

# Has Science Now Buried God?

*[In the Battle Between Science and Religion]*

Dr. Heinz Lycklama

heinz@osta.com

[www.heinzlycklama.com/messages](http://www.heinzlycklama.com/messages)



For his invisible attributes, namely,  
his eternal power and divine nature,  
have been clearly perceived, ever  
since the creation of the world, in  
the things that have been made. So  
they are without excuse.

*Rom. 1:20*

“What I see convinces me God exists.  
What I cannot see, confirms it.”

*Albert Einstein*

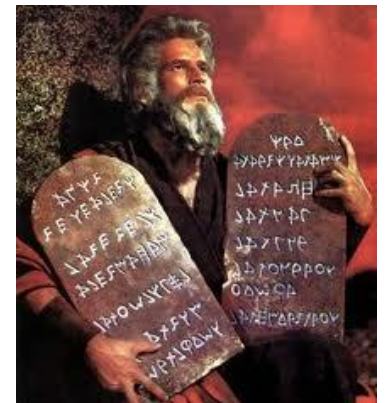
# Has Science Now Buried God?

1. Arguments for God's Existence
2. Some Science History
3. Paradigm Shifts in Science
4. Origins Belief Systems
5. Science and God
6. Nonoverlapping Magisteria?
7. The Wrong War: Science vs. Religion
8. The Beginning: Genesis & Evolution
9. Science & Theology: The Great Schism
10. Scientists Finding God in the Universe
11. In Conclusion



# 1. Arguments For God's Existence

- Cosmological argument
  - Beginning of the universe
- Teleological (Design) argument(s)
  - Design and order in the universe, e.g Anthropic Principle
  - Design of life
- Moral argument
  - Moral law implies a moral law giver
- Ontological argument
  - The concept of God – greatest conceivable and necessary Being





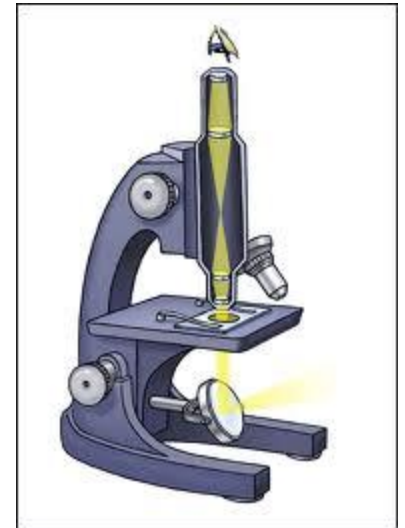
## 2. Some Science History

- Early Greek scientists – Aristotle, Pythagoras, Euclid, Hipparchus, Archimedes, Ptolemy
  - Limited by wrong idea of God and reality
  - Science held back by Greek myths
- Early scientific advances by China, India
  - Influenced by Hinduism and Buddhism
- Islam contributed to math and astronomy
- Middle ages – a time of advances in science
  - True science depends on order and laws
  - We can study the order in nature



# Beginnings of Modern Science

- Invention of the telescope in 1609 by Galileo, improved in 1611 by Kepler, and in 1668 by Newton
- Invention of the microscope in 1590, and improved in 1625 by Galileo
- Pioneers were men of Christian faith
  - **Ps. 111:2**, Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.



# Science & Christianity

- The universe is real
  - In many eastern religions the universe is an illusion
- The universe is orderly
- God is the God of order
- God is the lawgiver
- Natural laws set by God
- Man can investigate the universe





# We Are Rational Beings

- Belief in the Bible contributed to the development of science
  - Lead to modern empirical science
- Presuppositions
  - Our thoughts are rational
  - We are rational and moral beings
  - Axioms of Scripture are true
- **Is. 1:18**, Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: ...



# Scientific Disciplines Established by Bible-Believing Scientists

Discipline	Scientist
Astronomy	Johann Kepler (1571-1630)
Bacteriology	Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)
Chemistry	Robert Boyle (1627-1691)
Computer Science	Charles Babbage (1792-1871)
Dynamics	Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
Electrodynamics	Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)





# Scientific Disciplines Established by Bible-Believing Scientists - 2

Discipline	Scientist
Electromagnetics	Michael Faraday (1791-1867)
Natural History	John Ray (1627-1705)
Oceanography	Matthew Maury (1806-1873)
Taxonomy	Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778)
Thermodynamics	Lord Kelvin (1824-1907)



# Some Notable Discoveries by Bible-Believing Scientists

<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Scientist</b>
Barometer	Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)
Biogenesis Law	Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)
Classification System	Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778)
Law of Gravity	Isaac Newton (1642-1727)
Scientific Method	Francis Bacon (1561-1626)
Telegraph	Samuel Morse (1791-1872)
Vaccination and Immunization	Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)



### 3. Paradigm Shifts in Science

- Almost all science disciplines were founded by Bible-believing scientists, e.g. Bacon, Galileo, Kepler, Newton, Maxwell
  - Believed in an intelligent Creator God
  - Thinking God's thoughts after Him
  - Science is possible because the laws of nature are constant and there is order in the universe
- Today's Science
  - God is no longer needed
  - Naturalism can (or will) explain everything
  - Science can tell us how, but not why

# Flat Earth Myth

- Early Greeks believed in spherical earth
- Most early Christian writers believed the earth was a sphere
- Myth based on a few “flat earthers”
- Columbus believed in a spherical earth but he did not know the earth’s circumference





# Paradigm Shifts in Cosmology

- Aristotle, Greek philosopher, 384 BC

- Circular motion of the planets and stars

- Ptolemy, Roman astronomer, 85 AD

- Geocentric model, 6<sup>th</sup> century BC

- Ptolemy planetary model, 140 AD

- Copernicus, Prussian astronomer, 1473 AD

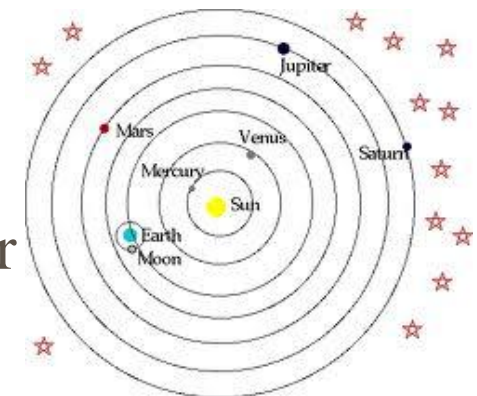
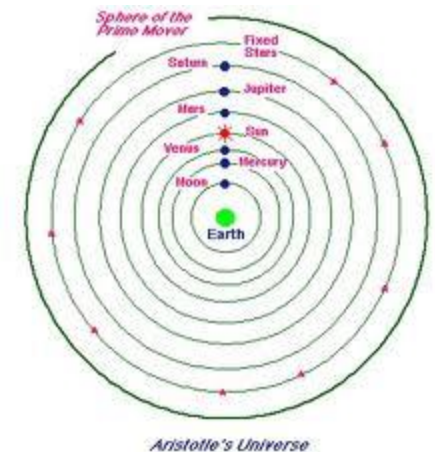
- Heliocentric model, 1543 AD

- Galileo, Italian physicist, 1564 AD

- Astronomer/mathematician/philosopher

- Father of observational astronomy

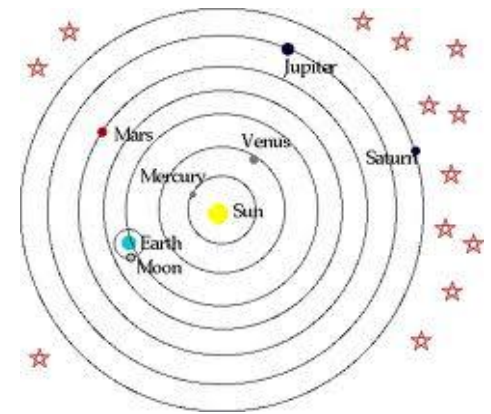
- Defended Copernican model, 1633 AD



# Paradigm Shifts in Cosmology

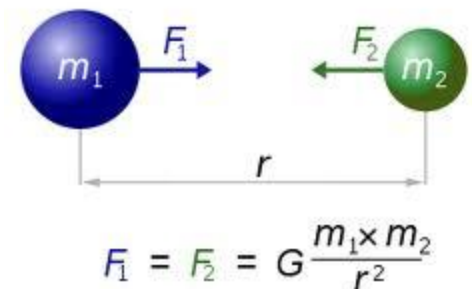
## ■ Kepler, German astronomer, 1571 AD

- Mathematician, Biblical scholar
- Elliptical orbits of planets, 1596 AD
- 3 laws of planetary motion, 1621 AD



## ■ Newton, English physicist, 1643 AD

- Astronomer, mathematician, theologian
- Wrote Principia Mathematica in 1667 AD
- Gravitational attraction – 1687 AD
- Three laws of motion
- Influential for next 3 centuries



# Galileo's Controversy

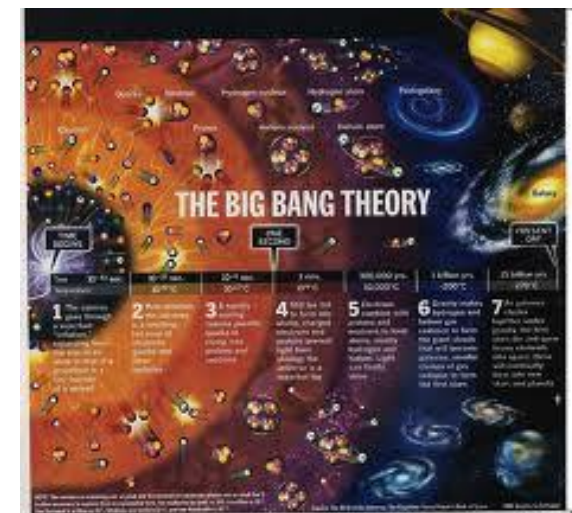
- Scientists at universities were the first to oppose Galileo
- Church was open to Galileo at first but he had not proved his theory
- Galileo was very abrasive in personality
- Reference frame changed
  - All motion is relative
- Sun is not a perfect body – e.g. sunspots





# More on Paradigm Shifts

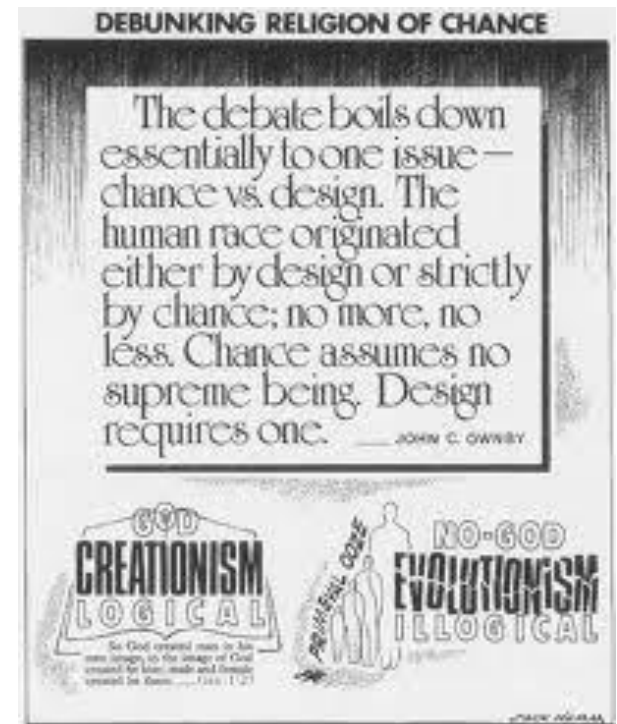
- Hebrews – universe was created
- Plato – made of pre-existent material
- Aristotle – Eternal universe
- Hindu's – endless repeating cycles
- Premodern era – universe infinite in age
- 1900's – universe had a beginning
  - Red light shift from galaxies
  - Expanding universe
  - Cosmic microwave background
  - Thermodynamics





# 4. Origins Belief Systems

- Naturalism/Materialism/(Macro)Evolution
  - Laws of nature can account for the origin of the universe and life on earth without the need for a Creator
- Supernaturalism/Creation
  - An intelligent being (God) created the universe & life on earth out of nothing
- Theistic Evolution
  - God could have used Evolution
- Progressive Creation
  - God intervened with new creations (e.g. man) over time
- Day-Age Theory
- Gap Theory





# What Is Science?

- “Science is the search for truth”
- “Operational” Science
  - Postulate theory -> make observations -> prove/falsify theory
  - Using the Scientific Method
- “Origins” Science
  - “Forensic” science
  - Were you there at the beginning?
  - Model of Creation
  - Model of Evolution
  - Which model fits the observed facts best?



# Origins - Evolution or Creation?

- “Science is the search for truth”
- Hypothesis, theory, model, law, or fact?
  - Fact – proven to be true
  - Law – no known exception
  - Theory – testable, falsifiable, based on empirical findings
  - Hypothesis – provisionally explains some fact
  - Model – simplified representation of reality
- Which is Evolution? Creation?
  - A model – let’s see why ...



# Origins Can't Be Tested or Proved

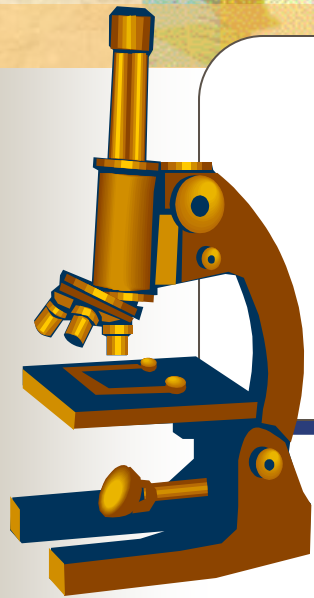
- Creation cannot be “proved”
  - Not taking place now (completed)
  - Not accessible to use of scientific method
  - Can't devise experiment to describe Creation process
- Evolution cannot be “proved”
  - If it is taking place, operates too slowly to measure
    - Transmutation would take millions of years
  - The scientific method cannot be used to measure it
  - Small variations in organisms (observed today) are not relevant
    - Can't be used to distinguish between Creation & Evolution





# Scientific “Proofs” of Origin

- What we can test scientifically
  - Observable/repeatable processes
  - Trends/tendencies in nature
  - Processes/events that left evidence
- What we cannot test scientifically
  - Identity/motivation of who/whatever brought the universe and life into existence
  - Historical events
  - Morality
  - Meaning



Present +  
Repeatable +  
Observable =  
**SCIENCE**

Past +  
Non-Repeatable +  
Eyewitness Account =  
**HISTORY**



Past +  
Non-Repeatable +  
No Eyewitnesses =  
**BELIEF**



# Basic Assumptions of Creationism

- The Bible is the inerrant Word of God
- God is Creator
- Man is created
- Man is fallen and dependent on God
- Creation is dependent on God
- God reveals Himself in Scripture (Special Revelation)
- God reveals Himself in nature (General Revelation)

## Evolutionary Theory in a Nutshell

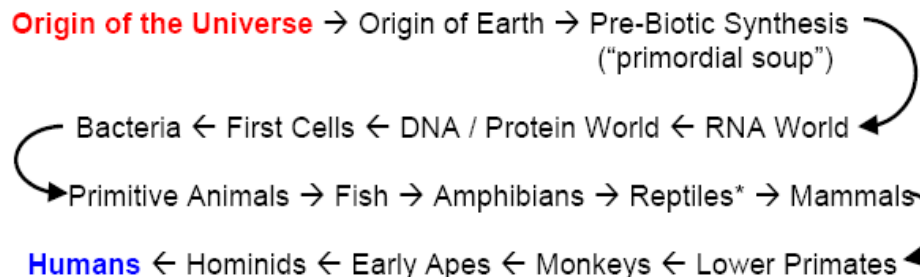
### How Evolution Works:

1. Random chance mutations cause changes, or variation, in a population of organisms.
2. These different organisms then compete to survive and reproduce.
3. Those which are best able to survive and reproduce do so, and tend to leave the most offspring.  
This is called "natural selection."
4. Over time, if some organisms survive and reproduce more than others, a species will "evolve."

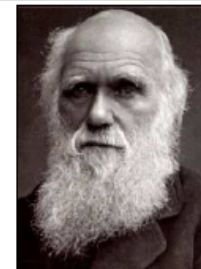
### Evolution claims:

- All organisms are related through "common ancestry."
- All organisms arose through the process of mutation and natural selection.
- All organisms arose and persist because of the random chance processes of nature.

## The story of evolution:



\*Evolutionary theory says some reptiles also turned into birds.



The British naturalist, Charles Darwin, first proposed his theory of evolution in 1859 in *The Origin of Species*. (Picture from <http://www.eeb.lsa.umich.edu/images/darwin.jpg>)



# Three Aspects of Evolution

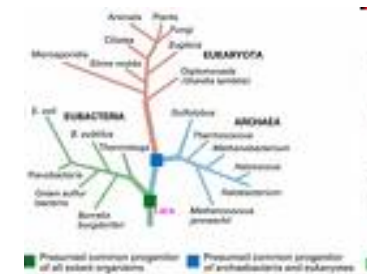
## 1. Biological (Organic) Evolution

- Evolution of organisms from common ancestor
- Molecule to man (Macro-Evolution)



## 2. Biochemical (Chemical) Evolution

- Evolution of first life from nonlife



## 3. Cosmic (Stellar) Evolution

- Evolution of the universe, including galactic clusters, galaxies, stars, solar systems





# Which Model Best Fits The Facts?

- **Creation** and **Evolution** are the only two models of origins
- Both models should be considered as equal alternatives and evaluated objectively in terms of their relative abilities to correlate and explain scientific data
- **The model that incorporates the most data and has the smallest number of unresolved issues is the most likely to be true**



# Looking at the Scientific Evidence

1. Origin of matter, energy and natural law
2. Classification of biological organisms
3. Mutations and natural selection
4. Origin of man
5. Origin of life (probability)
6. The fossil record
7. Origin of the solar system and planets
8. Teleology – evidence for design



# Summary of The Evidence

- Laws of science consistent with Creation
- The probability of life from non-life is zero
- Abrupt appearance of fully-formed animals
- The missing links are still missing
- Man did not evolve from ape-like creatures
- Catastrophism explains the “geologic column”
- Signs of intelligence in the universe
- There is NO credible evidence for Evolution!
- Science supports Creation



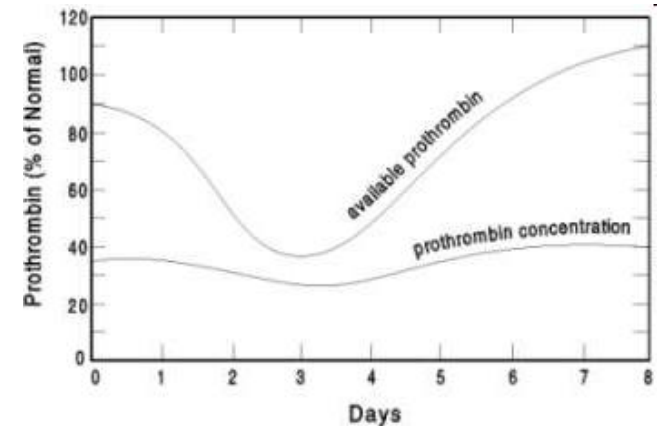
# Biblical Reliability on Science

- We trust the Bible for spiritual truth
- Prophecy, history, geography, and archaeology confirm the truth of the Bible
- Do we trust the Bible for truth in science?
  - Astronomy, geophysics, geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography, physics, biology
- There are many biblical references to nature and natural processes
  - Authors use everyday language
  - Amazingly accurate statements
  - Anticipatory scientific insights in the Bible



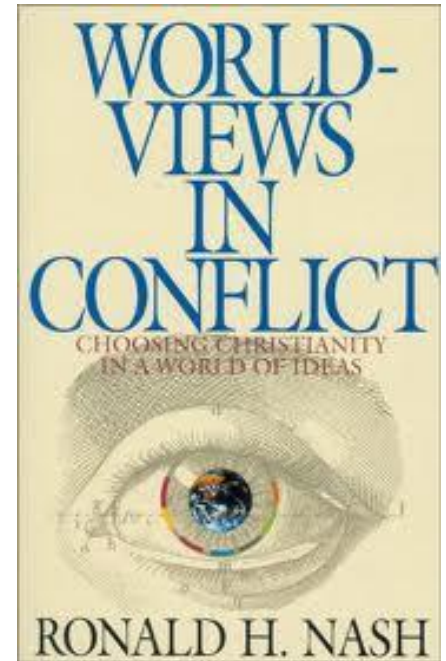
## e.g., The Immune System

- **Gen. 17:12**, “He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.”
  - Eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%
  - Medical science has discovered that this is when the immune system is at its peak towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century



## 5. Science and God

- The question – is Christianity true?
  - Not – is it helpful?
  - Does science fit into this?
  - Does what I believe to be true match reality?
- Conflict between two worldviews
  - Not between science and religion
  - Everyone has their bias
  - Should God be banned from public life?
  - Christianity has intellectual power
- Science is a weapon in a larger cultural war





# The Naturalist's Arguments

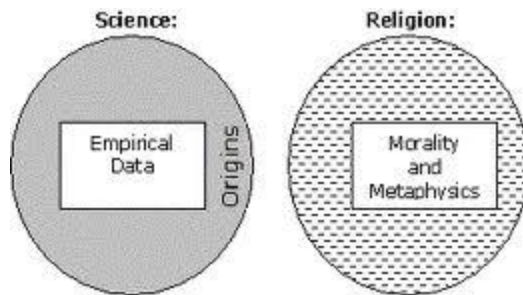
- Everything can be explained by naturalism
  - Now or eventually
- God & Science are alternative explanations
- Who created God?
  - God is harder to explain than a universe
- Everything goes from simple to complex
- Mind comes from matter
- “Design” is by natural selection
- Cosmos still needs its “Darwin” to explain it



## 6. NonOverlapping Magisteria?

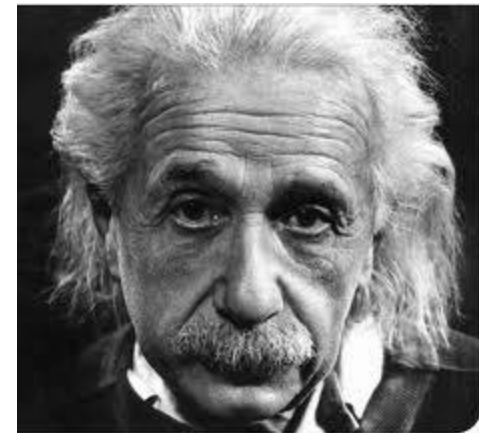
- “The net of science covers the empirical universe ... The net of religion extends over questions of moral meaning and value. These two magisteria do not overlap ...”

- Stephen Jay Gould, Evolutionary Biologist & Atheist



- “Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.”

- Albert Einstein, Physicist





# The Arguments

- Separate because: [Materialist View]
  - Science is based on evidence
  - Faith where there is no evidence
  - Rational vs. irrational
  - Science deals with reality; religion everything else
- Not separate because: [Christian View]
  - God created the universe
  - Science and Christianity complementary
  - Science flourished because of Christianity
  - Laws of nature make science possible
  - Lawgiver created laws of nature

# What Goes in Each Box?

- Science handles the “how” questions
- Religion deals with the “why” questions
- When Mary bakes a cake:
  - Science tells us what’s in it
  - Only Mary can tell us why she baked it
- Science can’t tell us:
  - If a poem is good or bad or what’s beautiful
  - Where we came from? Why we are here?
  - Where we are going?





# Overlapping Magisteria

- Source of morality – God or nature/society?
- Hume – can't go from is to ought
- No moral base apart from God
- What is “good”, where does it come from?
- What's your authority? Who said so?
- Can't relegate religion to private sphere
- Public life & private faith overlap totally
- Truth must match reality



## 7. The Wrong War: Science vs. Religion

- “Faith is one of the world’s great evils. Comparable to the smallpox virus, but harder to eradicate.”
  - Richard Dawkins, Oxford University Zoologist
- “A theory, even a scientific theory, may become an intellectual fashion, a substitute for religion, an entrenched ideology.”
  - Sir Karl Popper, Philosopher of Science



# More Quotes by Richard Dawkins

- “Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”
- “Evolution has been observed. It's just that it hasn't been observed while it's happening.”
- “The theory of evolution by cumulative natural selection is the only theory we know of that is in principle capable of explaining the existence of organized complexity.”



# Lewontin & Materialism

- "[W]e 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 absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door."



■ *Richard Lewontin, Evolutionary Biologist*



# More Quotes From Evolutionists

- “The cosmos is all there is or ever was or ever will be.” *Carl Sagan*
- “Science is the human search for a natural explanation of what the universe is: how it is constructed, how it came to be.”  
*Niles Eldredge*
- “In the evolutionary pattern of thought there is no longer either need or room for the supernatural. The earth was not created; it evolved.”  
*Julian Huxley*



# Some More Quotes

- “Evolution is promoted by its practitioners as more than mere science. Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion—a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality ... Evolution is a religion.”

- *Michael Ruse, Philosopher of Science*

- “Science and religion are opposed, in the sense that my thumb and forefinger are opposed, and between them anything can be grasped.”

- *William Henry Bragg, Founder of X-ray crystallography, 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics*



# Conflict Between Worldviews

- Supernatural & Materialist Worldviews
- Materialist/naturalist worldview
  - Universe is self-explanatory (bottom up)
  - Consists of matter and energy
- Supernatural (Christian) worldview
  - Universe is not self-explanatory (top down)
  - There is a Creator & Sustainer, **Col. 3:16-17**
  - Consists of matter, energy & information
- Science and Christianity are complementary



# Supernaturalism vs. Naturalism

## Pillars of Naturalism:

- Science has its limits

- Answers how,  
not why questions

- We all have biases

- Biases must be justified

- Atheist has a priori belief in naturalism

- Can't explain everything in terms of  
physics and chemistry

- Where did natural laws come from?

- Requires a Lawgiver, a Designer



**Freud is dead, Marx is dead,  
and Darwin isn't feeling very well.**



# Biblical Worldview Presuppositions

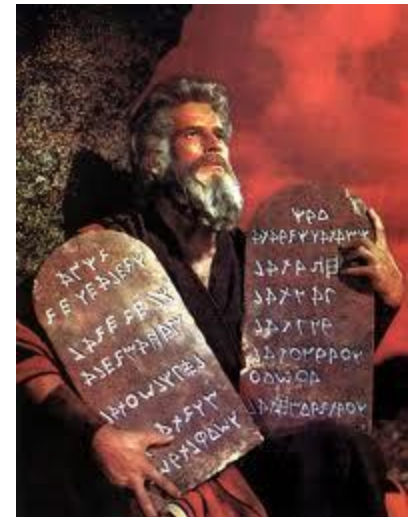
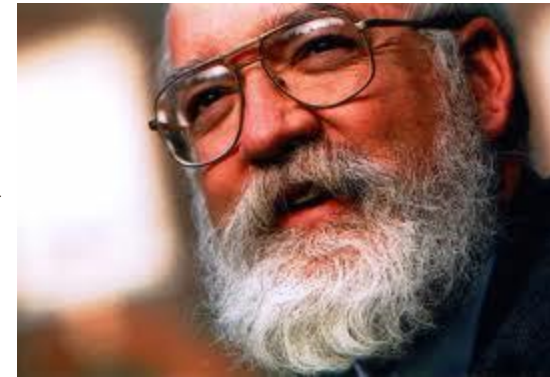
- Nature is real, not imaginary
- Nature is a “thing,” not a god
- Nature is worth studying
- Nature is unified and orderly
- The natural order is mathematically precise
- Human minds can discover and understand the natural order

The Soul of Science, Nancy Pearcey and Charles Thaxton



## 8. The Beginning: Genesis & Evolution

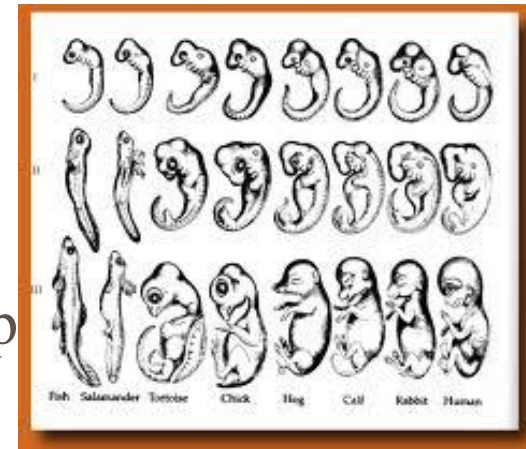
- “In the beginning, there were no reasons; there were only causes. Nothing had a purpose, nothing had so much as a function; there was no teleology in the world at all.”
  - Daniel Dennett, Scientist & Philosopher
- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”
  - **Gen. 1:1**



# Scopes Trial in 1925: Scientific “Evidences” Now Discredited

“Evidence” – why each was discredited

- Neanderthal man – fully human people
- Piltdown – ape jaw joined to man’s skull-cap
- Nebraska – based on fossilized pig’s tooth
- Embryonic recapitulation – Haeckel forged embryo drawings
- Peppered moth – colors shifts, now shifted back
- Vestigial organs – not evolutionary leftovers, but part of our immune system



“Evidence” still in textbooks, but admitted to be faulty!

# The Meaning of Evolution

## 1. Artificial Selection

- Plant and animal breeding

## 2. Change

- Evolution of a coastline (random)
- Evolution of a car (designed)

## 3. Micro-Evolution

- Small variation within prescribed limits of complexity
- e.g., finch beaks by mutation and natural selection

## 4. Macro-Evolution

- Particles -> people

## 5. Molecular Evolution

- Origin of life – assumes a mutating replicator

Only 1, 2 and 3  
have been observed

4 never observed!

5 is impossible!



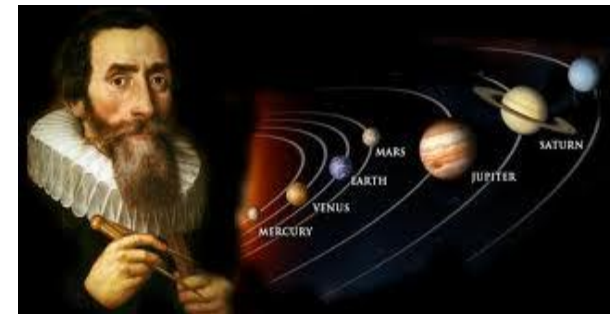
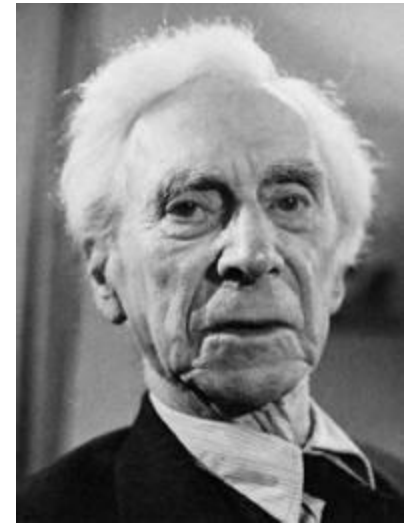
# Genesis & Creation

- **Gen. 1** – Vanquished by “Origin of Species”?
  - Simple yet profound historical statements
  - God spoke major events into existence
  - One issue is the age of the earth
- Information prior to energy and matter
- Genesis speaks against MacroEvolution
- Universe has a finite age (not eternal)
- Atheism is not a product of science
- Science is possible because of Creation



## 9. Science & Theology: The Great Schism

- Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence, it will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines.
  - Bertrand Russell, Philosopher
- Science is the process of thinking God's thoughts after Him.
  - Johannes Kepler, Astronomer & Mathematician



# Beginnings of the Schism

- Theology was the Queen of Science
- Explosion in science in 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century
- Laws of nature require a Lawgiver
- Law and order in the universe
  - Makes it possible to do science
- Bifurcation in 18<sup>th</sup> century caused by the “enlightenment”
  - The sacred and the secular





# Intelligibility of The Universe

- We can't restrict God to the “gaps”
- Intelligibility requires explanation
- Truth – explain why science explains
- Postulate God who can explain
- Heavens declare God's glory
- It is what we do understand that is so remarkable, not what we don't understand
- Science is powerless to explain the laws of physics and chemistry

# Science and Reality

- Dawkins asked to explain origins
  - “Physicists are working on that”
  - We are powerless to explain
- Arguments of biologists conflict with mainstream
  - Genetics requires information
  - More evidence from biology coming
- Explanation examples:
  - Two scratches on wall of cave -> intelligence
  - Human genome with 3B base pairs -> chance?





# Chance, Necessity (Law) or Design?



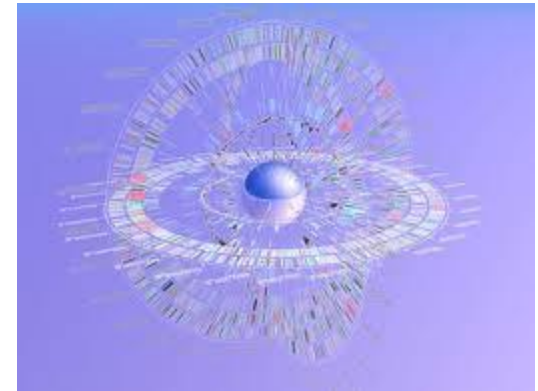
# Chance, Necessity or Design?

## Scratches on cave wall

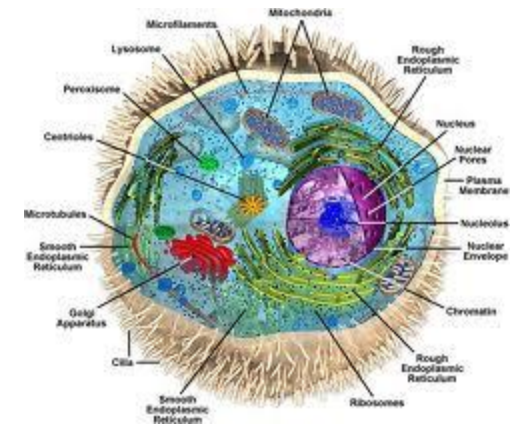


## Human genome

3B  
Base  
Pairs



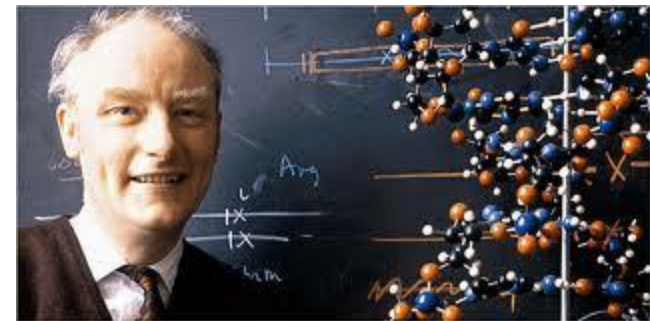
20T  
Cells





# The Evolutionists' Response?

- “Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such a hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.”
  - S.C. Todd, Kansas State University Professor
- “Biology is the study of complicated things that have the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.”
  - Richard Dawkins, Oxford Univ. Atheist Biologist
- “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”
  - Francis Crick, Co-discoverer of DNA



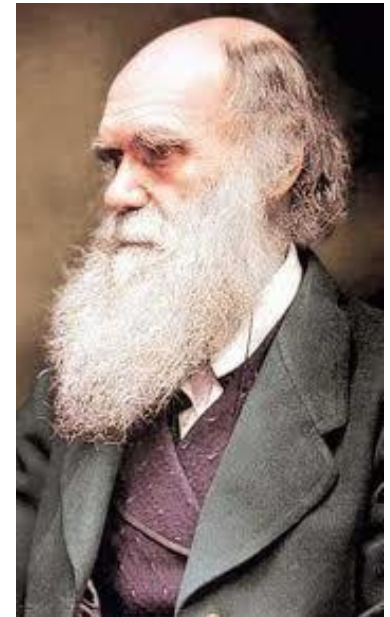
# 10. Scientists Finding God in the Universe

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

- *Charles Darwin, Naturalist*

- The most beautiful system of sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.”

- *Sir Isaac Newton, Physicist, Mathematician & Astronomer*







# Relevance of The Christian Faith

- Christianity is relevant today
- The Christian faith is rational
  - It is authentic
- Absolute truth is still important
- The Truth will set you free, **John 8:32**
- Empirical evidence does not lead to atheism
  - Atheism is a presupposition
- Atheism is a dead-end
  - An eternal tomb, no hope, no meaning



## 11. In Conclusion

- Science has NOT buried God
- Science and Christianity are complementary
- Bible is reliable scientifically
- Christianity is true
- Christianity is a rational belief system
- Conflict of two competing worldviews
  - Naturalism/Materialism and Supernaturalism
- Origin of the universe requires a Designer
- Origin of life requires a Designer
- Science does not support (Macro)Evolution



# Science Has NOT Buried God

**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**

Dr. Heinz Lycklama

heinz@osta.com

www.heinzlycklama.com

www.heinzlycklama.com/messages



# Some Important Books

- Evolution: A Theory in Crisis, Dr. Michael Denton
- Darwin on Trial, Dr. Phillip Johnson
- Darwin's Black Box, Dr. Michael Behe
- Design Inference, Dr. William Dembski
- Not By Chance, Dr. Lee Spetner
- The Soul of Science, Pearcey and Thaxton
- Genetic Entropy & Mystery of the Genome, Dr. John Sanford
- The God Delusion, Dr. Richard Dawkins
- God's Undertaker, Dr. John Lennox
- The Edge of Evolution, Dr. Michael Behe
- Signature in The Cell, Dr. Stephen Meyer
- The Greatest Show on Earth, Dr. Richard Dawkins
- The Greatest Hoax on Earth, Dr. Jonathan Sarfati