



Serving the **T** Truth in a **L** Love **S** Sandwich

Creationism vs. Evolution

God created everything, but how?

1st Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

This series of courses is about answering difficult questions about Christianity. As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to be prepared to defend our faith. In this course we are going to depart from the previous strategy of the prior 16 courses. We have been comparing what Orthodox Christianity believes with what non-Christians believe, usually atheists. In this course we are not going to look at the Darwinian theory of evolution at all. (except for a few practice attacks from skeptics.) Darwin's theories simply don't stand up to scrutiny when we see that life was obviously designed by an intelligence of some kind. It has become so obvious that Darwinian evolution is a bankrupt theory that the atheists are concocting all kinds of nonsense, like multiple universes, super space aliens, and spores drifting trillions of miles in a vacuum to seed the earth with life.

Instead we are going to look at how different Christians interpret the first 11 chapters of Genesis. The purpose here is not to enter into that argument, but rather to prepare you to answer atheists and other unbelievers from your point of view, whichever one it is. However, as we study, remember God's truth is spread more heart to heart than mind to mind. Since we have minds, they must also be included in the communication, but never forget to serve the truth in a love sandwich.

Lesson 1 – Five Points of View

Lesson 2 – Poetry or Prose?

Lesson 3 – The Gap Theory?

Lesson 4 – Thousands or Millions of Years?

Lesson 5 – Life or Death?

Lesson 6 – The Flood

Lesson 7 – The Tower of Babel

Lesson 8 – Bonus Lesson – Skeptic's Attacks

Teacher Note – lessons in this course tend to go very long or very short depending on who the students are. If it goes short you may borrow questions from Lesson 8.

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Other free Bible courses are available at <http://www.LoveBibleStudy.com>

Additional Reading

These lessons are designed for small groups or individuals to use without reference to other materials besides the Bible. However, a lot more could be gained if those involved would do some additional reading between class meetings. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/CC/Library.htm>)

We plan to provide specific recommendations with each course at <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Adjunct/>
We also hope to be making specific chapter recommendations from various Christian books that have helped us in our understanding of apologetics, but are not entirely about the topic of the course. Such as these books which would make good companions for this entire series of courses.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

The Case for ... series of books by Lee Strobel

Cold Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene, and Forensic Faith – 3 books by J. Warner Wallace

These books would make good companion reading for this particular course:

Seven Days That Divide the World by John C. Lennox

Saving Darwin: How to Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution by Karl Giberson

Replacing Darwin, The New Origin of Species by Dr. Nathaniel T. Jeanson

Unraveling the Origins Controversy by Dr. David A. DeWitt

Essays on Origins: Creation vs. Evolution by Dr. David Menton

Lesson 1 – Five Points of View

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions.

(1A) Genesis 1:31 On what day did God complete creation? _____

(1B) Exodus 20:11 How many days did the Lord spend making the heavens and earth? _____

(1C) 2 Peter 3:8 With the Lord one day is like what? _____

(1D) Psalm 90:4 What is a thousand years like to the Lord? _____

(1E) Which of these points of view most closely describes your thinking and why do you believe it?

- (1) *Godless Evolution* – (a.k.a. Macro Evolution or Darwinian Evolution) the universe formed and life appeared gradually evolving into what we have today by random happenstance over a period of billions of years.
- (2) *Guided Evolution* - (a.k.a. Theistic Evolution or Progressive Creation) God formed the universe and gradually created and changed living things over a period of billions of years.
- (3) *Intelligent Design* - the design of the universe so that it supports life and the intricate architecture of living things demonstrates life was created by the action of some intelligence of immense power with unknown purpose and by unknown means.
- (4) *Old Earth Creationism* - God created the universe and everything in it at some time in the distant past, probably billions of years ago. From time to time he miraculously changes it.
- (5) *New Earth Creationism* - (a.k.a. Biblical Creationism) God created the universe during a very eventful week a few thousand years ago.

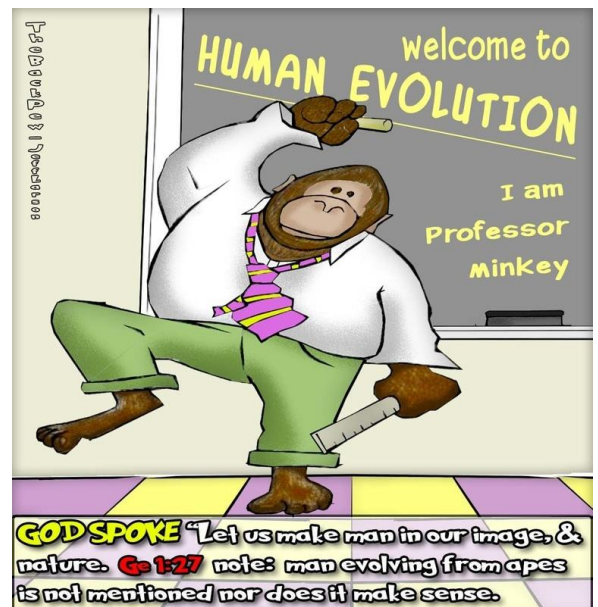
Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[1f] The first ten or so years of my Christian walk I believed in Guided Evolution, that evolution did occur pretty much in the way many biologists describe, but it was guided by the providence of God's perfect will. If I had died during that time would I have gone to heaven or hell? Why? (Hint: Rom 10:9-13)

[1g] *Atheist Attack*: "You can't possibly believe that the universe was created in six literal days? Even you could not be that dumb. Everybody knows that is nonsense." How would you respond to this attack?

[1h] What does 2 Corinthians 10:12 mean?



----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 1 – Five Points of View

(1A) Genesis 1:31 On what day did God complete creation? Sixth

(1B) Exodus 20:11 How many days did the Lord spend making the heavens and earth? Six

(1C) 2 Peter 3:8 With the Lord one day is like what? A thousand years

(1D) Psalm 90:4 What is a thousand years like to the Lord? Yesterday or a watch in the night

(1E) Before I was a Christian I believed in Godless Darwinian Evolution. When I first became a Christian I changed into believing Guided Evolution, which holds that Evolutionary theory is true, and that it was guided by the hand of God. Later I came to believe in Old Earth Creationism, which sees evolutionary theory to be false, but accepts the notion that the Earth is millions or billions of years old. Currently I am a Young Earth Creationist, believing that the Earth is thousands, not millions of years old. However, I differ with most Young Earth Creationists, in that I believe this Solar System is a recent creation within a much older universe.

Two points. One, whatever you believe, you need to be able to rationally defend it. Two, you need to decide when you are talking to a lost person whether it is worthwhile to discuss this issue at all. After all, it is Jesus Christ we follow, not some particular scientific theory. See 1 Corinthians 3:3-23. Yes, really. Please read it right now. Our recommendations for how these issues should be handled will become clear as we go through the lessons in this course, but whatever you decide to do, we hope it will be based on well thought out reasons. The course should help you clarify your reasoning on this important and controversial issue.

Some further thoughts:

[1f] My eternal destiny depends on my relationship with Jesus Christ. It does not depend on how I stand on some scientific theory. The idea is not to change them from whatever they believe about evolution/creationism to whatever you believe about evolution/creationism. The idea is to help them remove an arbitrary obstacle in their mind that keeps them from seeing Christianity as reasonable. If they are an evolutionist, they do not need to stop believing that in order to be a Christian. A Christian is someone who follows Jesus Christ. If they need to have different views of particular scientific theories, and how to interpret Genesis chapters 1 through 11 the Holy Spirit can take care of that in His Own time.

[1g] OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: (Answering how I might have when this was my worldview.) "I don't know how long it took to create the universe. Current astrophysics says that it was close to instantaneous. I don't believe the point of Genesis chapter 1 is to reveal that information to us. I realize many Christians hold to the idea of six literal days, and we can not prove them wrong. However, the Hebrew word for day (*yom*) could also mean a longer undefined period of time, just like it does in English. Somebody might say, "Back in my day, I could do a lot more than I do now." They don't mean a literal 24 hour day when they say that. Also, how could Genesis mean a 24 hour day in verses 1 through 14 when the means of measuring time were not even placed in the universe until verse 14? It seems clear, however long it was, God caused it to happen merely by speaking. That is awesome!"

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: (Answering how I would when this is my worldview.) Martin Luther said, "But, if you cannot understand how this could have been done in six days, then grant the Holy Spirit the honor of being more learned than you are...since God is speaking, it is not fitting for you wantonly to turn His Word in the direction you wish it to go."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: (Answering how I might have when this was my worldview.) "Of course it wasn't created in six days, but I don't see how calling people "dumb" and speaking to them with contempt helps you be convincing."

COURSE PREVIEW

In 1G above I mentioned one of the ways that Christians interpret Genesis 1 to harmonize the scripture with their belief that creation took a very long time. Another way is to understand Genesis 1 as poetry with highly figurative language. We will look closer at this in the next lesson. Sometimes people use something called the "gap theory" to explain how it might have been a longer time. We'll look at that more carefully in lesson 3. In lesson 4 we'll see how some look at the genealogies and see more than the few hundred years they appear to describe. In Lesson 5 we will look at how creationists use the curse of death to support their point of view. Lesson 6 will examine the flood story, and finally in lesson 7 we will look at the tower of Babel.

Lesson 2 – Poetry or Prose?

What makes Hebrew poetry poetic is not rhyme and meter as in English, but parallelism. Biblical poetry is full of this kind of parallelism. Let's analyze Psalm 23.

(1) The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.	I will be cared for. I will be cared for.
(2) He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.	He takes care of my physical needs. He takes care of my physical needs.
(3) He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.	He takes care of my spiritual needs. He takes care of my spiritual needs.
(4) Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	I have nothing to fear. I have nothing to fear.
(5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.	You bless me more than I could ever have hoped or expected. You bless me more than I could ever have hoped or expected.
(6) Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.	God will love me forever. God will love me forever.

Notice also the parallelism within parallelism. In verse 6 – goodness and lovingkindness. In the first three verses the psalmist is talking to his readers, (calling God "He"), but in the final three verses the psalmist is talking to the Lord, (calling God "You"). Note also that the first and last verses are similar in meaning. The second and fifth verses talk about physical comfort. The third and fourth verses mention travel. This is Hebrew poetry – patterns in the meanings rather than the sounds.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(2A) Judges chapters 4 & 5 What is the same and what is different between these two chapters?

Same _____

Different _____

(2B) Exodus chapters 14 & 15 What is the same and what is different between these two chapters?

Same _____

Different _____

(2C) Genesis chapters 1 & 2 What is the same and what is different between these two chapters?

Same _____

Different _____

(2D) There are similarities and differences in these three pairs of chapters. So what?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought: [2e] *Atheist Attack*: Gen 1:11 records God creating vegetation on the third day but Genesis 2:5 states that prior to the creation of man “no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth...” Also, Genesis 1:24-25 records God creating animal life on the sixth day, before He created man. Genesis 2:19 has God creating the animals after He had created man. Which is it?

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 2 – Poetry or Prose?

(2A) Judges 4 & 5 Same: They both tell the same story. -- Different : 4 is narrative and 5 is poetry

(2B) Exodus 14 & 15 Same : They both tell the same story. -- Different : 14 is narrative and 15 is poetry.

(2C) Genesis chapters 1 & 2 What is the same and what is different between these two chapters?

Same: They are both talking about creation. – Different: There are some obvious parallel structures in chapter 1 and it tells a lot more about creation than 2 does. 2 focuses on the creation of Adam and Eve.

(2D) OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: (Answering how I might have when this was my worldview.) "Genesis 1:1-2:3 is a poem full of highly figurative language and therefore should not be taken literally."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: (Answering how I might when this is my worldview.) "There are some parallel structures in Genesis 1, but many Hebrew scholars do not consider it poetry. In the Judges and Exodus examples the designation of poetry in the second chapter is not controversial, unlike the Genesis example. Further, the other examples tell the story first as a historical narrative and as part of the narrative tell about the composing of the song or poem that follows. This pattern is not followed in Genesis. Even if Genesis 1 is poetry, that does not necessarily mean it is not to be taken literally."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: (Answering how I might have when this was my worldview.) "Gen 1 might be poetry. Most of the first 11 chapters of Gen are full of parables & stories, meant to teach spiritual truth, not science."

Some further thoughts: [2e] OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "Genesis 1 is a poem and as such is concerned with themes, concepts and emotions, not chronological sequence."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: Response from GotQuestions.org: "The idea of two differing creation accounts is a common misinterpretation of the first two chapters of Genesis, which, in fact, describe the same creation event. Genesis 1 describes the "six days of creation" (and a seventh day of rest), Genesis 2 covers only one day of that creation week—the sixth day—and there is no contradiction.

"In Genesis 2, the author steps back in the time sequence to the 6th day, when God made man. In the 1st chapter, the author of Genesis presents the creation of man on the 6th day as the culmination or high point of creation. Then, in the 2nd chapter, the author gives greater detail regarding the creation of man.

"Genesis 1:11 records God creating vegetation on the third day. Genesis 2:5 states that prior to the creation of man 'no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground.' The Hebrew words for 'vegetation' are different in the two passages. Genesis 1:11 uses a term that refers to vegetation in general. Genesis 2:5 uses a more specific term that refers to vegetation that requires agriculture or crops, i.e., a person to tend it, a gardener. The passages do not contradict. Genesis 1:11 speaks of God creating vegetation, and Genesis 2:5 speaks of God not causing "farmable" vegetation to grow until after He created man.

"Genesis 1:24-25 records God creating animal life on the sixth day, before He created man. Genesis 2:19, in some translations, seems to record God creating the animals after He had created man. However, a good and plausible translation of Genesis 2:19-20 reads, 'Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them, and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.' The text does not say that God created man, then created the animals, and then brought the animals to the man. There is no contradiction. On the sixth day, God created the animals, then created man, and then brought the animals to the man, allowing the man to name the animals.

"By considering the two creation accounts individually and then reconciling them, we see that God describes the sequence of creation in Gen 1, then clarifies its most important details, especially of the 6th day, in Gen 2. There is no contradiction here, merely a common literary device describing an event from the general to the specific."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: " Chapter 1 is sort of an 'executive summary' and is not concerned with the details you are nit-picking. The point of chapters 1 and 2 is that God created everything, God controls everything, and human beings have a very special place in His heart and future plans."

Lesson 3 – The Gap Theory?

Another way to harmonize an ancient Earth theory with Genesis chapter 1 is the Gap Theory which teaches that billions of years passed between verse 1 and verse 2 of Genesis 1. It was during that time that the war in heaven took place between Satan and his demons vs. God and His angels. This war brought destruction to the universe and requiring the re-creation of it in verses 2 and following. Two things from the Bible might support this "Gap Theory".

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(3A) Genesis 1:2 What was the earth? _____

(3B) Jeremiah 4:23 What was the earth? _____

(3C) Gen 1:28 What were they to do to the earth? _____

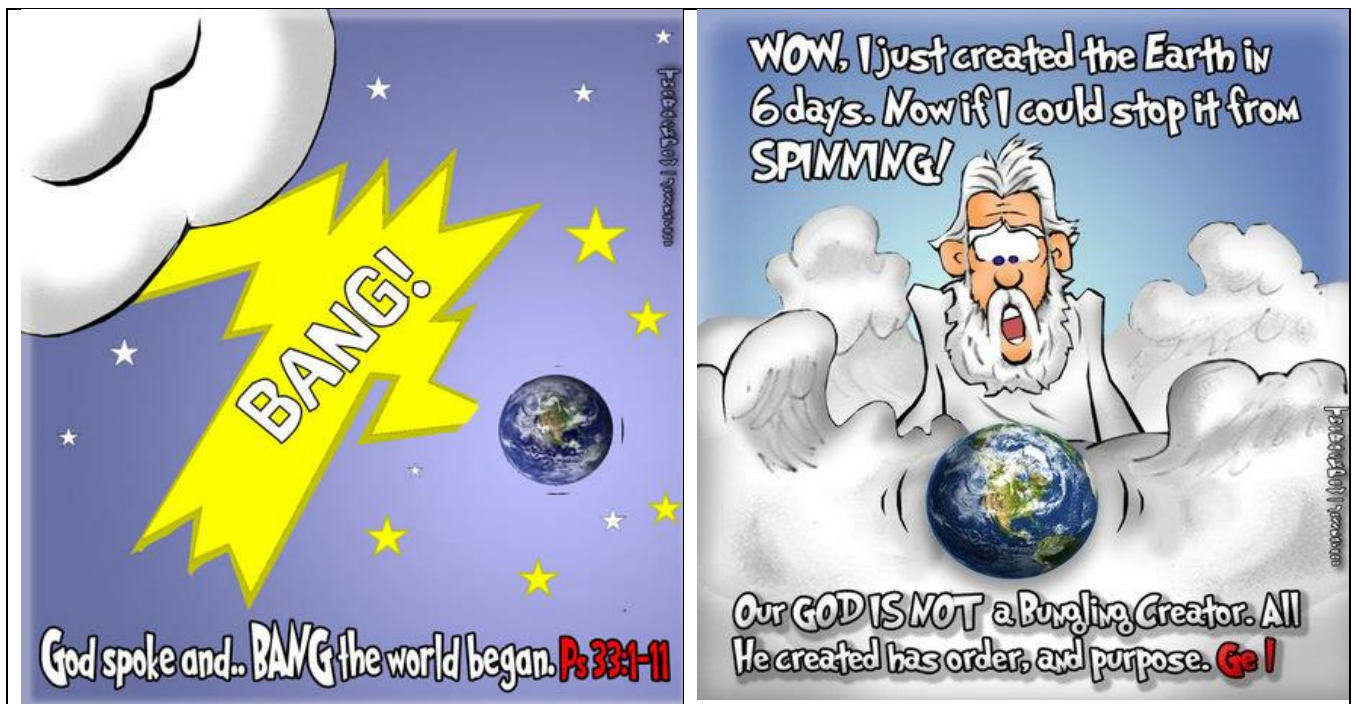
(3D) Do you find the argument for the Gap Theory convincing? _____

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[3e] *Atheist Attack*: "Astronomy proves that the universe is billions of years old. How could you possibly believe that nonsense that the earth is only few thousand years old? Please don't tell me that God created the light rays already on the way from distant galaxies. That is just stupid." How would you respond to this attack?

[3f] What does Matthew 15:14 mean?



----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 3 – The Gap Theory?

(3A) Genesis 1:2 What was the earth? "formless and empty" or "formless and void"

(3B) Jeremiah 4:23 What was the earth? "formless and empty" or "formless and void"

Every other place besides Gen 1 in the Bible where it uses this Hebrew term, "without form, and void" it is the result of calamity or war. For example, in Jer 4:23 it is the result of God's judgment. It could be understood that when this term is used in Genesis 1:2 it means that everything was destroyed, not in the sense of not existing, but in the sense of being ruined. It existed already, but was in need of restoration. That would mean something bad happened between verses 1 and 2. Some people think this might have been the war between God's angels and Satan's angels.

In his book, *Seven Days that Divide the World* John Lennox makes a different argument for placing a time gap between Genesis 1:1–2 being separated from verse 3 involving verb tenses and something called a *waw* disjunctive. The Hebrew is over my head. Suffice it to say that not all Hebrew scholars are convinced, but he might be right.

(3C) Gen 1:28 What were they to do to the earth? Fill it (or replenish it) and subdue it. Why would it need "replenished" unless something had depleted it? This argument is weakened by some ambiguity in the Hebrew. The word translated "replenish" or "fill" could mean either.

(3D) It is not a great argument, but it is a reasonable argument. Either way the rest of Genesis 1 has to be taken as *not* describing literal 24 hour days if you want to support an ancient Earth as a theory. You need to take it as metaphorical, understand a time gap between some of the verses, or otherwise find a way to harmonize what sounds like a short time with a very long time.

A young earth creationist would argue that humans have been around since the beginning, or at least very near the beginning. Jesus taught that marriage was there from the beginning of creation, (Matthew 19:8) not billions of years after a hypothetical 'big bang' beginning or gap. The same goes for the other references to people being present 'from the beginning of the creation.' (See Mark 13:19; Romans 1:20)

Whichever view you take, I hope you can see, that the other points of view are not irrational.

Some further thoughts:

[3e] OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: " Einstein proved that light travels at different speeds depending on how much gravity there is. While it is true that most astronomers and physicists believe the difference in speed is very small (less than a tenth of a percent), they have never actually measured how fast light travels between the stars. Between the stars and galaxies, where gravity is very weak, light could travel very much faster. Unfortunately, astronomers chose to measure distance in interstellar space in 'light years' without really knowing how far light travels in a year. It could be the theoretical approximately 3.6 billion parsecs (another astronomical measure of distance) to the edge of the universe is actually traveled by light in 15 hundred years instead of 15 billion years. Nobody really knows."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "God created Adam and Eve fully grown adults. He could easily have created a 'fully mature' universe including having the light rays already arriving."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Of course, the universe is billions of years old. But being contemptuous of people's ideas and calling them 'stupid' is not going to persuade anyone of anything. "

Lesson 4 –Thousands or Millions of Years?

If you take the ages of everyone in the various genealogies of the Bible (how old they were when they "begat" the next generation) and add them up, you can create a timeline from Adam and Eve into the time of recorded history. There is some ambiguity because it is all rounded off to years, so the number could be a decade or two off, but it comes out to about 4,000 years from Adam to Jesus Christ. However, that does not settle the matter, at least for everyone.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(4A) Matt 1:8 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? _____

(4B) 2 Kg 14:21-22 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? _____

(4D) 2 Chron 26:1 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? _____

(4E) 1 Chron 3:11-12 Who was Uzziah's father? _____

(4F) Matt 1:11 Who was Jeconiah's father? _____

(4G) 1 Chron 3:15-16 Who was Jeconiah's father? _____

(4H) Genesis 11:12 Who was the father of Shelah? _____

(4I) Luke 3:35-36 Who was the father of Shelah? _____

(4J) Genesis 5:18 Was Jared really 162 when he fathered Enoch or did he father an ancestor of Enoch? Does it matter?

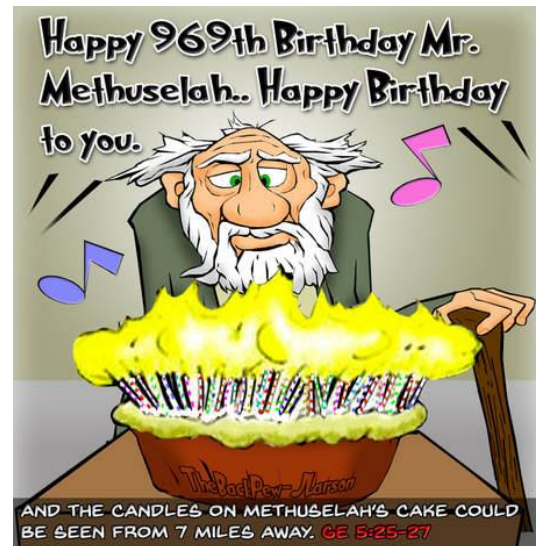
Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[4k] *Skeptic's Question:* "Geology and paleontology prove the earth is billions of years old. Surely you don't believe the earth is only a few thousand years old? Everyone knows that is nonsense. If the Earth is only thousands of years old how do you explain the Cambrian Explosion?" How would you respond to this attack?

[4L] What does Titus 3:9 mean?

[4m] What does 1 Timothy 1:4 mean?



----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 4 –Thousands or Millions of Years?

(4A) Matt 1:8 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? Joram

(4B) 2 Kg 14:21-22 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? Amaziah

(4D) 2 Chron 26:1 Who was Uzziah's (also called Azariah) father? Amaziah

(4E) 1 Chron 3:11-12 Who was Uzziah's father? Amaziah. Joram was Uzziah's great great grandfather

If the genealogies in the Bible sometimes skip generations in this way, there could be many extra years unaccounted for, and the time from Adam to Jesus could exceed 4,000 years by a lot. But is it so?

(4F) Matt 1:11 Who was Jeconiah's father? Josiah

(4G) 1 Chron 3:15-16 Who was Jeconiah's father? Jehoiakim. Josiah was his grandfather

(4H) Genesis 11:12 Who was the father of Shelah? Arpachshad (or Arphaxad)

(4I) Luke 3:35-36 Who was the father of Shelah? Cainan. Arphaxad was his grandfather or it is a copyist error, since there are some textual difficulties with the passage

(4J) YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: " Jared was the father of Enoch. Even though we have seen that leaving out generations is possible there is no evidence any were left out here. Skipping generations is something Matthew did to create poetic parallelism in the genealogy of Jesus. It is not done anywhere else in the Bible. But suppose there were three generations skipped in every case, as there was in the case of Joram and Uzziah, that would only add a few thousand years, certainly not millions of years."

OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: " Of course, it may only add only a few thousand years but, if you put it with the gap theory or the poetry theory of Genesis 1, together it is enough time for the earth to be very old, and gives plenty of time for all of human history since God created Adam."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "As Titus 3:9 says 'Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless'."

Some further thoughts:

[4k] OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "Geology and paleontology have some strong evidence that the earth is very old, and it probably is billions of years old. But exactly how old differs from theory to theory, and the evidence does not rise to the level of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, because there are too many unanswered questions. And the Cambrian explosion is a problem for all the theories, including yours."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: Response from GotQuestions.org: "The earth's crust consists of many layers of fossil-bearing rock. It was once believed that the lowest layer of fossil-bearing rock was the Cambrian but it is now known that there are actually some, though very few, primitive fossils in the Precambrian layers. But it is not until the Cambrian layer that we find a sudden burst of life.

"The 'Cambrian Explosion' refers to the sudden appearance of most of the world's known animal phyla, all within a very brief period of geological time. This is problematic for Darwin's theory of gradual innovation. But how does the Cambrian Explosion fit with the framework of young-earth creationism?

"The old-earth position is that the vast majority of earth's strata represent long epochs of time. Our position is that nearly all of the strata from the Cambrian on up were deposited in relatively quick succession as the result of a catastrophic global deluge, and that the order of the fossils is a result of hydrological mechanics.

"The conspicuous presence of so many of the world's known animal phyla in the bottom layer does not prove or disprove one position or the other. So young-earth proponents rely on other physical evidences to make their case, including poly-strata fossils (that is, fossils that pass through multiple strata), misplaced and missing fossils and strata, the lack of erosion between strata, the deficiency of bioturbation, undisturbed bedding planes, the limited extent of unconformities, soft-sediment deformation, and well-preserved surface features between layers, etc.

There are, for example, plenty of out-of-place fossils. Sometimes rock layers containing what are thought to be older fossils are found above rock layers that contain what are thought to be younger fossils (the younger fossils should be on top). The solution for Darwinian geologists is to argue that the strata containing the misplaced fossils were shuffled out of order by some natural geological process. They then reorganize the discrepant fossils and rock layers consecutively using the assumed order in which the creatures were supposed to have evolved; i.e., this organism was supposed to have evolved before this one, so it goes here on bottom, while this organism was supposed to have evolved after this one so it goes here on top, etc. Darwinian biologists then turn around and use the evolutionary progression organized by the geologists as evidence for the evolutionary progression that the geologists used to organize the strata. This is, of course, circular reasoning and group think."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Other than your insulting condescension, I agree with you."

Lesson 5 – Life or Death?

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "The curse of death did not occur until after the fall, so all the fossil evidence of death must come from after that time.

OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "But the scriptures about the beginning of death at the time of the fall only applies to human beings."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "If you look at the descriptions of the prophesied new earth and heaven as representation of what the paradise of Eden was like it is clear that they are talking about animal death is part of the curse."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Most of the scriptures around this issue are symbolic, figurative or have a spiritual interpretation."

Here are most of the pertinent scriptures. Please read the scripture and answer the questions:

(5A) Genesis 1:20 What was swarming in the waters? _____

(5B) Genesis 1:29-31 What was food for men and animals? _____

(5C) Genesis 2:7 What did God breath into the man? _____

(5D) Genesis 2:17 What would happen to Adam if he ate the forbidden fruit? _____

(5E) Genesis 3:19 Where will we return? _____

(5F) Genesis 9:3 What was added to the menu? _____

(5G) Leviticus 17:11 Where is the life of the flesh? _____

(5H) Isaiah 11:6-9 What will the lion eat? _____

(5I) Isaiah 65:17-19 What will no longer be heard in her? _____

(5J) Acts 3:29-31 How long will Jesus be in heaven? _____

(5K) Romans 5:12 How did death come into the world? _____

(5L) Romans 8:19-21 What kind of slavery will creation be freed from? _____

(5M) Romans 8:22 What groans and suffers? _____

(5N) 1 Peter 1:18-20 What are we redeemed with? _____

(5O) Revelations 21:4 There will no longer be any mourning, crying, pain or what? _____

(5P) Romans 5:12 Is the curse of death that is the consequence of Adam's fall apply to just people or to all living things? Why?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[5q] What does 2 Timothy 2:14 mean?

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 5 – Life or Death?

- (5A) Genesis 1:20 What was swarming in the waters? Living creatures
(5B) Genesis 1:29-31 What was food from men and animals? Plants
(5C) Genesis 2:7 What did God breath into the man? The breath of life Plants don't breath
(5D) Genesis 2:17 What would happen to Adam if he ate the forbidden fruit? Death
(5E) Genesis 3:19 Where will we return? To the dust
(5F) Genesis 9:3 What was added to the menu? Every moving thing So now we start killing animals
(5G) Leviticus 17:11 Where is the life of the flesh? In the blood Plants don't have blood
(5H) Isaiah 11:6-9 What will the lion eat? Straw or hay Just like in Genesis 1:29-31
(5I) Isaiah 65:17-19 What will no longer be heard in her? Weeping and crying
(5J) Acts 3:29-21 How long will Jesus be in heaven? Until the restoration of all things
(5K) Romans 5:12 How did death come into the world? Sin which spread to all men
(5L) Romans 8:19-21 What kind of slavery will creation be freed from? Slavery to corruption
(5M) Romans 8:22 What groans and suffers? The whole creation
(5N) 1 Peter 1:18-20 What are we redeemed with? The blood of Christ
(5O) Revelations 21:4 There will no longer be any mourning, crying, pain or what? Death Does that include animals or not?

(5P) OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "I can see why someone would think that there was no animal death in paradise, I agree there probably wasn't, but I think it was only in Eden. The rest of the world was much as it is now. Rom 5:12 makes it clear that human death was the result of the curse following the fall."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "Rom 5:12 does say the curse of death spread from one man to all people, but it does not say it was *only* people. If animals were already dying before the fall, why does Genesis 1:29-31 say plants were for the animals to eat? When did lions and other carnivores start eating other animals, if not at the time of the fall? And why bother to predict lions and lambs peacefully coexisting in the end times, if that peace was not a result of the removal of the curse?"

OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "It *may* be that predators became carnivores at the fall and will stop when the curse is removed, but that does not prove there was no animal death of any kind. There are other ways to die besides predator attack."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "How could it be 'that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God' (Rom 8:21) unless corruption (i.e. decay) was a result of the fall. This suggests that death, and the decay that naturally follows it, did not exist until after the fall. Paul makes a direct connection between man's need for liberation and creation's need for liberation. This entire connection between the glorification of believers and the liberation of the creation is lost if the creation has always been in a futile and corrupted state, completely unrelated to man's fallen condition." (Also see Gen 3:14. What does "more than all the beasts of the field" if it wasn't talking about animal death?)

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Animals evolved over a long period of time, and death was part of that process. There is too much scientific evidence for evolution to be denied. I certainly can see that it could not be by random chance. The design and purpose of God is everywhere evident. I also agree that God can and does perform miracles. As I reflect on my own life, however, I find that when I experience God's hand working in my life, it is providential, rather than miraculous. By that I mean miracles of timing rather than miracles contrary to natural law, like when a perfectly natural thing happens seconds after I have prayed for it. So, yes, God could have spoken it all into existence in a week, but that isn't very much like the Lord I know, and love. It seems to me millions of little providential miracles of timing over long ages and eons would be more to His liking. Yes, it is a trillion to one shot that everything would fall together at the same time to make a new species appear or a protein molecule to form, but that is the kind of miracles that make sense to me."

Lesson 6 – The Flood

Fragments of an ancient Chaldean account of a worldwide flood has been found in Ur dating from 2000 BC. (You may recognize Ur as Abraham's native city.) It describes how the Babylonian god Ea destroyed the earth with a flood but saved one man named Utnapishtim. A similar but more complete account, has been found dating from 650 BC in Nineveh's great library. It is called the Gilgamesh epic. It also describes how Utnapishtim was able to survive this great flood but in this account multiple gods are involved.

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated question. Similarities to the Gilgamesh epic are noted with the answers on the back.

(6A) Gen 6:5–7 Why did God decide to destroy mankind? _____

(6B) Gen 6:14 What was the ark made of? _____

(6C) Gen 6:15 What was the shape of Noah's ark? _____

(6D) Gen 6:16 How many doors and windows were on the ark? _____

(6E) Gen 6:18 Who was allowed to enter the ark with Noah? _____

(6F) Gen 7:11 Where did the water come from? _____

(6G) Gen 7:12 How long did the rain last? _____

(6H) Gen 8:4 Where did the ark come to rest? _____

(6I) Gen 8:6–12 What birds did Noah send to investigate if the flood subsided? _____

(6J) Gen 8:20 What did Noah offer on the altar? _____

(6K) Gen 8:21–22 What did God promise? _____

(6L) This ancient Chaldean flood story dates from the time of Abraham several centuries before Moses compiled the Genesis account. Skeptics say this means the Gilgamesh epic, which they regard as obviously a myth, is the source of the flood story, and Moses simply recorded a distorted version of an ancient myth. How would you answer this attack?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[6m] What does 1 Timothy 6:3-5 mean?



----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 6 – The Flood

- (6A) Gen 6:5–7 Why did God decide to destroy mankind? Great wickedness and continual evil intent. Ea (or several gods in the Gilgamesh account) decided to destroy humankind because of its wickedness and sinfulness.
- (6B) Gen 6:14 What was the ark made of? Gopher wood Utnapishtim received his instructions in a dream to build an ark
- (6C) Gen 6:15 What was the shape of Noah's ark? It was a rectangle. Utnapishtim's ark was a cube, but both arks were huge.
- (6D) Gen 6:16 How many doors and windows were on the ark? One of each. Utnapishtim's ark had one door and at least one window.
- (6E) Gen 6:18 Who was allowed to enter the ark with Noah? Wife, sons, daughters-in-law A small select group of people were saved in the Gilgamesh epic.
- (6F) Gen 7:11 Where did the water come from? Above and below In the Gilgamesh epic it was all from above
- (6G) Gen 7:12 How long did the rain last? 40 days and 40 nights Gilgamesh said "Six days and seven nights came the wind and flood, the storm flattening the land" (from Tablet XI, trans. by Maureen G. Kovacs)
- (6H) Gen 8:4 Where did the ark come to rest? Ararat Utnapishtim's landed on mount Nisir, about 300 miles from Ararat.
- (6I) Gen 8:6–12 What birds did Noah send to investigate if the flood subsided? A raven and a dove. Utnapishtim sent out a dove, a swallow and a raven.
- (6J) Gen 8:20 What did Noah offer on the altar? Animal sacrifices After the flood Utnapishtim sacrificed animals as well.
- (6K) Gen 8:21–22 What did God promise? Never again to destroy all living things as long as the earth remained. Ea (or the many gods of Gilgamesh) promised not to destroy mankind again.

(6L) OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "You are confusing the ancient Chaldean account from before the time of Moses with the Gilgamesh epic from almost a thousand years after Moses. We have only been looking at similarities here, not differences. We only have fragments of the older Chaldean account, and it differs as much or even more from the Gilgamesh epic as it does with the Genesis account. All three could be descriptions of the same actual event. We know the Hebrews were better at preserving ancient accounts than other cultures, by comparing the Dead Sea scrolls with Old Testament texts from a thousand years later. On that basis the Genesis account is much more reliable."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "The Chaldean flood tablets and the Gilgamesh epic are not the only ancient flood accounts. Almost every culture has an ancient flood story. Historians and anthropologists have discovered hundreds of flood legends from all around the globe. Besides the ancient Babylonians, Australian Aboriginals, Aztecs, Chinese, Greeks, Inuits, Mayans, Native Americans, Romans and many others have flood stories. Many of them have similarities to the Genesis account including an angry god and people surviving by using a boat. These stories confirm the truth of the Genesis account because the existence of such stories is exactly what you would expect if a worldwide flood had actually happened in ancient times."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Perhaps Moses did use other ancient stories to create the story of Noah. So what? That in no way minimizes the important spiritual truths which we can learn from the Genesis account."

Lesson 7 – The Tower of Babel

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(7A) Gen 11:1 Who used the same language and words? _____

(7B) Gen 11:2 Where was the plain where they settled? _____

(7C) Gen 11:3 What did they use for mortar? _____

(7D) Gen 11:4 What were they trying to avoid? _____

(7E) Gen 9:7 Were the people in Genesis 11:1-9 obeying God's command? _____

(7F) Gen 11:5 Why did the Lord come? _____

(7G) Gen 11:6 What would be impossible to them? _____

(7H) Gen 11:7 Why was their speech was confused? _____

(7I) Gen 11:8 Where were they scattered? _____

(7J) Gen 11:9 What was the place called? _____

(7k) *Skeptic's Question*: "The Bible claims that all the world's languages did not evolve, but appeared suddenly. See Genesis 11:6-9. Modern Linguistics has shown this Bible claim to be false." How would you respond to this question?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

[7L] *Skeptic's Question*: "Were Shem's, Ham's, and Japhet's children dispersed throughout the earth each by their different language OR was all the earth one language and Yahweh 'babbled' their language at Babylon? (Gen 10:5, 10:20, 10:31-32 vs Gen 11:1-9) The Bible is contradiction itself."

How would you respond to this attack?

[7m] What does 2 Timothy 2:23 mean?

[7n] Tower of Babel Reversed! When the Holy Spirit came on the Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2:4-12, the believers that the tongues of fire rested on began to speak in many other languages. "God fearing Jews from every nation under heaven", heard the disciples speaking and declaring the wonders of God in their own native tongue. This was such a powerful and miraculous event that three thousand people believed in Jesus the Messiah and were baptized. What do you think of this idea?



Language barriers resulted in the demise of the Tower of Babel project, and delayed the use of the colorful LEGO architecture. **Genesis 11:1-9**

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 7 – The Tower of Babel

- (7A) Gen 11:1 Who used the same language and words? The whole earth
(7B) Gen 11:2 Where was the plain where they settled? The land of Shinar
(7C) Gen 11:3 What did they use for mortar? Tar
(7D) Gen 11:4 What were they trying to avoid? Being scattered over the whole earth
(7E) Gen 9:7 Were these people obeying God's command? No
(7F) Gen 11:5 Why did the Lord come? To see the city they built
(7G) Gen 11:6 What would be impossible to them? Nothing
(7H) Gen 11:7 Why was their speech was confused? So they could not understand each other.
(7I) Gen 11:8 Where were they scattered? Over the face of the whole earth
(7J) Gen 11:9 What was the place called? Babel
(7k) This accusation is an example of a common mistake made by Bible critics. They mix up historical or archeological fact with historical or archeological theory and believe they have accomplished something by showing that the Bible contradicts some theory, but the Bible contradicts no fact.

OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "No educated Christian holds that languages do not evolve (i.e. change over time). All you have to do is compare the Greek of the New Testament with Modern Greek. Linguists sort languages in families such as Indo-European and Semitic based on a theorized language of origin for each. Some go further suggesting that all languages have a common root. So how do the accusers know over what period of time the first division took place? It's a theory. English appeared as a language in the last 1,000 years. No educated person claims English originated at Babel. You are arguing with an imaginary person you invented in order to appear to win an argument."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "Genesis 11:6-9 does not claim that Babel is where all the world's languages came from. It only says that God confused the people there so they could not understand each other. Babel being the source of all the different languages in the world is not something the Bible claims. It is a legend or myth that has been added to it later that some people used to believe. I think it is interesting that the Bible is not the only historical document that mentions this event. There are two known ancient cuneiform accounts that deal with the confusion of language which probably derive from the very real events at the Tower of Babel. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Resources/history.htm>)"

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "This parable has nothing to do with our modern languages. It teaches the spiritual truth that disobeying God's commands has catastrophic consequences."

Some further thoughts:

[7L] OLD EARTH CHRISTIAN: "The events reported in Genesis 11:1-9 are the details of something that happened in the middle of chapter 10."

YOUNG EARTH CHRISTIAN: "Ancient writers both Biblical and secular were not very concerned about writing things in consecutive order. Genesis 11:1-9 happened sometime during chapter 10."

CHRISTIAN EVOLUTIONIST: "Genesis chapters 1 to 11 are a collection of stories teaching spiritual truths. It doesn't matter what order they are in."

Lesson 8 – Bonus Lesson – Skeptic's Attacks

(8A) Astronomers know that stars evolve over billions of years. The universe must be very old.

Think & Pray _____

(8B) How was the flood in the time of Noah just? It killed thousands of innocent children and animals. God was arbitrary and just plain mean."

Think & Pray _____

(8C) "There is no evidence of a worldwide flood."

Think & Pray _____

(8D) The ancient stories of a worldwide flood are just myths spawned by local flooding. Of course, they are from all over the world. Floods can happen almost anywhere.

Think & Pray _____

(8E) How is Intelligent Design any different from belief in the Flying Spaghetti Monster and Unicorns? Isn't it just superstitious nonsense?

Think & Pray _____

(8F) If Creationism is "scientific" why is the science community so opposed to creationism? Could it be almost everyone knows something you don't?

Think & Pray _____

(8G) Who was Cain's wife? Marrying his sister would be against the law (Lev 18:6-18) and disgusting.

Think & Pray _____

----- SOME POSSIBLE ANSWERS -----

(Your answers do not have to match exactly.)

Lesson 8 – Bonus Lesson – Skeptic's Attacks

(8A) What makes you say they know this? The astronomers have had less than two hundred years to observe the stars to the level of detail necessary to gather the data they use to support their theories about the life cycle of stars. They don't *know* anything. It is a theory. However, they may be right. They do have a lot of evidence that the universe is very old. But the age of our solar system is limited to no more than 150,000 years by the degrading orbits of comets. If it was older than that, we would have no comets. Instead of addressing this problem, unbelieving astronomers just assume the comets must come from some place out there given the name Oort cloud. There is more evidence for Oz than the Oort cloud.

(8B) God decides when people die. What is your point? Do you think you should be the one who makes that decision?



(8C) What makes you think there is no evidence? There is some evidence of a worldwide flood. For example, large fossils in multiple sedimentary levels would have rotted unless the layers were deposited in a very short time. These fossils are found all over the world. How did that happen unless it was a global flood? There is other evidence as well.

(See <https://answersingenesis.org/the-flood/global/worldwide-flood-evidence>)

(8D) How do you explain the other similarities in the stories? Yes, floods are relatively frequent and happen almost everywhere, but that doesn't explain how so many of the stories also mention a boat with a small group of people and animals surviving because they had been supernaturally warned the flood was coming.

(8E) What makes you think this theory says anything at all about other attributes of the designer than intelligence? As far as this theory is concerned, a Flying Spaghetti Monster might or might not exist. Intelligent Design is a scientific observation that the massive amount of design we see has no other possible explanation than intelligence. Monsters and Unicorns are not supported by observed evidence.

(8F) Can you show me where you got this information? There are many members of the science community opposed to creationism, perhaps even a majority. However, they are not all opposed to it. It is "scientific" because it is based on evidence and reasoning. That would be true even if there was only one person who was in favor of it. Things don't become "scientific" by counting noses.

(8G) Why do you ask? Obviously, he married his sister or a niece. Marrying your sister was not against the law at the time. Moses did not record that law until much later, when it was no longer necessary to marry close relatives, and after the gene pool was corrupted to the point it might be deadly for your children if you married a sibling. What makes you think it is disgusting?