

John 1:1-5 6-10-12 (The Reason for God #8) Has Science Disproved Christianity

Last week we tackled the charge of skeptics that:

Slide: Science Has Disproved Christianity

And we showed loudly and clearly that

Slide: Science Has NOT Disproved Christianity.

Science is simply a study of the physical world. And we know that a proper study of the Creator's world will most certainly lead to a discovery of it's Creator. To that end, we aren't at all afraid of science. And neither were those who laid the foundations of modern science. Men like:

Slide: Sir Isaac Newton, referred to as "the greatest scientist who ever lived." Newton wrote: "The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being."

Slide: Albert Einstein, the $E=Mc^2$ guy, is considered to be the greatest genius of our age. Firmly denying atheism, Einstein once remarked to a young physicist: "I want to know how God created this world, I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details."

Slide: Robert Boyle was the founder of modern chemistry. He said simply: "From a knowledge of His work, we shall know Him"

Slide: Sir William Herschel was the first astronomer to accurately describe the Milky Way Galaxy. He wrote: "All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming the truths contained in the Sacred Scriptures." He also wrote: "The undevout astronomer must be mad."

Slide: Samuel Morse was the inventor of the telegraph. His first message was "What hath God wrought." He wrote: "Education without religion is in danger of substituting wild theories for the simple commonsense rules of Christianity."

Slide: Michael Faraday was the inventor of the electric generator and the transformer. He discovered Benzene, used to make plastics and nylon. He was also an elder in his church for over 20 years. "Speculations?" he wrote. "I have none. I am resting on certainties. 'I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day.'"

Slide: Matthew Maury, the Father of oceanography, aided in the laying of the first trans-Atlantic cable. Maury believed Psalm 8:8, which speaks of the "paths of the seas" and he discovered "oceanic currents." Maury described atmospheric circulation and showed that it was already described in Ecclesiastes 1:6. He wrote: "The Bible is true and science is true, and therefore each, if truly read, but proves the truth of the other."

Slide: Louis Pasteur, the Father of Microbiology who developed "pasteurization," among other things, said: "The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator."

Slide: George Washington Carver, agricultural chemist, inventor of over 300 products including peanut butter. He said, "Without my Savior, I am nothing." He also said, "God is going to reveal to us things he never revealed before if we put our hands in his."

How prophetic he was...

But science is one thing. Evolution is another. Evolution is really just an idea, a guess about how the universe and life came to be. The only thing evolution proves is that there are people

so desperate to reject their accountability to God as the Maker of heaven and earth that they will embrace a model of the universe and life that is logically in every way AGAINST science.

Not to belabor the point, but in this series we've mentioned that one of the most popular skeptics and evolutionists out there today is Richard Dawkins. He has written *The God Delusion* and other books in which he has literally tried to evangelize especially our young people away from faith in Christ. In his books, Dawkins seems to worship at the altar of Darwinian Natural Selection, saying things like:

Slide: "Natural Selection is a real solution. It is the only workable solution that has ever been suggested."

He calls those who believe that God made the heavens and the earth "blind" and says:

Slide: "Maybe the psychological reason for this amazing blindness has something to do with the fact that many people have not had their consciousness raised, as biologists have, by natural selection..."

Nevertheless, when he is asked if there is any observable science that supports that idea, this is his response (I thought it was worth seeing two weeks in a row):

Slide: Dawkins stumped.

"Stop the tape!" "Cut to commercial!" He can't answer the question because there is no mechanism. As we said, natural selection doesn't add to the genome. It only selects characteristics God already built into the creature to begin with.

Slide: Natural Selection 'toon

In fact, Natural selection goes in exactly the opposite direction from the way evolution would have to go to be true.

So...science has not disproved Christianity. And evolution has not disproved Christianity. Nevertheless, there are a number of Christians who have been convinced that because some of the men in white coats say it's true, then it must be true.

Slide: Scientist on pedestal

They've put evolutionary scientists on a pedestal and just assumed they must know what they're talking about. And there are a number of Christians I respect who have this view. They come to accept some version of what is called "Theistic Evolution." Last week I mentioned that even Timothy Keller, the writer of the book whose outline we've been following, seems to have fallen into that, saying in the book:

Slide: "For the record, I think God guided some kind of process of natural selection..." – Timothy Keller

So I understand that it is entirely possible for some people to believe in some form of evolution and yet still believe in Jesus as their Savior. The problem is, they have to do that against the evidence of science and against the testimony of God's Word.

The fact is that if you really stop to think it through, and think it through Biblically,

Slide: I. Embracing Evolution CORRUPTS Christianity.

It literally can be "harmful if swallowed."

Slide: "Poison" illustration

Just as **any** untruthful idea can be harmful if swallowed. Harmful for you, and especially harmful for your children.

Let me show you why. First of all

Slide: A. Evolution teaches the RISE of man. The Bible teaches the FALL of man (Romans 3:23).

Folks, those two models of the origin of man are absolutely opposed to one another. And most people don't think it through because they leave Genesis behind.

Slide: Rise/Fall abdon Illustration

But you need to think it through today. Evolution is the idea that man rose up from primitive life forms all the way to a monkey and all the way from a monkey to a man. Somewhere in the middle were the "cave men", whom evolutionists use to try to prove their theory. Folks, you know who the "cave men" were? People who lived in caves! They simply found that easier than building a house. People still do that today. In fact 30 million Chinese people live in caves and many in Australia as well. It's the original "green" living before "green" was in. It's one of the most energy efficient places to live.

Slide: Cave living pics

Back to the illustration...

Slide: Rise/Fall Abdon Ill.

So again, evolution teaches monkey to man. What does the Bible teach? The Bible teaches the Fall of man into sin, that we were made as good as it gets. We were perfect in every way and then fell. And how did that happen? Where do we get the concept of sin? Remember? It comes from Genesis. There is sin in the world today because Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate fruit from the tree from which God commanded them not to eat. They lost paradise. They lost perfection, and all men since have inherited their sinful nature, so that the Bible says simply:

Slide: "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23 NIV)

If there was not a real tree, a real garden, a real Adam and Eve...if it's all just a big story or fairy tale or myth, then there's no real rebellion and there's no real fall, and there's no real sin in the world. And if that's true...

Slide: B. If man never FELL into sin, he has no need for a SAVIOR from sin. (Romans 3:24). And Jesus Christ died for nothing and your faith is in vain. That's how critical this issue is.

The rest of the Romans passage goes on:

Slide: "...and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24 NIV)

That's the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus - the great gospel message that we resonate to... And all of us know inside that we need that kind of redemption. And we do have it. For God so loved the world and He so loved you that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. But this passage (Rom. 2:23-24) is nonsense without a real fall into sin. If we're just products of evolution and are getting better and better and better, what do we need to be redeemed from? Richard Dawkins understands that perfectly. Take a look:

Slide: Dawkins "Theistic Evolutionists are deluded" clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAbpfn9QgGA>

He gets that evolution and the Bible don't fit together. There is no reason to believe in a Savior from sin if there was no real sin in the first place. And it's just maddening to me to see how Christians have been sucked in over the years into trying to shoehorn evolution into the Bible just so that they don't appear to be dummies. It just doesn't fit in there. And Biblical

Christians do not drag someone's flawed theories to the Bible in order to reinterpret it. We let the Bible speak for itself. Again the Bible says that

Slide: C. Death, disease and suffering did not occur until AFTER the fall.

The Bible says that

Slide: "The wages **of sin** is death." (Romans 6:23 NIV)

Death and suffering are in the world because of sin. That's why Jesus came into the world – to pay the price for sin on your behalf. That is the very heart of our faith folks. That's why you're here. And that's what people want to rip out of the Bible to make room for a flawed theory.

Slide: Evolution/Creation illustration AIG

Again, if evolution is true, then millions of years of death, disease and suffering occurred before the first man and woman ever came on the scene. And as Dawkins knows, that just doesn't go together with the Bible which says very clearly:

Slide: "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7 NIV)

Both of those things can't be true.

Now I'm going to switch the order to your outline this morning, since I've already broken it into two. Of course evolution wants millions and even billions of years for their theory to be taken seriously. But the Bible says that God made the heavens and the earth in six days and that's what we believe. Because...

Slide: E. MILLIONS of years don't fit into the Bible.

I wish I had a dollar for every time I've heard someone bring up the tired old line: Well, we don't know how long a day was. After all," they say, "doesn't the Bible say that "To God a day is like a thousand years...?" Yes. 2 Peter 3:8. The Bible also says in the same verse that to God a thousand years is **like** a day. What's your point? The Bible says there it's "**like**" a thousand years, not that it "**is**" a thousand years! We don't set aside the rules of grammar when we read the Bible. Besides, if you want to make room for evolution, you don't need 6,000 years of creation, you need billions of years. And it's just not there in the Bible. What **is** there in Genesis 1, is worded deliberately so that we could not misunderstand:

Slide: "And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day." (Genesis 1:5 NIV)

"And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day." (Genesis 1:8 NIV)

"And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day." (Genesis 1:13 NIV)

and so on, throughout the six days.

Folks, imagine for a moment, Adam and Eve in the Garden marveling at God's creation...

Slide: AIG garden ill.

"Oh, Adam," says Eve, "This is such a perfect world!" "Yes Eve! It's 'very good', just like God said." And that's how the Bible describes it, right? In Genesis 1:31 "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." "All that He had made" must have included the animals, plants, man, stars, angels, etc. There was no rebellion, no death, no disease, no bloodshed – everything was very good.

Slide: AIG garden 2

But it wasn't if Adam and Eve are sitting on layers and layers of bones and a fossil record that shows death, disease, bloodshed, suffering, thorns and so forth. Folks, don't fall into the trap of trying to squeeze "millions of years" in the Bible. It doesn't fit.

By the way, if you don't like that answer and want to somehow say that Genesis is just a story, then what do you do with Jesus? Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and God Himself, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, three persons in One God. So, do you think that God would be confused about where man came from? The fact is that...

Slide: D. Jesus has a big problem with evolution.

And we would expect that he would, since He is the one who made everything. The text today says:

Slide: “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” (John 1:1–5 NIV)

Wow, could that not have been written yesterday?! The whole reason for this series is that the darkness of this present day has not understood the light of Jesus Christ. So what does the “Word made flesh”, the One who made all things, think about Genesis? Well Jesus referred directly to events in each of the first seven chapters of Genesis fifteen times. And He considered everything written there to be true. For example, Jesus gives us the origin and definition of marriage (We'll talk more about that in the next message) by quoting Genesis when he said in Mark 10:

Slide: “6 ...at the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ 7 ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, 8 and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one.” (Mark 10:6–8 NIV)

Five times Jesus referred to Noah and the worldwide flood as real history. So for instance, when He warns this world:

Slide: “26 ‘Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.’” (Luke 17:26–27 NIV)

In fact, Jesus treated all of the Scriptures as historical fact including the following accounts:

Slide: Adam and Eve as the first married couple (Matt. 19:3-6, Mark 10:3-9)

Abel as the first prophet who was martyred (Luke 11:50-51)

Noah and the Flood (Matt. 24:38-39)

Moses and the serpent (John 3:14)

Moses and the manna (John 6:32-33, 49)

Lot and his wife (Luke 17:28-32)

The judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah (Matt. 10:15)

The miracles of Elijah (Luke 4:25-27)

And

Jonah and the big fish (Matt. 12:40-41)

So, did Jesus get it wrong or did He get it right? Did Jesus die for nothing, or did He die for you? That truly is what is at stake here. And why it's worth taking two and now it's gonna be three weeks to discuss. This is not just information. This is a battle for the truth and for your eternal destiny. Next week we'll talk about the fact that it's also a battle for the destiny of this country and our world.

Prayer: God the Father almighty, we confess You to be the Maker of heaven and earth. You remind us in Your Word that since the creation of the world Your eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. And yet O Lord, Your servants are living in a time and among a people who are rejecting that truth. And even many who believe in You wonder and waver in their faith. Lord, we pray for truth to prevail... the truth of Your Word, the truth we can see in Your world. And help each of us play a role in giving answer to everyone who asks us to give a reason for the hope that we have. We pray it in the name of He Who gives us hope, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

I'm not a big fan of the "Religion section" of the GR press – but this week there was an excellent article...

Freedom of 'worship' or 'religion'?

BY TERRY MATTINGLY SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

the sounds of protests echoing across campus, President Barack Obama knew his 2009 commencement address at the University of Notre Dame would have to mention the religious issues that divided his listeners. "The ultimate irony of faith is that it necessarily admits doubt," he said. "It is beyond our capacity as human beings to know with certainty what God has planned for us or what he asks of us."

In other words, argued Farr and other speakers, there is more to America's current debates about religious liberty than clashes between religious groups and the Obama White House over Health and Human Services regulations that require most religious institutions to offer health-insurance plans that cover sterilizations and all Food and Drug Administration-approved forms of contraception, including so-called "morningafter pills." The larger civic argument, however, focuses on whether government officials can decree that "freedom of worship" is more worthy of protection than "freedom of religion," a much broader constitutional concept. After all, the HHS mandate recognizes the conscience rights of a religious employer only if it has the "inculcation of religious values as its purpose," "primarily employs persons who share its religious tenets" and "primarily serves persons who share its religious tenets." In other words, "freedom of worship" protects a nun when she prays for people with AIDS, but she may not be protected by "freedom of religion" when caring for non-Catholics with AIDS in a ministry that hires non-Catholics. "The mandate ... covers houses of worship, but leaves out the manifold ministries of charity that flow directly from that worship," stressed Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, in the conference's keynote address. "This is the first time that the federal government has compelled religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their moral teaching." Thus, on May 21, 43 Catholic dioceses and other organizations — including universities and institutions that don't fit the narrow HHS exemption — filed a wave of lawsuits against the federal government in 12 jurisdictions nationwide. A dozen or more Catholic and evangelical Protestant organizations had already filed similar lawsuits. Many bishops have warned that, if the lawsuits fail, Catholic schools, hospitals and charities may need to close.