

Creation and Intelligent Design



Week 13
Belief Beyond
Evidence

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The Quarter in Review

- Earth, moon, stars, galaxies
- Biblical account of Creation
 - *“In the beginning, God created...”*
 - *“Bara”* plus a number = literal day
 - *“Erev and Boker”*
 - Evening and morning
 - Chaos to order
- Entropy – **order** to **disorder** (decay)
- Finely tuned universe – the “window of life”

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.

- Heb 11:3, NIV

Over the doorway to the temple of Science are written the words 'Thou must have faith.'

- Max Planck, 1858-1947
Renown theoretical physicist

God's Creatures



- Bats—the only flying mammals
- Amazing sonar navigation capabilities

- Penguins—unique physiology
- Flipper wings, feet for steering, blubber



- Salmon—return to birthplace
- Seven year fresh- and salt water cycle

- Monarchs—Awesome cycle of life
- Summer in Canada, winter in Mexico



And don't forget the **ants, termites, and bees!**

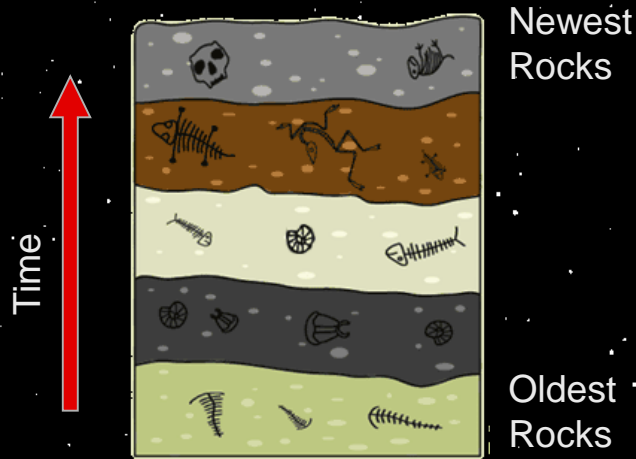
Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth and makes us wiser than the birds of the heavens?

Job 35:11

Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Matt 6:26

The Flood



Ideal geologic column



The real world

船

eight

vessel

person

Boat = eight person vessel

The message of the Flood:

- Be holy in conduct
- Be Godly people
- Look for and forward to the "coming Day of God"
- God can save us from destruction

*I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.*

Psalm 139:14a (NIV)

Evolution and Biochemistry

- Darwin's *Theory of Evolution*
- Micro- vs. macroevolution
- Irreducible complexity
 - Mousetrap “evolution”
 - Protein production
 - Blood clotting



Macroevolution?

[A cell] is an intricate... unit of harmoniously coordinated parts and chemical pathways. Its spontaneous assembly out of the environment, granting the unlikely simultaneous presence together of all the parts, is not a believable possibility.

J. Keosian

The Origin of Life and Evolutionary Biochemistry

So why don't more people believe in God?

Our Culture of Confusion

Three recent *Gallop* polls, a *Gallop/CNN/USA Today* survey, and a *Fortune* magazine survey inform us that:

- 90%-95% of Americans believe in **God, gods**, or a **universal spirit**
 - Closer to 50% in Western Europe
- 46% of Americans describe themselves as **evangelical** or **born-again Christians**
- Only 37% believe that the **devil** or **Satan** exists
- One in four Americans believe in **ghosts**

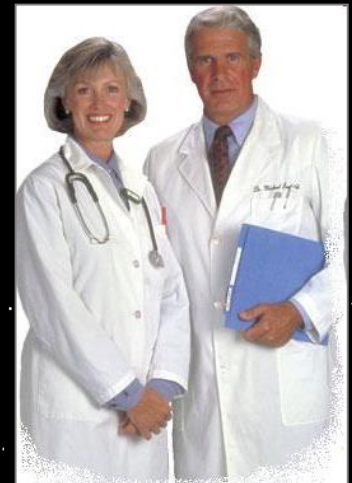
“Religious affiliation remains one of the most accurate and least appreciated political indicators available.”

George Gallop, Jr.

Our Culture of Confusion

- *“The Index of Leading Spiritual Indicators”* by George Barna (1996):
 - Only 31% of Americans **read their Bibles** regularly
 - 84% don’t know meaning of the **Great Commission**
 - Only 37% know the meaning of the **Gospel**
 - 44% of Americans actually **believe Jesus sinned!**
- Contrast this with “white lab coat” advertising
 - *“Prescribed by more doctors...”*
 - *“Leading scientists have determined...”*

The percentage of “leading scientists” who hold religious beliefs has declined from around 30% in 1914 to about 7% in 1998 (*Newsweek*, 7/20/98)



Our Culture of Confusion

U.S. Dept of Energy and NIH devoted 5% of their annual Human Genome Project budget to study **ethical, legal, and social issues** surrounding availability of **genetic information**

- Fair use by insurers, employers, courts, schools, etc.
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Psychological impact and stigmatization due to an individual's genetic differences
- Reproductive issues
- Clinical issues and health care services
- Health and environmental issues
- Commercialization of products involving DNA

Although a **large percentage** of public is interested in **religion**, and **almost half** claim to be **born-again Christians**, no portion of the study looked at the **religious aspects** of **genetics research**!

Spiritual Warfare

Q: Where's the real conflict? Between **science** and **religion**?

A: No, the fight is between **Satan** and **Christians**!



Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Eph 6:11-12

Spiritual Warfare

Satan has been **lying** from the **beginning**:

And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Gen 2:16-17

*“You will **not** surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.*

Gen 3:4

鬼 + 林 + 广 = 魔
devil trees cover tempter

Spiritual Warfare

Satan **blinds** people's **minds** to the truth, appealing to their **selfishness** and desire to be their own god!

“For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Satan speaking to Eve, Gen 3:5

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 Cor 4:3-4

Spiritual Warfare

“The perceived divide between faith and science is an ‘illusion.’”

Martin Gaskell,
Christian Astronomer

Spiritual Warfare

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER WILL I SET ASIDE.”

1 Cor 1:18-19

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God.

1 Cor 3:18-19a

Truth seekers find **God**; the proud find **themselves**.

Belief Beyond Evidence

As I've said before, it's not so much about **evidence** as about **conclusions!**

“It's amazing what people will believe, as long as it's not in the Bible!”

Mark Twain

*But now ask the beasts and let them teach you; And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the **Lord has done this**, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?*

Job 12: 7-10

In Conclusion

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139:14a (NIV)