Intro and Overview

What reactions might a group of Christians have to this topic?

What reactions might a group of Christians have to this topic?

Curiosity/Enjoyment
Confusion/Frustration/Sadness
Anxiety/Fear
Annoyance/Anger
Indifference/Apathy

William Paley



"Natural Theology" (1802) The 'Divine Watchmaker' analogy:

"But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place...the inference we think is inevitable, that the watch must have had a maker -- that there must have existed, at some time and at some place or other, an artificer or artificers who formed it for the purpose which we find it actually to answer, who comprohended its construction

THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

RIGHARD DAWKINS



THE BLIND WATCHMAKER

"The best general account of evolution I have read in mornt years." \rightarrow FL 0. WILSON

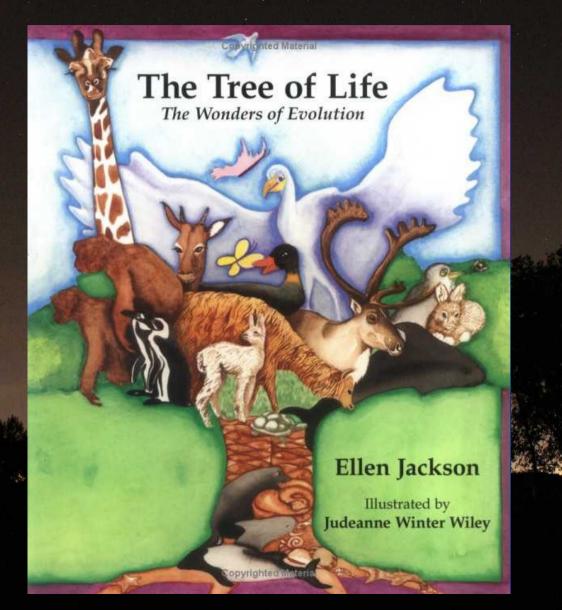
WHY THE EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION REVEALS A UNIVERSE WITHOUT DESIGN



"It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."

"I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world."

"Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence."



"During a recent trip to the library, I noticed that, while there were many books retelling biblical creation stories, there were relatively few books on evolution for younger children. Those books that attempted to explain evolution did so in a way that, though scientifically accurate, conveyed none of the wonder and excitement of this concept. The Tree Of Life is my attempt to help young children understand the beauty and power of this great idea."



CREATIONISTS

I'm right, you're wrong. la-la-la-la-la I can't hear you!

What dangers do Christians risk in *not* studying this topic?

What dangers do Christians risk in *not* studying this topic?

Loss of credibility to non-believers
Inability to assist other believers on these matters
Crisis (or loss) of faith

CAUTION

History of Science: The *Myth*

History of Science: The Myth

- Belief that Earth and Sky filled with many Gods
- Gods were responsible for all good and bad in life
- Mankind needed to appease the Gods
- Judaism and Christianity reduced this to one God
- Religion due to lack of proper tools/critical thinking
- Mankind needed to be freed from superstition
- The release finally came during the Enlightenment (17th/18th century)

History of Science: The Myth

- Now a time of discovery/invention/speculation
- Man (instead of God) became measure of all things
- Only the natural order/observable universe exists
- Conviction that there was no God/afterlife/miracles
- Gods no longer necessary to explain nature
- Any appeal to supernatural is superstition
- Rationalism and logical precision was now required
- Modern science is now the result

History of Science: The Myth

This myth has now become part of our culture! •Nothing is valid unless it can be scientifically proven •I won't believe it until I see it •Science is based on facts •Christianity is based on faith •Christianity is fit only for weak and gullible •Christianity is a crutch for those who cannot handle the facts

History of Science: The Truth

History of Science: The Truth

- Modern science descended from Christian worldview
- Universe is intelligible
- God is a God of order and rationality
- Universe has laws that are visible
- We beings in God's image can understand that order
- Only one God so consistency of laws and physics
- No inherent problem in periodic intervention i.e. miracles

History of Science: The Truth

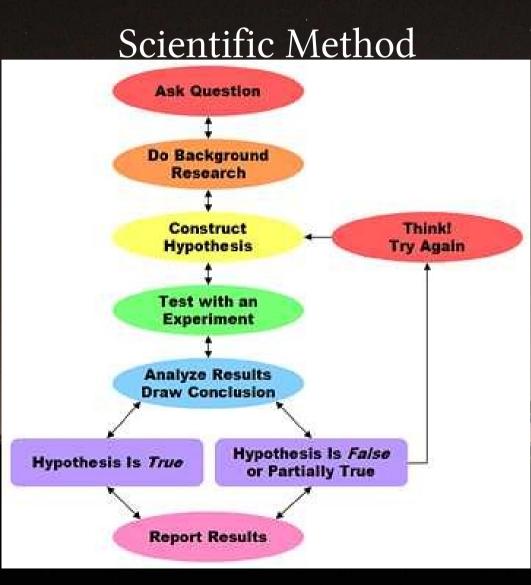
"Men became scientific because they expected law in nature, and they expected law in nature because they believed in a lawgiver"

Conflict between Science and Christianity: Where does it come from?

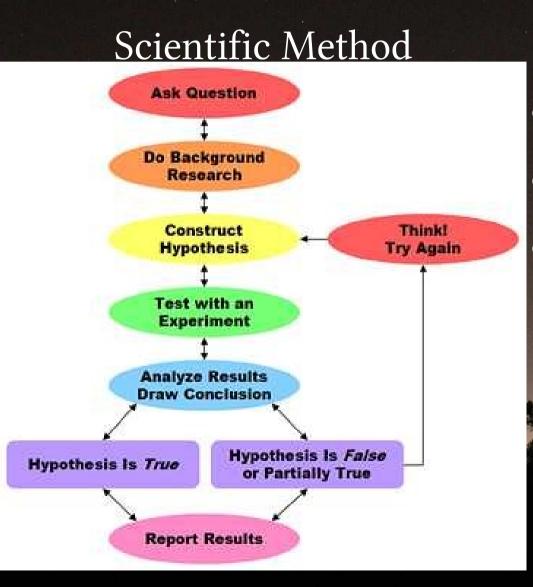
Conflict between Science and Christianity: Where does it come from?

Conflict model was part of cultural strategy by scientists and educational leaders at end of 19th century to undermine church control of institutions
Common belief says so

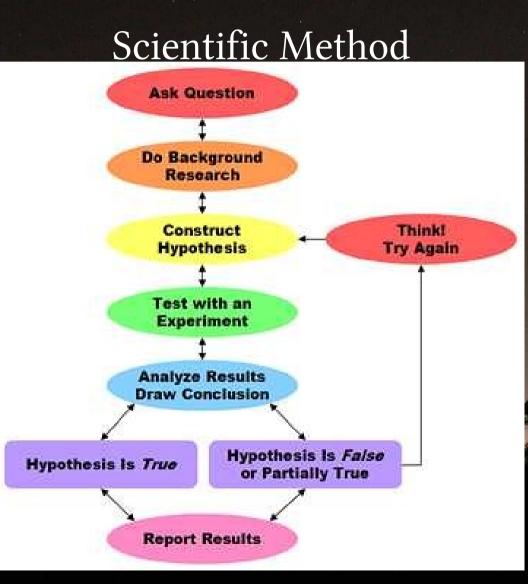
• Media presents stories as "good guys vs bad guys'



What is missing?

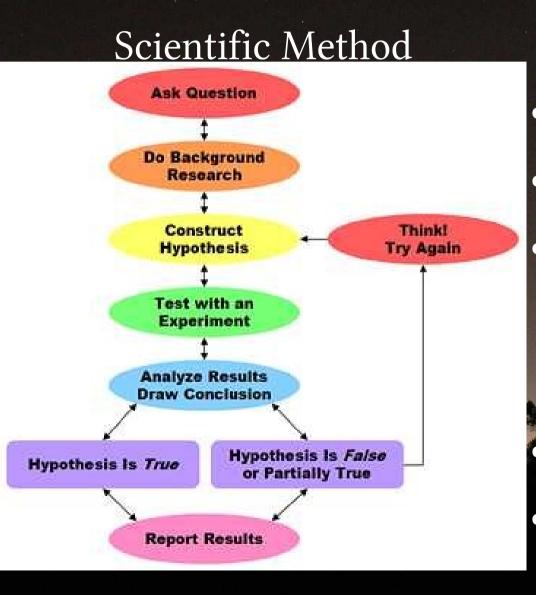


What is missing?
God
Bible
Supernatural



What is missing?GodBibleSupernatural

Does this matter?



What is missing?
God
Bible
Supernatural

Does this matter?
God is behind *all* nature
"Natural" does not mean without God

Science: Doing it the *Wrong* way *Methodological Naturalism*

Science: Doing it the *Wrong* way

Methodological Naturalism

Assumes that the supernatural does not exist at all
Assumes that only natural processes are in effect while doing science

• Violates the principles of discovery, evidence, and self-correction

Science: Doing it the *Right* way *Methodological Neutralism*

Science: Doing it the *Right* way

Methodological Neutralism

Realism is the view that science aims at discovering objective truths about reality
Scientists must always be willing to consider opposing evidence i.e. "neutral"

• This approach can handle "miracles"

Christians *can* do science and do so with *complete* integrity!



THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Danger for Christians: God of the Gaps

CAUTION

CAUTION Danger for Christians: God of the Gaps

• "God of the Gaps" is the argument that some Christians used in the past (and sometimes today):

Unexplained by Science = Supernatural acts of God

- Atheists often accuse Christians of using this in desperation
- Evidence of God is in the stuff we understand -- not just where we don't (God is not an alternative to science)
- Bad gaps are gaps that science can/will close and we should not use
- Good gaps are gaps that science opens willingly and we should use
- Origin science is an area where there are good gaps

Crossing the Line: Science and Philosophy

Crossing the Line: Science and Philosophy

• "No other explanations or causes exist"

- •"Science is able to account for everything in nature"
- "Miracles cannot happen (since God doesn't exist)"
- "Science will ultimately reveal everything"

This is *philosophy* -- not *science*! Learn to detect and known the difference when discussing this topic

THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Science: What are its Limits?

Science: What are its Limits?



- Science is the means the physical universe is explained and explored
- Its tools are designed to measure/investigate only the natural realm
- It cannot say anything about the supernatural realm
- It also will not perceive spiritual intervention

CAUTION

- Many aspects of reality are outside realm of science
- Science cannot answer questions of ultimate purpose
- Reason is not opposed to revelation -- reason is required to evaluate revelation

• Revelation does not mean reason has stopped or evidence has become irrelevant

Miracles: An Incorrect Understanding

Miracles: An *Incorrect* Understanding

- Miracles were an everyday occurrence in the Bible
- Miracles were accepted uncritically in Bible times
- Miracles always occurred in wide public view
- We should not be surprised to witness miracles
- Science has now disproved miracles
- We shouldn't use science to investigate miracles
- We shouldn't be skeptical of miracle claims

Miracles: A *Correct* Understanding

Miracles: A *Correct* Understanding

- Miracles were extremely rare in the Bible
- Miracles were doubted when they occurred
- Many miracles occurred in private and remote places
- We should not expect to witness miracles everyday
- No scientific experiments have disproved miracles
- We can use science to investigate miracles
- We should be skeptical of miracle claims

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

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There are two groups of people that don't see any evidence of a Creator in our universe:

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

There are two groups of people that don't see any evidence of a Creator in our universe:

All atheists/naturalists Some Christians

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

"For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God."

(Romans 1:20)

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

This type of evidence is called the *teleological argument* – that "design implies a Designer"
As Christians, we must realize that this is *evidence* -- not *proof* of a Creator

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

There are two broad categories of evidence for a Creator:

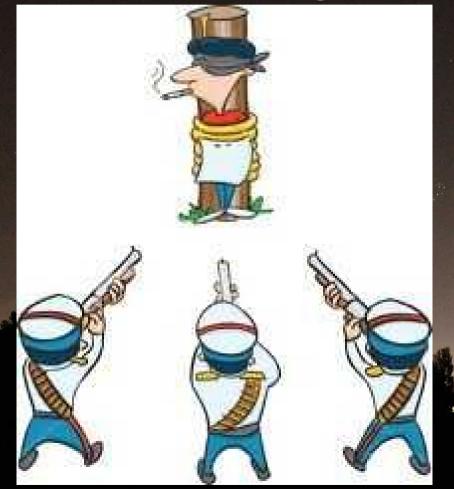
"Fine Tuning" (physics, astronomy, chemistry)
"Intelligent Design" (biology, anatomy)

Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

The "fine tuning" argument:

"The idea that the conditions that allow life in the Universe can only occur when certain universal fundamental physical constants lie within a very narrow range, so that if any of several fundamental constants were only slightly different the universe would be unlikely to be conducive to the establishment and development of matter, astronomical structures, elemental diversity, or life as it is presently understood."

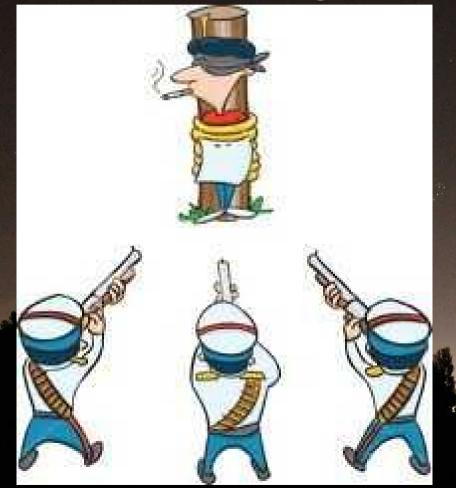
Fine Tuning



John Leslie "Firing Squad" Analogy (1989)

 Imagine facing a firing squad of 100 sharpshooters

Fine Tuning

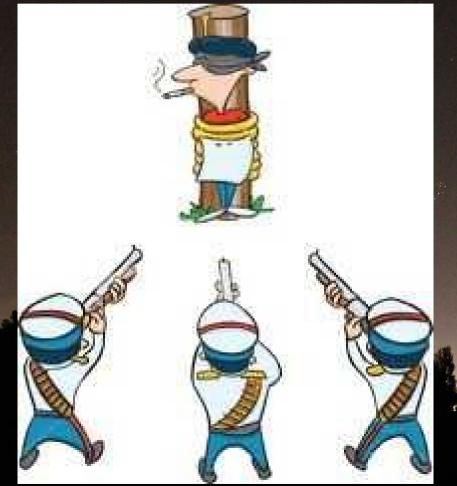


John Leslie "Firing Squad" Analogy (1989)

 Imagine facing a firing squad of 100 sharpshooters

• Ready! Set! Aim! Fire!

Fine Tuning



John Leslie "Firing Squad" Analogy (1989)

 Imagine facing a firing squad of 100 sharpshooters

Ready! Set! Aim! Fire!But you are unharmed!

Fine Tuning: Firing Squad Analogy Why are you still alive?

Fine Tuning: Firing Squad Analogy Why are you still alive?

Atheist: How lucky am I that they all missed! However, since I am alive, I should have expected this to happen!

Theist: They all missed me on purpose! Someone in charge must have intended for me to live!

Fine Tuning: Constants

Example: Mass of Universe

Fine Tuning: Constants

Fine Tuning: Constants

Example: Mass of Universe • Tuned to $1:10^{60}$ (1 part in 000000000000000000000000)• Close to the ratio of the mass of a dime compared to the mass of the entire Universe

Fine Tuning: Constants

Other Examples:

- Ratio of Electrons:Protons = $1:10^{37}$
- Ratio of Electromagnetic Force:Gravity = 1:10⁴⁰
- Expansion Rate of Universe = 1:10⁵⁵
- Cosmological Constant = 1:10¹²⁰

Alternative: No galaxies/stars/planets = No Life!

Fine Tuning: Constants



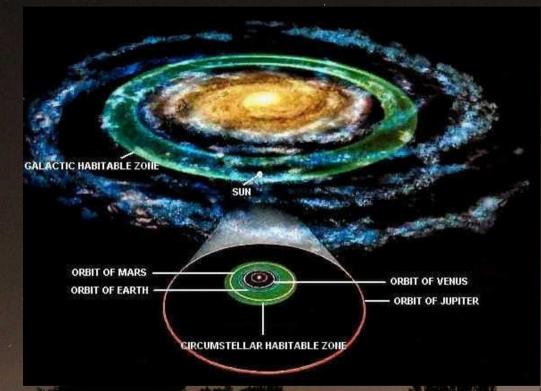
What is the atheist scientist response to these highly-improbable conditions?

Fine Tuning: Constants



What is the atheist scientist response to these highly-improbable conditions?

• The "Multiverse" theory



Fine Tuning: Location

• Our solar system is within the GHZ

 Our planet (Earth) is within the CHZ (aka the "Goldilocks Zone")

THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Fine Tuning: Location

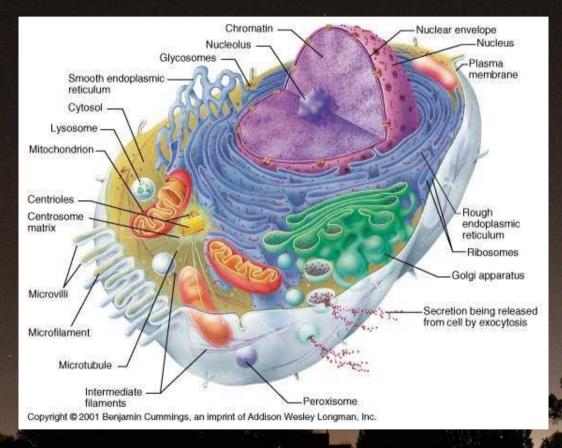
Other Examples:

- right kind of galaxy 1:15
- right place in galaxy 1:10000
- right kind of star 1:1000
- right distance of planet 1:40
- right sized planet 1:10
- right spin of planet 1:5
- not near a black hole 1:100
- proper magnetic field 1:10
- high composition of carbon 1:1000
- high water content 1:1000

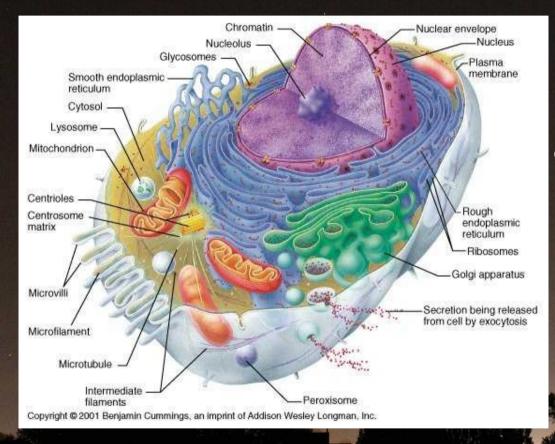
Scientific Evidence for Faith: Is There Any?

The "intelligent design" argument:

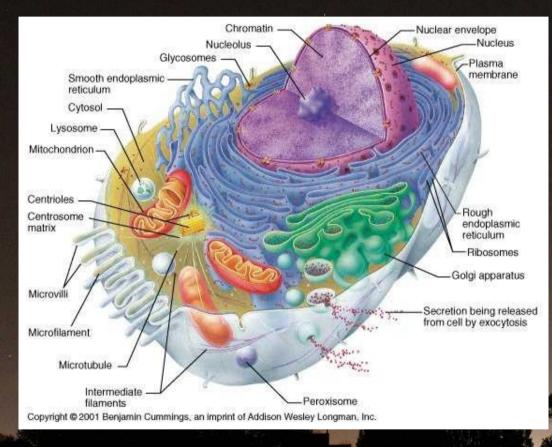
"The proposition that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection."



Intelligent Design Example: The Cell



Intelligent Design Example: The Cell
250 proteins is the minimum required for life



Intelligent Design Example: The Cell
250 proteins is the minimum required for life

Probability of this arising by chance is 1:10⁴¹⁰⁰⁰

"Towering and contagroom... Flew's collergues in the church of fundamentalist athrony will be scandalored,"—FRANCES S. COLLESS, and/or of The Leggage of Gol

WINNER OF THE CHRISTIANITY TODAY BOOK AWARD

THERE IS GOD

How the world's most notorious atheist changed his mind



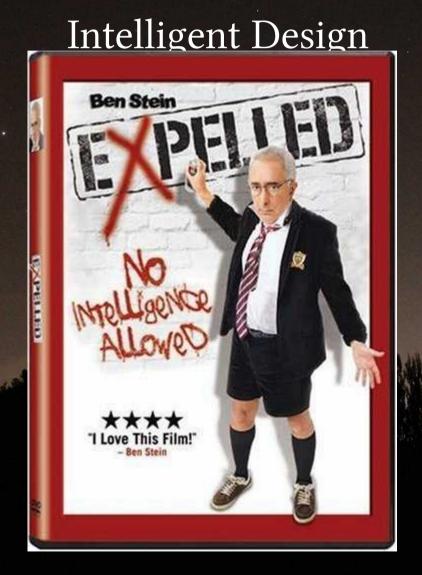
Intelligent Design

• Antony Flew (1923-2010)

"A super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature, Flew said ... biologists' investigation of DNA `has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce (life), that intelligence must have been involved"

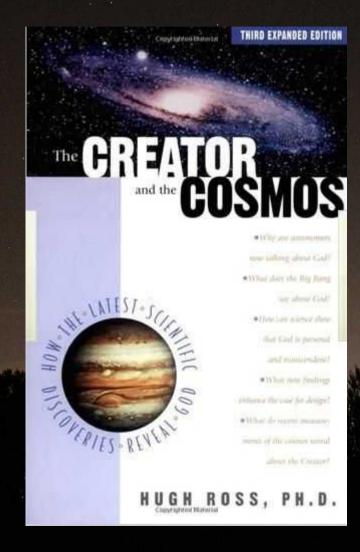
Intelligent Design

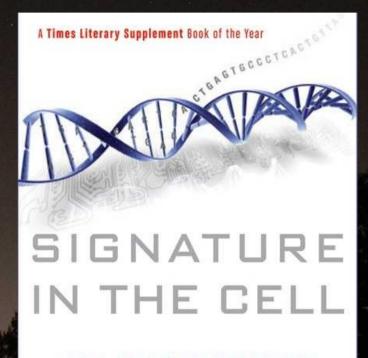




Ben Stein's "Expelled" movie (2008)

 Ben Stein examines the issue of academic freedom and decides that there is none when it comes to the debate over intelligent design.





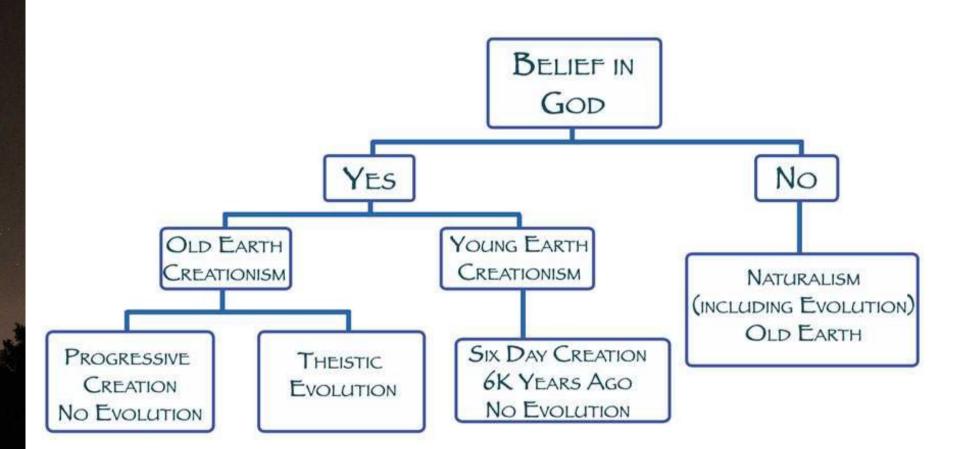
DNA AND THE EVIDENCE FOR INTELLIGENT DESIGN

STEPHEN C. MEYER

Bonus Material [If time permits]

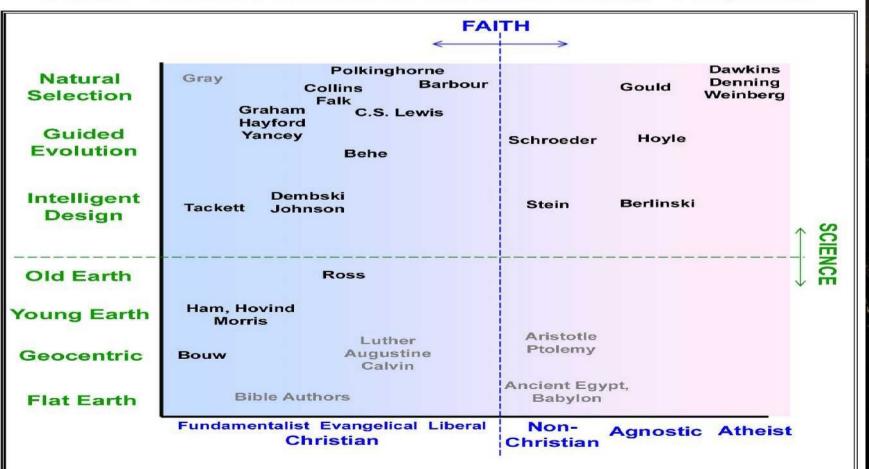
Christian Controversy: Evolution & the Age of the Earth

Christian Controversy: Evolution & the Age of the Earth

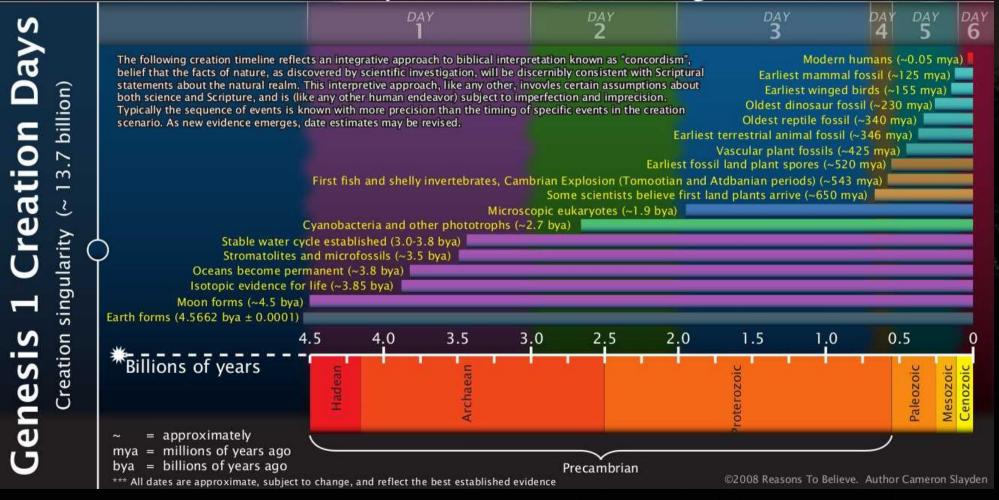


Christian Controversy: Evolution & the Age of the Earth

Phil's "Etch-A-Sketch of Understanding" Proposal



Christian Controversy: Evolution & the Age of the Earth



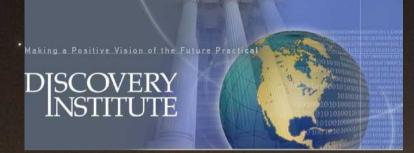
Young Earth Creation (YEC) Groups



Old Earth Creation (OEC) Groups



The Reason for God: Science Has Disproved Christianity Intelligent Design (ID) Groups





Theistic Evolution (TE)/Evolutionary Creationism (EC)



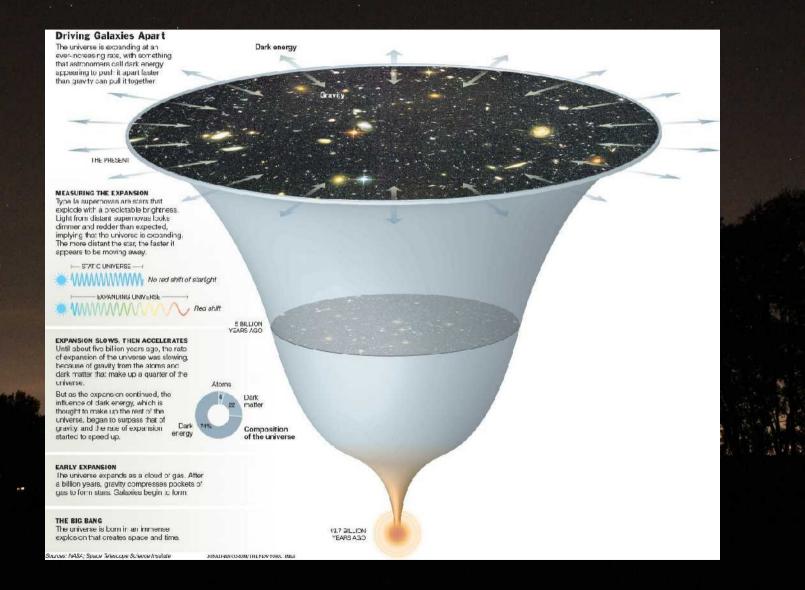


• You owe it to yourself and others to know at least a little bit about this topic (at least where to get answers if you need them)

- Don't accept the myths of history and our current culture that portrays Science as the enemy of Faith
- Remember that God is responsible for both the supernatural as well as natural world
- Don't accept the anti-supernatural philosophical bias of some scientists
- Be very careful of using "God of the Gaps" explanations
- Remember that the Bible is not primarily a book of science
- Appreciate that there are alternate Christian explanations of origins that do not assume a 6000-year-old Earth

Thanks for your Participation!

Extra Material





THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Richard Dawkin's Quotes

"It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that)."

"Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose"

"I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world."

"Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is the belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence."

"The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference."

"To an honest judge, the alleged convergence between religion and science is a shallow, empty, hollow, spin-doctored sham."

"The universe is nothing but a collection of atoms in motion, human beings are simply machines for propagating DNA, and the propagation of DNA is a self-sustaining process. It is every living object's sole reason for living."

THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Sam Harris' Quotes

"Every one of the world's "great" religions utterly trivializes the immensity and beauty of the cosmos. Books like the Bible and the Koran get almost every significant fact about us and our world wrong. Every scientific domain -- from cosmology to psychology to economics -- has superseded and surpassed the wisdom of Scripture. Everything of value that people get from religion can be had more honestly, without presuming anything on insufficient evidence. The rest is self-deception, set to music."

"It is also worth noting that one can obtain a Ph.D. in any branch of science for no other purpose than to make cynical use of scientific language in an effort to rationalize the glaring inadequacies of the Bible. A handful of Christians appear to have done this; some have even obtained their degrees from reputable universities. No doubt, others will follow in their footsteps. While such people are technically "scientists," they are not behaving like scientists. They simply are not engaged in an honest inquiry into the nature of the universe. And their proclamations about God and the failures of Darwinism do not in the least signify that there is a legitimate scientific controverst about evolution."

"A person can be a God-fearing Christian on Sunday and a working scientist come Monday morning, without ever having to account for the partition that seems to have erected itself in his head while he slept."

THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Daniel Dennett's Quotes

"The kindly God who lovingly fashioned each and every one of us and sprinkled the sky with shining stars for our delight -- that God is, like Santa Claus, a myth of childhood, not anything a sane, undeluded adult could literally believe in. That God must either be turned into a symbol for something less concrete or abandoned altogether."

"But hasn't there been a tremendous rebirth of fundamentalist faith in all these creeds? Yes, unfortunately, there has been, and I think that there are no forces on this planet more dangerous to us all than the fanaticisms of fundamentalism, of all the species: Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, as well as countless smaller infections. Is there a conflict between science and religion here? There most certainly is."

"I know, I know, the lion is beautiful but dangerous; if you let the lion roam free, it would kill me; safety demands that it be put in a cage. Safety demands that religions be put in cages, too -- when absolutely necessary."

THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Christopher Hitchen's Quotes

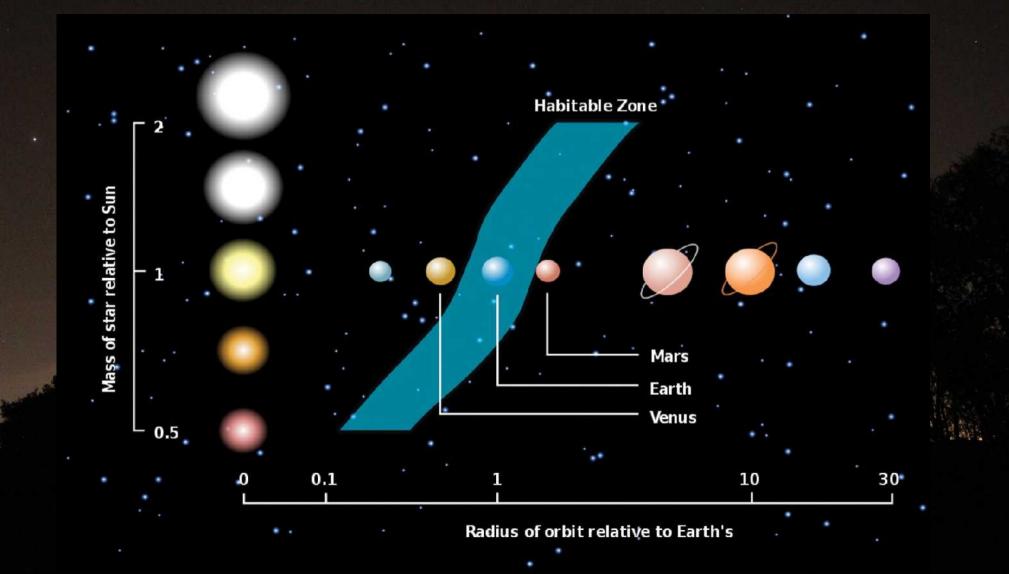
"The Bible may, indeed does, contain a warrant for trafficking in humans, for ethnic cleansing, for slavery, for bride-price, and for indiscriminate massacre, but we are not bound by any of it because it was put together by crude, uncultured human mammals."

"The only position that leaves me with no cognitive dissonance is atheism. It is not a creed. Death is certain, replacing both the siren-song of Paradise and the dread of Hell. Life on this earth, with all its mystery and beauty and pain, is then to be lived far more intensely: we stumble and get up, we are sad, confident, insecure, feel loneliness and joy and love. There is nothing more; but I want nothing more."

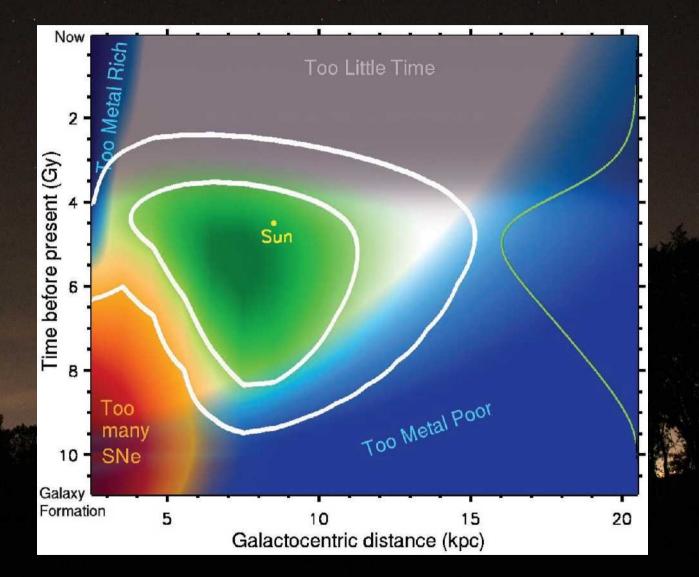
THE REASON FOR GOD: SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY Jerry Coyne's Quotes

"My Dear Mr. Darwin, Happy 200th birthday! I hope you are as well as can expected for someone who has been dead for nearly 130 years.

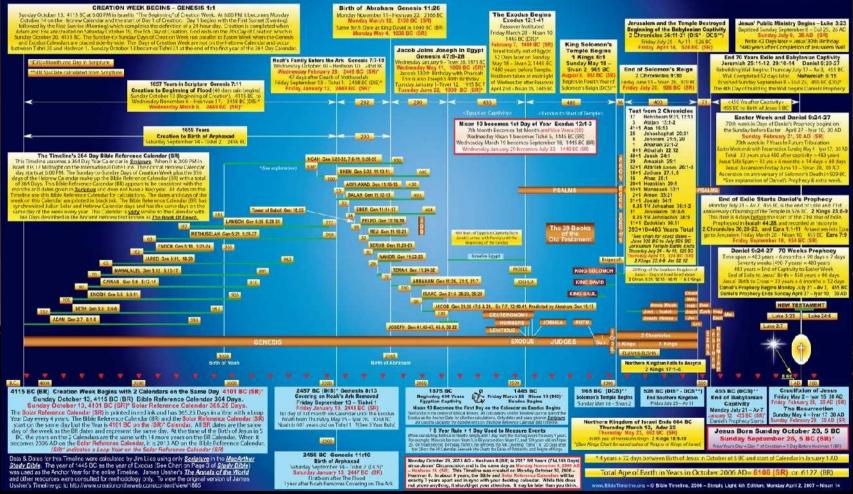
I wish I could end this letter by telling you that your theory of evolution has achieved universal acceptance. As you well knew, evolution has proved a bitter pill for religious people to swallow. For example, a large proportion of the American public, despite access to education, clings to a belief in the literal truth of Genesis. You will find this hard to believe, but more Americans believe in the existence of heavenly angels than accept the fact of evolution. Unfortunately, I must often put aside my research to fight the attempts of these "creationists" to have their Biblical views taught in the public schools. Humans have evolved extraordinary intellectual abilities, but sadly these are not always given a free rein by their owners. But this probably won't surprise you – remember the Bishop of Oxford and his attempt to put your friend Thomas H. Huxley in his place?"



THE REASON FOR GOD: Science Has Disproved Christianity



REAL HISTORY: THE TIMELINE OF THE BIBLE



THE REASON FOR GOD: Science Has Disproved Christianity

What dangers might a group of Christians encounter in studying this topic?

What dangers might a group of Christians encounter in studying this topic?

Becoming too attached to a particular theory/person
Crisis (or loss) of faith

CAUTION