

# **Evidences For Our Faith**



## **A Self-Study Guide**

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## Evidences For Faith in General

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1. As we begin our class, use the space below to briefly explain why you believe that God exists:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. We are calling our study Evidences For Faith, but another word that is often used for this kind study is APOLOGETICS. This word comes from a Greek word in the Bible which means “to give a defense” for something that is believed. What does 1 Peter 3:15 tell us about apologetics?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Christianity is based upon FACTS. Does having faith in God or believing that Jesus existed mean that I believe something that there is no evidence for—that is, no facts to prove it? Some would refer to this as “blind faith.” Does God want us to have blind faith?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Read the following passages to discover that the New Testament writers were EYEWITNESSES of the people and events they wrote about. How does the fact that they were eyewitnesses help prove the Bible to be true?  
  
1 John 1:1-3  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2 Peter 1:16-18  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
1 Corinthians 15:6-8
5. Can we trust the apostles as eyewitnesses?  
Were they honest with good motives?  
Were they in a position to know the facts?  
Did their testimony agree or contradict each other?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Even the enemies of Jesus admitted that Jesus lived and did miracles:  
John 11:47  
Acts 2:22  
Acts 4:13-16  
Acts 26:24-28

Why should this fact help convince us?

7. There are three basic excuses for people not believing in God, that Jesus is the Son of God, or that the Bible is the word of God:

a. IGNORANCE (often self-imposed) Acts 17:22-23,30

--Why do some people want to be ignorant?

b. PRIDE John 5:40-44

--If I believe, I won't be respected as much.

c. MORAL PROBLEM John 3:19-20

--Why would the sin a person is practicing cause them not to believe?

\*\* A famous atheist, Aldous Huxley wrote, "I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently I assumed that it had none...For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political."

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. What does APOLOGETICS mean?

2. What does it mean to have BLIND FAITH?

3. What made the apostles the perfect writers of the New Testament?

4. Give three possible reasons why a person would not believe in God:

## Evidences For Faith in Our Bible

Before we can start with any evidences concerning Bible, we must first prove that the Bible truly is the word of God. The Bible is the best selling book of all time and continues to be published in many languages. Worldwide, no other book in history has been translated, retranslated, and paraphrased more than the Bible. Should we treat the Bible as an ordinary collection of writings from men passed down through the ages? Is there a way to know if the Bible is truly the word of God? How can we know that the Bible has not been changed over the thousands of years since it was first received? These are important questions that demand our attention as we consider why we can have faith that the Bible is the word of God.

Do you believe the Bible is the word of God? If so, why? If not, why not?

1. God has revealed Himself to man in two different ways. List the two ways from the passages below:

Psalm 19:1-4; Romans 1:20

Ephesians 3:3-5 (*who was the NT mystery revealed to? How do we find it out?*)

### The Bible's Claim to Inspiration

Consideration must first be given to the claims of the Bible. Does the Bible even claim to be the word of God? What defense does the Bible give of itself? Examine the following passages and write down the claims the Bible makes about its origin and nature.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (*Grab a Bible dictionary and look up the word "inspiration." Write down the meaning below. Also note the NIV or ESV translation of this verse.*)

John 10:34-35

Acts 4:24-25

### The Bible's Claim to Accuracy

The Bible does claim to be the very words of God (Romans 3:2). However, we know that men were the ones who took those words and wrote them down. How do we know that these men accurately wrote down God's words? Did these men just write down their own thoughts? Again, consideration must first be given to the claims of the Bible. Examine the following passages and write down what the Bible claims about the writers of God's word.

2 Peter 1:20-21

1 Peter 1:10-11

Matthew 1:22

Ephesians 3:1-5

1 Corinthians 2:7-12

### **The Bible's Claim to Inerrancy**

If the Bible is God's word that has been accurately transmitted by God's holy apostles and prophets, then the necessary conclusion is that the Bible is inerrant. To say that the Bible is completely true and trustworthy in the fullest sense is to say that it is inerrant. Whether or not the Bible is inerrant has been the matter of vigorous debate by scholars over many decades. Does the Bible claim to be inerrant? Consider the following passages and write down your conclusions:

Titus 1:2

1 John 3:20

Proverbs 30:5

Romans 3:4

### **The Bible's Claim to Authority**

The scriptures claim that the Bible is the very words of God, who spoke directly to the holy apostles and prophets, who wrote down the words of God. Since these words are God's, the words are accurate and inerrant. These three concepts lead us to the foundation of biblical authority. Since the Bible is God's word, it has authority in our lives. There are three ways the Bible has authority: (1) to establish the laws for truth and conduct, (2) to demand others to conform to these laws, and (3) the right to enforce conformity to these laws through punishment. There can be no distinction between God's authority and the word of God. To deny the authority of God is to deny the Bible as the word of God, because it is the very words of God. Note the authority that Jesus claimed:

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Peter 3:22

Since the Bible claims to be the very words of God written down by the holy apostles and prophets, one must find serious contradiction or falsehood within the scriptures to be able to disprove this claim. Not only is the Bible historically accurate, but there are no contradictions without explanations that can be found. Since the Bible was written by various authors over thousands of years, this proves all the more that the Bible is truly the word of God.

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. List the two ways that God has revealed Himself to man:
2. What does the word INSPIRATION mean?
3. Write out from memory the verses that use the word inspiration in the New Testament and give where these verses are found:

## Evidences For Faith in Uniqueness

1. Consider the UNIQUENESS of the Bible. "Unique" is defined by Webster as "one and only; single; sole; different from all others; having no like or equal." Here are some of the ways the Bible is unique:

### Unique in Continuity

The Bible was written:

- Over a 1600 year span by over 40 authors who came from every walk of life: Moses, a political leader; Peter, a fisherman; Amos, a herdsman; Joshua, a military leader; Nehemiah a cupbearer; Daniel, a prime minister; Luke, a Gentile doctor; Solomon, a king; Matthew, a tax collector; Paul, a tentmaking Rabbi.
- In different places: Moses in the wilderness; Jeremiah in a dungeon; Daniel in a palace; Paul in prison walls; Luke while traveling; John in exile.
- During different moods: Some from the heights of joy while others from the depths of sorrow and despair.
- On three continents: Asia, Africa, Europe.
- In three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.
- About subject matter that includes hundreds of the world's most controversial subjects.

YET IN ALL THIS THERE IS A UNITY WITHOUT CONTRADICTION THAT BINDS THE WHOLE TOGETHER!

1. Read Genesis 3:22-24 and Revelation 22:1-5. Though thousands of years had passed between these two books, what continuity can be found?

### Unique in Survival

1. Though it was written on material that perishes, having to be copied and recopied for up to 3000 years it did not diminish its style, correctness, or existence. It has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature.
2. The Jews preserved the Bible as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. The scribes kept tab on every letter, syllable, word, and paragraph. Who ever counted the words, syllables, and letters of Plato, Aristotle or any other writer?
3. Compared to Shakespeare's writings of a little more than 200 years ago, written after the invention of the printing press, the Bible manuscripts are surprisingly accurate. With perhaps a dozen to twenty exceptions, the text of every verse in the New Testament is so far settled by general consent of scholars that any dispute as to its readings must relate to interpretation rather than any doubt in respect to the words themselves. But in every one of Shakespeare's 37 plays there are at least 100 readings still in dispute, a large portion of which materially affects the meaning of the passages.

#### **Survival Through Persecution:**

The Bible has been burned, banned, and outlawed from the days of the Roman emperors to the present-day Communist countries, yet it flourishes. Voltaire, a famous French infidel who died in 1778 said that in 100 years from his time Christianity and the Bible would pass into history and extinction. However only 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society was using his printing press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.

#### **Survival Through Criticism:**

1. For over 1800 years unbelievers have been trying to overthrow this book yet it stands and increases. It is pictures as an anvil that has worn out many a hammer. Even though emperors, kings, popes and priests have all tried, they have died and the book lives. Never has a book been treated with such skepticism.
2. "Higher criticism" of the 19th century states that the Pentateuch could not have been written by Moses because it was "proven" that writing was not in existence at the time of Moses. They went so far as to divide one verse into three authorships. But then in 1901 archaeologists discovered the "black stele" a stone containing the detailed laws of Hammurabi. The stone not only predated Moses but was pre-Abraham, 2000 B.C.
3. This same "higher criticism" said there was no such race as the Hittites because only the Bible spoke of them. Today, hundreds of archeological finds show 1200 years of Hittite history.

### **Unique In Brevity**

1. The brevity of Bible books: Genesis, with only 50 chapters tells the origin of the world and all that is in it plus the first 2500 years of man's history on the earth. In only 34 verses the creation of the entire material universe is told. The daily paper takes more space to tell about a basketball game. The Reader's Digest each month uses more words than the book of Genesis.
2. The brevity of Bible incidents: When the first apostle was killed, only eleven words were used; "And he killed James the brother of John with the sword" (Acts 12:2). The story of man's fall is told in just 24 verses and yet we learn in that short space of the origin of sin, suffering, sickness, death, toil and the necessity of a savior. MEN ON THEIR OWN DO NOT WRITE WITH SUCH RESTRAINT.

### **Unique in Teachings**

The Bible is the only book ever produced which contains a large body of prophecies relating to individual nations, cities, peoples, and the messiah. In all of Greek and Latin literature there cannot be found any specific prophecy of a great historic event to come or any prophecy of a savior to arise in the human race. Mohammedanism, for example, cannot point to any prophecies of the coming of Mohammed uttered hundreds of years before his birth. Neither can any cult rightly identify any ancient text specifically foretelling their appearance.

### **Preparation of the Bible**

For the rest of this lesson we will consider the way the Bible was prepared. This gives us more information about the preservation of the scriptures.

#### *The writing materials that were primarily used:*

1. PAPYRUS: Not being able to recover the original autographs and few of the most ancient writings is due to the use of this writing material. This material was made from the papyrus plant which was a reed that grew in the lakes and rivers of Egypt and Syria. The reeds were stripped and cut lengthwise then pressed together at right angles and dried in the sun. Often several sheets were joined to form a roll, the common size being about 20 sheets. Some rolls have been known to be 144 feet long. John apparently used this material, 2 John 12. See also Acts 8:28.
2. PARCHMENT: This was a more durable writing material made from the skins of sheep, goats, antelope, and other animals. Paul used parchment, 2 Timothy 4:13.
3. VELLUM: Of much higher quality this material was made from the skins of young calves.

#### *Other writing materials:*

1. OSTRACA or POTSHERD: Unglazed broken pieces of pottery popular with the common people.
2. STONES were inscribed with an iron pen
3. CLAY TABLETS were engraved with a sharp instrument and dried making one of the cheapest and most durable of the writing materials. Jeremiah 17:13; Ezekiel 4:1.
4. WAX TABLETS were engraved pieces of flat wood covered with wax.

The forms of ancient books came in both scrolls and Codex or book form. In this latter case the papyrus sheets were assembled in leaf form and written on both sides. Papyrus scrolls were written on until about the 3rd century.

*Types of writing used:*

1. UNCIAL writing was the use of capital letters. The Vaticanus and Sinaiticus are UNCIAL manuscripts.
2. MINUSCULE writing was initiated in the 9th century and was a script of smaller letters in running hand. The Hebrew and Greek manuscripts were both written without any breaks between the words and the Hebrew was written without vowels until 900 A.D.

*Division of the Bible into chapter and verses*

1. The first divisions of the Bible were as early as 586 B.C. when the Pentateuch was divided into 154 groupings. The oldest system of chapter division is from about 350 A.D. Our modern chapter divisions were not made until the thirteenth century.
2. The first standard verse divisions were about 900 A.D. The Latin Vulgate was the first Bible to use both chapter and verse divisions in both Old and New Testaments.

**PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. List at least three ways that the Bible is UNIQUE:
2. Name the three most common forms of writing materials that were used to make manuscript copies of the Bible. Give a brief explanation of what each of these writing materials were made of:



## Evidences For Faith in the Manuscripts

1. The word "CANON" means "a straight rod or carpenter's rule, and thus that which measures." A book of our Bible became a part of the canon when **it was proved to be genuinely from God**, inspired. Thus the "canon" of the Bible would refer to those 66 books that have been proven to be from God.
2. How do we know that the books in our Bible should be a part of the canon? Mainly because Jesus or the apostles approved these books. For example, the Old Testament's 39 books were approved by Jesus when He used the same canon that the Jews did of His day. These are the same books we use today.

Read Luke 24:44. Explain how this statement approves the Old Testament canon that was is use:

3. The "Apocrypha" (meaning "hidden or concealed") are seven books including additions to the books of Daniel and Esther that are not found among the Hebrew scriptures but are included in the "Catholic" Bible. These books were written during the persecution of the Jews under the Grecian Empire (200-100 BC). The following reasons are given as to why they are not included in our canon:
  - a. They abound in historical and geographical errors.
  - b. They teach false doctrines and foster practices that are contradictory with inspired scripture.
  - c. They resort to literary types and an artificiality of subject matter out of keeping with inspired scripture.
  - d. They lack the distinctive elements which give genuine scripture their divine character, such as prophetic power and religious feeling. (Ungers Bible Dictionary)
  - e. Josephus nor Jewish scholars ever recognized the Apocrypha as inspired.
  - f. Jesus nor any of the New Testament writers ever quoted from these books even though there are hundreds of quotations and allusions to almost all the other Old Testament books.
4. How accurate were the Bible manuscripts? (A manuscript is a portion of the Bible that was hand copied). First consider a comparison of other ancient writings with the Bible and you will find that if we cannot trust the Bible, there is not one writing of antiquity that we can trust. See the chart below. How does the New Testament compare in number of copies and in "time span?"

AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	# OF COPIES
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 yrs	643
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	480-425 B.C.	c. 900 A.D.	c. 1350 yrs	8
Thucydides	<i>History</i>	460-400 B.C.	c. 900 A.D.	c. 1300 yrs	8
Plato		400 B.C.	c. 900 A.D.	c. 1300 yrs	7
Demonsthenes		300 B.C.	c. 1100 A.D.	c. 1400 yrs	200
Caesar	<i>Gallic Wars</i>	100-44 B.C.	c. 900 A.D.	c. 1000 yrs	10
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	100 A.D.	c. 1100 A.D.	c. 1000 yrs	20
Pliny	<i>Natural History</i>	61-113 A.D.	c. 850 A.D.	c. 750 yrs	7
New Testament		50-100 A.D.	c. 114 ( <i>frag</i> ) c. 200 ( <i>books</i> ) c. 250 ( <i>most of NT</i> ) c. 325 ( <i>complete NT</i> )	50 yrs 100 yrs 150 yrs 225 yrs	5686+

Add to this the 19,284 manuscripts found in other languages besides the Greek language, and we have over 24,970 NT manuscripts! Concerning the OT we also have thousands of manuscripts and fragments.

5. Were there mistakes in the manuscript copies? With thousands of manuscripts we would expect there to be mistakes. In fact, there are about 150,000 "variant" readings. However, these represent only 10,000 places in the New Testament (the same word misspelled in 3000 manuscripts is counted as 3000 variants). Of these 10,000 places, all but 400 are questions of spelling in accord with accepted usage, grammatical construction, or order of words. Of these 400, only 50 are of any great significance. And of the 50, not one alters even one article of faith which cannot be abundantly sustained by other undoubted passages.
6. THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS were one of the most important discoveries of our day. Before this discovery the reliability of the Old Testament was in doubt since the earliest manuscripts found were dated 900 AD, 1300 years after the completion of the Old Testament.

The initial discovery was made in early 1947 when a shepherd boy who was looking for a lost goat threw a rock into a hole in the side of a cliff. Upon hearing the shattering of pottery he investigated and discovered several large jars containing leather scrolls. Investigation of other caves turned up some 500 manuscripts from eleven caves with 175 manuscripts being of the Bible. Every book in the Old Testament is represented except Esther. The manuscripts are dated from 250 BC to 100 AD.

In comparing the manuscripts of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the 900 AD manuscripts of 1000 years later, we find it to be word for word identical in more than 95 percent of the text. The remaining five percent variation consists mainly in obvious slips of the pen and variations in spelling. Thus the accuracy of the scribes and of our Bible today is substantiated.

This is the reason we can read Bibles today such as the King James Version that are based on 900 AD manuscripts and also read Bibles such as the New American Standard that are based on the Dead Sea Scroll findings, and find no material difference between the two. If we can't trust the Bible, there isn't another book of ancient history that we can trust. Remember Matthew 24:35 and 1 Peter 1:25.

#### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. What is meant by the "canon" of the Bible?
2. How many New Testament manuscripts are there?
3. How many mistakes or variants are there in the New Testament manuscripts?

## Evidences For Faith From Fulfilled Prophecies

When we are able to read prophecies of future events that are fulfilled, we are able to have greater confidence in the scriptures being from the mouth of God. In this lesson we will notice many prophecies and see how their fulfillment came to pass.

### **Nineveh: Zephaniah 2:13-15 (630 BC); Nahum 3:19 (630 BC)**

#### *Predictions:*

1. Become a desolate wilderness for beasts to lie down in.
2. Totally destroyed and never rebuilt (wound incurable, Nahum 3:19).

**Background on Nineveh:** Nineveh, of course, was the capital city of the Assyrian empire. At the time of the prophecy the empire was in the peak of its power and its defenses were very impressive. Nineveh was unequalled in size of all the ancient cities. The city itself was at least seven miles in circumference with a fortification of three walls separated by two deep ditches making the entire fortification almost a half mile wide. The inner wall was 100 feet tall, 50 feet thick with 200 feet high towers, a 150 foot wide moat and an outer wall of some 200 feet thick.

#### *Fulfillment:*

1. Even though Nineveh and the Assyrians reached their peak in 663 BC in just 51 years she would fall and never be heard from again. In 614 BC a coalition between the Babylonians and the Medes began to seek destruction of the city. They conquered a number of cities round about Nineveh but were completely unable to make a dent in the mighty fortress of Nineveh. In 612 BC this coalition again laid siege to the city. There were battles fought outside the walls but conquering the city still looked impossible. Inside the city the king and his subjects were completely confident and gave themselves to drinking and feasting. There was a prophecy in the land believed by the king that no enemy would ever take the city unless the river would first become the city's enemy. The king felt this would never be and therefore felt secure. However, in the spring of 612 heavy rains caused the Tigris River to swell wide and break down a portion of the city walls and flood part of the city. The king, thinking of this prophecy, had completely sealed off his palace and burned the whole thing down. In the meantime the siegers, learning of the break in the wall attacked at this point and took over the city. Further discoveries indicate that they set the city on fire and burned it down.
2. Up until the nineteenth century the desolation of Nineveh had been so complete that the only records of its existence could be found in the scriptures. Many scientists had come to doubt even its existence. It was finally discovered by excavating some 30-45 feet of debris before the Assyrian strata could be discovered. Excavation shows the remains of an intense fire in the soot still permeating the air.

### **Babylon: Isaiah 13:19-22 (740 BC); Jeremiah 51:26, 43 (600 BC)**

#### *Predictions:*

1. To be like Sodom and Gomorrah
2. Never inhabited again
3. Arabs will not pitch tent there
4. Sheepfolds will not be there
5. Desert creatures will infest the area
6. Stones will not be removed for other construction
7. It will not be a place where men visit
8. Covered with swamps of water

**Background on Babylon:** The city of Babylon gained its greatest power and fame in the late seventh and early sixth centuries under Nabopolassar and his son Nebuchadnezzar. The city was divided by the Euphrates river, the western part of the city being surrounded by marshes which prevented all access to it. To this day the Euphrates has a tendency to change its course and lose itself in the marshes. The size and the defenses of Babylon are tremendous. Babylon covered 196 square miles, 56 miles in circumference, with 14 mile long sides. The city was surrounded by a 30 foot wide moat and double walls. The

outer wall was 311 feet high with 411 foot high towers numbering 250. The wall was 87 feet wide containing 100 gates of solid brass.

***Fulfillment:***

1. When the Persians laid siege to the city in 539 BC they realized immediately that it would be impossible to storm the massive walls of Babylon. The Babylonians from within the walls were laughing and mocking their seemingly helpless enemy. They were so unconcerned that they began carousing at an annual feast to their gods. But at that very moment the Persians were building canals and diverting the waters of the Euphrates River. Once diverted Cyrus led his army in the riverbed under the walls of Babylon and took the drunken city virtually without a fight. From that time on the decay of the city began. Later Xerxes plundered. Then Alexander the Great thought to restore but died suddenly in the city. During the period of Alexander's successors the area decayed rapidly and soon became desert. Under the reign of the Seleucids Babylon was dealt its final blow. Realizing the cost of rebuilding Babylon was too great, the Seleucids constructed the city of Seleucia forty miles north of Babylon on the Tigris River and one by one all commercial interest moved out of Babylon to Seleucia.
2. The historical record of the desolation of Babylon is as follows. During the reign of Augustus Caesar (27 BC–14 AD) the site was described as having become a desert. In 116 AD Trajan described it as mounds and legends of mounds. In 363 AD Emperor Julian destroyed the walls of Babylon which had been partially restored by the Persians who used the area as a hunting preserve.
3. Today the site of Babylon is a naked hideous waste overrun by desert creatures. The lack of vegetation prevents the area from being suitable for pasturing flocks and various superstitions along with the waste of the land prevent the Arabs from pitching tent there. A large part of the old city still lies buried under the swamps created by the Euphrates. In fact, the Babylon of Hammurabi's day now lies beneath the water table. A great part of the country below Babylon has now been for centuries one great swamp. Concerning the stones that the city was built on, we find that bricks and building material of many kinds have been salvaged from the ruins for cities round about but the foundation stones that were imported to Babylon at such great cost have never been moved. The odds of these prophecies to have been fulfilled by chance is one in five billion.
4. Final note: It is interesting that the defenses of Babylon and Nineveh were of such magnitude that even during World War I such defenses would have stopped an army cold. The conclusion is this. There is not one wall high enough or thick enough, and no moat deep enough and no defense strong enough to keep out the judgment of God.

**Tyre: Ezekiel 26:3-14, 21 (593 BC)**

***Predictions:***

1. Many nations would come against Tyre, vs. 3
2. She would be made a bare rock, like the top of a rock, vs. 4
3. Fishermen would spread their nets there, vs. 5
4. Her stones, dust and timbers would be thrown in the water, vs. 12
5. Never be rebuilt, vs. 14
6. Never be found again, vs. 21

***Fulfillment:***

1. Nebuchadnezzar sieged the mainland city in 585 BC and continued the siege for 13 years, the city being destroyed in 573 BC. When Nebuchadnezzar finally entered the city, most of the people had moved to an island one-half mile off the coast and fortified a new city there. The city remained a powerful city for several hundred years.
2. Alexander the Great laid siege to the city about 332 BC when they would not cooperate with him in his plans to conquer the Persians. Since Alexander possessed no fleet he demolished the mainland city and with the debris built a 200 foot wide causeway to the new city.
3. The history of Tyre was not complete after Alexander's conquest though. The island city was rebuilt then destroyed again some 18 years after Alexander's destruction by Antigonus. Many other countries fought against Tyre until the Muslims laid it in ruins in 1291 AD.

4. At the present the causeway still exists with the site of the mainland city being a bare rock occupied by fishermen. One can still look down into the water and view the granite columns and stone block that once stood on the mainland. A final point of interest needs comment concerning the prophecy. The prophecy seems to be contradictory. On one hand it says that the city would never be found again but on the other hand it says that it would be a place for the spreading of nets. The answer to this is that the wealthy merchant city of Tyre never has been found again. Instead, rising up from the same site is a fishing village which uses the bare rock of the mainland city site to dry their nets. Thus, the prophecy is fulfilled in a most unique way.

### **Jerusalem And The Cities Of Israel: Deuteronomy 28:49-57 (1500 BC)**

#### ***Predictions:***

1. Sieges against Jerusalem and the cities of Judah would result in the Jews eating their own children.

#### ***Fulfillment:***

Th is prophecy was fulfilled in two specific occasions when Jerusalem fell in 586 BC and in 70 AD. In the latter siege by the Romans, Josephus (a Jewish historian who sat outside the walls of Jerusalem and wrote of the Roman siege) records for us some horrifying stories. When the Romans came to destroy Jerusalem they were not interested in killing anyone in the city. Everyone was ordered out of the city, but the Jews locked the city up tight determined to save the city at all costs. The Romans waited, and after a number of months the people began to starve because of lack of food. Josephus tells of a woman who was a princess from another city who got caught in the city in the siege. After three months she gave birth to a son. And after three more months because of her hunger she roasted that same son and ate half of him. The Jewish soldiers in the city upon smelling the cooking of the food came in demanding whatever food she had. When she served them her half eaten son they went out of the house wretching. And thus God's prophecy of 1500 years before was fulfilled in a most unique way.

These are evidences of prophecies made hundreds of years before the fulfillment. This proves that the scriptures are the word of God and that what we read will come to pass.

Read 2 Peter 3:1-12. Write down the details of another coming event:

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. Describe the end result of Ninevah and Babylon. Describe the habitation of these cities.
2. How did Alexander the Great reach the city of Tyre?
3. When are the dates of the destruction of Jerusalem (it happened twice)?

## Evidences For Faith In Jesus From History

Many down through the years have fancied the theory that Jesus was not a historical person but instead an invention of man and thus merely an object of faith--a faith with no historical foundation. How can we prove otherwise?

### Historical Witnesses:

1. Twenty-seven different New Testament documents that are proven to be more accurate than any ancient writing confirms Jesus as a historical person.
2. Cornelius Tacitus, a Roman historian (born 52 AD): "But not all the relief that could come from man, not all the bounties that the prince could bestow, nor all the atonements which could be presented to the gods, availed to relieve Nero from the infamy of being believed to have ordered the conflagration, the fire of Rome. Hence to suppress the rumor, he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities, Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: But the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also."
3. Lucian who lived in the second century described Christ as "...the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult into the world."
4. Josephus (born 37 AD): "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day."
5. Suetonius, a Roman historian (120 AD) says: "As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Christus he expelled them from Rome."
6. Thallus, a Gentile writer (52 AD). We do not have his original writings but Julius Africanus, a Christian writer of 221 AD makes this comment: "Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun--unreasonably as it seems to me." It is unreasonable since an eclipse cannot take place at the time of the full moon, and it was at the time of the Paschal full moon that Christ died.

### The Claims of Jesus

#### His claims in relation to God:

1. He came from God, John 3:13; 6:33-35,38.
2. He alone has seen God, John 1:18; 14:8-9.
3. He reveals God, John 1:18; 12:44-45,49.
4. He is equal with God, John 5:17-18; 10:30.
5. He does the works of God: gives spiritual life, John 5:21; He judges, John 5:22-23; He will raise the dead, John 5:28-29
6. He possesses the attributes of God: Eternal, John 8:56-58; Omnipotent, John 11:11; Omniscient, John 2:25, 6:70, 7:29; Omnipresent, John 14:16-18.

#### What do these words mean:

Omnipotent:

Omniscient:

Omnipresent:

### His claims in relation to being the messiah:

1. He is the messiah, John 4:25-26.
2. He is King, John 12:12-13; 18:36-37.
3. He was a prophet of God, John 4:19,44.
4. He is the good shepherd, John 10:11; Zechariah 13:7.
5. He is the Son of God, John 10:35-36; 17:1.

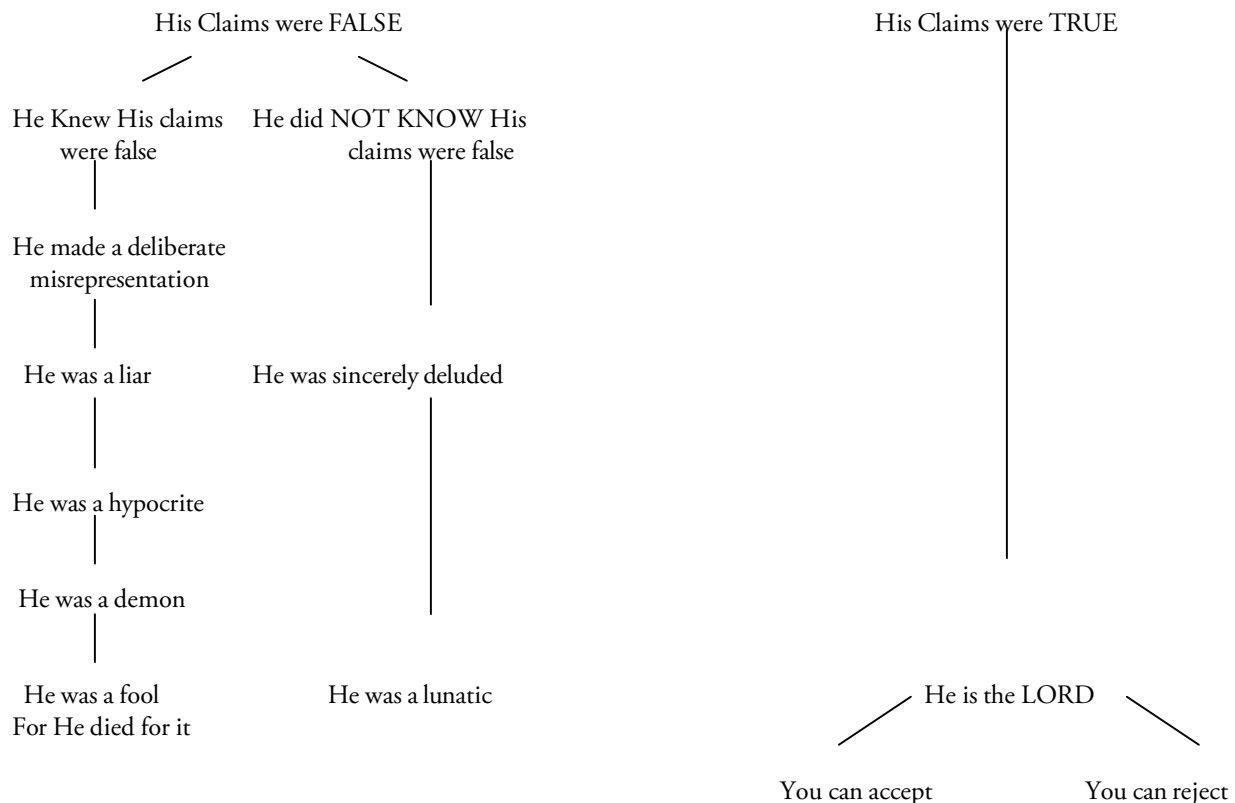
### His claims in relation to human needs:

1. He is the revelation of God, John 14:9.
2. He is the way, John 14:6
3. He is the Savior, John 1:29; 3:16
4. He is the light, John 1:4-5; 8:12
5. He provides spiritual sustenance, John 4:10; 6:35
6. He is the resurrection, John 11:25.

### Jesus: Lord, Liar, Or Lunatic?

- A. C.S. Lewis: "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him. 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse."
- B. C.S. Lewis adds: "You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

### JESUS CLAIMS TO BE GOD TWO ALTERNATIVES



## **The Credentials of Jesus**

1. His moral character coincided with His claims.  
John 8:46

John 18:38

2. His demonstration of power over natural forces which could only belong to God.  
Mark 4:41

John 11:43-48

3. His demonstration of power over sickness and disease.  
John 9:24-32

4. His demonstration of deity by raising from the dead.  
John 20:1-9

In the next lesson we will go into more details about the credentials of Jesus as seen through His life.

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. When we read of all the CLAIMS Jesus made about Himself being the Son of God or God in the flesh, what are the three choices we have concerning believing in Him?
2. What are two ways we can know that Jesus was a person who actually lived on this earth and is not a myth that someone invented?
3. List one of the credentials of Jesus that support His claims:



## Evidences For Faith In Jesus' Life

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INTRODUCTION: Did Jesus possess the attributes necessary to have been God in the flesh? Does He fulfill what we would expect God to do if He became man? If God became man, what would He be like?

### 1. We would expect Him to have an unusual entrance into this life.

Otherwise He would not have shown Himself to be different from the rest of humanity. He could not claim to be God if He were born as any other man. The Jews claimed that Jesus was not born of a virgin but had an adulterous conception claiming that his father was a Jewish soldier named Panthera. Let's examine the evidence.

A. Read Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14. What did the prophets say about how the Messiah would enter the world?

*Note that the birth would be of the seed of woman (not of man), and the birth would be a sign and therefore not an after thought of those who might have wanted to justify Jesus.*

B. Read Matthew 1:18-25.

1. How does Joseph show that he was not the father?

2. What is the testimony of the angel?

3. How do we know Joseph is convinced Mary is still a virgin?

4. Mary is either a virgin at this point or she is a \_\_\_\_\_

C. Read Luke 1:36-37. What sign did the angel give Mary to show that she would conceive as a virgin?

D. When Mary was at the foot of the cross watch her son die, she did not utter a word. If Mary was really not a virgin when Jesus was born and Jesus died for saying He was the Son of God, what kind of woman is Mary to have kept silent at his crucifixion?

E. Is it reasonable that one who did more to bring goodness and morality to the world than any other, should not have a miraculous birth, but one more illegitimate and disgraceful than any? This is the only type of birth consistent with the character and mission of Christ and God's plan of salvation.

### 2. We would expect Him to be without sin.

A. Read John 8:29, 46. What does Jesus say about His own character?

Do we ever hear of Jesus confessing sin or asking forgiveness of sin?

- B. What is the testimony of those closest to Jesus concerning any sin in His life? Read Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 1:19, 2:22; I John 3:5; Matthew 27:4.
- C. What is the testimony of Jesus' enemies? Read Luke 23:40-41; John 18:38; 19:4, 6; Mark 14:55-56.

The only accusations Jesus' enemies could make was that He said He was the Son of God; He associated with sinners; He did not fast like the Pharisees; He healed on the Sabbath day.

### **3. We would expect Him to show the supernatural by miracles (if indeed He is the Creator).**

- A. Read Matthew 12:22-28. How do the Pharisees admit that Jesus has performed a miracle?
- B. Read John 9:24-25. Again, how do the Pharisees admit the miracle?
- C. Read John 11:47. What is the testimony of the Sanhedrin Council who plotted to put Jesus to death?
- D. The value of Jesus' miracles is seen when they are contrasted to "miracles" of non-Christian religions. The miracles of non-Christian religions are believed because the religion is already believed, while Christ's miracles are a means of establishing the true religion.

### **4. We would expect Him to be acutely different from other men.**

- A. It has been said that if someone made up the life of Christ, that someone would be even greater than the Jesus he wrote of.
- B. Jesus is not classed with other men. His name is not placed upon a list with other greats; it is unique. One can talk about Alexander the Great; Charles the Great, and Napoleon the Great, but Jesus is different. He is not the Great; He is the only. He is simply Jesus.

### **5. We would expect His words to be the greatest ever spoken.**

- A. Read Matthew 24:35. What did Jesus say about His own words?

*As we look across the centuries we see that His words have passed into law, into doctrines, into proverbs, into consolations, but they have never passed away.*

- B. Read Luke 4:32; John 7:46; Matthew 22:46. What was the reaction of the people to His words?
- C. Statistically speaking, the Gospels are the greatest literature ever written. They have been read more, quoted more, translated more, represented by more art, set to more music, than any other book or books written by man in any

century and in any land. Ask the questions: Who is God? Does He love me? Does He care for me? What should I do to please Him? How does He look at my sin? How can I be forgiven? Where will I go when I die? No other man can answer these questions as Jesus answered them. See John 6:68.

## **6. We would expect Him to have a lasting and universal influence.**

- A. From the essay, ONE SOLITARY LIFE, "Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself...While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executors gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth--his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend. Nineteen long centuries have come and gone and today he is the centerpiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."
- B. From the essay, THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST, "More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which he lived; that was during His exile in childhood. He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training or formal education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood he ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service. He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about him. He never wrote a song, and yet he has furnished the theme for more songs than all the songwriters combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never marshaled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under his orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired. He never practiced psychiatry, and yet he has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to him. The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of his crucifixion, yet he still lives. Herod could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold him. He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Savior."

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. If God became man, what would He be like? List the first three things in the lesson that we would expect:
2. If Jesus was born of a virgin, who must He be?

If Jesus was not born of a virgin, who must He be?

## Evidences For Faith In Jesus' Resurrection

INTRODUCTION: There are only two conclusions that can be drawn from a study of the resurrection:

1. It is a wicked hoax
2. It is the most fantastic event in history

The very existence of Christianity depends upon the truth of the resurrection. If one could disprove the resurrection, he could dispose of Christianity.

### 1. The Claims Of Jesus Concerning The Resurrection

- A. Matthew 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:9,22-23; 20:18-19; John 12:32-34.  
--If Jesus did not rise from the dead, who was he?
- B. Not only do Jesus' predictions of his death and resurrection show that he was in complete control of his life, but if one considers that if a person today should tell his friends exactly when he expected to die and that then after three days he would rise again, he would be taken away to an institution. Only a foolish man would go around talking about rising from the dead the third day unless he knew it was going to take place as Jesus did.

### 2. Jesus Was Dead

- A. It has been said, "If he were alive on the third day, he did not die. If he died, he was not alive on the third day." Some teach that Jesus only fainted or "swooned" on the cross and then was mistakenly declared dead. They say that when he was placed in the cool of the tomb, he revived. It is therefore important to know whether Jesus really died.
- B. Consider first as a contributor to his death, the scourging and harsh treatment he received prior to crucifixion. Mark 15:15-20. Using lashes with pieces of bone and metal, the victim's veins were laid bare and often the very muscles, sinews, and bowels were open to exposure. The Jews limited a scourging to forty lashes but the Romans who scourged Jesus had no limit.  
  
--How would placing the scarlet robe on Jesus' back and then taking it off and putting his own clothes on him have contributed to his pain and infection?
- C. Pilate removed any question of his death by demanding certification that he was dead before releasing the body to Joseph. See Mark 15:37-40, 43-45.
- D. The soldiers around the cross were also certain of his death in that they did not break his legs but pierced his side. See John 19:32-34. If Jesus had still been alive strong spouts of blood would have emerged from every heartbeat. This is proof positive that Jesus was already dead.
- E. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were convinced that he was dead or they would not have buried him, John 19:38-40. Also the apostle John testified that he was dead, John 19:34-35.
- F. The Jews believed he was dead because they asked that his body might be guarded, Matthew 27:62-63.

### 3. The STONE covering the tomb also enters into the evidence we must consider.

The stone was traditionally a large heavy disk of rock which could roll along a groove slightly depressed at the center. In the case of Jesus' tomb, the stone is described as very great, three women being unable to move it. See Matthew 27:59-60; Mark 16:1-4.

#### **4. The Seal And The Guard, Matthew 27:62-66**

- A. The method of sealing the stone was by stretching a cord across the stone and sealing it at each end with the stamp of Roman authority in the sealing clay. The manner of sealing was comparable to that of Daniel 6:17 so that the tomb could not be entered without leaving the evidence of a broken seal. Furthermore, breaking the seal would have been a high crime against Roman law.
- B. Also the guard at the tomb would have been a well-trained Roman guard making the tomb doubly sure.

#### **5. The Third Day Scene**

- A. THE TOMB WAS EMPTY. Matthew 28:1-8 In the presence of the women and soldiers the stone was rolled away and the seal broken. Thus, up to this point we know the body could not have been tampered with. Now this being true, if it can be established that the tomb was empty the resurrection has also been established.
  - 1. The soldiers agree the tomb was empty (Matthew 28:11-13) or else they would not have made up such an explanation.
  - 2. Fifty days later the apostles preached all over Jerusalem that the tomb was empty. If this was not true a short walk to the tomb could have disproved them.
  - 3. If Matthew's account is not true how do we explain the failure of the Jews to produce the body of Jesus or disprove the resurrection by gathering evidence by an official examination of the tomb?
  - 4. The soldiers told the Jews the same account Matthew tells and we know the Jews believed it because they bribed the soldiers to lie. Their lie shows that they were totally at a loss to explain the truth.
- B. The position of the grave clothes presents more evidence, John 20:3-9.
  - 1. Of great importance is that the body was gone but the grave clothes were not gone. Why would a person stealing the body have taken time to remove and leave the grave clothes?
  - 2. What caused the apostles to believe so readily? Consider the fact that the grave clothes with 100 pounds of spices were still lying in the exact position as Jesus' body once lay only without the body. If someone had unwrapped the body the spices would have fallen out and the theft been detected. But Jesus miraculously left the grave clothes and the tomb. Also the head napkin was still wrapped separate from the clothes as the body is separate from the head further attesting to the miracle.
- C. The position of the stone.
  - 1. Matthew 27:60 The word KULIO "to roll" is used. Mark 16:3-4 The word ANA KULIO is used meaning "to roll upward" indicating a slope or incline at the tomb's entrance. Luke 24:2 uses the words KULIO APO meaning "away from, separation." Thus the stone was rolled away from the sepulcher. John 20:1 used the word AIRO meaning "to pick up and carry away."
  - 2. The question is, if the body were stolen why would one roll the stone so far away especially when there would be a risk of disturbing the soldiers?
- D. If the body were stolen, who did it? There are only two choices: either the body was stolen or Jesus rose from the dead.
  - 1. Neither the Jewish or Roman authorities would steal the body because that would defeat their purpose.
  - 2. That leaves the disciples. But there are four reasons why this could not be.
    - a. The disciples were in no frame of mind to do it. They all scattered at the arrest of Jesus. Peter and John ran a foot race to the tomb to see if it really was empty showing that they had no knowledge of a theft.



## **Evidences For Faith In Resurrection Theories**

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*INTRODUCTION:* There have been many theories presented by scholars trying to give explanation to the empty tomb of Jesus without claiming His resurrection. We will consider each of these theories in this study and consider the validity and proofs for each theory.

### **The Swoon Theory**

This view holds that Christ never actually died on the cross, but only swooned. When He was placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, He was still alive. After several hours, He was revived by the cool air of the tomb, arose, and departed. Some suggest that medical knowledge was not very great at that time, and the apostles thought He was dead.

1. According to the various gospel accounts, who witnessed the death of Jesus besides the apostles?
2. How do the wounds of Jesus prove He was dead?
3. How does Jesus roll the stone away? How does He remove the spices and grave clothes? How does He escape from the guards unnoticed?

### **The Theft Theory**

This view holds that Christ's body was actually stolen by His disciples at night.

4. According to Matthew 28:11-15, where did this theory originate from? Is it believable?
5. Was it possible for the disciples to steal the body, thus leaving an empty tomb? How was guarding the tomb?
6. What precautions were taken by the Jewish and Roman leaders to make sure that the body was not stolen?

### **The Hallucination Theory**

This view states that all of Christ's post-resurrection appearances were only supposed appearances. Actually the people had hallucinations that they saw the risen Jesus.

7. How many people have claimed to see the risen Christ?

Winfried Corduan says, "The problem with this theory is that, in the case of the resurrection appearances, everything we know about hallucinations is violated. The appearances did not follow the patterns always present in hallucinations, for

hallucinations are private and arise out of a state of extreme emotional instability in which the hallucination functions as a sort of wish-fulfillment. What occurred after the resurrection was very different. The disciples had little trouble accepting Christ's departure; they decided to go back to their fishing. The appearances came as surprises while the disciples were intent on other things. Most importantly, the appearances came to groups of people, with each member seeing the same thing. That is simply not how hallucinations work. Thus the resurrection appearances could not have been hallucinations."

## **The Wrong Tomb Theory**

This view states that the women and the apostles simply went to the wrong tomb. Finding an empty tomb they supposed that Jesus had resurrected.

8. If the women and the apostles had gone to the wrong tomb, what could the Jewish leaders have done?
  
  
  
  
  
9. Read Mark 15:47 and Luke 23:55. Did the women know which tomb Jesus was laid in?

### **Conclusion:**

10. What is the testimony of the angel in Matthew 28:6-7?
  
  
  
  
  
11. What is the testimony of the disciples from Luke 24:33-43?
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is the testimony of Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:1-19?

## **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. Name the four theories that scholars have presented to try to discredit the resurrection of Jesus.
  
  
  
  
  
2. How many people witnessed the bodily risen Jesus?



## Evidences For Faith In Creation

**INTRODUCTION:** Most scientists accept evolution, not as a theory, but as an established fact. Professor Richard Goldschmidt stated, "Evolution of the animal and plant world is considered by all those entitled to judgment to be a fact for which no further proof is needed" (*American Scientist*, Vol.40, 1952). For years almost all science books and school textbooks have presented evolution as an established fact.

### Definitions Of Creation And Evolution

**Definition of Evolution:** Julian Huxley (*Evolution & Genetics*, Ch.8, 1955): "Evolution in the extended sense can be defined as a directional and essentially irreversible process, occurring in time, which in its course gives rise to an increase of variety and an increasingly high level of organization in its products. Our present knowledge indeed forces us to the view that the whole of reality is evolution...a single process of self-transformation."

PLEASE ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING PHRASES FROM THE ABOVE QUOTE:

1. "an increase of variety":
2. "an increasingly high level of organization":
3. "the whole of reality is evolution":
4. "self-transformation":

Th eodosius Dobzhansky (*Science*, Vol.155, Jan.27, 1967): "Evolution comprises all the stages of the development of the universe: the cosmic, biological and human or cultural developments. Attempts to restrict the concept of evolution to biology are gratuitous. Life is a product of the evolution of inorganic nature, and man is a product of the evolution of life." PLEASE ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING PHRASES FROM THE ABOVE QUOTE:

1. "Life is a product of the evolution of inorganic nature":
2. "man is a product of the evolution of life":

"According to one of the most popular theories on the origin of the universe, all energy and matter of the universe was once contained in a plasma ball of electrons, protons, and neutrons (how it got there, no one has the faintest notion). Th is huge cosmic egg then exploded--and here we are today, several billion years later, human beings with a three-pound brain composed of 12 billion neurons each connected to about 10,000 other neurons in the most complicated arrangement of matter known to man." (Dr. Duane T. Gish, *Evolution, The Fossils Say No!*, pg.14).

1. The above quotes give a good example of what is referred to as "spontaneous generation." Define this term:

2. Many people in the past including notable scientists believed in spontaneous generation. Do any scientists today believe in spontaneous generation?

Consider the following quote from a college biology textbook by Paul B. Weisz, *The Science of Biology*, 1967: "Living creatures on earth are a direct product of the earth. There is every reason to believe that living beings owe their origin entirely to certain physical and chemical properties of the ancient earth. Nothing supernatural appeared to be involved—only time and natural physical and chemical laws operating within the peculiarly suitable earthly environment. Given such an environment, life probably had to happen."

1. Scientists of the past who believed in spontaneous generation demonstrated it by observing the meat left out would eventually produce maggots and hay in a hay barn would produce mice. HOW WAS THIS DISPROVEN?
2. Scientists today no longer believe that maggots come from meat or mice from hay, but they do believe that under the right circumstances life could be produced from non-life. They only have one problem: THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO PROVE IT!

**Definition of Creation:** "...the major categories of nature were formed by special creative and cataclysmic, purposive processes in the past which are no longer in operation today and which therefore are not accessible to empirical observation." (Henry Morris, *The Troubled Waters Of Evolution*, pg.82). In other words, the creation model believes in one special power source that brought about at one point in time all the main kinds of life that we see in existence today. Creation does not believe this will ever happen again and therefore cannot be observed today.

## **Evolution And Creation: Theory Or Fact?**

Most evolutionists refuse to consider creation as a possible explanation of origins because it does not fit the accepted definition of a theory. And they are right. It does not meet these standards: (Quotes from noted evolutionists)

1. George Gaylord Simpson (*Science*, Vol.143, p.769, 1964): "It is inherent in any definition of science that statements that cannot be checked by observation are not really about anything...or at the very least, they are not science."
2. The definition of "science" from the Oxford Dictionary includes, "A branch of study concerned with...demonstrable truths or with observed facts..."
3. An additional limitation usually imposed is that the theory must be capable of being tested to see if it is true or false in a given set of circumstances.

ADMITTEDLY, CREATION FAILS THIS CRITERIA. IT IS NOT OBSERVABLE, DEMONSTRABLE, OR TESTABLE. CREATION IS ACCEPTED BY FAITH (ALTHOUGH NOT BLIND FAITH).

QUESTION: What about evolution? Can evolution be DEMONSTRATED? Can evolution be OBSERVED? Can evolution be tested in some way to be proven?

1. Dobzhansky admits, "Evolution has not been witnessed by human observers." And again he states, "These evolutionary happenings are unique, unrepeatable, and irreversible." (*American Scientist*, Vol.45, p.388, 1957)

2. D.M.S. Watson (*Nature*, Vol.124, p.233, 1929) states, "[Evolution] is a theory universally accepted not because it can be proved by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible."

CONCLUSION: Since neither creation nor evolution is observable or demonstrable, both must be accepted on the basis of faith. We will believe one or the other not because we have seen it take place but because there is enough evidence in the world around us to convince us that one or the other took place. It is the same as if we woke up in the morning to find snow on the ground. Though we did not see it snow we would conclude on the basis of faith (which includes the evidence of the snow on the ground) that it snowed the night before. The same kinds of conclusions can be drawn concerning either evolution or creation. Our job will be to examine the evidence to see whether creation or evolution is supported by what we can observe.

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. Give a brief definition of evolution:
2. What is spontaneous generation?
3. How was spontaneous generation disproven?
4. What three criteria must be met for evolution or creation to be considered by science as a "theory?"

## Evidences For Faith From Science

### How Could A Person Accept Spontaneous Generation?

As we have already seen, the alternative to creation is not evolution but a combination of evolution and spontaneous generation. Most people might say spontaneous generation is ridiculous. But suppose instead we say that there was a combination of small inorganic molecules (water, methane, ammonia) that formed small organic molecules (sugars, amino acids, nucleotides). And then a combination of these small organic molecules formed larger molecules and these combined into aggregates that absorbed smaller molecules, and finally these combined creating the first life forms able to harness energy for their own maintenance and reproduction. Say that and many people will accept it. But it is still life from non-life.

To further understand the likelihood of life from non-life, we need to know a little about the two basic parts of every living system: DNA and PROTEIN. Do not let these two words frighten you. We will try to understand them in very simple terms.

1. DNA is the molecule of heredity which gets passed down from one generation to the next. Each of us starts off as a tiny little ball about the size of a period on a printed page in which there are over four feet of DNA all coiled up. The DNA is the “blue print” of your body. It gives directions on how each part of your body should be formed and what it should look like. A DNA chain looks very much like a pearl necklace. The way the “pearls” are lined up in various combinations is what determines how a particular body part looks or functions. If we scrambled the parts of a DNA chain, the directions would be scrambled and that body part could not be made. For example, just to make a protein called hemoglobin (which functions as an oxygen carrier in red blood cells), it would take a chain of about 2,000 DNA bases all placed in one specific sequence.

2. PROTEINS are also chains of repeated units much like DNA. These chains are called “amino acids.” Protein is the main substance that our body parts are made of. DNA gives the directions to the protein as to exactly how it should line up in the amino acid chain. Now if the DNA is not lined up properly it cannot give the directions to line up the amino acid chain properly and the body part that is supposed to result will not be made.

Evolutionists picture a time before there was life in which fragments of DNA and fragments of protein were somehow produced. Then through time, chance, and natural chemical reactions DNA and protein were supposed to combine in exactly the right combinations to produce life. The question is whether or not such is possible. A number of years ago a man named Stanley Miller tried to show that such was possible by creating a spark chamber (see diagram) in which he used simple raw materials and electric sparks to produce amino acids, DNA fragments, sugars, and other molecules that are basically the building blocks of life. Many claimed that Miller had practically produced life in a test tube. My college biology teacher in the mid 1960's claimed that life had been produced in the test tube. But had it? The problem is that the molecules that Miller made were not only the amino acids required for life, but also greater quantities of amino acids that are destructive to life. In fact, the natural relationship between these molecules is the wrong relationship for life and would scramble up DNA and protein units in all sorts of deadly combinations.

Let's explain this another way. Suppose you took a one thousand page book written in the English language and cut out all the thousands of letters of the alphabet that made up the sentences in the book. Then you took another book written in the Greek language with the Greek alphabet and cut out all the letters used to write this book. Now take all these individual letters and put them in a large bin and add some kind of glue that will cause the letters to stick together when they come in contact with one another. Stir or shake the bin until all the letters are stuck together in some kind of combination. How long would it take to stir the letters together until you came up with a combination that would make any sense like the original books? This is basically what is happening when one suggests that time and chance and the right kind of molecules can produce life. Time and chance will do no such thing. What is the chance that all the letters would come together in an understandable combination? There is no chance. It is like trying to throw “13” on a pair of gambling dice. Even though some letters might combine to make words that would not suggest that the words would eventually result in a book.

Consider this. Can aluminum fly? By itself aluminum can't fly. The ore in rock just sits there. A volcano may throw it, but it doesn't fly. Pour gasoline on it and add energy; it might blow up, but it won't fly. Put some rubber on it and it still won't fly. But, stretch it out in a nice long tube with wings, a tail, and a few other parts and then it flies; we call it an airplane.

But why does it fly? Take the wings off; they don't fly. Take the engine off; it doesn't fly. Take the man out; he doesn't fly. Don't dwell on this the next time you are in an airplane, but an airplane is made up of a collection of 4 1/2 million non-flying parts! Not a single part flies. WHAT MAKES AN AIRPLANE FLY? CREATIVE DESIGN AND ORGANIZATION.

The living cell is no different. It is a collection of several billion non-living molecules. In all of our body there is not one living molecule. We are made up of nothing but non-living molecules--the dust of the ground. What makes the cell alive is creative design and organization. Every molecule, every DNA, every protein and amino acid has to be in the right place at the right time and in the right amount to have life. For that to happen there must be an orderly mechanism. But order doesn't just happen and left to itself order is not maintained.

Now this ORDERLY MECHANISM is what scientists are going to have to explain in order to prove evolution. It is not enough to talk about producing some of the "building blocks" for life from some gases and sparks. How did millions of DNA chains and amino acid chains get lined up in exactly the right order to produce not only a human being but all the life we know on the earth?

1. READ ROMANS 1:20. How does this passage answer the above question?
2. READ PSALMS 139:13-16. How does this text answer the question of an orderly mechanism?

### **In Light Of The Above Information, Why Do So Many Scientists Believe In Evolution?**

First, it is important to note that Dr. Duane Gish in his book *Evolution-The Fossils Still Say No!*, shows that there are a growing number of scientists who are not satisfied with the theory of evolution and even openly critical of the theory even though they are not creationists.

1. In 1967 a book was published by several scientists who participated in the WISTAR SYMPOSIUM ON MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGES TO THE NEODARWINIAN INTERPRETATION OF EVOLUTION. In the book, Olson, Eden and others complained that the theory of evolution was so plastic it was capable of explaining anything. Eden stated, "You may be ingenious or not in proposing a mechanism which looks plausible to human beings and mechanisms which are consistent with other mechanisms which you have discovered, but it is still an unfalsifiable theory."
2. French scientists have been attacking the theory with increasing intensity over the years. One French magazine (*Science et Vie*) ran an article entitled 'Should We Burn Darwin?' The article was written by science writer Aime Michel who based his article on interviews with a number of world renowned specialists on the theory of evolution and studies of some 600 pages of biological data by the late Michael Cuenot, a biologist of international fame. His conclusion was, "The classical theory of evolution in its strict sense belongs to the past. Even if they do not publicly take a definite stand, almost all French specialists hold today strong mental reservations as to the validity of natural selection."
3. R. Danson (*New Scientist*, Vol.49, p.35, 1971) states, "...the Theory of Evolution is no longer with us, because neo-Darwinism is now acknowledged as being unable to explain anything more than trivial change, and in default of some other theory we have none...despite the hostility of the witness provided by the fossil record, despite the innumerable difficulties, and despite the lack of even a credible theory, evolution survives...Can there be any other area of science, for instance, in which a concept as intellectually barren as embryonic recapitulation could be used as evidence for a theory?"

How then, has the theory continued to survive? Gish states, “The reason that most scientists accept the theory of evolution is that most scientists are unbelievers, and unbelieving, materialistic men are forced to accept a materialistic naturalistic explanation for the origin of all living things.”

1. Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, former Professor at Harvard University and one of the world's best known evolutionists, writes, “Man stands alone in the universe, a unique product of a long, unconscious, impersonal, material process with unique understanding and potentialities. These he owes to no one but himself, and it is to himself that he is responsible. He is not the creature of uncontrollable and undeterminable forces, but his own master. He can and must decide and manage his own destiny.”

2. QUESTION: For an evolutionist, what moral advantage does he have to believe in his theory? In other words, why do most scientists believe in evolution?

3. READ PSALM 100:3. How does this contradict the quote by Simpson above?

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ:**

1. Explain what DNA do?
2. Why wouldn't “time and chance” allow DNA and protein to produce a human?
3. Why do most scientists find it beneficial to believe in evolution and not creation?

## Evidences For Faith From Complexity

### The Evidence Of Homology

When you go to the zoo and observe the animals, do you see similarities between many of the animals? For example, when you compare a chimpanzee and a gorilla, are there not a number of similarities between the two? In fact, when you compare yourself to those animals do you see similarities? The truth of the matter is that throughout all living things there are thousands of similarities even between living things that do not look alike. The foreleg of a horse is similar to that of a dog. And both of these forelegs are similar to the wing of a bat or the flipper of a penguin. These similarities are called **HOMOLOGY**.

The question before both evolutionists and creationists is why are there these similarities?

1. **EVOLUTIONIST:** Animals are similar in structure because they all came from a common ancestor. Since somewhere back in time we all came from one living cell that gradually changed until all living things were created, we would expect that living things would have similar structures.
2. **CREATIONIST:** Animals are similar in structure because they were all made by the **SAME** Creator. If you were a ship builder you would use some of the same materials and similar design for small ships as well as large ships. Just because you see similarities between the ships does not mean one descended from the other.

Both of these explanations seem reasonable and logical. Let's see if we can discover which answer best solves the problem of homology.

One evolutionist named Richard Dickerson (*THE STRUCTURE AND ACTION OF PROTEINS*, 1969) states that hemoglobin (the protein that carries oxygen in red blood cells) poses "a puzzling problem. Hemoglobins occur sporadically among the invertebrate phyla (the animals without backbone), in no obvious pattern." In other words, hemoglobin is found in some of these animals but not in others. It is found at times in some very basic organisms while not in more complex ones. There is no pattern. Further, hemoglobin is found in all vertebrates (animals with backbone), but it is also found in some starfish, some mollusks, some insects, and even some bacteria. As Dickerson says, "It is hard to see a common line of descent snaking in so unsystematic a way through so many different phyla..."

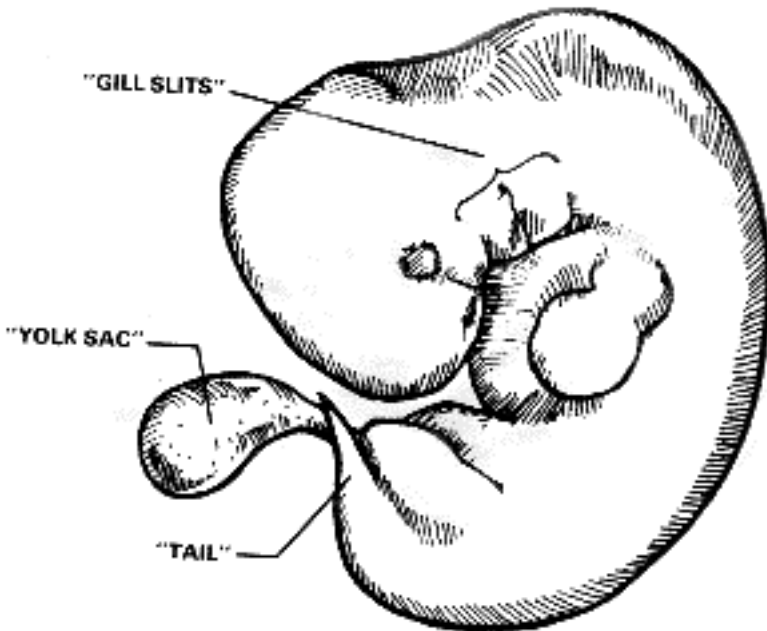
Indeed, if evolution were true we ought to be able to trace how hemoglobin evolved. Some would suggest that since there is no pattern of the evolution of hemoglobin, appearances of hemoglobin must be due to repeated incidents of evolution. But Dickerson says that this does not seem possible since hemoglobin is a very complex molecule.

There is a protein called lysozyme contained in our eyes and in egg whites that Dickerson says links us more closely with the chicken than any other living mammal. When we try to prove evolution and find man's nearest relative by the evidence of homology we run into some serious problems. While blood serum studies show our closest relative to be the chimpanzee, milk chemistry (which is just as complicated), shows our nearest relative to be the jackass. On the basis of cholesterol our nearest relative is the garter snake. Comparing foot structure our nearest relative is the glacial bear. Comparing blood Antigen A, it's the butterbean! Again, creation is the more likely explanation as the Creator used various similar structures when He needed to for the benefit of a particular living thing. But not all living things He created needed the same things.

Try to imagine how "eyes" would have evolved. There are many animals such as bees that have very complex, compound, multiple-lensed eyes. Our eyes use a mechanism called "lens cylinders" but some deep sea animals have eyes that do not have lens cylinders at all but have a very complex system of mirrors that are lined up just right so they can see. An evolutionist named Michael Land in the October 4, 1979 issue of *New Scientist* states concerning these two types of eyes, "Both are successful and very sophisticated image-forming devices, but I cannot imagine an intermediate form [or common ancestral type] that would work at all." In other words, even this evolutionist asks how these types of eyes could possibly have evolved.

QUESTION: Can you imagine a creature being alive and surviving with only part of his eye having evolved? How many generations would have to suffer through this before the whole eye was formed?

The way a human being develops in his mother's womb is often used as evidence of evolution. Look at the chart on the next page. Evolutionists point out that very early in human development we have some "organs" that are like our common ancestors. They say we have gill slits like fish, a yolk sac like a chicken, and a tail like a lizard. If things were made by creation, wouldn't an intelligent Creator have known that human beings don't need those things? Evolutionists call these structures "vestiges" believing that they are useless leftovers from our evolutionary ancestors.



An early stage in human development

1. First, it is important to know that the idea of vestigial organs has slowed down scientific research for many years. If the scientific community believes that some organ is useless, then they do not find out what possible function the organ has. In fact, at one time it was believed that we had some 180 vestigial organs. However, studies have shown that at least 178 of these have quite important functions and are not vestiges at all.
2. The so-called yolk sac on the human embryo is not a throw back to the yolk of a chicken at all but is the source of the human embryo's first blood cells. If it were a vestige it could be removed without doing any harm. But if this sac were removed the human would die. God simply used a similar structure to provide for both a human and a chicken the same way you would use similar materials in building different kind of ships.
3. What about the "gill slits?" Actually, they are not gill slits at all, but "throat pouches" from which come the middle ear, the parathyroid and thymus glands. There is nothing about these slits that are like gills. We simply do not have the DNA instructions for forming gills.
4. What about the tail? It is certainly not a vestige. Far from being useless this is the point of muscle attachment required for our upright posture. It becomes one of the most important bones in our whole body. Once in a great while a baby is born with a little fatty tissue leftover at this spot, but it is easily removed since it doesn't have any bones or a nerve cord in it such as an animal would have.



## Living Things Have Been Carefully And Artfully Designed

In the book *Evolution*, biologist and evolutionist Richard Lewontin says that “the marvelous fit of organisms to their environment...is the chief evidence of a Supreme Designer.” Further he says that organisms appear to have been carefully and artfully designed.” The logical inference from careful and artful design is a Designer.

Consider the example of “cleaning symbiosis” in fish. There are many large fish with sharp teeth that feed on shrimp and smaller fish. Their mouths begin to accumulate food debris and parasites. How is such a fish going to clean its teeth? The answer is a visit to the local cleaning station where there are certain shrimp and small brightly colored fish. After eating, a predatory fish will literally swim over and take his place in line to have his teeth cleaned. It opens its mouth, baring vicious teeth and allows the little cleaner fish to swim in its mouth and through the gills picking off parasites in the soft tissues of the mouth. And when the cleaning is done the big fish does not eat the cleaner fish but allows it to escape. Then the big fish swims off hunting for other little fish and shrimp to eat.

QUESTION: Think about how this cleaning symbiosis could possibly have evolved:

Evolutionist and Nobel Prize winner Albert Szent-Gyorgi writes the following about cleaning symbiosis and mutualism among living things: “All this may sound very simple, but it involves a whole series of most complicated chain reactions with a horribly complex underlying nervous mechanism...All this had to be developed simultaneously.” Dr. Gary Parker points out: “It’s the same thing for cleaning symbiosis; it’s no good if the little fish gets the idea to go into the big fish’s mouth before the big fish inherits the final random mutational change to let it back out again.”

Szent-Gyorgi continues that the odds of getting all these random favorable mutations to happen at the same time is...ZERO. He says it just can’t come about by time and chance and the natural process of mutation. Instead he postulates “syntropy” or basically an impersonal creative force. In essence, he recognizes creation can be logically deduced but denies the Creator.

*There are other similar examples that show the hand of the Creator and deny any possibility of evolution:*

1. The Nile crocodile will open its mouth for a bird called the Egyptian Plover to walk in and pick off the parasites. When the bird is finished the crocodile does not eat the bird but allows it to go free. How could this have evolved?
2. The Yucca Moth lays its eggs in the seed chamber of a yucca plant along with a ball of pollen it has collected providing food for its young. But this is also very beneficial to the plant since without this moth laying its eggs in this seed chamber, the yucca plant would not be pollinated and would never have survived. And without the plant the moth would not have survived. How could this have evolved?
3. The artistic quality of God is also seen by noting that very deep in the ocean where there is no light there are a number of very brightly colored fish. These fish cannot even see each other and yet they are beautiful. Evolution supposedly only has to do with survival of the fittest. What possible survival value are the colors on these fish?

QUESTION: Can you think of a reason God would have made these fish so beautifully colored even though there is no light for them to see the colors?

Consider the story of the Bombardier beetle. (*From Fish To Gish*, pg.145-147.) “Although he looks like an ordinary beetle, he is really a very unusual beetle. When some mean ol’ beetle-eater comes and threatens to eat him, BOOM!--an explosion goes off right in the face of this mean ol’ beetle-eater.

“It turns out that this beetle mixes hydrogen peroxide and hydrogen quinone and puts it in a storage chamber. The remarkable thing about this is that it is a very explosive mixture. It would blow up if I did it in the laboratory. But the beetle adds an inhibitor. When the mean ol’ beetle-eater comes up, he squirts this solution into twin combustion tubes. At just the right moment, he adds an anti-inhibitor which neutralizes the inhibitor. BOOM! An explosion takes place. Noxious gases are expelled at 212 degrees Fahrenheit right in the face of the mean ol’ beetle-eater. That’s enough to discourage any mean ol’ beetle-eater!

“Let us imagine how this might have happened by evolution. Millions of years ago, there was a little beetle. Let's call him 'Beetle Bailey.' How he got a storage chamber, I do not know. One day he decided to throw in some hydrogen peroxide and hydrogen quinone. BOOM! He blew himself up. You see, he didn't have the inhibitor. But why would he evolve the inhibitor until he had the two chemicals? He would have no use for it. It would have no evolutionary adaptive value. But if he had the two chemicals first, it's too late! He's already blown himself up.

“BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! For thousands of generations little beetles are blowing themselves up. They can't pass the information down to their offspring because they didn't have any offspring. There is no way that evolution could work that out.

“Let's suppose that by some miracle some little beetle gets the inhibitor. You say, 'That's tremendous!' No, absolutely not. What good would it do? It would just soak and sour and corrode his innards. It would do not good. He still doesn't have the anti-inhibitor. Why would he invent the anti-inhibitor until he had the inhibitor to begin with? But why would he invent the two chemicals and the inhibitor first? It does not good. There is no evolutionary rationale for it.

“Let us suppose that finally, by some miracle, some little beetle invents the anti-inhibitor. You say, 'We have arrived.' No, he doesn't have the twin combustion tubes yet. He adds the anti-inhibitor and BOOM! He blows himself up again. There would be no evolutionary advantage to invent the anti-inhibitor without the other chemicals, but if he invents it with the other chemicals, he blows up.

“BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Again, for thousands of generations little beetles are blowing themselves up. They don't have those twin combustion tubes which are incredibly complex. An amazing genetic apparatus is needed to evolve those twin combustion tubes. Why would they need the twin combustion tubes until they had the two chemicals, the inhibitor, and the anti-inhibitor? But they would have no use for the other until they had the twin combustion tubes. You have to have it all together.

“Let's assume that by a tremendous miracle of evolutionary mutations or mistakes that some little beetle evolved the twin combustion tubes. 'No,' you say, 'we finally are there!' No, not quite. He doesn't have the communication network. He doesn't have the signal worked out. Can you imagine how embarrassing it would be if he friend, Joe Beetle, come up, pats him on the back and says 'Hi, Friend!' BOOM! He will lose a lot of friends that way.

“But, why would he need the communication network and the signal until he had everything else? But everything else without the network does him no good either. You see, you have to have everything complete. You must have the storage chamber, the two chemicals, the inhibitor, the anti-inhibitor, the twin combustion tubes, and the communication network. Then and only then will you have a bombardier beetle. Up until that time you have nothing but disaster. You have no way of getting from one to the other. You must remain little old 'Beetle Bailey.'

“Mean ol' beetle-eaters should be enthusiastic for evolution. It is because of creation that those mean ol' beetle-eaters are not able to eat more bombardier beetles.”

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. What is homology?
2. What is “cleaning symbiosis?”
3. How does cleaning symbiosis disprove evolution?

## Evidences For Faith From Thermodynamics

**INTRODUCTION:** One of the most difficult problems evolution must confront is the second law of thermodynamics or otherwise known as the law of entropy (order to disorder). In this lesson we will see how the evolutionary model fits with the law of entropy.

### The Evolution Model

- A. The origin of the universe and all it contains arose by mechanistic, naturalistic processes that can be ascribed solely to properties inherent in matter. All living things arose or evolved from a single source (life arose only once) or from a very few sources (life arose more than once), which had arisen from an inanimate source.
- B. Julian Huxley states, "Evolution in the extended sense can be defined as a directional and essentially irreversible process occurring in time, which in its course gives rise to an increase of variety and an increasingly high level of organization in its products. Our present knowledge indeed forces us to the view that the whole of reality is evolution--a single process of self-transformation."
- C. Harlow Shapley states, "Some people piously proclaim, 'In the beginning God.' I say, 'In the beginning, hydrogen.'" From hydrogen supposedly came stars, then galaxies, then solar systems, then animals, the people who have 30 trillion cells with 120 trillion connections. In fact, the brain can process more information in a fraction of a second than a Kray Super Computer can process in 100 years. In this view, hydrogen is an odorless, tasteless, invisible gas which, if given enough time, becomes people.

### Evolution And The Second Law Of Thermodynamics

- A. The following evolutionists define the "second law" for us:
  1. R.B. Lindsay, *American Scientist*, "There is a general natural tendency of all observed systems to go from order to disorder, reflecting dissipation of energy available for future transformation--the law of increasing entropy."
  2. Isaac Asimov, *Smithsonian Institute Journal*, "Another way of stating the second law then is: 'The universe is constantly getting more disorderly!' Viewed that way, we can see the second law all about us. We have to work hard to straighten a room, but left to itself it becomes a mess again very quickly and very easily. Even if we never enter it, it becomes dusty and musty. How difficult to maintain houses, and machinery, and our own bodies in perfect working order; how easy to let them deteriorate. In fact, all we have to do is nothing, and everything deteriorates, collapses, breaks down, wears out--all by itself--and that is what the second law is all about."
- B. Biblical definition of the second law: Hebrews 1:10-11.

**QUESTION:** How is the theory of evolution different from the second law?

- C. Isn't it interesting that evolution proclaims just the opposite of the second law? Evolution states that with time and change everything went from disorder to order. And yet we have no natural law to describe such a tendency because such a tendency does not exist. HOW CAN THE VERY SAME NATURAL LAWS AND PROCESSES THAT ARE LEADING TOWARDS THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION OF THE UNIVERSE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS ORIGIN?

- D. Evolutionists sometimes reply that by introducing a supply of energy it is possible for a system to go from disorder to order. This is certainly true IF the energy is applied in an orderly and creative way (**which is only done by a Creator**). Take a car for an example. We cannot simply pour gasoline on it and light a match. Energy applied in an indiscriminate way is destructive!
- E. Sometimes evolutionists appeal to "photosynthesis" (the ability of a plant to take sunlight and transform it into usable chemicals) as an example of energy applied to a system making it more orderly or complex instead of disorderly and destructive. But plants have been created with a complex machine that is able to use that energy. If we lay out in the sun, we just get burned. To say that energy alone will cause disorder to go to a more orderly mechanism would be like saying that a tornado could hit a junkyard and create a Boeing 747.

CONCLUSION: Evolution violates one of our most commonly observed laws: the second law of thermodynamics.

### PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ

1. Briefly explain the second law of thermodynamics:
2. How does this law violate the theory of evolution?

# 14

## Evidences For Faith From Natural Selection

*INTRODUCTION:* The idea of natural selection as Darwin presented it is really not very difficult to understand. Natural selection centers mainly around the idea that all living things are constantly struggling for survival. Within each kind there are many different varieties and some of those varieties will survive better than others as they are better able to adapt to their environment. Thus the idea of "survival of the fittest" is the idea of the natural selection of varieties that best fit into their environment. This idea of natural selection is easily observed in nature as we will see. However, the question is, "Does such natural selection prove evolution?"

### The Peppered Moth: Showcase For Evolution

- A. To understand better what Darwin was trying to prove concerning natural selection consider all the different varieties of rabbits there are in the world. Have you ever been to the local fair and seen what artificial selection (selective breeding) can do? There are rabbits with big floppy ears and funny noses, and peculiar markings of all kinds. Darwin appealed to this kind of artificial selection stating that similar kinds selection could take place in nature, and thus natural selection. Suppose we were to take all these different kinds of rabbits and set them free out in a field and then come back in 10 years. What would we find? We would have observed natural selection. Some breeds would not have survived well at all, while others would have been very hearty. Through breeding some traits would have survived better than other traits. If rabbits with real fluffy fur always got caught in thickets or collected more parasites, that trait would not last very long. Slower rabbits would be more apt to be caught by coyotes and therefore we would find the faster breeds surviving. Darwin was right, natural selection does exist.
- B. A favorite example of evolutionists is the peppered moth. Look carefully at the two pictures on the following page. Look at the top picture first and try to find the two moths on the tree. The dark moth is easy to find, but the light moth is very difficult to see. This is the way the trees in England looked in 1850. At that time, which moth do you suppose birds ate

most? If you said the dark colored moths because they can be seen more easily, you are correct. In 1850 dark moths made up only about 2% of the moth population. All the rest were light colored moths. Dark moths were eaten more by birds and therefore the light moths were "more fit" and survived better.



- C. But now look at the other picture. This is the way trees looked in England in 1950, a hundred years later. This picture shows the result of how pollution has killed the light colored lichen on the trees revealing the dark color of the bark. Now which moth is more easily seen?

Obviously the light colored moth is now more visible and sure enough the birds now eat more light colored moths. What has happened to the moth population. The dark moths are now the "more fit" and they make up 98% of the moth population leaving only 2% of the moths to be the light colored.

- D. ALMOST ALL BIOLOGY TEXTBOOKS USE THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF EVOLUTION. The evolutionist uses the idea of "extrapolation" to arrive at his conclusion. He considers that if there could be that much change in 100 years, how much change in the moths could there be in millions of years? How would you answer that question?
- E. The answer to the question is that certainly the peppered moths show natural selection--they show that CHANGE will take place over time. But the change that takes place is WITHIN the kind and not BETWEEN kinds. What we started with were dark and light colored moths. After 100 years we still had dark and light colored moths. Only the percentage of moths changed--a variation within kind. There is a limitation to any extrapolation. If I start jogging and discover that I can run a mile in 10 minutes and then a week later I can run the same mile in 9 minutes, and week later in 8 minutes, how many weeks will it be before I can run the mile in 1 minute? The answer is obviously NEVER! There is a limitation to extrapolation and that is true with change within living things. There will be change but that change is limited to the GENETIC capabilities of the organism.
- F. To further illustrate that there are limitations at work, consider that the adaptation of the sort we see in living things involves a whole group of traits working together with none of the individual pieces having any survival value. Dr. Gary Parker (*Creation: The Facts of Life*) presents the example of the flicker woodpecker: "Here's a bird that makes its living banging its head into trees. Whatever gave it the idea to do that in the first place? Was it frustration from losing the worm to the early bird? How did banging its head into trees increase its likelihood for survival--until after it had

accumulated (by chance?) a thick skull with shock absorbing tissues, muscles, etc.! And what would be the survival value of all these features (and how could they build up in the population) until after the bird started banging its head into trees?

"And what about the beetle under the bark? The beetle is surely aware of all the woodpecker's pounding. So, while the woodpecker is pounding, the beetle is crawling further down its hole or digging another hole. So, before any of the drilling adaptations can have any fitness, the woodpecker must have a long, sticky tongue to reach what it somehow knows is good food under that tough tree bark.

"But if you have a long, sticky tongue and you're a bird, where do you put the long tongue? For the woodpecker, the answer is to wrap its tongue under the skin and bring it clear around the head and insert it in the right nostril! Now, if you start as an ordinary bird with a short tongue and no tongue sheath, what would you do in the intermediate states--perhaps, for example, with a tongue too long for the bill but too short to catch the beetles you've just been beating your head into trees to catch? The example may seem humorous, but the point is serious: How can Darwinian fitness be used to explain traits with many interdependent parts when none of the separate parts has any survival value?"

## **Darwin's Idea Of The Origin Of New Traits: PANGENES**

Darwin recognized that natural selection alone could not explain evolution. How could he explain the origin of new traits? Darwin wrote that it was "from use and disuse from the direct and indirect actions of the environment" that new traits arose. In other words, it is supposed that the way giraffes got long necks is by continually stretching their necks up in the trees to reach the tender green leaves. It is supposed the following generations were born with longer and longer necks as these "stretched" necks were inherited.

In order to explain this genetically Darwin popularized the idea of PANGENES. This was a belief that every unit or cell of the body throws off minute particles that are collected in the reproductive cells and passed on to future generations. Some people still think that if they get smarter they will bear smarter children. I had a high school biology teacher tell me that studies of rabbits that lived at the end of the runway at the airport had been deaf from the noise of the jets for so many generations, that now they were bearing deaf baby rabbits. Such is simply not true.

Darwin's belief that traits acquired by use or lost by disuse has been disproven long ago. A man named Weisman cut off the tails of mice for more than twenty generations only to find that baby mice were still born with tails. The problem is that though this has been disproved, there are still people running around who will insist that such an idea is true and proves evolution.

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. Why doesn't the example of the peppered moth prove evolution?
2. What does the peppered moth example prove?
3. How was Darwin's idea of PANGENES disproven?

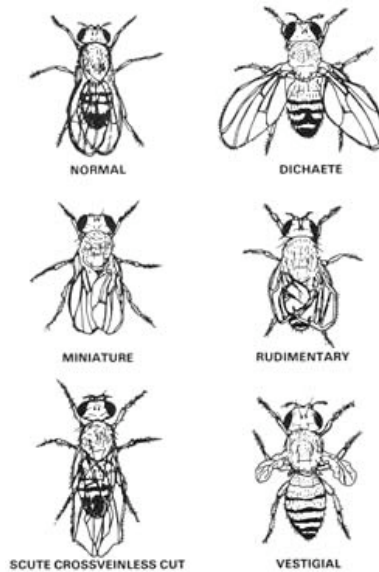
## **Evidences For Faith From Mutations**

# 15

*INTRODUCTION:* As we noted in the previous lesson, Darwin believed that new traits originated because of "use and disuse." Modern evolutionists believe instead that new traits have come about by chance--by random changes in genes called MUTATIONS. Because of this new belief, modern evolutionists are called neo-Darwinian. We are all aware that things like radiation and various chemicals do indeed cause mutations in reproductive cells that can be passed on to future generations. The question is can such mutations bring about new traits that are beneficial to the organism and thus be responsible for evolution?

### **Mutations: Evidence For Evolution Or Creation?**

- A. In considering mutations it is first important to think of the amount of mutations that must have taken place in order for an amoeba to turn into a man. There would have had to have been literally billions upon billions of mutations all beneficial to the organism that would be responsible for every transition from molecules to man. This is what we are considering when we think of mutations being responsible for our existence.
- B. Mutations are certainly real. Mankind is plagued with many diseases that are caused by mutations. Things like hemophilia, loss of skin color, some cancers, brain malfunction, and sickle cell anemia are all caused by mutations. To understand what mutations can do, consider the chart below that shows the changes that have been brought about in fruit flies because of mutations. There are fruit flies with shorter wings, very short wings, curled wings, spread-apart wings, miniature wings, and wings without cross-veins.



The flu virus is similar. The flu virus mutates quite easily so that each year it is slightly different than the year before. That is the reason we cannot solve the flu problem. Scientists cannot just develop on vaccine because every year the virus is different and our antibodies don't quite fit the new virus and so we have to build up our immunity all over again.

**QUESTION:** Can you see a reason why mutations do not explain evolution?

- C. But even though mutations are a fact of life, the question is: are they responsible for evolution? Will mutations create new traits in an organism? Let us notice three major reasons why mutations DO NOT explain evolution.
1. **MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM:** Fortunately for us, mutations are rare. They occur on the average of one every ten million duplications of a DNA molecule ( $10^7$ , a one followed by 7 zeroes). Our bodies have about  $10^{14}$  cells. Therefore we would have on the average of two cells in a mutated form. But the mathematical problem for evolution comes when we try to find a series of related mutations. That is, when we look for a number of mutations that all work on one trait and "add up" to something new. For example, two mutations might produce no more than a fly with a wavy edge on a bent wing. The probability of getting two related mutations is  $10^{14}$ . But we need far more mutations than that to change a fly into some new organism. Well, the odds of getting three related mutations in a row is  $10^{21}$ . Suddenly the ocean isn't big enough to hold all the bacteria necessary to make it likely for you to find even one bacterium with three simultaneous, related mutations.
- Four related mutations would be  $10^{28}$ . Now the earth isn't big enough to hold all the organisms that would make such likely. Of course, evolutionists like to say that there are 5 billion years for all of this to happen. Yes, but that is not near long enough for evolution to happen! There are only  $10^{17}$  seconds in 5 billion years and the whole universe contains fewer than  $10^{80}$  atoms. Thus, even by the wildest estimates the earth is not old enough or big enough to reach the odds of 1 in  $10^{3,000,000}$  that the evolutionist Huxley

calculated as the odds against the evolution of the horse! The probability factor is so low as for there to be no possibility.

THESE MATHEMATICAL PROBLEMS HAVE CAUSED MANY EVOLUTIONISTS TO NO LONGER BELIEVE IN THE TYPICAL DARWINIAN EVOLUTION AND ARE LOOKING FOR ANOTHER WAY TO EXPLAIN THE THEORY.

2. **THE HEALTH PROBLEM:** Mutational changes are harmful not beneficial. Think of this. We know that radiation causes mutations, so let's all go let an x-ray machine shoot us full of radiation. Now why wouldn't that be a smart idea? If mutations were beneficial, it would be a great idea. But instead, mutations are almost always detrimental. Almost every mutation we know of is identified by the disease or abnormality that it causes. Thus, time, chance, and random changes do just what we would expect: tear things up and make matters worse. Humans are now subject to over 3500 mutational disorders. Fortunately, we usually do not show these defects because we have two sets of genes with the good genes covering the bad effects from the bad genes.

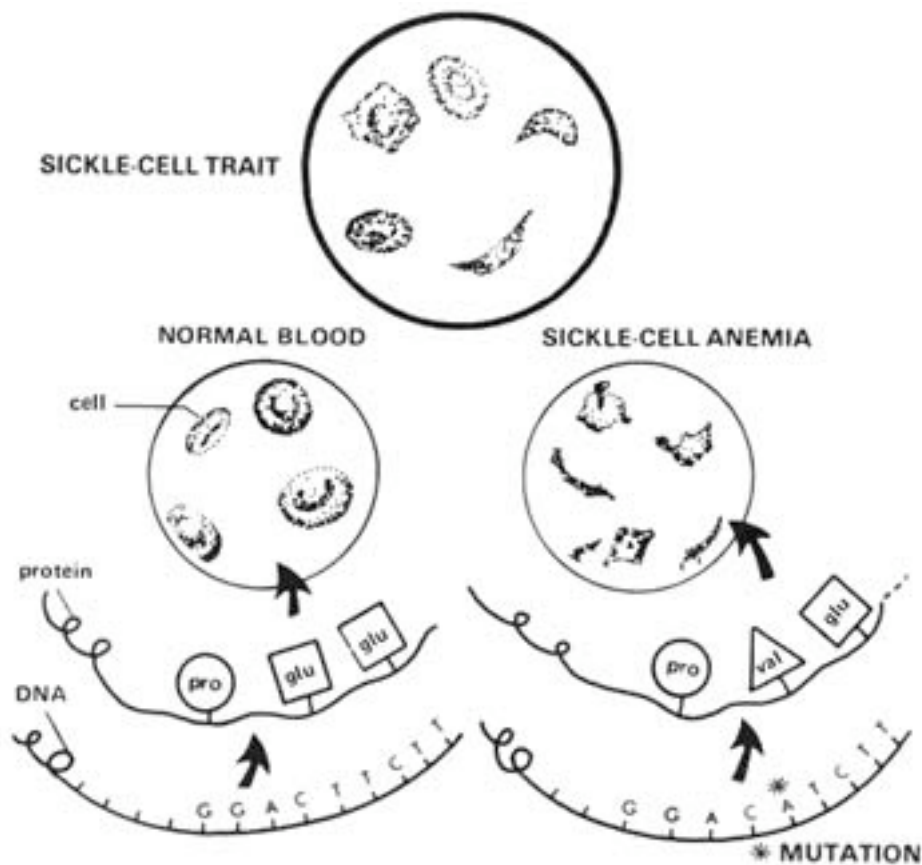
Consider that chart below that shows a turkey that was born from an unfertilized egg and thus had only one set of genes. The bird couldn't hold its head up, feathers were missing in patches, and it couldn't resist disease. THIS SHOWS HOW THAT MUTATIONS ARE NOTHING BUT DETRIMENTAL. NO ONE WANTS A MUTATION!



There are two mutations in our world today that some scientists have tried to explain as beneficial mutations:

- a. Sickle-cell anemia is a disease of the red blood cells which causes an immunity to malaria. In some parts of Africa the death rate from malaria is over 30%. Malaria is caused by a one-celled organism that gets inside red blood cells and eats up the hemoglobin. But the malaria germ does not like the sickle-cell hemoglobin and therefore carriers of the sickle-cell do not get malaria. However, children of sickle-cell carriers have a 25% death rate. Now, are humans really going to be benefited by obtaining this kind of beneficial mutant?





- b. Domestic corn has been considered another beneficial mutant. And there is no doubt that corn is a favorable mutation as far as people are concerned. But the mutation is not at all favorable to corn. Without man, corn could not survive. Again, the problem is that though in theory one could get a favorable mutation, there would be so many thousands of unfavorable mutations along the way that the organism would be destroyed.
3. **THE GENES PROBLEM:** Mutations are only changes in already existing genes. There must be a gene BEFORE there can be a mutations. Mutations do not produce genes! All one gets from a mutations is a varied form of an already existing gene and therefore nothing but variation within kind. Look again at the chart on the flies. Though there are a number of different mutations, the flies and still flies, and none of them grew anything different than what flies grow. None of them, for example, grew a flipper!

### Variation Within Created Kinds: The Plan Of The Designer

- A. But someone now argues that if evolution is not true how do we get all the tremendous variety that we see in living things today? Look at the many different kinds of dogs and the variety of people. Is it possible that from just one couple (like Adam and Eve) that we could get all of the different skin colors and various races of people we see today?
- B. The answer to this question is an amazing, YES. A single human couple could mathematically produce 10 before they would have to produce an identical twin. Remember, the number of atoms in the known universe is only 10 which is nothing compared to the variety that is present in just two human beings.
- C. Take skin color for example. It is interesting that all of us have the SAME skin coloring agent. That is, we all have the same basic skin color, just different amounts of it. Now how long would it take to get all the variations in the amount of skin color we see in people today? The answer is only ONE GENERATION. Look at the chart on the next page. If two parents with medium skin color had 16 children, on the average one of the 16 would be black, one would be white, four would be medium dark, four would be medium white, and six (less than half) would be medium skinned like their parents. Genetics makes all this variation possible without any hint of evolutionary changes. God built into His original creation the capability of living things to produce variety WITHIN the created kinds. But this does not suggest evolution!

AaBb x AaBb				
1	AB	aB	Ab	ab
AB	AABB	AABb	ABAb	AaBb
aB	AaBB	aaBB	aABb	aaBb
Ab	AABb	AaBb	AAbb	Aabb
ab	AaBb	aaBb	Aabb	aabb

- D. Real evolution requires an EXPANSION of the gene pool for new traits, not variation within the same gene pool. Suppose there are islands where three varieties of flies that at one time traded genes but now no longer interbreed. Is this evidence for evolution? Actually, it is just the opposite. Each variety now has a smaller gene pool and therefore a restricted ability to adapt to new environments and to develop new trait combinations. The long term result will more likely be extinction, but certainly not evolution.

CONCLUSION: Darwin tried to explain evolution by natural selection and pangenes, but this failed. The neo-Darwinists have tried to explain "design without a Designer" on the basis of selection and mutation, but mutations have failed. Now post-neo-Darwinists are turning to "hopeful monsters" where evolution supposedly took place in giant steps. Again, there is no evidence. Romans 1:20 still stands!

### PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ

- List the three reasons why mutations cannot be responsible for evolution:
- On the average, if two parents with medium skin color had 16 children, how many would be white? How many black? How many medium light? How many medium dark? How many just like their parents?

## Evidences For Faith From the Fossil Record

**INTRODUCTION:** If evolution is true, what would we expect to find in the fossil record? Naturally we would expect thousands upon thousands of transitional or in-between forms. We ought to find fossils that show stages through which one kind of animal or plant changed into another kind. According to evolution, the boundaries between kinds should blur as we look back at their fossil history. In fact, it should get more difficult to tell cats from dogs or mammals from reptiles, or land animals from water animals. It should become almost impossible to place a fossil within a distinct category if evolution is true.

However, if creation is true, what would we expect to find in the fossil record? Very simply we would expect that the different kinds of life we see in existence today ought to also be clearly seen in the fossil record with merely variations of these kinds and with the possibility of extinction. The same classification for animals and plants today ought to work just as well with fossils. Let's find out whether the evolution expectation or the creation expectation is the one we actually find in the fossil record.

### Fossils--A Case For Creation

- A. It seems that most people just assume that fossils and evolution go together. Some even think that to believe in fossils is to believe in evolution. I have known some Christians who didn't know how to explain dinosaurs to their children because they were afraid that believing in dinosaurs would admit evolution. Such is not the case. In fact, the fossil record is a serious problem to the evolutionist.
- B. What evolutionist would ever admit that the fossil record was a problem to his theory? How about Darwin himself! In Darwin's chapter entitled, "On The Imperfection Of The Geologic Record," he writes, "...intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic change, and this is perhaps the most obvious and serious objection which can be urged against the theory [of evolution]."

So Darwin faced a problem. His theory and the facts about fossils didn't agree. While most scientists would throw out the theory, Darwin and evolutionists today, throw out the facts. Darwin's reason for not throwing out the theory was, "the imperfection of the geologic record." In Darwin's time the study of fossils was just getting under way. Darwin hoped that as more fossils were discovered, "missing links" would be found to support his theory.

- C. Well, it is now more than 120 years since Darwin and there have been thousands of tons of fossils from all over the world that has been uncovered. Have the "missing links" been found that support the theory of evolution? Let's allow a leading evolutionist, David Raup, to answer that question. Raup is the curator of the famous Field Museum of Natural history in Chicago which houses 20% of all fossil species known. In his 1979 article entitled, "Conflicts Between Darwin and Paleontology" he points out that,

*"Most people assume that fossils provide a very important part of the general argument made in favor of Darwinian interpretations of the history of life. Unfortunately, this is not strictly true."*

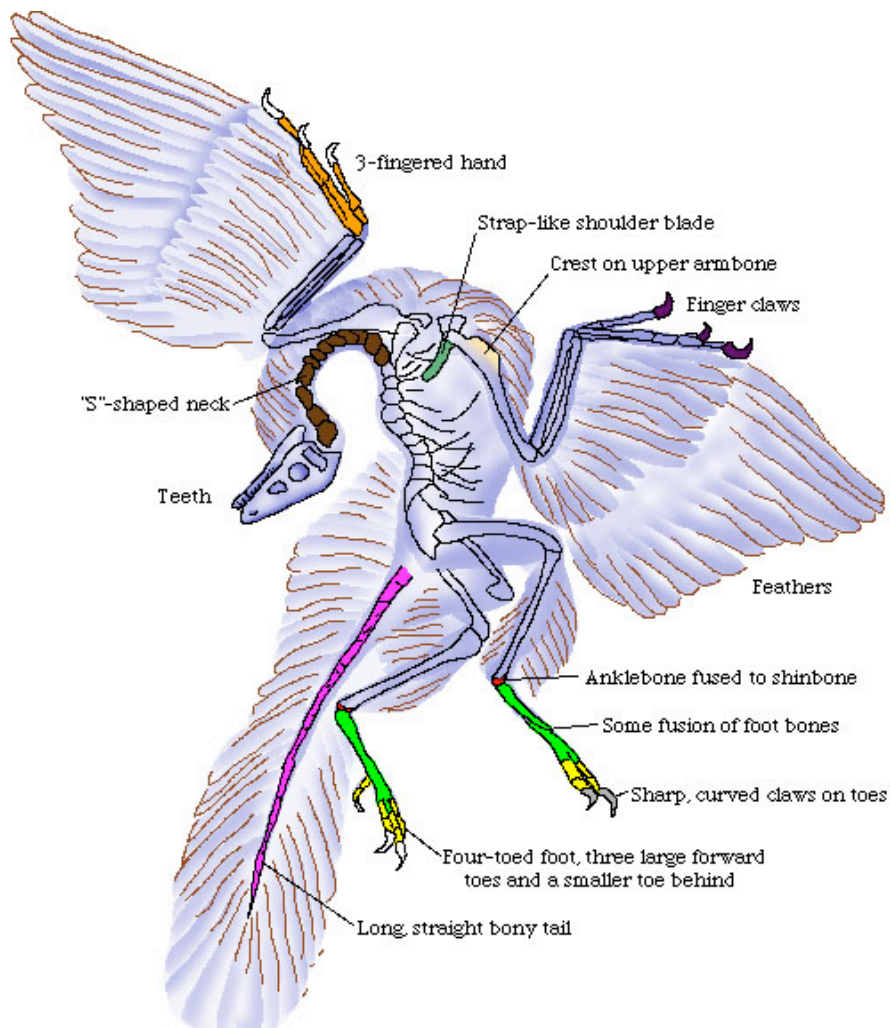
Raup then goes on to talk about how Darwin was "embarrassed" by the fossil evidence. And then he points out that we can no longer do as Darwin did and blame the "imperfection of the geologic record." Raup then summarizes this way:

*"Well, we are now about 120 years after Darwin, and knowledge of the fossil record has been greatly expanded...ironically, we have even fewer examples of evolutionary transition than we had in Darwin's time. By this I mean that some of the classic cases of Darwinian change in the fossil record, such as the evolution of the horse in North America, have had to be discarded or modified as a result of more detailed information."*  
(Emphasis added)

NOW IF THIS MAN IN HIS POSITION CANNOT SEE ANY TRANSITIONAL FORMS IN THE FOSSIL RECORD, THERE AREN'T ANY!

## A Look At The Fossil Record

- A. Suppose we were able to go back and dive in the ocean back when these fossils were alive, and compared it with what we see in oceans today, what would we say? "Look at all the new forms of life, the increased variety and greater complexity in our oceans today!" No, not at all. We would instead say, "What happened? Where did everything go? There used to be thousands of species of which now only a handful are left." Extinction, not evolution has been the rule. In fact, all major groups with the possible exception of clams and snails were represented by greater variety and more complexity in the fossils than today. It is interesting that few scientists, if any, are still looking for fossil links between the major invertebrate groups because in the deepest fossil deposits the groups appear as separate and distinct.
- B. Suppose you had a burning desire to find out where snails came from. So you search the fossil evidence all over the world, all the way back to the "beginning," and sure enough, snails come from---snails. Where did squid and octopus come from which are the most complex of all the invertebrates? Again, if you searched all the fossil evidence you would find that squids came from squids and octopus from octopus. In other words, in the fossil record you find snails, squids and trilobites, not "snids," "squails" and "squailobites."
- C. What about plant fossils? Did you ever wonder what kind of plants dinosaurs walked around on and ate? You may be surprised to know that these extinct animals wandered around in the midst of oak, willow, magnolia, sassafras, palms and other such common plants. The flowering plants appear suddenly in the fossil record supposedly 70,000,000 years ago in the same diverse and complex form they are today. Darwin referred to this as an "abominable mystery." One hundred and twenty years later the "mystery" is still unsolved. E.J.H. corner, Professor of Botany at Cambridge University put it this way: "...to the unprejudiced the fossil record of plants is in favor of special creation."
- D. Another disparity in the fossil record is the fact that the first fossils appear suddenly in the "Cambrian" strata but prior to that there are absolutely no fossils at all. In fact, in some places there are over 5,000 feet of sedimentary rock (rock that was formed by the deposition of moving sand and silt in water) lying below strata containing the earliest Cambrian fossils. These sediments were suitable for fossils because they are often identical with the overlying rocks that have fossils and yet no fossils are found in them. This creates a problem for evolution and the uniformitarian view since the fossil record shows life appearing suddenly and in great complexity with no evidence of any less complex ancestral forms. This is a clear contradiction to the evolution model.
- E. Many evolutionists believe that the most powerful evidence of evolution is the fossil of a bird named Archaeopteryx (beginning wing) which supposedly shows the link between birds and reptiles (see next page). The reason for the connection is that the bird had teeth, claws on its wings, no breastbone with a keel, an unfused backbone, and a long body tail. Archaeopteryx has been considered THE showcase for evolution. A closer look though does not make the find so impressive. For one thing, two living birds have claws on their wings, one of them being the ostrich. Several birds such as the Kiwi, don't have much of a keel. Though no living birds have socketed teeth, some fossil birds do. Besides, even some reptiles don't have teeth. As for the wings they are not only fully developed but indicate Archaeopteryx was a strong flyer. There is no evidence at all of any intermediate stages of the bird's individual features. In fact, in 1977 James Jensen recovered the leg bone of a bird in the same rock unit that Archaeopteryx is found which means that Archaeopteryx could not have been the ancestor of birds because birds already existed.
- {CREATIONISTS DO NOT HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER ARCHAEOPTERYX WAS A BIRD OR A REPTILE OR SOMETHING IN BETWEEN. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT THERE WERE MANY SEPARATE AND DISTINCT KINDS THAT WERE CREATED. ARCHAEOPTERYX HAS A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF FULLY FUNCTIONAL TRAITS WHICH QUALIFIES IT AS A CREATED KIND. WE DO NOT HAVE TO FIT THIS ORGANISM INTO SOME ARTIFICIAL HUMAN CATEGORY.}



- F. Evolutionists also appeal to the bat as an evolutionary link between rodents and birds. But again, where are all the intermediate stages? The oldest known fossil bat supposed to be 50 million years old is an interesting sight. Yes, the world's oldest known bat is still 100% bat.

**CONCLUSION:** The fossil evidence DOES NOT help evolution. Instead, fossils show that same created kinds in the same distinct and complex forms as we see them today. In fact, Joe Felsenstein, a geneticist at the University of Washington observed in the March-April 1978 edition of "American Scientist" that the study of fossils had "all but vanished from courses on evolution." "The result," he said, "has been a generation of evolutionary biologists who...can be reduced to babbling by any creationist debater in possession of more than two facts." Stephen Gould, Harvard University professor on paleontology says it this way: "Phyletic gradualism [gradual evolution]...was never 'seen' in the rocks." He further points out that "it [gradual evolution] expressed the cultural and political biases of 19th century liberalism."

### PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ

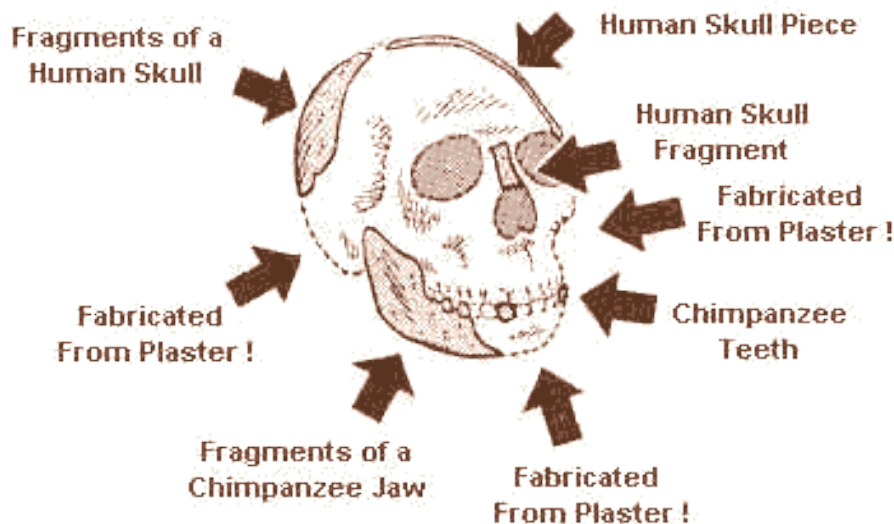
1. What about the fossil evidence favors the creation theory over evolution?
2. What did Darwin think about how the fossil evidence supported his theory?

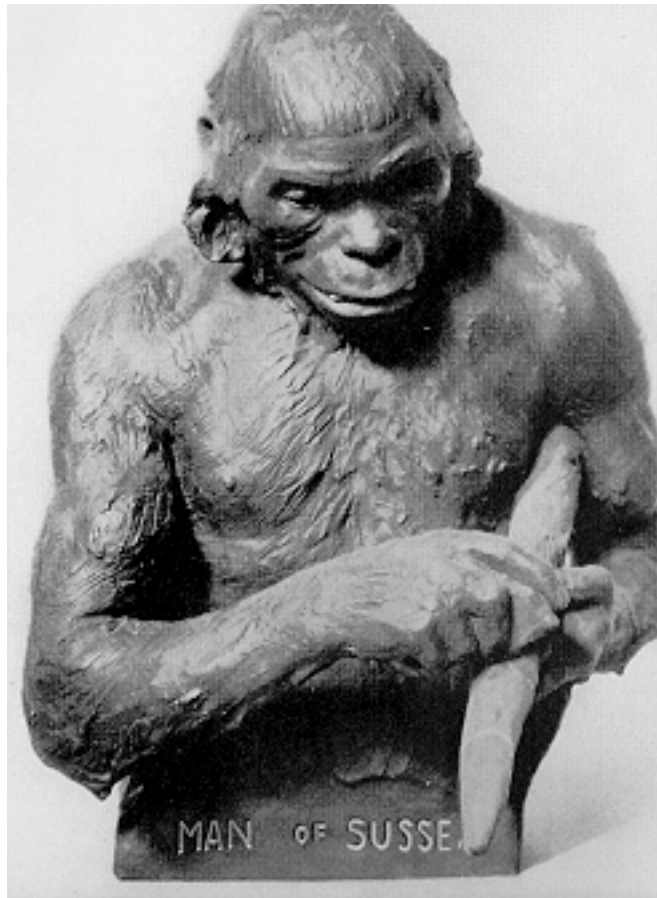
## Evidences For Faith From Apes & Men

**INTRODUCTION:** As with any study, whether of the Bible or science, all men are subject to prejudices and misinterpretations based on preconceived ideas. Scientists are no different. We must understand that even from an evolutionist's point of view the evidence for the ancestry of man is extremely scanty. Such scanty evidence is a perfect setting for a scientist to find what he is looking for and to dream up missing links where there are none.

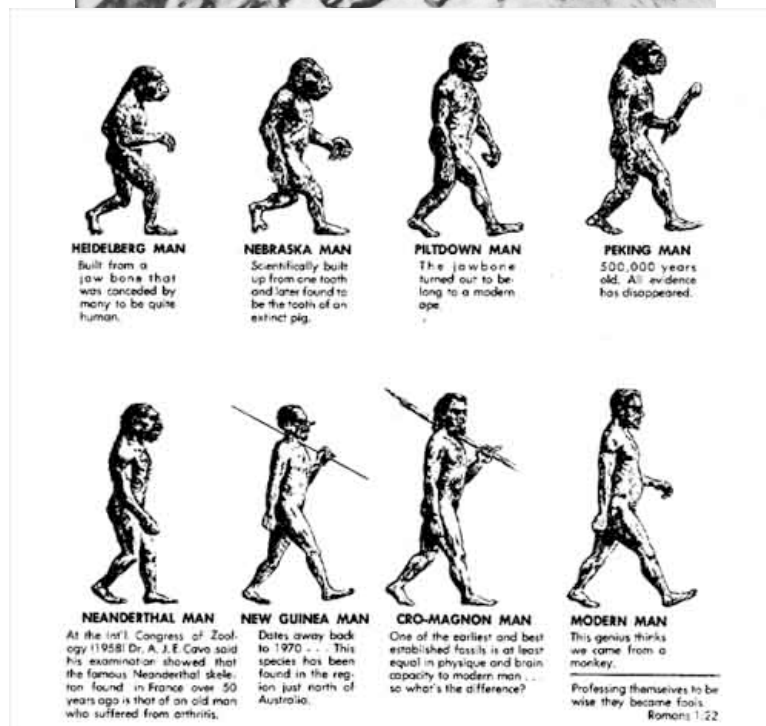
### Two Notable Hoaxes Of The Twentieth Century

- A. **PILTDOWN MAN:** In 1912 Arthur Smith Woodward, Director of the British Museum and Charles Dawson, a medical doctor and amateur paleontologist, announced the discovery of a jawbone and part of a skull. The jawbone was very ape-like except for the teeth, but the skull appeared very man-like. He was called "Dawn Man" and was judged to be about 500,000 years old. The consensus of the world's greatest authorities was that Piltdown man was an authentic link in the evolution of man. Forty years went by during which time Piltdown Man was used repeatedly as an example of the evolution of man. In 1950 though, a method was discovered to determine the relative age of fossils by measuring the amount of fluoride absorbed from the soil. When the Piltdown bones were tested the jawbone had no fluoride at all and therefore could not have been more than a year old, while the skull had a significant amount of fluoride but was estimated to be only a few thousand years old. Upon learning this, the bones were subjected to a through examination and found to have been treated with iron salts to make them look old and scratch marks were found on the teeth where they had been filed. Piltdown Man was a complete fraud!





- B. **NEBRASKA MAN:** In 1922, a tooth was discovered in Nebraska that was declared by one of the most eminent paleontologists of the day, Henry Fairfield Osborn, and several other authorities, to combine the characteristics of Chimpanzee, Pithecanthropus, and Man. The "London Illustrated News" published a drawing in 1922 of what this ape-like man looked like--THE WHOLE ILLUSTRATION CONCEIVED FROM A TOOTH! However, in 1927, after further studies had been carried out, it was decided that the tooth of Nebraska Man was the tooth of an extinct pig. Dr. Duane Gish states concerning this, "I believe this is a case in which a pig made a monkey out of an evolutionist!"



## Where Did Apes Come From?

- A. You might be interested to know that our first ancestors from which primates evolved were the insectivores or more specifically the tree shrew some 70 millions years ago. What is the evidence for this? A.J. Kelso, a physical anthropologist and evolutionist, states in his book *Physical Anthropology*,  
*"...the transition from insectivore to primate is not documented by fossils."*



Kelso goes on to state that this connection is inferred by a study of living forms of tree shrews and primates. In other words, evolutionists just observed the two animals and decided that one must have come from the other.

But C.B.G. Campbell in his article, *Taxodermic Status Of Tree Shrews*, in comparing the two animals says there is no real connection between the two animals. In fact, he says, there are vast differences. The tree shrew mother visits the nest to nurse only once every 48 hours and her milk is 25% fat while primates do not leave their young and their milk fat content is 1%-3% and never more than 5%. Now if there is no link here then the whole evolutionary chain breaks down.

- B. Supposedly from these primates came two lines of monkeys: New World (South American) monkeys and Old World (African) monkeys. These are completely different, the old world monkeys having narrow noses. Thus, the two kinds of monkeys were supposed to have evolved separately. But where is their evolutionary background? Kelso states,

*"The details of the evolutionary background of the New World monkeys would doubtless be informative and interesting but unfortunately we know very little about them...Clearly the fossil documentation of the emergence of the Old World monkeys could provide key insights into the general evolutionary picture of the primates, but, in fact, this record does not exist."*

Remember, this is supposed to represent MILLIONS OF YEARS of evolution and yet NO RECORD EXISTS! Why is it that we always have the terminal forms but not the transitional forms?

- C. And what about the transition from monkeys to apes? Again, there is no evidence for any transitional forms.

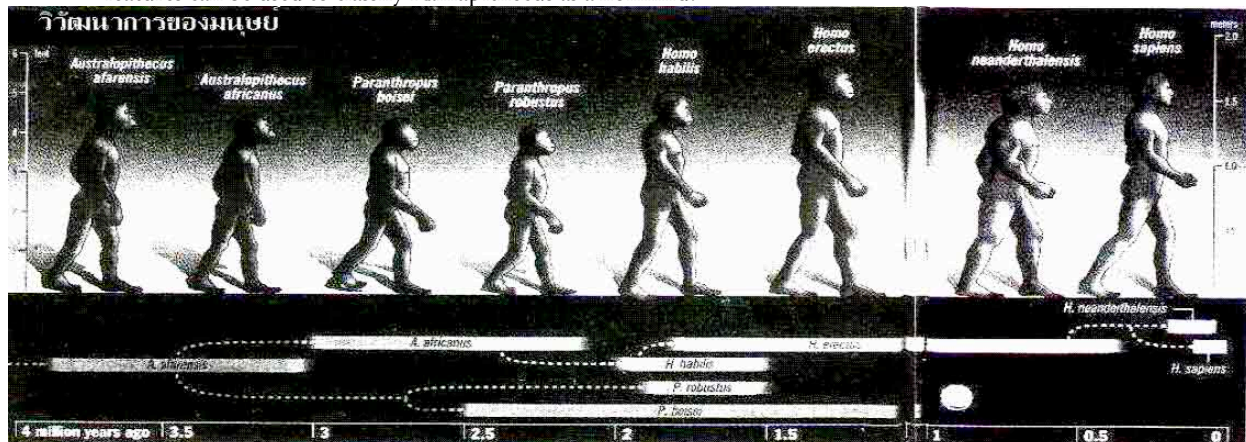
## Suggested Ancestors Of Man: The Supposed Missing Links

- A. **RAMAPITHECUS:** This creature is supposed to be the oldest of man's ancestors, a hominid, that is, apes with man-like characteristics. The fossil evidence is fragmentary—some teeth and part of a jaw. Many evolutionists felt the shape of the jaw and some of the teeth were more man-like. However, more recently even Dr. Pilbeam who originally believed Ramapithecus was man-like, has rejected this. Dr. Robert Eckhardt, a paleoanthropologist at Penn State published an article in 1972 in which he said,

"Amid the bewildering array of early fossil hominoids (apes), is there one whose morphology marks it as man's hominid ancestor? If the factor of genetic variability is considered, the answer appears to be no."

Eckhardt had made detailed measurements of both the fossils and living apes and chimpanzees and found that the variability in measurement of the fossils was well within the range of living apes. Therefore Ramapithecus cannot be considered man's ancestor.

Further, Gish points out [EVOLUTION, THE FOSSILS SAY NO] that a recently discovered baboon living in the mountains of Ethiopia has the same "man-like" features as Ramapithecus and even Australopithecus. Though this animal is nothing but a baboon in every other feature, and living today, how is it that these man-like features can be used to classify Ramapithecus as a hominid?



- B. **AUSTRALOPITHECUS:** This creature includes AFARENSIS, AFRICANUS, ROBUSTUS, and BOISEI. One of the most famous of the australopithecines is a creature named LUCY by a Dr. Johanson and Richard and Mary Leakey who discovered the bones in 1975. What is interesting is that these evolutionists admit that practically everything about these creatures is ape-like. Their cranial capacity averaged less than 500 c.c. which is in the range of a gorilla and about a third of that for man (1400 c.c.).



So what is the big deal? Johanson, the Leakeys, and others claim that Lucy walked upright and therefore was a link in man's ancestry. There are at least two serious objections to this conclusion though:

1. Dr. Vincent Sarich of the University of California in Berkeley says that if you want something that walks upright, consider the living pygmy chimpanzee. This rare rain forest chimpanzee is only slightly shorter than the average chimpanzee, but it spends a fair amount of time walking upright. Thus, because an animal walks upright does not mean it is in the ancestry to man.
  2. Dr. Charles Oxnard, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Southern California, says that Lucy and the australopithecines DID NOT walk upright. He says that viewed one way the bones do seem to be intermediate between man and ape. But viewing the bones from another angle shows the creature to be far removed from man. And then he says, "Yet another view might suggest that the fossil arose from the African apes via modern humans?" In other words, maybe man was the missing link between the australopithecines and the apes!  
Another evolutionist, Lord Zuckerman, a famous British anatomist who has spent 15 years studying these creatures, concluded that they did not walk upright and were not an intermediate between ape and man. Even a computer analysis of Lucy's knee and hip joints show that the animal did not walk upright.
  3. Notice also on the next chart how different artist's conceptions are of the *australopithecus*. One conception is very much like an ape, the other very much like a man. This shows how subjective the interpretation of the evidence is. It is impossible to know how much hair the creature had or how long a nose he had.
  4. And then look at the small print on the National Geographic chart under *Robustus*. Though *robustus* and *boisei* are placed on the chart and intermediate to man the small print reads, "These two forms disappear from the fossil record, apparently as evolutionary dead ends." In other words, these didn't lead to man at all. Then why were they put on the chart with the pretention that they were more advanced than previous australopithecines?
- C. **HOMO HABILIS:** It is interesting that this creature along with *Australopithecus* and *Homo Erectus*, have all been found together at several locations in the fossil record. In fact, Louis Leakey found these three in the same "bed," but underneath in another layer he found a circular stone habitation hut made by man. How could these creatures have evolved from each other and be in the same strata, and, how could man be in an older layer than his ancestors? In fact, it has been argued by J.T. Robinson and others that *Homo Habilis* is the same as *A. africanus* (*Nature*, Vol.205, p. 121 1965).



**LUCY**  
Nearly all experts agree Lucy was just a 3 foot tall chimpanzee.



**HEIDELBERG MAN**  
Built from a jawbone that was conceded by many to be quite human.



**NEBRASKA MAN**  
Scientifically built up from one tooth, later found to be the tooth of an extinct pig.



**PILTDOWN MAN**  
The jawbone turned out to belong to a modern ape.



**PEKING MAN**  
Supposedly 500,000 years old, but all evidence has disappeared.



**NEANDERTHAL MAN**  
At the Int'l Congress of Zoology (1958) Dr. A.J.E. Cave said his examination showed that this famous skeleton found in France over 50 years ago is that of an old man who suffered from arthritis.



**NEWGUINEA MAN**  
Dates way back to 1970. This species has been found in the region just north of Australia.



**CROMAGNON MAN**  
One of the earliest and best established fossils is at least equal in physique and brain capacity to modern man... so what's the difference?



**MODERN MAN**  
This genius thinks we came from a monkey.  
*"Professing themselves to be wise they became fools." (Romans 1:22)*

- D. **HOMO ERECTUS:** This creature is otherwise known as Java Man which was originally a collection of fragments found at different times by a Dutch Physician named Dubois. The first find in 1891 was a skull cap that was very ape-like but very large (2/3 that of modern man). About a year later Dubois discovered a human thigh bone about 50 feet away. He assumed they belonged to the same individual and thus called it "erect ape-man." However, for the next 30 years Dubois concealed the discovery of two human skulls nearby and at the same level. Finally, 15 years before his death he revealed his dishonesty and maintained that Java man was nothing more than a giant gibbon. Other noted evolutionists such as Boule and Vallois have also rejected Java Man.





**PEKING MAN** is another claimed *Homo Erectus* as the National Geographic chart points out. Peking Man was first built from a single tooth in which the discoverer, Dr. Davidson Black claimed he had the evidence of an ancient hominid. It was after this that Black and others apparently tried to support the announcement. Later, 40 skulls were found but no skeletons with the skulls. What is interesting is that each of the skulls had been bashed in from the rear and the brains taken out. In other words, the evidence suggests that these creatures had been hunted, killed, eaten and then the skulls brought to this sight as trophies. The tools found on the site show the hunter to be man and the skulls to belong to large monkeys or apes. In fact, the nature of the tools found at the site according to H. Breuil, an authority on the Old Stone Age, was not primitive. The gravers and scrapers and other tools, sometimes of fine workmanship, had many features not found in France until ancient historic times. In spite of this evidence though, evolutionist attempt to maintain that the hunter of these creatures was not man but "Peking Man" himself.

However, the biggest problem with the Peking Man find is that somewhere between 1941 and 1945 all evidence disappeared and to this day no one knows where these fossils are. Therefore it is impossible to examine the evidence critically. At least one authority even offers evidence that the bones were purposely destroyed so that the truth that these were nothing but large monkeys would not be revealed.

- E. **NEANDERTHAL MAN:** This individual is represented by a number of fossils found in the Neanderthal Valley in Germany. He was first portrayed as a semi-erect brutish subhuman. It was later discovered that the individual upon whom this assessment was made had been crippled by arthritis. Further evidence suggests that these people had suffered from rickets caused by Vitamin D deficiency. It is now known that Neanderthal Man is indistinguishable from modern man. As is shown on the National Geographic Chart, he is classified *Homo sapiens*—fully human. If you dressed him in a business suit and walked him down the streets of New York, he would appear no different than any other person.

**CONCLUSION:** A famous evolutionist, Lord Zuckerman has stated, "...no scientist could logically dispute the proposition that man, without having been involved in any act of divine creation, evolved from some ape-like creature in a very short space of time--speaking in geologic terms--without leaving any fossil traces of the steps of transformation." INDEED! Now where is the fossil evidence?

### PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ

1. Name the two hoaxes of the twentieth century:
2. Why can't we trust the evidence for Peking Man?
3. Why was Neanderthal Man originally believed to be a hominid?

## Evidences For Faith From Earth

**INTRODUCTION:** The implications of a worldwide flood are far-reaching. If the biblical flood is true, there are not only numerous scientific implications, but most importantly, there are tremendous moral implications. The rejection of the creation account, has as its root a rejection of God and any absolute moral code. The fact of a global flood not only destroys any supposed geologic column and any supposed evidences of the theory of evolution, but it also takes away any reason to believe in a very old earth. In this lesson we will look at evidence of a global flood through a look at a miniature catastrophe that took place at Mt. St. Helens, Washington, May 18, 1980.

### The Cataclysm

- A. 2 Peter 3:1-7 The evidences of the flood are evidences that the Lord will return in a final judgment in which the heavens and earth will be destroyed.
- B. Matthew 24:37-39 Jesus used the word KATAKLYSMOS primarily meaning to "wash down."
- C. Genesis 7:11 All the fountains of the great deep were broken up. Consider the implications of the tremendous steam explosions that would have taken place worldwide. A look at Mt. St. Helens will give us an idea of what such a cataclysm would have been like and of the great power of the God we serve. The Mt. St. Helens eruption was very similar to some of the things that happened during the flood because it was a steam eruption, there was no lava flow.

### Evidences From Mt. St. Helens

In mid-March 1980 an earthquake measuring 5.1 (Richter Scale) rumbled beneath Mt. St. Helens. More earthquakes followed until on March 26 a gaping hole was seen on top of the mountain where a puff of smoke and steam signaled that the mountain which had been sleeping for 120 years had come to life. Following this, moderate earthquakes began to strike six to seven times per hour and on March 30 steam and ash blasted through the solid dome.

As April arrived, muddy avalanches began to take place as two craters had formed on the north-facing peak. On April 3 harmonic tremors were detected indicating that molten rock was moving upwards. As steam and ash exploded from the mountain, chunks of debris 12 feet in diameter were being hurled thousands of feet into the air. The two craters then merged into one giant crater some one-third of a mile across. Geologists began to notice that the mountain was bulging at the rate of five feet a day (40 feet a day just prior to the eruption). By April 3 it had swelled outward 320 feet. There was a serious threat of avalanche.

The morning of May 18 was strangely silent. Then at 8:31 AM an earthquake hit measuring 5.1. At 8:32 AM The mountain began to crack and avalanches were seen moving into the crater. Then the north-face of the peak suddenly fell down the slope, one-half of a cubic mile of earth. The geologists taking pictures from the plane above knew what would happen next. Sending the plane into a dive they cleared the crater and narrowly missed the explosion that followed. Water that had been trapped inside the volcano which was 800-900 degrees Centigrade flashed to steam expanding some 1500 times creating an explosion equal to 20 million tons of TNT or 20,000 atomic bombs in a matter of five seconds.

1. In moments, 156 square miles were leveled (an area extending from Port St. Lucie to Coral Springs, Lake Okeechobee to well into the Atlantic Ocean).
2. Thirteen hundred feet of the north slope was gutted immediately, blown into pieces.
3. Rocks, measuring one-tenth of a mile long (over six times the size of our auditorium) were blown 6-10 miles.
4. A gas cloud moving at 300 miles per hour as hot as 2,000 F. leveled or vaporized everything in a 15 mile radius. U.S. Geologist David Johnson was positioned on a ridge northwest of the peak. He radioed his last words at the moment of the explosion, "Vancouver, Vancouver, this is it."
5. Ash particles were shot 90,000 feet into the atmosphere.



6. The heated ash and rock transformed Spirit Lake into a super heated river of destruction that went into the Toutle and Cowlitz Rivers killing millions of fish. Mud flows, 30-40 feet deep moving at speeds of 60-90 miles per hour off the slopes and 30 miles per hour through the valleys buried animals and fish immediately.
7. A satellite photo seen 43 minutes later shows the tremendous shock wave created by the blast. Eight and half hours later a satellite photo shows the ash cloud covering six states. Ash fall in some places was up to eight inches deep. In Yakima, at 12 noon the street lights came on it was so dark. Enough ash fell to cover Long Island to the height of a 28 story skyscraper. We can imagine how that volcanic dust following the flood would have blocked out the sun and initiated what has been called the ice age which was more likely an "ice moment."
8. An 83 year old man named Harry Truman who lived on the shore of Spirit Lake and who refused to leave was buried with his lodge over 200 feet deep.
9. Steam explosions pits were created by the burial of glacial ice under super heated rock and ash (300 degrees C.). The ice turns to water, then to steam and then explodes causing giant pits up to 3,000 feet by 2,000 feet and 125 feet deep. Tremendous canyons several hundred feet deep and long were created in a matter of 5 days though they have the appearance of having been created over hundreds of years. A MINIATURE GRAND CANYON WAS FORMED IN A FEW HOURS AND DAYS.
10. There were no survivors in a 10 mile radius as 75 people died. Cars were destroyed with everything plastic or rubber being vaporized except for the tires which exploded. There was little oxygen in the cloud so that nothing caught fire, it just vaporized. A 10 ton catapillar tractor that was miles from the peak was blown 1000 feet away. Some trees and autos may have been complete vaporized. One hundred ton logging truck were tossed about like toys.
11. Millions of trees were destroyed. One and a half million animals perished. Twenty-six lakes simply disappeared. Many large trees were ripped up by their roots and hurled miles away. New head waters were formed for rivers, something that geologists usually estimate would take as much as 100,000 years to do.
12. Slide #35 shows the devastation 15 miles away with Spirit Lake on the left. A wall of water was pushed completely over the ridge in the foreground as the side of Mt. St. Helens fell into the lake. In fact, the lake which is five miles long was pushed up the side of the slopes 860 feet. As the water came back down slopes, it stripped away a whole mountain of trees. Over 350 feet of debris was deposited in five minutes. Canyons 250 feet deep were carved out by mud flows and landslides. Spirit Lake is now 260 feet higher than it pre-eruption level. Many large canyons were formed in a few minutes.
13. Slide 37-38 shows the dome within the crater that was blown away on July 22, 1980. Particles from this eruption were blown 12 miles high. There were 2 billion dollars in damage done in the blast.

### **Floating Log Mats Offer Further Evidence Of The Flood**

- A. There is to this day a large body of floating logs on Spirit Lake. These have provided tremendous evidence for the short age of the earth. Observing the logs shows some floating prone, some vertical, while others have dropped vertically to the bottom and planted themselves in the soft peat-like material on the bottom. As the trees fall to the bottom at different rates and ash and bark are deposited covering over the stumps, it leaves the appearance of successive generations of forests that have grown and been covered over. It is interesting that these logs began to petrify after only five years.
- B. The same kind of site is present at Yellowstone where there are large petrified forests. Up until now evolutionists had believed there were some 27 separate forests that had grown there over a period of 200,000 years. But Mt. St. Helens has shown us that this could have been formed very rapidly through volcanic activity. In fact, the volcano that created Yellowstone was 2000 times the size of Mt. St. Helens, equivalent to 800 trillion tons of TNT or 40 million atomic bombs.
- C. Accumulation of peat with major bark deposits helps suggest the possibility of rapid coal formations in large quantities. In fact, a Kentucky coal bed study revealed that the coal was made out of fossilized bark or coalified tree bark which is exactly what is found at the bottom of Spirit Lake. Evolutionists have said that it would take 1000

years for one inch of coal to form. Thus a 50 foot coal layer would take 60,000 years. Mt. St. Helens has shown that such coal deposits could have formed in only a few hundred years, if that much.

CONCLUSION: Psalm 104:32- The finger of God touching the mountains and 400 million tons of TNT are released. Our God, He Is Alive!

### **PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ**

1. What geological evidences can be found in the earth to prove a global flood and a created earth?