

Preparing Youth For Missions

1. The Mission
2. The Gospel
3. Biblical Worldview
4. Challenges For Youth
5. Roadblocks to Faith
6. Critical Thinking Skills
7. Trust The Word
8. Defend The Word
9. Share The Word

Trust in the Word of God



- Share -



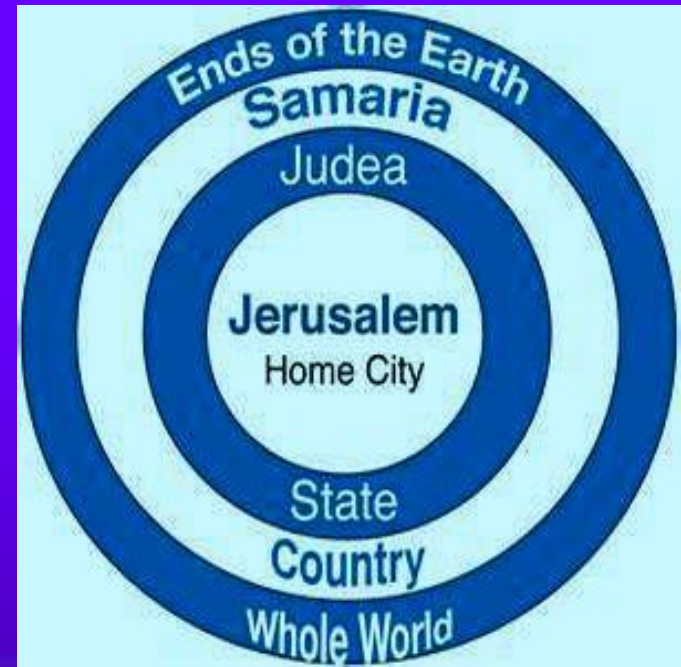


1. The Mission Command

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Mission Field

Acts 1:7-8 - He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



2. The Gospel: The Bad News

- ◆ Gen. 1:1 The beginning Creation
- ◆ Gen. 1:31 A perfect world
- ◆ Gen. 2:16-17 One warning
- ◆ Gen. 3:6 Rebellion (sin) The Bad News
- ◆ Gen. 3:17-19 God keeps His promise (death)
- ◆ Rom. 6:23a Wages of sin is death
- ◆ Matt. 4:48 God demands perfection
- ◆ Rom. 3:23 No one is perfect
- ◆ Is. 59:2 Separated from God No Hope

Mike Riddle

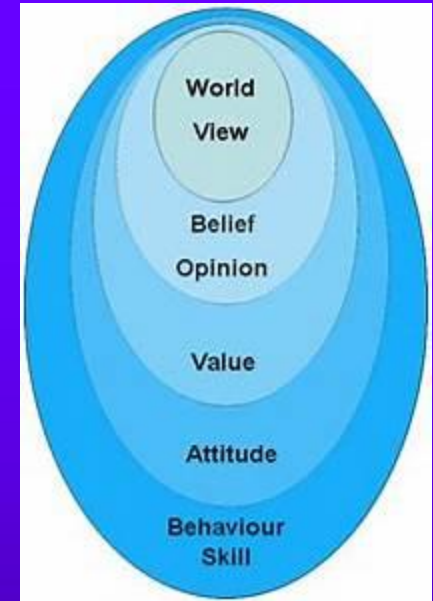
The Gospel: The Good News

- ◆ Gen. 3:15 Promise of victory
- ◆ John 3:16 Promise fulfilled
- ◆ 1 Cor. 15:3-4 The core of the Gospel
- ◆ 2 Cor. 7:10 Repent (leads to salvation)
- ◆ Rom. 6:23b A free gift
- ◆ Eph. 2:8-9 Works not good enough
- ◆ Rom. 5:8 God demonstrates His love
- ◆ John 14:6 Only one way
- ◆ Eph. 2:4-5 God's grace
- ◆ Rom. 1:19-20 No excuse
- ◆ Rom. 10:9 Confess/believe

Mike Riddle

3. What is a Worldview?

- ◆ Worldview is how we view the world
- ◆ Two primary worldviews
 - Materialism
 - Mass and energy is all there is
 - No supernatural being
 - Biblical
 - God exists
 - The Bible is true



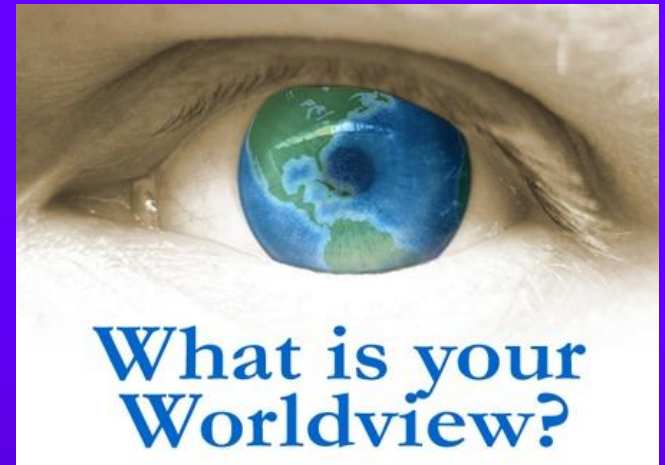


Components of a Worldview

- ◆ Origins (Where did I come from?)
- ◆ Ontology (Who am I?)
- ◆ Purpose (Why am I here?)
- ◆ Epistemology (How do I know?)
- ◆ Ethics and Morals (What am I to do?)
 - Ethics: what I ought to do
 - Morals: what I actually do
 - Aesthetics (What is good or beautiful?)
- ◆ Eschatology (Where am I going?)

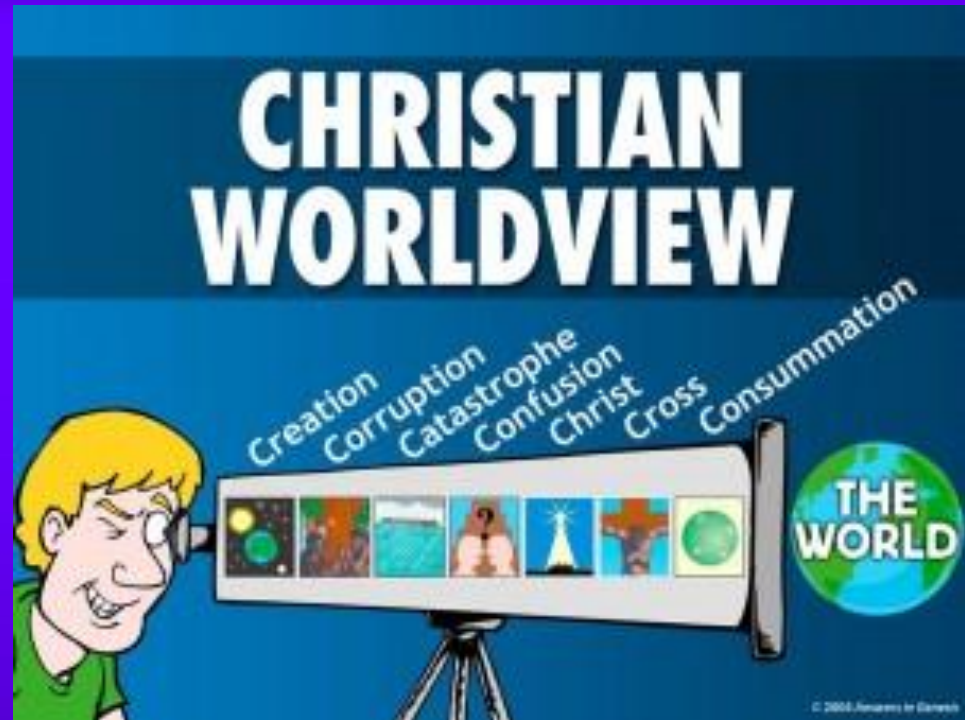
Our Worldview Determines

- ◆ Does God exist?
- ◆ What do I believe?
- ◆ How did we get here?
- ◆ Creation or evolution?
- ◆ What is the purpose of life?
- ◆ What happens when we die?
- ◆ Absolutes or moral relativism
- ◆ Pro-life or pro-choice
- ◆ Marriage



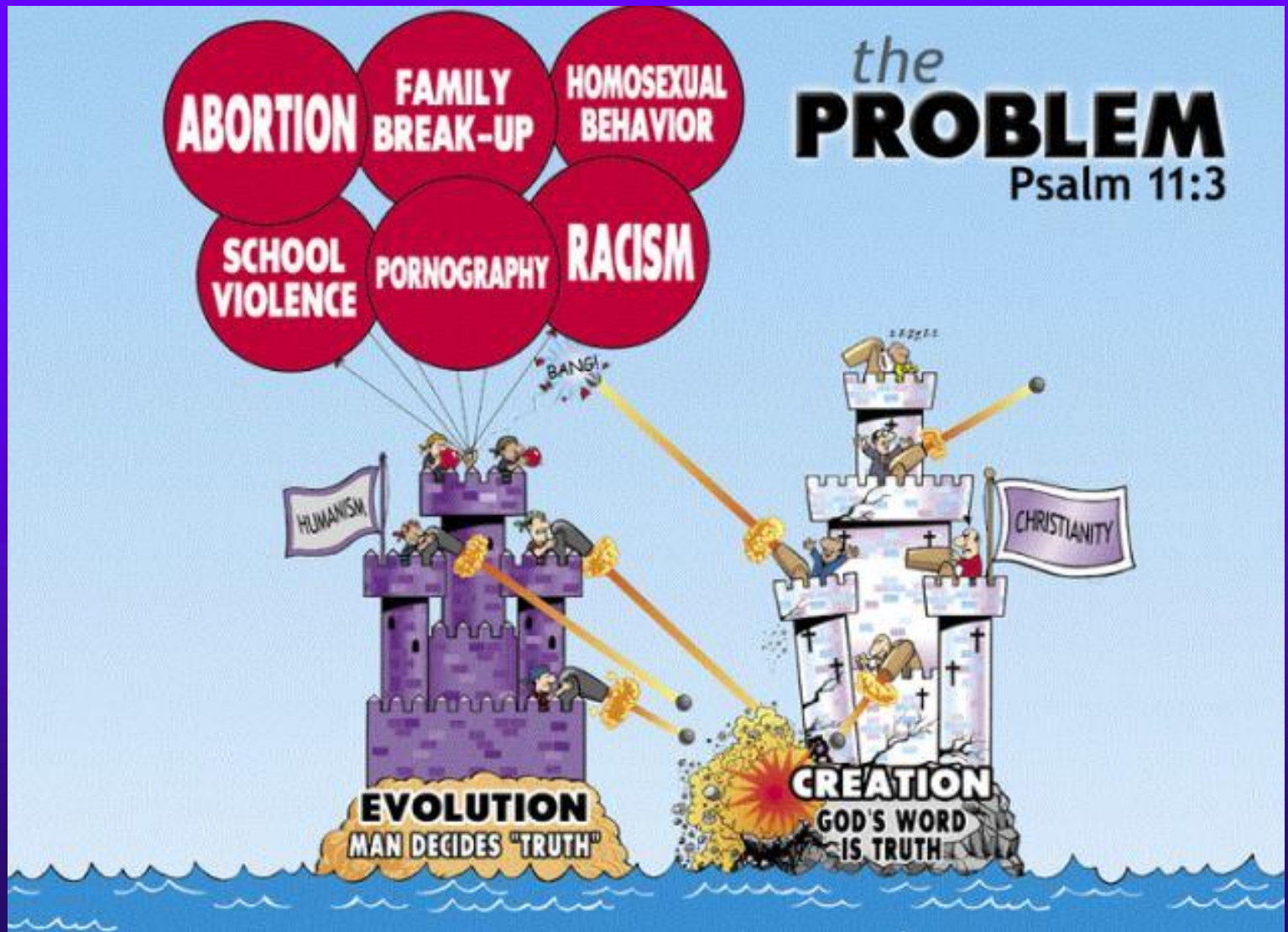


- ◆ God exists
- ◆ His Word is true
- ◆ Genesis is the foundation of the Gospel
- ◆ The 7 C's



- ◆ Matt. 22:37-39, Jesus said to him, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. . . . Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Why Does a Worldview Matter?



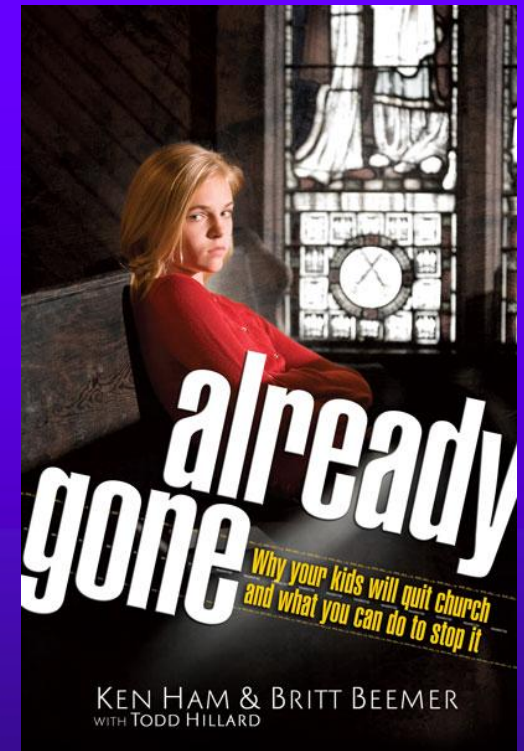


4. Challenges For Youth

- Recent poll: >60% of youth leave the faith
- Reasons youth leave the faith
- The two key challenges for youth
 - Indoctrinated in secularism/evolution
 - No answers to the hard questions
- The major roadblocks to faith
- Using critical thinking skills
- Determining what is true
- Recognizing *fuzzy* and *magic* words

More Than 60% of Youth Leaving the Church

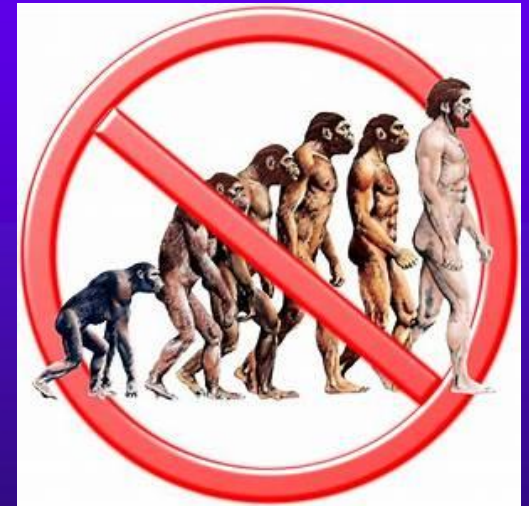
- ◆ Pew Research
- ◆ Nehemiah Institute
- ◆ Barna Group
- ◆ Lifeway Research
- ◆ Answers in Genesis and the American Research Group
- ◆ Public Religion Research Institute



Mike Riddle, Creation Training Initiative

Reasons Youth Leave The Faith

- ◆ Christianity is shallow and too exclusive
- ◆ Church appears to be anti-science
- ◆ Learning about evolution in college
- ◆ Lack of specific or scientific evidence for a creator
- ◆ The teaching of secularism and moral relativism
- ◆ College is a hostile environment towards Christianity



Mike Riddle, Creation Training Initiative

5. Roadblocks To Faith

1. Lack of knowledge
2. Perceived hypocrisy
3. Turning away from sin
4. Pain and suffering
5. Perceived conflict between Science & the Bible
6. No answers from the Church to the hard questions



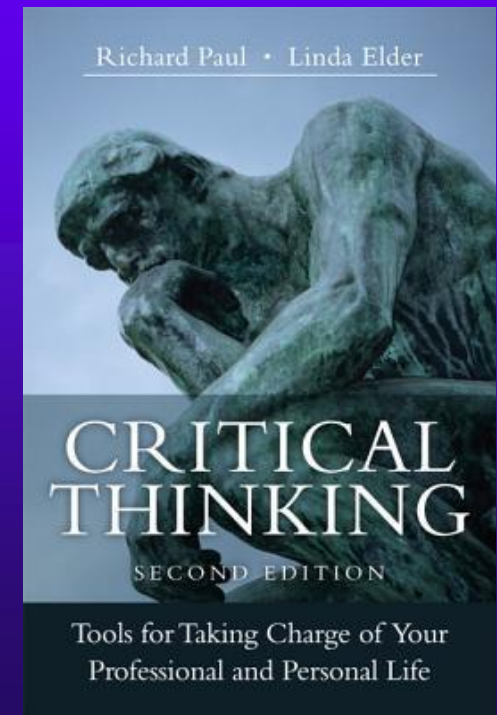
Hos. 4:6
Rom. 1:20
Rom. 2:15
Matt. 7:5
James 1:26
Acts 3:19

6. Critical Thinking Skills

- ◆ “It is now generally conceded that the art of thinking critically is a major missing link in education today, and that effective communication and problem solving skills, as well as mastery of content, requires critical thinking.”

*Richard Paul, Director,
Center of Critical Thinking*

- ◆ Three critical thinking questions
 - How do you know it is true?
 - Has it ever been observed?
 - Are you making any assumptions?



Applying Critical Thinking

◆ Beware of fuzzy words

- We believe, we think, could have, might have, must have
- No observable evidence



◆ Beware of magic words

- Imagine, appeared, emerged, arose, gave rise to, evolved itself, emerged



◆ Beware of red flag words

- All, everybody, no real scientist, intolerant
- Sweeping generalities or personal opinions



Some Examples

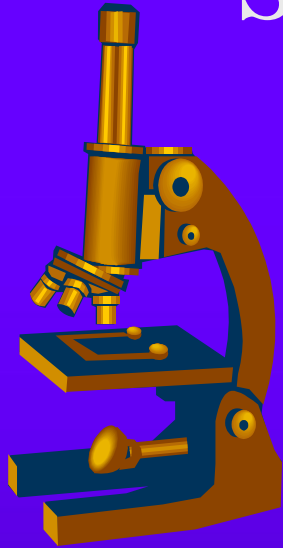
- ◆ “Paleontologists think that Archaeopteryx and today’s birds descended from some kind of reptile, possibly from a dinosaur.”
- ◆ “Evo-devo proposes that genes involved in cobbling together flesh and bones during early growth were repurposed to develop new structures throughout evolution’s history, by combining their functions in new ways.”

Red-Flag Statements

- ◆ There are no absolutes
- ◆ People should decide for themselves what is right and wrong
- ◆ All real scientists believe in evolution
- ◆ No one has the whole truth
- ◆ That's true for you, but not for me
- ◆ That's just your opinion



Science? History? or Belief?



Present +
Repeatable +
Observable =
SCIENCE

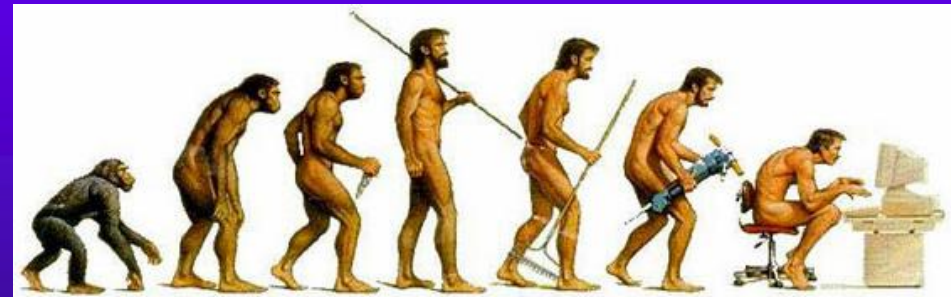
Past +
Non-Repeatable +
Eyewitness Account =
HISTORY



Past +
Non-Repeatable +
No Eyewitnesses =
BELIEF

What Is Evolution?

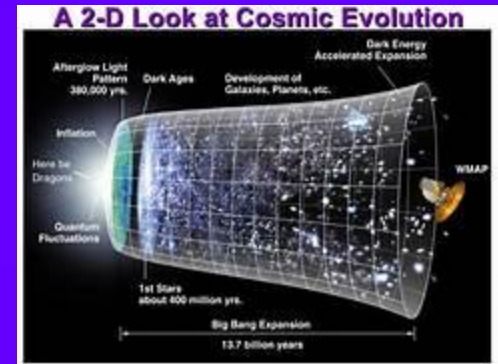
- ◆ 3 Stages of Evolution
- ◆ The meaning of Evolution
- ◆ Evolutionary theory in a nutshell
 - Common ancestor
 - Random chance mutations
 - Natural selection
- ◆ Natural Selection
- ◆ 3 Impossible hurdles for Naturalism
 - Origin of the universe, origin of first life, origin of complex life



3 Stages of Evolution

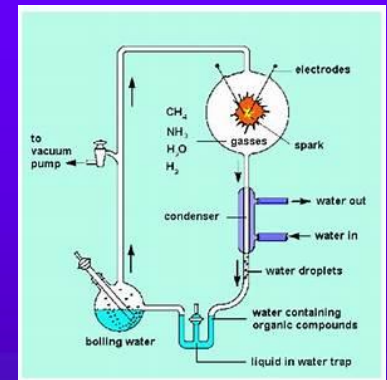
1. Cosmic (Stellar) Evolution

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



2. Biochemical (Chemical) Evolution

- Evolution of first life from nonlife
- Abiogenesis



3. Biological (Organic) Evolution

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



The Meaning of Evolution

1. Artificial Selection

- Plant and animal breeding

2. Change

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

3. Micro-Evolution [Adaptation]

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

4. Macro-Evolution

- Particles -> people

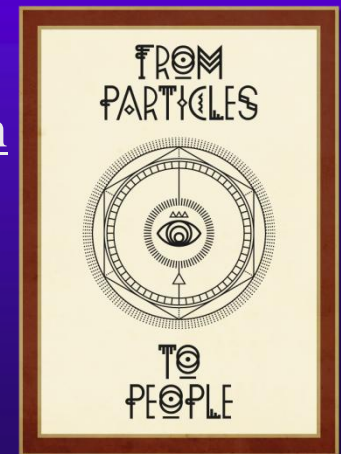
5. Molecular Evolution

- Origin of life – assumes a mutating replicator

Only 1, 2 and 3
have been observed

4 never observed!

5 is impossible!

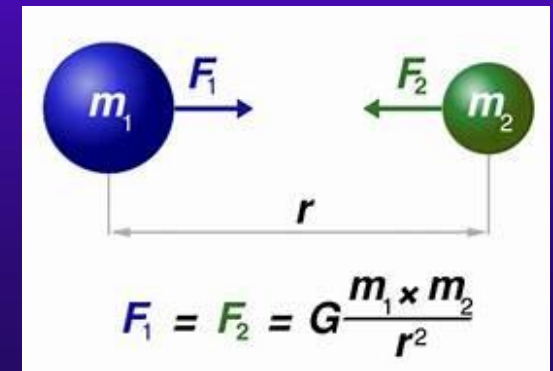
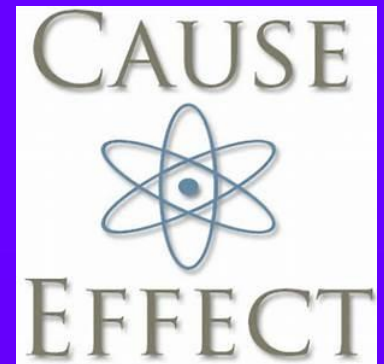


Chance, Necessity (Law) or Design?



Laws of Nature

- ◆ Law of Cause and Effect
- ◆ Law of Biogenesis
- ◆ First Law of Thermodynamics
[law of conservation of energy]
- ◆ Second Law of Thermodynamics
[law of increasing entropy]
- ◆ Law of Gravity
- ◆ Laws of Motion



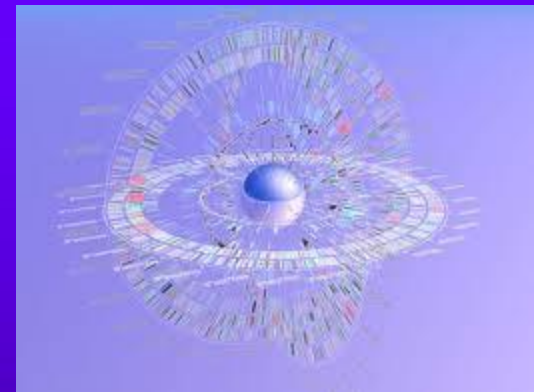
Chance, Necessity or Design?

Scratches on cave wall

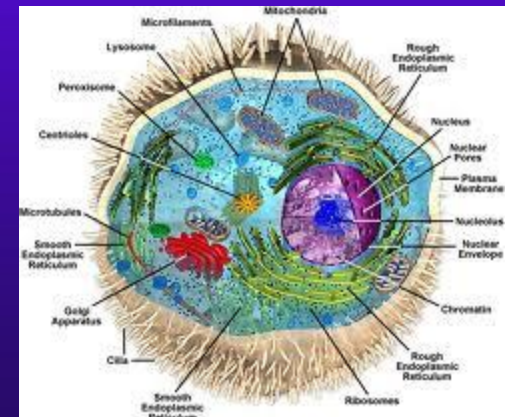


Human genome

3B
Base
Pairs

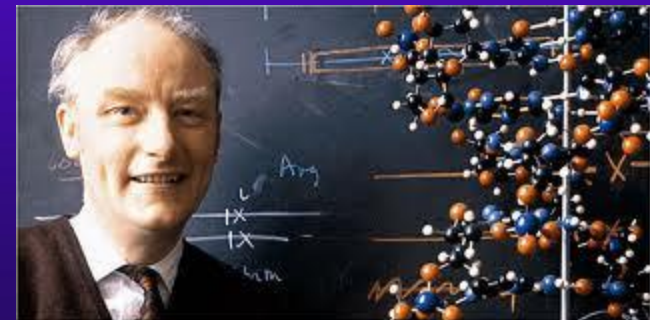
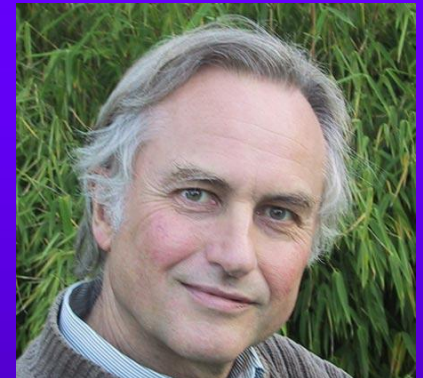


75T
Cells



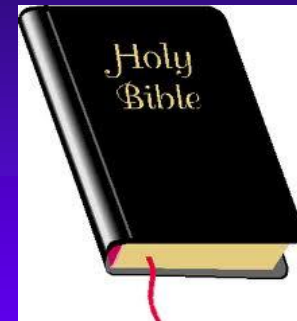
The Evolutionists' Response?

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



7. Trust God's Word

- Christian Faith Based on Bible
- Skeptic Claims About The Bible
- Bible Claims to be God's Word
- Challenges As a Believer and Scientist
 - Special and General Revelation
 - Does what I believe to be true match reality?
- Evidence for truth
 - a. Transmission of manuscripts
 - b. Historical accuracy
 - c. Prophecy fulfilled
 - d. Science truths in the Bible

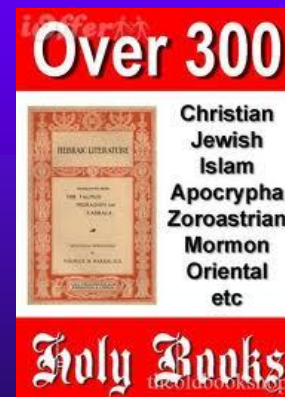


2 Tim. 3:16,17

2 Pet. 1:21

Is. 55:8,9

1 Cor. 2:16



7a. Reliable Transmission of the Bible

◆ Reliability depends on:

- Number of copies of manuscripts
- Time gap, original to earliest copy

◆ Dead Sea scrolls found 1947

- Earlier (by 1000+ yrs) copies of OT manuscripts
- Dated to 100-200 BC

◆ Earliest NT manuscript

- Fragment of John's gospel
- Dated to 125 AD
- Referenced by church fathers

◆ 99.99% of originals reclaimed



Where Is The Dead Sea?



Manuscript Reliability

Work/Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Years Elapsed	Number of Copies
Caesar	100-44 BC	900 AD	1000	10
Plato	427-347 BC	900 AD	1300	7
Aristotle	384-322 BC	1100 AD	1500	49
Iliad (Homer)	900 BC	400 BC	500	643
Heridotus	480-425 BC	900 AD	1300	8
New Testament	40-95 AD	125 AD	30	25,000

7b. Historical Accuracy of the Bible

- ◆ Gospel of Luke & Acts
 - Written by Dr. Luke
 - Eyewitness and Apostles reports
 - 32 countries, 54 cities, 9 islands
 - Exact titles of historical figures
 - Accurate history & geography
- ◆ Pool of Bethesda discovered
- ◆ Ebla tablets found in 1974
 - Confirm biblical places
 - Confirm writing ability of Moses
- ◆ Confirmed by archaeology
 - Archaeologists use Bible as guide

Luke 1:1-4

Acts 1:1-2

John 5:2

Gen. 14:2



Where is Ebla?



Ebla



Damas



Ruins of Ebla's Royal Palace



Clay Tablet at Ebla

7c. Fulfilled Prophecy of the Bible

- ◆ 27% of Bible prophetic (when written)
 - 500+ of 1000+ prophecies fulfilled
- ◆ 300 prophecies about Messiah
 - 109 fulfilled in His 1st Coming
 - Birthplace, sold for 30 pieces
- ◆ Prophecies about people, places
 - Fall of Babylon, **Jer. 50-51**
 - Destruction of Tyre, **Ezek. 26**
 - Cyrus as ruler, **Is. 44:28**
- ◆ Prophecies about Jews
 - Dispersion and re-gathering
- ◆ **Is. 61:1-2, Luke 4:18-19a**
 - Dead Sea Scrolls

Mic. 5:2
Zech. 11:12
Jer. 50-51
Ezek. 26
Is. 44:28
Deut. 28:64
Is. 11:11-12
Is. 61:1-2
Luke 4:18-19



7d. Biblical Truth in Science?

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



Scientific Accuracy of the Bible

- ◆ Five categories: matter, space, time, force, action
- ◆ Biblical references to science:
 - Number of stars – 10^{22}
 - Earth as a sphere
 - Earth suspended in space
 - Earth spinning on its axis
 - Hydrologic cycle
 - Life is in the blood
 - Circumcision on day 8
- ◆ Science disciplines established by Bible-believing scientists

Gen. 1:1

Acts 7:22

Jer. 33:22

Is 40:22

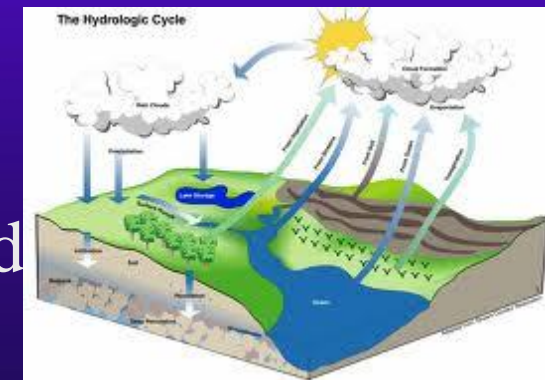
Job 26:7

Job 38:14

Eccl. 1:7

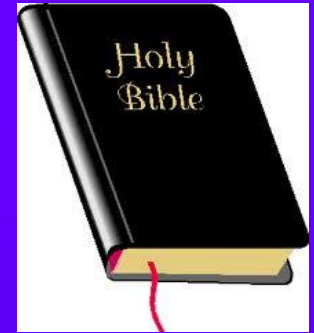
Lev. 17:11

Lev. 12:3



The Bible IS Trustworthy

- ◆ Bible is a Book of Spiritual Truth
- ◆ Accurately Copied Over Time
- ◆ Confirmed by Archaeology, History, Geography, Prophecy
- ◆ Statements On Science Are True
- ◆ The Bible IS God's Word
- ◆ There are answers to skeptics
- ◆ Know What, Why, and How To Defend What You Believe!
- ◆ Know It! Live It! Defend It! Share It!



1 Pet. 3:15

Jude 3

2 Cor. 10:4-5

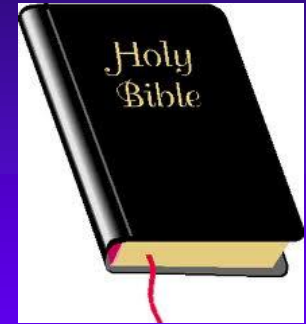
Col. 4:6



HeinzLycklama.com

8. Defend The Word

- What is Apologetics?
 - Defense of the Christian Faith
- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “ ... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ...”
- **Jude 3**, “... I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”
- **2 Cor. 10:4-5**, “ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ”



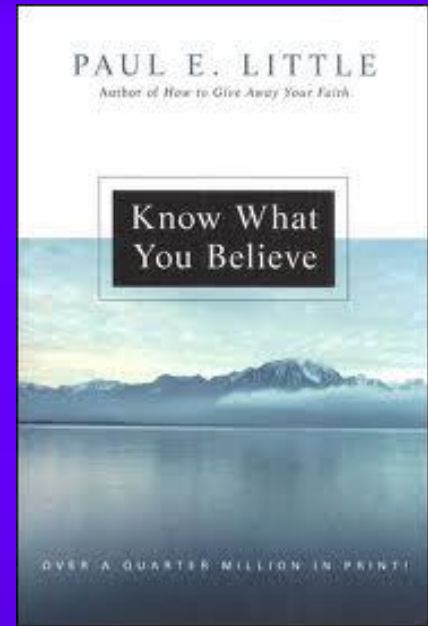
Why Apologetics?

◆ Why?

- Know what you believe
- Know why you believe
- Defend what you believe – **1 Pet. 3:15**

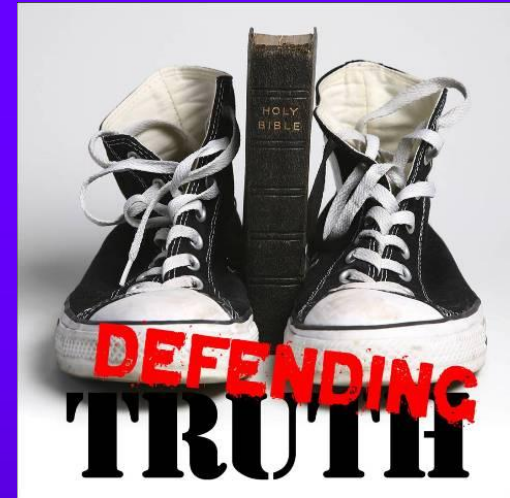
◆ How?

- Rightly divide the word of truth – **II Tim. 2:15**
- Be a Berean, search the Scriptures daily – **Acts 17:11**
- Look for evidence of the Truth
- Answer the questions of believers & skeptics alike
 - **Acts 17:17**, “Therefore he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, ...



Purposes of Apologetics

- ◆ To obey God's Word
- ◆ To glorify God
- ◆ To strengthen and encourage believers
- ◆ To evangelize and have answers to challenges from non-believers
- ◆ To bring down strongholds
- ◆ To equip the next generation (+parents) to maintain a biblical worldview





Why Christian Apologetics?

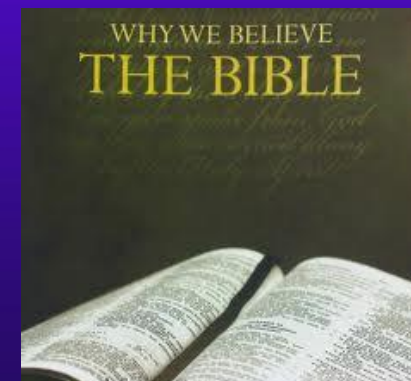
- **1 Pet. 3:15**, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”
- **Matt. 22:37**, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- **1 Th. 5:21-22**, “Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”
- **2 Cor. 10:5**, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”
- **Jude 3**, “to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

What is Truth?

- ◆ Truth is that which corresponds to reality
 - Thought applies to reality
 - Knowledge is possible
 - Logic is a necessary presupposition of all thought
 - It is undeniable that logic applies to reality
 - Self-evident principles cannot be denied
- ◆ Truth is absolute, correspondent, knowable, logical
- ◆ The Bible claims to be the Word of God & true
- ◆ Does the Bible correspond to reality?
 - Is the Bible true?

Is The Bible True?

- ◆ Some people say the Bible is full of errors or contradictions
- ◆ For most this is just an excuse for not believing
- ◆ Few who claim these errors have read the Bible and analyzed any of these alleged errors
- ◆ Many books written to address alleged errors





Alleged Errors in the Bible

a. Law of non-contradiction


- Fails truth test
- e.g. Gen, 1 and Gen. 2

b. Mistranslations

- Not true to original language
- Go back to the original

c. So-called scientific errors

- Authors used language of the day
- Rising and setting of the sun



a. Law of Non-Contradiction

- ◆ Bible was written
 - By 40 authors from many walks of life
 - Over a period of 1500 years
- ◆ Bible has ONE author – God
 - God is perfect, holy, true
- ◆ There are no contradictions in His Word, no matter what it seems at first
- ◆ Many supposed contradictions

Example of Alleged Non-Contradiction

- ◆ Many supposed contradictions result by placing two passages in false opposition to each other, e.g.
 - **Eccl. 7:29**, “God made man upright.” – Talking about Adam and Eve, who God originally created upright
 - **Ps. 51:5**, “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity.” – Here King David is speaking of his personal situation, as a fallen descendant of Adam
- ◆ There is no contradiction here



b. Mistranslation

- ◆ Translation of the books of the Bible can be a real challenge
- ◆ We have many translations
 - KJV, NKJV, AS, NAS, NIV, etc.
- ◆ Most translation problems have simple explanations
- ◆ You should always look at the original Hebrew and Greek words used

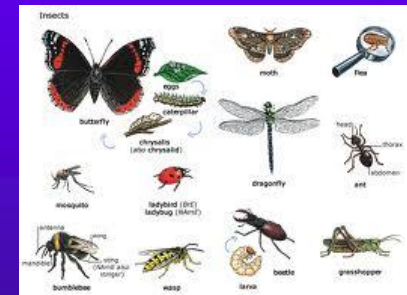


Example of Mistranslation

- ◆ **Lev. 11:13,19**, “And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, ... and the bat.” (NKJV)
 - Bats are not birds (a questionable word)
- ◆ The KJV uses the word “fowls” instead of the word “birds”
- ◆ The KJV used the word “fowls” in **Lev. 11:20** to describe “insects”

Explanation of Mistranslation

- ◆ The Hebrew word used is “*owph*,” which can mean anything that “has a wing,” i.e. a winged creature
- ◆ The Hebrew word “*owph*” includes birds, flying insects, and bats
- ◆ Going back to the Hebrew word explains the supposed translation problem



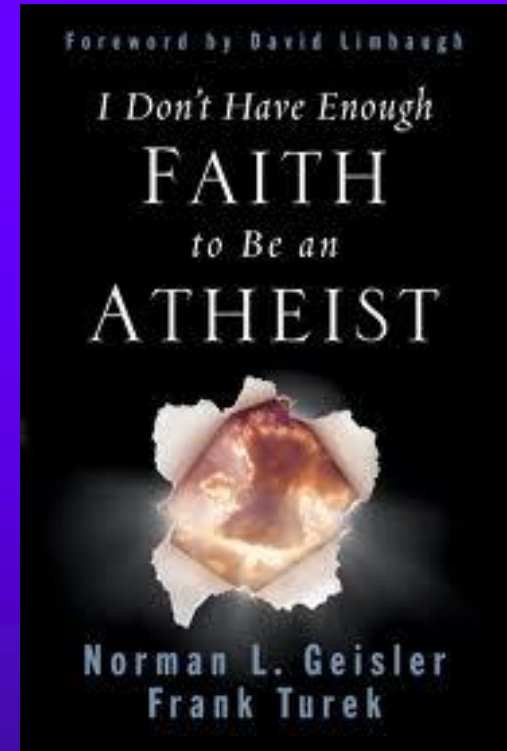
c. Alleged Scientific Errors

- ◆ Authors used the language of their day
 - The sun rising in the morning
 - The sun setting in the evening
 - The sun does not “rise” and “set”
 - The earth actually rotates
 - Our talk of the sun rising and setting is not “scientifically correct”
 - Spoken from perspective of the observer



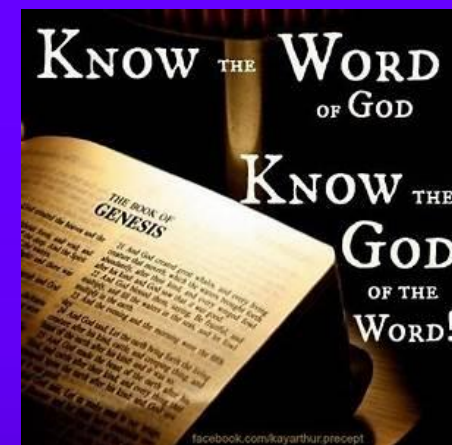
Evidence For Our Faith

1. Jesus' Credibility – He Is God
2. Prophecies Come True
– Messianic + Others
3. Christ Rose From the Grave
4. The Bible is God's Word
5. Archaeology Verifies the Bible
6. Science Supports Creation
7. The Bible Is Reliable
Scientifically
8. If God is All-Loving and All-Knowing,
Why Do We have Evil and Suffering?



9. Are You Ready For Missions?

- ◆ The Mission Command & Field
- ◆ The Gospel
- ◆ You Must Know The Word
- ◆ You Can Trust The Word
- ◆ You Must Defend The Word
- ◆ You Must Live The Word
- ◆ You Must Share The Word
- ◆ Go Forth And Do Likewise
 - Matt. 28:19-20, Make disciples, baptize them, teach them
- ◆ When? Where? How?



2 Tim. 2:2



**Thank you
for your
attention!**

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Messages: Lectures & Sermons

ApologeticsForum.org

**Helping Equip Believers in the
Defense of The Faith**

Worldview Grid

	Where Did I Come From?	What's Wrong with the world?	Is There a Solution?	What is My Purpose?
Biblical Worldview	Creation Image of God	The Fall: Original sin Human responsibility	Atonement through Christ's death and resurrection	Doing God's will Restoring the fallen world
Secular Naturalism	Undirected evolution Time+Chance	NOT responsible •Genes •Society (Rousseau)	Worldly utopia Ideology	Self-fulfillment
Postmodernism	Pantheism(?) Eternal universe	Oppression Western Civilization	Deconstruction Personal autonomy Tolerance enforced by law	Utopian Earth
Islam	Creation NOT image of God (Image of God=Idolatry)	NO original sin •Deception •The Self	Salvation by arbitrary will of Allah No grace Transcendent not imminent Only guarantee: Martyrdom (death in jihad)	Submission to Allah <i>Umma Muslima</i>
Eastern Religions	World is an illusion Reincarnation	Bad karma •Ignorance •Desire	Mystical experience Eliminate desire	Accept karma "Liberation" (personal extinction)
New Age	Pantheism/God in us Biological evolution Spiritual evolution	Ignorance of own divinity	Psycho-technologies	Personal enlightenment Bring in the New Age

Worldview Tenets

Worldview Tenet #1

Without an objective standard for truth, you can never say something is morally wrong. You can only say you don't personally prefer it.

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Worldview Tenet #2

Truth can never come from matter or energy. Morality can never emerge from dust and gases that blew up 14 billion years ago. Truth is revealed from the mind of an infinite personal God.

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Worldview Tenet #3

There are only two views of life:

1. We can fix all of our own problems.
2. We need Jesus to rescue us from ourselves.

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Worldview Tenet #4

There is only **Biblical thinking** and **Humanistic thinking**.

There is no neutral middle.

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Worldview Tenet #5

There is no such thing as Sacred vs. Secular History. All History belongs to God. It began with Him, is guided by Him, exists for His glory, and will ultimately result in His eternal worship.

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Worldview Tenet #6

The Law of Non-Contradiction asserts that two opposing statements cannot both be true at the same time and in the same sense.

Relativism is patently false.

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Evolutionary Theory in a Nutshell

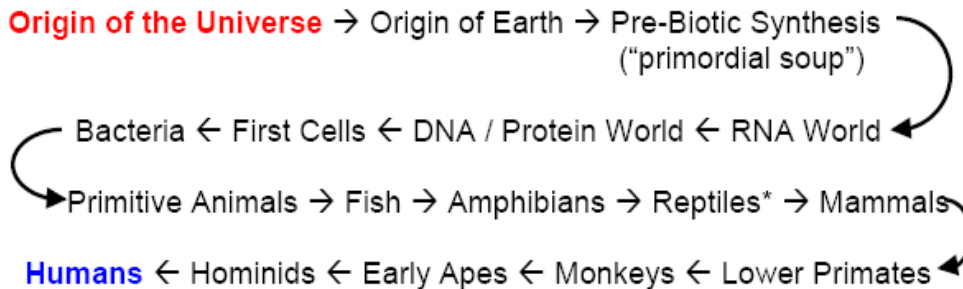
How Evolution Works:

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

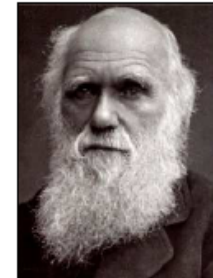
Evolution claims:

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

The story of evolution:



*Evolutionary theory says some reptiles also turned into birds.



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