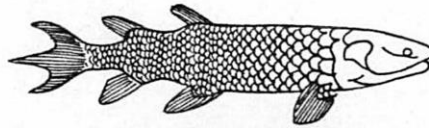


Figure 4 - Sea Squirt presumed ancestor to Vertebrate (Gish)

The mantra of creation researchers is the second law of thermodynamics. Briefly, things are falling apart. Complexity is reduced to simplicity. Mutations are nearly always fatal to the host organism. Things do not randomly improve alone. The universe is cooling off without external energy applied to the system. Everything is headed towards a cold death.

Figure 5: Another area of promise for transitional forms is the leap from fish to amphibian. I hope everyone has seen the drawing of the fish crawling out of the lake and wandering off on legs. In spite of the lungfish, which breathes air, and the mudskipper, which can tolerate being out of the water for long periods, the structure of these animals are still clearly fish. Since mud shale carries the most well preserved fossils, an amphibian-fish crossover has a high probability of being found. There are none found. Amphibians are found as amphibians.

Again, the evolutionist claims that it took perhaps 50 million years for a fish to evolve into an amphibian.



But again, there are no transitional forms. For example...not a single fossil with part fins... part feet has ever been found.

Figure 5 - Fish to Amphibian (Gish)

Geology and Hydrology

After moving to Livermore, I hiked the Grand Canyon and Petrified National forest. I saw a major change from what my geology book taught with what hydrologists were then presenting at the National Parks. The video at the Visitor's center in the Petrified Forest emphasized that logs can only bypass rotting by rapid burial below the water table by a huge flood event.

Especially since the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption and mudflows, hydrologists believed the carving of the Grand Canyon came through a breached dam of a huge inland sea covering most of Colorado. This partially would explain sea creature fossils high in the Colorado Rockies. The flash flood of the breached dam would have ripped up and buried any trees in its path.

3 min Video clip from "Mt.St.Helens" - Showing the canyons formed from mudflow.

The middle layer of Mt. St. Helens post-eruption canyon walls has a 25-foot wide band of thousands of deposited layers in one pyroclastic event in a swirling dust cloud. One would think such activity would homogenize (evenly mix up) the material, but instead it was putting down thousands of layers in a single day. That is, these sedimentary layers did not form after thousands of wet and dry seasons.

Critics complained bitterly in 2005 that using depth as a measure of age is not how geologists measure lava beds. In anticipation of this argument, researchers sent a specimen to an independent Lab for several blind radiometric tests. The 10-year old lava dome specimen averaged in age among the various tests over a million years old. If radiometric dating failed to accurately date the age of a fully documented igneous lava rock, how can the critics justify the radiometric dates for igneous rocks of unknown ages?

Third Grade Again: Human Evolution

Let us pull full circle with the third grade. When my daughter was at MaryInn Avenue Elementary in the third grade, she learned about human evolution came via the great apes (since they had mostly given up linking our ancestors to tree monkeys by that time).

Modern genome studies between humans and primates have worked against that textbook presentation. Instead, the current working theory is that humans evolved from a lemur-type creature. Most scientists have resorted to calling apes our relatives but not our ancestor.

Regardless, I listed for her five of these six things that set humans apart as uniquely designed.

1. Humans have **parallel hip sockets**, and a straight walking gait. The great apes swivel from their hip while knuckle walking. They swing their leg out and around.
2. Humans appreciate **beauty for beauty sake**. While the Bower birds in Australia will use color and decoration for attracting a mate, humans produce and view art, food presentation, and music purely for the intrinsic pleasure of beauty.
3. Humans have **enunciated speech**. Cats and dogs communicate with humans and understand Basic English words, but their speech is tonal or guttural, not enunciated.
4. Humans work with abstract reasoning and **spatial visualization**. We do not know whether animals can imagine unknown things spatially, but we do know that humans can generate a spatial visualization from mere words alone and draw that unknown item upon paper.
5. Humans have a **face-to-face sexual alignment** that emphasizes relationship over mating. With the exception of the whales and dolphins, most mammals are physically unable to have this alignment. This aspect is partly why I disagree about cattle becoming whales.
6. Humans have **fine motor skills** in their hands and opposing thumbs. The hand alone is sufficient evidence of Rapid Creation. Our best robotic hands are crude representations. Even though primates can grasp with their opposing thumbs, branches and crude tools, only humans have writing and drawing skills using fine motor movements. It emphasizes documentary communication skills that are unique to humans

Closing

Early in my work at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab, I had a spirited series of evolution conversations with a co-worker across the hall. We had a bridge of open communications that allowed these to be calm discussions about the raw data.

We then talked about how I felt Jesus was God incarnate. He complained, "*You convinced me that the world was created, but when you ask me to believe Jesus is that Creator, then you are asking me to take a leap of faith."* We ended, because that leap seemed far too huge for him.

I hope this material about handling past historical events might help you handle the leap of faith about Jesus regarding one specific historical event in particular, illustrated as follows.

The reports of Jesus rising on the third day from the grave require more faith than believing in a rapid creation. The evidence of his resurrection is highly circumstantial and from purported testimonials of uneducated eye witnesses. The evidence for Jesus rising from the dead is something that I cannot test by the scientific method.

I believe that this event occurred and that the leap of faith to invite Jesus into your daily life is rational and wise. The resurrection is the crux of the Christian faith. It is not a blind faith, but it does take faith that first God exists and second that the evidences about Jesus are trustworthy.

⁸*But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"^[d] that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."* - **Romans 10:8-11**

A: More Examples ... if Time permits

- Polystrata Petrified trees poke vertical THROUGH several coal seams at the Bay of Fundy, in Alaska, and in Coal beds in the Eastern US (Why did trees not rot in the prior coal seam, which required millions of years to form?)
- Petrified trees/forests in the first place (Mt. St. Helens floating log mass, with trees sinking root-end down at different layers in sandy bottom)
- Upside-down examples of Darwin's tree of life: Platypus, Koala "Bear" (impossible conjoining of disparate branches)
- Carbon-14 radioactive half-life presents an extrapolation problem for rock formations or for creatures which ingest their non-air environment. Live oysters for example were registered as dead for thousands of years. C14 works best on carbon-based materials by interpolating between known dates. It is fully unreliable for extrapolation into the distant past since C14 decays thoroughly after 62,000 years. C14 works excellently for plant materials that pull C14 from the air (e.g. lumber used in ancient construction).

B: Genesis use of “Yom” (Is it a Day or an Eon?)

You might ask, “*Why did I not use anything from the Bible?*” The reality and usual end of the debate is that no human was present during creation. Even though Adam related the creation story to his great grandkids, God still revealed it to Adam. Adam was not present at Creation.

There are heated debates regarding the literary term YOM, which translates as day in this passage. Some try to tie this with “*A day to the Lord is like a Thousand years*” – 2 Peter 3:8

Although Yom elsewhere means ‘season’, ‘era’, or an ‘event’, as in ‘the day of the Lord’, the creation account treats the word as 24-hour segments, illustrated as follows.

This Genesis context makes significant use of day and night language. Despite, that on the first day there was neither day nor night, the use of the language and the emphasis of resting on the seventh day reveals a consistent use of YOM in this very short contiguous passage in context.

However, this is the crux of severe disagreement. Even if this was NOT a single 24-hour day, NOT a single era, or NOT a single millennium, the evolutionists will still protest. It is a sticking point with evolutionists that the Bible is scientifically inaccurate here and thus the passage must be taken strictly as literary hyperbole.

I try to be generous when they insist that a day is a thousand years. I give them 6000 years for creation. Maybe I will give 60,000 years during a generous mood, but when their push comes to shove, the evolutionist will settle for nothing less than one day equaling 10 billion years.

This literary use of YOM has no precedent for millions, much less billions of years. Such long times fall into the category of ‘forever’, or use the Hebrew ‘O-lam’ as in Psalm 136, which we sometimes recite: “Your love lasts forever”. We would never say, “Your love lasts a day.”

C: Yom - Impact upon Our Calendar

Ancients routinely observed that the moon is approximately a 28-day clock (actually 29 days and a bit). Therefore, it is possible, not using the Bible, that you might have weeks that are seven days long by breaking those 28 days into four equal parts. However, why did they choose seven days? Why did the ancients not assume a 28-day or 14-day or four-day long week (thus, each month having seven weeks of 4 days each)?

I believe some, but not all, of the progeny kept the seven-day choice alive due to the creation story that Adam passed along. In the Bible, nearly every reference to Shabbat points to the creation week. We may read long eras into each passage, but the ancients understood it as literal days to justify God’s institution of the weekly day of rest.

My presentation tonight does not hinge on this particular passage. I came to belief in Rapid Creation from a scientific perspective, and then when I returned to the Bible, the 24-hour day was not so far-fetched, a bit short for my University-trained tastes, but not impossible for God. The Earth is rotating after all, whether or not stars, moon, and a solar system existed. However, if you need 60,000 years for the Living God to create the ecosystem, be my guest. My belief in Rapid Creation does not hinge on the use of the term YOM.

PAPER 2001: Evolutionary Problems

February 2001

Abstract

I know many arguments for both creation and evolution with various scientific reasons. However, these are my personal favorite evidences that require only nominal background knowledge and ordinary real life observations. These lists address two essential aspects: The clear disconnect between Apes and Humans; and The implausibility of Macro-evolution.

Humans versus Apes

These are what personally lead me to believe in special creation in particular for humans versus apes and similar mammals. Some animals make crude attempts at one or more of these {as noted in the 2010 paper above} but humans uniquely do all of these as the routine normative behaviors for the species.

Physical

1. Articulate multi-syllabic speech
2. Opposable independently operated thumbs on hands but not feet
3. Extremely fine motor skills using small tools
4. Pelvis back plates that allow direct front-back movement of legs versus mandatory swinging of the legs out to the side while walking erect
5. Face to face sexual activity

Mental

1. Production of complex art and music merely for the sake of beauty
2. Ability to quickly do abstract reasoning at multiple levels (pushing a positional lever for food is abstraction at the first level, pushing a symbol that activates a random lever for food is the second level, using the symbol as an analogy for a some intangible concept in at yet a deeper level)
3. Ability to communicate lengthy complex ideas with written phonetic symbols (e.g. this sentence)
4. A passion for recording data

Implausibility of macro-evolution

These are what personally lead me to believe evolution does not have adequate answers for macro-differences observed from the body of scientific evidence.

Conventional Evidences

1. The lack of a link between vertebrates and invertebrates.
2. The lack of a link between exoskeletons and interior skeletons.
3. The sudden appearance of phyla in the same geologic layer with no evidence of mixed phyla or precursor fossils in older rocks.
4. The deep canyons created below bedrock at the 1980's St. Helens eruption site. The dynamics of high-volume fluid flow caused rapid change and deposition usually allotted millions of years in a few weeks. This is sometimes called a punctuated catastrophe but any catastrophe radically shortens the available time needed for macroevolution.
5. The platypus.

Controversial Evidences

1. [Sadly refuted in 2013,] Fossil tracks of human-like walking gait crossed and imbedded in fossilized dinosaur tracks. Some dismissed this as a hoax in Texas but the documentary of the excavation of the riverbank suggested otherwise. In 2013, after 40 years of weathering, the tracks changed color to verify them instead as the foot pads of a three-toed dinosaur.)
2. Petrified trees crossing layers of horizontal coal seams and intervening sediment. I cannot explain this often-photographed phenomenon in either creationist or evolutionary terms.

Appendix – Valuable Books

Scientists have gone from the 1700's of near universal faith in a creator to the early 1900's of near universal passive denial of any need for a creator, to post-9/11 hostile polemics against anyone believing that God exists. John Lennox, Professor in mathematics at Oxford remarked in 2015 that the hostility is “vaguely totalitarian”.

Science in general and macro-evolution in specific cause many to reject unusual portions of the Bible. Natural laws of science and theories of uniformity mitigate against beliefs in the super-natural in general or specifically against catastrophic interference by some intelligent spiritual being(s).

Starting with the Boston School of Theology in the 1890's, churches blended major tenants of newly promoted macro-evolution with creation. This was an artifact of reconciling a First Cause with evolution's fundamental premise of an unordered chance assembling of life initially from inert stellar dust followed by undirected random surges of atmospheric energy once an inert planet was formed. Hugh Ross in *The Fingerprint of God* argues the case for such a blend (with which I disagree although I applaud his thesis that lack of intelligence in evolution is an untenable theory).

Darwin on Trial - Phillip E Johnson (Second Edition, Intervarsity Press, 1993) - Author (Harvard, Univ. Chicago, Law Professor for 20 years at UC Berkeley) spoke in Livermore and had relatives in the LLNL Chemistry department. His credentials and original thesis made him a pariah among UC evolutionists To wit, "*What does a UC Berkeley law professor have to say about Science!?*"

The SECOND edition contains a long chapter listing specific criticisms of the book and the author's defense. His dedication page states "*To those in science who want to allow the questions to be asked.*"

Evolution and Christian Faith - Bolton Davidheiser (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co, New Jersey, 1969) - Author (Ph.D. Zoology/Genetics, John Hopkins Univ) became a believer after getting his PhD in the same field as atheist Richard Dawkins.

His opening remarks "*My impression of fundamentalists and anti-evolutionists was that they were dull, ignorant, and uninteresting people.*"

God at Ground Zero - Curt Sewell, d.2005 (Master Books, 1997) - Curt worked in Engineering at LLNL. He previously worked on the Manhattan Project and was an ardent evolutionist for decades.

The Wedge of Truth - Phillip E Johnson, UC Berkeley Professor (Intervarsity Press, 2001) spoke on 2/20/2001 to Christians at Sandia National Laboratory on "*Intelligent Design and Darwinism in Biology - What Qualifies as "Science?"*". His talk came from Chapter 2: "*The Information Quandary - Can Natural Law and Chance Create Genetic Information?*"