

EVOLUTION

A Christian Response



“Evolution –A Christian Response”

Study Guide for a Bible Study on the video series

Find the videos at lutheranscience.org

Study provided by the Lutheran Science Institute with video guide discussion supplemented by Tom Barthel, pastor at Rock of Ages, Payson, Arizona

This Bible study has been modified by your Bible study leader from the free Video Bible Study Leader Guide available from the Lutheran Science Institute (LSI) at www.LutheranScience.org/LeaderGuide.

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Video 1 – Key Concepts

Primary Points —video 1

- 1) Some parts of the evolution story go against Scripture. Can you name at least two?
- 2) The evolution story is partly true and partly false. How might some wrongly use the true parts of evolution as proof that the false parts of evolution are also true?
- 3) Science is biased, it is a flawed and incomplete attempt to explain nature (*we will learn more about this in future lessons*).
- 4) Unprovable assumptions control scientific work (*we will learn more about this in future lessons*). What personal beliefs might influence the formation of a scientific conclusion?
- 5) Three unprovable assumptions often made by scientist include 1- No Creator; 2- No World-wide flood; 3- Deep Time. Explain why this must all be assumptions which cannot be proven. Explain how they might influence scientific conclusions.
- 6) Christians wrongly conclude that God used evolution to create the world. What might be some reasons they would want to ascribe evolution credit when Scripture does not? What dangers lies in this approach towards Scripture?
- 7) Christian apologetics defends the Christian faith. It can remove barriers to the gospel but cannot increase the effectiveness of the gospel. God works only through the gospel in Word (the Bible) and sacrament (Baptism and Holy Communion) to create and strengthen faith (Romans 10:17; 1 Cor 1:21; 1 Pet 3:21; Mat 26:26–28). Why is this a key truth we must keep in mind when speaking to an unbeliever about creation and evolution?
- 8) It is helpful for Christians to distinguish what is true and what is false in current scientific explanations. They can do this by evaluating everything and comparing it with the truths of Scripture. List some other areas of Christian life which call for discernment because we live in a world which is opposed to the true God.

Discussion —video 1

- 1) The first goal of this video series is to help us avoid the temptation to think that millions of years is true, while at the same time helping us to better understand creation. How might learning about the geologic column, natural selection etc. help us understand creation?
- 2) The second goal of this video series is to help us talk with our evolutionist friends in a way that provides opportunities to share the gospel. Why is it important that a discussion of evolution lead to the gospel?
- 3) The video ended with 2 Corinthians 5:20: “We are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us.” Why is it important that we keep this passage in mind?
- 4) Some parts of the evolution story go against Scripture (such as millions of years and common descent). Why can we be certain that those parts of evolution are wrong?
- 5) Suggested answer: They are contrary to the truth God reveals to us in Scripture. God’s Word is true. Whether or not what God says seems reasonable to us does not change the fact that God’s Word is true in all it says.
- 6) Why do so many people believe in evolution?

Bible Passages —video 1

Creation by kind.

God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and it was so. God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24–25 (EHV).

The Bible is true.

Your word is truth (John 17:17).

We believe creation “by faith.”

By faith we know that the universe was created by God's word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things. Hebrews 11:3 (EHV).

Means of grace.

Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17 (EHV).

Since the world through its wisdom did not know God, God in his wisdom decided to save those who believe, through the foolishness of the preached message. 1 Corinthians 1:21 (EHV).

Baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 3:21 (EHV).

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, "Take, eat, this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:26-28 (EHV).

"We are ambassadors for Christ."

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 (EHV).

Deeper Study—video 1

Discuss the "18 Key Concepts for a Lutheran Response to Evolution." (from pages 5–7 of the [LSJ Lesson Book](#)—2nd ed.)

1. **God** has gospel chosen in Word to create and sacrament and strengthen (Rom 10:17; faith1solely Cor 1:21, through 2:13–15 the).
2. **Apologetics** is defending the Christian faith, often using extra-biblical arguments (presenting claims from logic, science, history, etc.). Even though extra-biblical arguments do not in any way increase the effectiveness of the gospel, Scripture shows a place for them in our apologetic.
3. **Extra-biblical arguments** have the role of removing barriers to the gospel.
4. **Science** is often seen as an unbiased producer of truth. In reality, science is neither unbiased nor a producer of truth. Prominent scientists, including those who champion evolution, describe science as a biased and subjective process.
5. **Scientific terms** must be used correctly. Evolution must be described correctly. Stay within the limits of your scientific knowledge.
6. **Unprovable presuppositions** direct and constrain all science. Evolutionary science has more unprovable presuppositions than other branches of science like physics and chemistry. The starting assumptions of evolutionists require that creation be rejected. Creation is rejected NOT on the basis of scientific conclusions, but on the basis of unprovable a priori assumptions. The three primary unprovable assumptions of evolutionists are: 1) No Creator, 2) No Flood, and 3) "Deep time," meaning billions of years. We know from Scripture that all three of these assumptions are false.

7. **Pointing out** the assumptions of evolutionists is a strong and solid argument, one which should remain strong for decades to come. If an assumption is wrong, then all conclusions based on that assumption are invalid.
8. **Avoid** even implying that all of evolution is wrong: A creationist can agree with much of evolution theory. This is especially true of the core evolution teaching of natural selection. Natural selection really does produce new *species*, but always within their biblical *kind*.
9. **Natural selection** is a significant scientific discovery. It helps us better understand how the biblical *kinds* of plants and animals diversified into so many *species*. It helps us better understand how the estimated 40,700^{1,2} *species* of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles alive today could have descended from an estimated 6273 *kinds* of those animals on Noah's Ark.
10. **The geologic column** is a significant scientific discovery. It helps us better understand the original diversity of creation. So many amazing and unique plants and animals which God created have gone extinct.
11. **Radiometric dating** is a useful tool. *Carbon dating* provides reasonably accurate, *actual ages* for the remains of once living things like wood, bones, shells, and peat—as long as those plants and animals lived well after the Flood. *Other radiometric dating methods* provide reasonably accurate *relative ages* for some kinds of rocks. Evolutionists go further and claim that *carbon dating* provides ages up to 50,000 years, and that *other radiometric dating methods* provide not just relative ages, but actual ages (up to billions of years).
12. **All dating methods** are based on unprovable presuppositions. Evolutionists are aware that some of their presuppositions are *often* false, so they put great effort into minimizing errors due to false assumptions. Even so, they admit that their assumptions are *unprovable* and *commonly false*. For instance, the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mining Resources writes, There is not a reliable way to determine if the assumptions are valid. Argon loss and excess argon are two common problems that may cause erroneous ages to be determined.
13. **The evolution story** is a mixture of reality and fabrication. True parts of evolution are often used as proof that the false parts of evolution are also true. This is demonstrated in the following two points.
14. **Evolutionists correctly** point out that natural selection produces new *species* within their *kind*. Then they ask us to *imagine* that natural selection can also produce new *kinds*.
15. **Evolutionists correctly** point out that the geologic column has a sequence of fossil-containing rock layers. Then they ask us to *imagine* that the plants and animals that left these fossils descended from a bacteria-like common ancestor.
16. **Creationists and evolutionists** often agree. Point that out as you minister to creationists and to evolutionists. Discuss some of those points of agreement as a path to discussing the assumptions which guide and constrain evolutionary science.
17. **While witnessing to unbelievers**, your goal is to present the gospel message (not to discuss creation or evolution).
18. **Never demean evolutionists:** Always remember that you are Christ's ambassador to the world, meaning you are God's representative to everyone, including evolutionists. Do not belittle those to whom you represent God. Reflect the love of Christ as you minister to both creationists and to evolutionists.

*We are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us.
2 Corinthians 5:20a, EHV*

Video 2 – Evolution and Creation Contrasted

Primary Points —video 2

- 1) Evolution is a story about how evolutionists imagine things might have come into existence without a creator god. Summarize the current evolution story.
- 2) Evolutionists start with the assumption that there is no creator god. Evolution, then, is the best story they can write without a creator god. (More on this in video 6.) Explain why even our best and most well-intentioned explanations for things can still be false. How can that be especially true when it comes to origins and history?

Discussion —video 2

- 1) “We are all star dust.” – Carl Sagan. Explain why this belief is held. What implications does it have for a person’s beliefs?
- 2) Read the following quote and identify what the famous scientist Richard Dawkins is getting at when he calls the evolution story, “implausible”.

“The theory that we seek, of the origin of life on this planet, should therefore positively not be a plausible theory! If it were, life should be common in the galaxy. Maybe it is common, in which case a plausible theory is what we want. But we have no evidence that life exists outside this planet, and at very least we are entitled to be satisfied with an implausible theory. [Richard Dawkins, *The Greatest Show on Earth—The Evidence for Evolution*, hardcover ed. (New York NY: Free Press, 2009), 422.]
- 3) Briefly summarize Scripture’s account of the origin of all that we see today. How does it account for both the wisdom and majesty and the ruin of all that exists? List at least two key events that altered the world as we know it.
- 4) Science uses natural causes to explain nature, including the origins of the world. Evolutionists use science as the only source of knowledge when they write the evolution story. Explain how this leads them to reject the possibility of a creator god.

- 5) Evolution is a story about how evolutionists imagine things might have come into existence without a creator god. The evolution story is constantly rewritten. Maybe someday the evolution story will be completely logical and explain every observation. If that day comes, would it mean the evolution story has then correctly explained the origin of the world?

- 6) Some people argue that religion is a story about how people imagine things might have come into existence and how we might come to know God. What makes Christianity different from a made-up story or fabricated explanations?

Bible Passages —video 2

Creation by kind.

God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and it was so. God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24–25 (EHV).

Deeper Study —video 2

“Evolution is a ‘Historical Narrative.’”

5 minutes to read; pages 28–30 of the fall 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018fall

“What is Evolution?” and “The Evolution Story.”

3 minutes to read; [pages 16–17 of the *LSI Lesson Book –2nd ed.*](#)

Video 3– Did God Use Evolution to Create?

Primary Points —video 3

- 1) Most Christians in today’s world think God used evolution to create. If one takes that thinking to its logical conclusion, the Christian faith is destroyed.
- 2) Belief in any false doctrine, including evolution, is a danger to one’s Christian faith. Evolution has destroyed the faith of many.
- 3) Death and suffering are the result of sin, not the means God used to create.
- 4) If God used death and suffering as the means to create, then God is the source of evil. Is God good or is God evil? God is love. God hates evil. Evil originated with Satan, who then tempted Adam to sin, bringing suffering and death into the world.

Discussion —video 3

- 1) Evolution is a teaching designed to exclude God from the explanation for this world and all things. Why do many Christians try to do in order to avoid needing to refute evolution’s teachings?
- 2) Explain: “Faith in Christ alone saves, but every false teaching has the ability to harm or destroy faith.”
- 3) Agree or Disagree: A Christian cannot be saved if they accept evolution as true.
- 4) Many Christians modify evolution’s teachings in order to include it alongside Scripture’s teachings. How has this ultimately led to their entire faith being destroyed?
- 5) Look at the following to see what else crumbles when the account of Genesis is explained to be a myth. (Mt 19:4-6, 2 Peter 3:4-7, 2 Ti 3:14-16)
- 6) Read John 5:39,46. What ultimately will happen if we deny the writings of Moses and the prophets?

- 7) List some reasons why we can be sure that the language of the Bible is referring to six ordinary days and not millions or billions of years. (Compare also Exodus 20:11)

- 8) Read God's evaluation of creation at its conclusion in Genesis 1:31. God has never called sin and death good. It brings a curse and is an evil intrusion in his perfect creation. What kind of a god would we have if he planned to use sin and death in his process of creation?

- 9) How does Romans 5:12 explain the origin of death and sin?

- 10) Read 1 Cor 15:26 to find a summary of how we ought to regard sin's presence and the curse of death.

- 11) "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist." -Richard Dawkins. Evolution is product of the quest to break free from the notion of any creator god. Why does the atheist *need* evolution to be truly atheist? (cf. Psalm 19:1-4, Romans 1:18-20)

- 12) Atheists and Christians operate under different assumptions. Evolution rejects the possibility of a powerful creator. It assumes everything formed slowly. It rejects the possibility what we observe was once influenced by a cataclysmic world-wide flood. How do each of these assumptions contradict a Christian's biblical assumptions?

- 13) Respond: "There are worse false teachings than evolution. We should be more concerned about those other worse false teachings than the Christians who say Genesis account of creation and the flood is a myth."

- 14) Review the following for the Scripture's explanation of evil, sin, and death. (*2 Peter 2:4; John 8:44, Genesis 3; Revelation 12:9*)

- 15) Apply: Your neighbor has expressed his faith in Jesus his Savior, but he also believes that God used evolution to create. What Bible passages might you share with him? Why those passages?

Bible Passages —video 3

God is love.

We also have come to know and trust the love that God has for us. God is love. Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. 1 John 4:16 (EHV).

Is God good or evil?

For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil. With you the wicked cannot dwell. The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes. You hate all evildoers. Psalms 5:4-5 (EHV).

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," because God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. James 1:13 (EHV).

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil. I hate haughtiness, arrogance, an evil way, and a perverse mouth. Proverbs 8:13 (EHV).

Death is the last enemy to be done away with. 1 Corinthians 15:26 (EHV).

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. Romans 5:8-10 (EHV).

Satan is the source of evil.

God did not spare angels when they sinned but handed them over to chains of darkness by casting them into hell, to be kept under guard for judgment. 2 Peter 2:4 (EHV).

You belong to your father, the Devil, and you want to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and did not remain standing in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks from what is his, because he is a liar and the father of lying. John 8:44 (EHV).

Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Has God really said, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" Genesis 3:1 (EHV).

The great dragon was thrown down—the ancient serpent, the one called the Devil and Satan, the one who leads the whole inhabited earth astray—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Revelation 12:9 (EHV).

Adam's sin brings death.

Just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. ...For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous. Romans 5:12,19 (EHV).

Since death came by a man, the resurrection of the dead also is going to come by a man. For as in Adam they all die, so also in Christ they all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (EHV).

Millions of years vs. ordinary week

Exodus 20:8-11,

References —video 3

Evolution promises to eliminate the need for a god. Famous atheist Richard Dawkins said [italics in original,

An atheist before Darwin could have said, following Hume, “I have no explanation for complex biological design. All I know is that God isn’t a good explanation, so we must wait and hope that somebody comes up with a better one.” I can’t help feeling that such a position, though logically sound, would have left one feeling pretty unsatisfied, and that although atheism might have been *logically* tenable before Darwin, Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.

[Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 10.

Deeper Study —video 3

Review of the book: *Elephants in the Room—Evolution Versus the Message of Scripture*.

5 minutes to read; pages 30–33 of the spring 2021 *LSI Journal* at

<http://www.LutheranScience.org/2021spring>

“Did God Use Evolution to Create?”

36-minute video <http://www.LutheranScience.org/DidGodUseEvolution>

Video 4 – Our Thinking Ability

How should we use our human reason to defend the faith?

Primary Points —video 4

- 1) Even though extra-biblical arguments do not in any way increase the effectiveness of the gospel, Scripture shows a place for them in our defense of the faith. Extra-biblical arguments have the role of removing barriers to the gospel.
- 2) In ministry to believers, apologetics can remove barriers to the gospel by blunting temptation.
- 3) In ministry to unbelievers, apologetics can remove barriers to the gospel, leading the unbeliever to listen to the gospel message (Acts 2:14–15; 14:15–17; 17:22,23,28).
- 4) God’s creation of faith in our hearts is just like his powerful creation of this world. It is by the power of his Word, the gospel. We cannot create or sustain faith apart from the gospel.

Discussion —video 4

- 1) Reason cannot create or strengthen faith. But we can use our reason to better understand and grow in knowing God’s Word and defending the proper interpretation of it. Explain the difference between a child-like faith and a childish faith. (Mark 10:15. Hebrews 5:11-14)
- 2) What are examples of proper and improper uses of reason in defending the faith?
- 3) Explain what is meant by “Christian Apologetics.” Explain what role reason plays if properly used in Christian apologetics.
- 4) Nature and our conscience testify about God. What do people learn from that testimony?
- 5) What are people unable to learn through nature and conscience?
- 6) Faith is worked only through the gospel. Apologetics cannot create faith or strengthen it. However, it can remove barriers for people to listen to the gospel and can minimize the temptation to accept lies. Relate the video’s example of how Christian apologetics can be properly used to minimize the temptation to accept evolution as truth.

- 7) Explain how Paul properly uses human reasoning in 1 Corinthians 9 & 15 to help explain spiritual truths.
- 8) Explain what the video means when it says, “Human reason and apologetics are not a means of grace.”
- 9) *“When witnessing to unbelievers, the only role of apologetics is to open doors to the gospel.”* What implication does this have for how you will reach out and make disciples of all nations?
- 10) Some Christians attempt to create or strengthen faith by using science to prove that a 6-day recent creation and the Noahic Flood are true. Is that right or wrong? Why?
- 11) Describe the two extreme pitfalls Christians can end up in when it comes to the use of apologetics.
- 12) Apply: Apologetics is sometimes able to remove barriers to the gospel. The video gave the example of a high school student who wondered how a million species of animals could have fit into Noah’s Ark. Does anyone have another example of using apologetics with a believer or with an unbeliever?
- 13) Apologetics can only remove barriers to sharing the gospel message. List some of the key truths of the gospel which must be shared to create and strengthen faith.

Bible Passages —video 4

Peter and Paul used apologetics to clear a path for the gospel.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and spoke loudly and clearly to them: “Men of Judea, and all you residents of Jerusalem, understand this, and listen closely to my words. These men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day.” Acts 2:14-15 (EHV).

“Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men with the same nature as you. We are preaching the good news to you so that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. In past generations he allowed

all the nations to go their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without testimony of the good he does. He gives you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons. He fills you with food and fills your hearts with gladness.”
Acts 14:15-17 (EHV).

Then Paul stood up in front of the council of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. For as I was walking around and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar on which had been inscribed, ‘To an unknown god.’ Now what you worship as unknown—this is what I am going to proclaim to you. “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples made with hands. Neither is he served by human hands, as if he needed anything, since he himself gives all people life and breath and everything they have. From one man, he made every nation of mankind to live over the entire face of the earth. He determined the appointed times and the boundaries where they would live. He did this so they would seek God and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘Indeed, we are also his offspring.’ “Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and planning.” Acts 17:22-29 (EHV).

Natural knowledge of God.

This happens because what can be known about God is evident among them, because God made it evident among them. In fact, his invisible characteristics—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, because they are understood from the things he made. As a result, people are without excuse, because, even though they knew God, they did not honor him or give him thanks as God. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless heart was darkened. Although they claim to be wise, they have become fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human, or like birds, four-footed animals, and crawling things. So, as they followed the sinful desires of their hearts, God handed them over to the impurity of degrading their own bodies among themselves. Such people have traded the truth about God for the lie, worshipping and serving the creation rather than the Creator, who is worthy of praise forever. Amen. Romans 1:19-25 (EHV).

The heavens tell about the glory of God. The expanse of the sky proclaims the work of his hands. Day after day they pour out speech. Night after night they display knowledge. They do not speak. They say no words. Their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, and their word reaches the end of the world. Psalms 19:1-4 (EHV).

In fact, whenever Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature what the law requires—even though they do not have the law—they are a law for themselves. They demonstrate the work of the law that is written in their hearts, since their conscience also bears witness as their thoughts go back and forth, at times accusing or at times even defending them. Romans 2:14-15 (EHV).

We believe creation “by faith.”

By faith we know that the universe was created by God’s word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things. Hebrews 11:3 (EHV).

References —video 4

Video 4 states, “Natural selection, which we will study in this video series, shows how the estimated 40,700 species of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles alive today could have descended from an estimated 627 kinds of those animals on Noah’s Ark. The ark was larger than needed.” The estimated number of species alive today increases constantly as new species are discovered and the definition of species narrows. The number of bird species recently doubled. [Mark Owuor Otieno, “How Many Species of Birds Are There?” WorldAtlas, Nov. 2, 2017. www.LutheranScience.org/WABirdCount (accessed 08-18-21)] [Sophy Owuor Otieno, “How Many Species of Reptiles Are There?” WorldAtlas, Jan. 14, 2019. www.LutheranScience.org/WAreptileCount (accessed 08-18-21)] 7,000 amphibians, 18,000 birds, 5,000 mammals, 10,700 reptiles, 40,700 TOTAL

God sent Noah a pair of each “kind” of animal. It is estimated that there were about 1,373 kinds of animals on the ark. Of those 1,373 kinds, 627 are of the kinds that are still alive today, while 746 are of extinct kinds like dinosaurs. This recent estimate of kinds is from the book, “How Many Animals Were on the Ark” (Craig Froman ed.; Green Forest AR: Master Books) 2016, page 47. Details were published in eight or more technical papers by *Answers Research Journal* between 2011–2015 at <https://answersingenesis.org/answers/research-journal/> (accessed 08-19-21)

Deeper Study —video 4

“Theological Foundations.”

5 minutes to read; pages 8–11 of the [LSI Lesson Book](#) –2nd ed.

“Can Witnessing a Miracle Lead to Faith?”

17 minutes to read; pages 4–14 of the winter 2020 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2020winter.

Video 5 – The Nature of Science

Science generates useful explanations but not final truth. Secular experts in science are unified in that assessment of science.

Primary Points —video 5

- 1) Scientific knowledge is constantly changing. Science produces useful explanations, not final truth.
- 2) While human knowledge constantly changes, including science, God’s knowledge never changes. God never learns anything, since he already knows everything. God’s Word, the Bible, never has to be revised or updated. The Bible is correct in everything it says (Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6; 1 John 3:20; John 10:35; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 Peter 1:23–25).
- 3) Speaking incorrectly about science can harm our gospel ministry. People may wonder, “If this person is wrong about science, are they also wrong about Jesus?”

Discussion —video 5

- 1) What is “science”? Science is not unbiased. Give some examples of how the personal beliefs of a scientist might affect his work.
- 2) “No one is immune from confirmation bias.” -Brian Keating, professor of physics at the University of California. What is “confirmation bias” and how does it affect the scientific process?
- 3) When a theory or law of science no longer explains everything, it is replaced by a new theory or law. What does this say about the fluid state of science?
- 4) Respond: “Religion is always changing.”
- 5) What makes a scientific law or theory regarded as fact?

- 6) What is our level of certainty that any particular theory or law of science is completely true?

- 7) When does a Christian have certainty that a law or theory of science is not true?

- 8) What is our level of certainty that everything in the Bible is completely true? Why? Explain why your certainty does not depend on a consensus from the majority who practice religion.

- 9) Why is it important for us to use scientific terms correctly, to describe the theory of evolution correctly, and to stay within the limits of our scientific knowledge?

- 10) Why should we never say, “Evolution is only a theory—it is not proven”?

- 11) Richard Dawkins, a famous promoter of evolution’s teachings, suggested that evolution is indeed a big leap of faith. He considered the human brain to be predisposed to believe in a creator god (see references below). According to Romans 1:18-23 what platform must someone leap from in order to accept Darwinism?

- 12) “*Science does not generate truth but rather, useful explanations.*” - Dr. Paul Boehlke, a creationist with a doctorate in biology education. How is Darwinism a useful explanation for those who claim to be wise but suppress the truth?

- 13) Some scientists wrongly claim they own the side of truth. If science is based on observation of evidence, not facts what happens to that claim? What can confirmation bias further do to the “truth” derived from science?

14) Jesus makes a similar claim, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (Jn 18:37) How does faith in the eyewitness evidence of his resurrection mean for any other contrary claim of a stronghold on the truth?

Bible Passages —video 5

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Certainly I, the LORD, do not change (Malachi 3:6).

He [God] knows everything (1 John 3:20).

The Scripture cannot be broken (John 10:35).

Your word is truth (John 17:17).

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16).

For you have been born again, not from perishable seed but from imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For: All flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like a flower of the field. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1:23-25 (EHV).

References —video 5

Sources quoted in this video:

Dr. Paul Boehlke, a creationist with his doctorate in biology education, wrote, “Science does not generate truth, but rather, useful explanations.”

[Paul R. Boehlke, “Dinosaurs, God’s Creatures,” *LSI Journal*, 32, no. 4 (fall 2018): 12.]

Video 5 states, “Two leading scientists —both evolutionists —wrote in their college science textbook that ‘Philosophers of science...generally agree that...a scientific approach cannot generate truth.’ This science textbook also teaches that science ‘is a human venture’ where scientists bring their personal biases into their science. These evolutionists even write that science may not ‘result in the absolute, final truth on anything.’” The two evolutionists quoted are David Hurst Thomas, Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and Robert L. Kelly, past president of the Society of American Archaeology. These bios are from the back cover of their book. Their book approvingly teaches Darwinian evolution on pages 379-380. On page 42 they write: “Although philosophers of science rarely agree on many points, they do generally agree that (1) there is no single right way to do science and (2) a scientific approach cannot generate truth.” Again, on page 42 they write: “The scientific process is often not explicit. And since science is a human venture, it is subject to false starts, dead ends, preconceived notions, and cultural biases. ...Science is unavoidably embedded in the scientist’s culture and hardly free of cultural biases.” On page 43 they write: “Science offers no ironclad assurance that application of its methods will necessarily result in the absolute, final truth on

anything; rather, scientists claim only that scientific methods provide a means to determine, more or less, whether the evidence favors the validity of a hypothesis.”

[David Hurst Thomas and Robert L. Kelly, *Archaeology*, 4th ed., (Belmont, CA: Thompson, 2006).]

Video 5 quotes a professor of physics at the University of California. He discusses “confirmation bias,” where a scientist chooses observations, calculations, and conclusions that support his favorite ideas, and minimizes other possibilities. He writes,

No one is immune from confirmation bias. And scientists, despite what you may think, are rarely mere gatherers of facts, dispassionately following data wherever it may lead. Scientists are human, often too human.

[Brian Keating, *Losing the Nobel Prize - a story of cosmology, ambition, and the perils of science's highest honor* (New York: Norton & Company, 2018) 5.]

An example of evolutionists speaking frankly about evolution and the truth of its claims is found in a college textbook on evolution. After discussing whether or not evolution follows the scientific method, the author concludes with the amazing words, “Biologists continue to undertake evolutionary investigations ...whether the methodology is philosophically correct or not.” The context of this quote is,

Nevertheless, crucial as these philosophical objections appear, they have not much influenced the practice of evolutionists. Like studies in geology and astronomy, biologists continue to undertake evolutionary investigations and continue to propose hypotheses despite these objections. Part of the reason for this is simply the profound recognition by “curious” humans that the past has influenced the present, and that an understanding of the past is a highly desirable and satisfying goal, whether the methodology is philosophically correct or not.

[Monroe W. Strickberger, *Evolution*, 2nd ed. (London: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 1996), 16.]

Richard Dawkins wrote that he is “satisfied” to have an “implausible theory” of evolution, The theory that we seek, of the origin of life on this planet, should therefore positively not be a plausible theory! If it were, life should be common in the galaxy. Maybe it is common, in which case a plausible theory is what we want. But we have no evidence that life exists outside this planet, and at very least we are entitled to be satisfied with an implausible theory.

[Richard Dawkins, *The Greatest Show on Earth—The Evidence for Evolution*, hardcover ed. (New York NY: Free Press, 2009), 422.]

Richard Dawkins wrote “our brains seem predisposed to resist Darwinism” and evolution is “a leap of imagination so large, that to this day, many people seem unwilling to make it.”

A third respect in which our brains seem predisposed to resist Darwinism stems from our great success as creative designers. Our world is dominated by feats of engineering and works of art. We are entirely accustomed to the idea that complex elegance is an indicator of premediated, crafted design. This is probably the most powerful reason for the belief, held by the vast majority of the people who have ever lived, in some kind of supernatural deity. It took a very large leap of imagination for Darwin and Wallace to see that, contrary to all intuition, there is another way and, once you have understood it, a far more plausible way, for complex “design” to arise out of primeval simplicity. A leap of imagination so large that, to this day, many people seem unwilling to make it. It is the main purpose of this book to help the reader make this leap.

[Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, 2nd ed. (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1996), xix. Note: The first edition was in 1986.]

Deeper Study —video 5

“What is Science?”

“Is There a ‘Scientific Method’?”

“Is There Truth in Science?”

15 minutes to read; pages 5–14 of the winter 2021 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2021winter>

“The Nature of Science.”

6 minutes to read; pages 12–17 of the [LSI Lesson Book](#) –2nd ed.

Video 6 – A Christian Response

We should question the unprovable assumptions that direct and constrain all science including evolution.

Primary Points —video 6

The following points build on each other, leading to an excellent creation apologetic method: questioning the unprovable assumptions of evolutionists.

- 1) All science, including evolutionary science, is built on assumptions—on unproven beliefs.
- 2) The starting assumptions of evolutionists require that creation be rejected. Creation is rejected not on the basis of scientific conclusions, but on the basis of unprovable presuppositions.
- 3) Three primary, unprovable presuppositions of evolutionists are: “No Creator,” “No Flood,” and “Deep time,” meaning millions of years.
- 4) We know from Scripture that all three of these assumptions are false. Every conclusion based on a false assumption is considered invalid, so the theory of evolution is invalid.
- 5) Pointing out the assumptions of evolutionists is a strong apologetic statement, and one that is relatively easy to make. On the other hand, pointing out scientific problems with evolution is often more difficult and is more easily countered by the evolutionist.

Discussion —video 6

- 1) Christians should be upfront about the assumptions they use. Identify one important assumption from Hebrews 11:3.
- 2) All science is built on assumptions—on unproven beliefs. Identify some popular assumptions held by many scientists today. Describe some ways that these unproven presuppositions control the entire scientific process.
- 3) In video 2 we learned that science assumes natural causes. Science does not allow even the possibility of miraculous causes. Our videos call this rejection of miracles the “No Creator” assumption. Describe the other unproven assumptions mentioned in the video.

- 4) What does Scripture tell us about each of these three assumptions (“No Creator,” “No Flood,” and “Deep Time”)? (Compare with Genesis 1–2, 6–11; Exodus 20:11, 31:17; 2 Peter 2:5; Luke 3:23–38)

- 5) Evolutionary ideas such as the universe being over 13 billion years old are based on the three false assumptions listed above. What happens to evolutionary ideas if just one of its three main assumptions is wrong?

- 6) Apply: Your neighbor says that science has proven miracles never happen, so all the miracles in the Bible are just fables. How might you respond?

- 7) Science can be used to say there was a man named Jesus from Nazareth in the first century who made a profound impact on the world. If the science is based off common scientific assumptions, what will it have to conclude about that man Jesus of Nazareth? If a believer has the assumption that there is a God who can do miracles and who can raise the dead, what will that believer conclude about the same Jesus?

- 8) “We do not know the process that transformed a mishmash of chemicals into a living cell, with all its staggering complexity.” - Paul Davies, world-renowned evolutionist. What false assumptions have left Davies with his disquieting uncertainty?

- 9) Agree or Disagree: “Most evolutionist are painfully aware of their own assumptions. But many who follow them don’t pause to consider those assumptions.”

- 10) Which is a better approach for you to respond to evolutionist: pointing out their assumptions or pointing out specific scientific problems from confirmation bias?

- 11) Mark Twain said “It’s not what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.” How does this truth apply to Christian apologetics?

- 12) Review: what is the end goal of Christian apologetics?

Bible Passages —video 6

Assumption: A recent 6-day creation.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1 (EHV).

Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11 (EHV).

The LORD spoke to Moses. He said, “Speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths diligently, because the Sabbath is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who sets you apart as holy. So you shall observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must certainly be put to death, for if anyone does any work on the Sabbath, his life shall be cut off from among his people. On six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must certainly be put to death. Therefore, the people of Israel shall observe the Sabbath by keeping the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a permanent sign between me and the people of Israel, for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’ Exodus 31:12-17 (EHV)

Assumption: The Flood.

I myself am about to bring a flood of waters on the earth, in order to destroy all flesh under the sky that has the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will die, but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. You shall bring a pair (male and female) of every kind of living flesh into the ark with you to keep them alive. Include the birds according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, every creeping thing on the ground according to their kinds. Two of every sort shall come to you, so you can keep them alive. Genesis 6:17-20 (EHV).

God did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, along with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of ungodly people. 2 Peter 2:5 (EHV).

Biblical genealogies.

Biblical genealogies show the world is only thousands of years old, not millions or billions. One would have to insert more than twenty-thousand additional generations into the Biblical genealogies to reach even a few million years.

This is the account about the development of Adam’s family: In the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them, and on the

day they were created, he named them “mankind.” Adam lived 130 years, and he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his own image, and he named him Seth. The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were 800 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days that Adam lived were 930 years. Then he died. Seth lived 105 years, and he became the father of Enosh. Seth lived 807 years after he became the father of Enosh, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Seth were 912 years. Then he died. Enosh lived 90 years, and he became the father of Kenan. Enosh lived 815 years after he became the father of Kenan, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Enosh were 905 years. Then he died. Kenan lived 70 years, and he became the father of Mahalalel. Kenan lived 840 years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Kenan were 910 years. Then he died. Mahalalel lived 65 years, and he became the father of Jared. Mahalalel lived 830 years after he became the father of Jared, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Mahalalel were 895 years. Then he died. Jared lived 162 years, and he became the father of Enoch. Jared lived 800 years after he became the father of Enoch, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Jared were 962 years. Then he died. Enoch lived 65 years, and he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God. Then, he was not there, for God took him. Methuselah lived 187 years, and he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Methuselah were 969 years. Then he died. Lamech lived 182 years and became the father of a son. He named him Noah and said, “This one will bring us comfort during our work and the hard labor that we must perform with our hands because the LORD has cursed the soil.” Lamech lived 595 years after he became father of Noah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Lamech were 777 years. Then he died. Noah was 500 years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Genesis 5:1-32 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Genesis 5:3, “Adam’s children were not born innocent, as Adam had been before he fell into sin. They were born sinful, as Adam had become. Adam’s image and likeness was sinful.”

This is the account about the development of the family of Shem. Shem was 100 years old and became the father of Arphaxad two years after the flood. Shem lived 500 years after he became the father of Arphaxad, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Arphaxad lived 35 years and became the father of Shelah. Arphaxad lived 403 years after he became the father of Shelah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Shelah lived 30 years and became the father of Eber. Shelah lived 403 years after he became the father of Eber, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Eber lived 34 years and became the father of Peleg. Eber lived 430 years after he became the father of Peleg, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Peleg lived 30 years and became the father of Reu. Peleg lived 209 years after he became the father of Reu, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Reu lived 32 years and became the father of Serug. Reu lived 207 years after he became the father of Serug, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Serug lived 30 years and became the father of Nahor. Serug lived 200 years after he became the father of Nahor, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Nahor lived 29 years and became the father of Terah. Nahor lived 119 years after he became the father of Terah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Terah lived 70 years and became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now this is the account about the development of the family of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran became the father of Lot. Haran died before his father Terah. He died in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and

Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, who was also the father of Iscah. Sarai was barren. She had no child. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot, who was the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, who was the wife of his son Abram, and they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and lived there. The days of Terah were 205 years. Terah died in Haran. Genesis 11:10-32 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Genesis 11:26, "If this genealogy from Shem to Terah includes every generation, it does not seem to allow enough time between Shem and Terah for the historical developments that are known to have taken place during this period and for the development of the historical setting of the life of Abraham. Genealogies often do have gaps in them, but there is no clear evidence for inserting gaps into a genealogy with this format."

Solomon's son was Rehoboam, Abijah was his son, Asa was his son, Jehoshaphat was his son, Joram was his son, Ahaziah was his son, Joash was his son, Amaziah was his son, Azariah was his son, Jotham was his son, Ahaz was his son, Hezekiah was his son, Manasseh was his son, Amon was his son, and Josiah was his son. The sons of Josiah were his firstborn Johanan, his second Jehoiakim, his third Zedekiah, and his fourth Shallum. The sons of Jehoiakim were his son Jeconiah and his son Zedekiah. The sons of Jeconiah the captive were Shealtiel his son, also Malkiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. The sons of Pedaiah were Zerubbabel and Shimei. The sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam and Hananiah. Shelomith was their sister. Also five others: Hashubah, Ohel, Berekiyah, Hasadiah, and Jushab Hesed. The sons of Hananiah were Pelatiah and Jeshaiyah as well as the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, and the sons of Shekaniah. The sons of Shekaniah were Shemaiah, Hattush, Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat, six in all. The sons of Neariah were Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three in all. The sons of Elioenai were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pedaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani, seven in all. 1 Chronicles 3:10-24 (EHV).

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram. Joram was the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Achim. Achim was the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, from whom Jesus was born (who is called Christ). So altogether there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile to Christ. Matthew 1:1-17 (EHV)

The EHV Study Bible comments on Matthew 1:16,

“Matthew’s genealogy apparently traces the legal ancestry of Jesus through his stepfather or adoptive father, Joseph, the husband of Mary. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus (1:20). Nevertheless, according to the legal reckoning of his ancestry, Jesus was the heir of David’s throne. Luke 3:23-38 apparently records the genealogy of Jesus through his mother Mary, but this opinion is not certain.”

The EHV Study Bible comments on Matthew 1:17,

“This genealogy has three parts of fourteen generations each. It does not attempt to or claim to include every generation. The purpose is to demonstrate that Jesus was the legal successor of King David and Abraham. God kept his promises of sending the Savior.”

Jesus was the son (so it was thought) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Malaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. Luke 3:23-38 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Luke 3:23,

“Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus Christ, apparently through his mother Mary, all the way back to Adam. Matthew 1:1-17 apparently traces the legal ancestry of Jesus through his stepfather or adoptive father, Joseph, all the way back to Abraham. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus (Matthew 1:20), yet the text here indicates that it was thought that he was. Another theory about the two genealogies is that Matthew gives the legal genealogy of the royal family, and that Luke names the actual ancestors of Joseph.”

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about these people, saying, “Look, the Lord is going to come with tens of thousands of his holy ones Jude 1:14 (EHV).

References —video 6

Sources quoted in this video:

Atheist, evolutionist, and Nobel Laureate Francis Crick agrees that assumptions guide the scientific process. He calls these assumptions “preconceived ideas.” This is the world-famous Crick, who along with Watson discovered the molecular structure of DNA. Crick writes, “You cannot successfully pursue a difficult program of scientific research without some preconceived ideas to guide you. Thus, loosely speaking, you ‘believe’ in such ideas.”

[Francis Crick, *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Scientific Search for the Soul*, (New York: Touchstone, 1994), 257.]

Amazingly, even though evolutionists believe non-living chemicals could naturally make life, they have no idea how it happened. World-renowned evolutionist Paul Davies wrote in the September 2016 issue *Scientific American* magazine,

We do not know the process that transformed a mishmash of chemicals into a living cell, with all its staggering complexity. ...We are almost as much in the dark today about the pathway from nonlife to life as Charles Darwin was when he wrote, “It is mere rubbish thinking at present of the origin of life; one might as well think of the origin of matter.”

[Paul Davies, “Many Planets Not Much Life: We Still Have No Idea How Easy It Is for Life to Arise—And It May Be Incredibly Difficult,” in Forum: Commentary on Science in the News from the Experts, *Scientific American*, September 2016, 8.]

Deeper Study —video 6

“Web of Belief,” Does God Exist?” “No Creator Assumption.”

14 minutes to read; pages 15–23 of the winter 2021 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2021winter>

“A Lutheran Response.” 5 minutes to read; pages 18–20 of the [*LSI Lesson Book*](#) –2nd ed.

Video 7 – Natural Selection

Natural selection produces new species, but always within their own kind.

Primary Points —video 7

- 1) Evolution is a mixture of reality and fabrication. There is truth in evolution. Parts of natural selection are true. Evolutionists often use these true parts of evolution as evidence that the false parts of evolution are also true.
- 2) The difference between “species” and “kind.”
- 3) A true part of evolution is that natural selection produces new species of plants and animals. A false part of evolution is the claim that natural selection also produces new kinds of plants and animals.
- 4) Beyond the Bible, there are also logical problems with the thought that new kinds can naturally develop.

Discussion —video 7

- 1) What is the difference between the scientific word “species” and the biblical word “kind”?
- 2) What is “natural selection”?
- 3) Why can we be certain that dinosaurs are not the ancestors of birds?
- 4) How does natural selection demonstrate that parts of evolution are true and other parts of evolution are false?
- 5) Science is based on the observation of evidence. What is a logical problem with the claim that natural selection can produce *new kinds* of plants and animals?

- 6) Apply: Your daughter asks you how all the animals fit into Noah's Ark, because her high school biology teacher said that a million species could never fit. How would you reply? *(Hints: Recall the proper understanding and definition of species and kind. Remember the videos use of "Pizzly Bear" and "Grolar Bear" as you form your explanation.)*
- 7) Review: Why will explaining a biblical understanding of natural selection not create faith? What is needed to create and strengthen faith? What purpose can Christian apologetics serve?
- 8) Explain how the Biblical view of humanity and our history gives a truly satisfactory basis to put all human races on an equal podium and eliminate racist ideas about ethnic groups. How does the fall into sin and the redemption of Christ further put all humans on the same boat and tie us all together?

Bible Passages —video 7

A recent 6-day creation by kind.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1 (EHV).

God said, "Let the waters swarm with living creatures, and let birds and other winged creatures fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky." God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their own kind, and every winged bird according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them when he said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the waters of the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." There was evening and there was morning—the fifth day. God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind," and it was so. God made the wild animals according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:20-25 (EHV).

Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11 (EHV).

The LORD spoke to Moses. He said, “Speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths diligently, because the Sabbath is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who sets you apart as holy. So you shall observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must certainly be put to death, for if anyone does any work on the Sabbath, his life shall be cut off from among his people. On six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must certainly be put to death. Therefore, the people of Israel shall observe the Sabbath by keeping the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a permanent sign between me and the people of Israel, for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’ Exodus 31:12-17 (EHV)

References —video 7

Sources quoted in this video:

Natural selection is an important scientific discovery. It helps us better understand how a small number of biblical kinds became many species. It helps us better understand how the estimated 40,700 species of amphibians, birds, mammals, and reptiles alive today could have descended from an estimated 627 kinds of those animals on Noah’s Ark.

The estimated number of species alive today increases constantly as new species are discovered and the definition of species narrows. The number of bird species recently doubled.

[Mark Owuor Otieno, “How Many Species of Birds Are There?” WorldAtlas, Nov. 2, 2017. www.LutheranScience.org/WAbirdCount (accessed 5-12-20)]

[Sophy Owuor Otieno, “How Many Species of Reptiles Are There?” WorldAtlas, Jan. 14, 2019. www.LutheranScience.org/WAreptileCount (accessed 5-12-20)]

7,000 amphibians, 18,000 birds, 5,000 mammals, 10,700 reptiles, 40,700 TOTAL

God sent Noah a pair of each “kind” of animal. It is estimated that there were about 1,373 kinds of animals on the ark. Of those 1,373 kinds, 627 are of the kinds that are still alive today, while 746 are of extinct kinds like dinosaurs. This recent estimate of kinds is from the book, “How Many Animals Were on the Ark” (Craig Froman ed.; Green Forest AR: Master Books) 2016, page 47. Details were published in eight or more technical papers by *Answers Research Journal* between 2011–2015 at <https://answersingenesis.org/answers/research-journal/>

Deeper Study —video 7

“Tree of Life” through “Punctuated Equilibrium.”

7 minutes to read; pages 24–28 of the winter 2021 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2021winter>

“Glossary for the Creationist.”

5 minutes to read; pages 6–8 of the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring>

“Natural Selection.”

5 minutes to read; pages 21–23 of the [LSI Lesson Book](#) –2nd ed.

Optional—for more details about natural selection:

See pages 25-31 in the fall 2016 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2016fall>

Optional—for those who wish to learn more about Noah's Ark:

See pages 4-29 in the fall 2020 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2020fall>

Video 8 – Can a Fish Transform into a Human?

This video further develops the topic in video 7 with additional examples.

Primary Points —video 8

- 1) Review: Evolutionists commonly use the true parts of evolution as proof that the false parts are also true. Natural selection producing new species within their own kind is commonly used as proof that natural selection also produces new kinds.
- 2) Evolutionists correctly point out that natural selection produces new species within their kind. Then they ask us to *imagine* that natural selection can also produce new kinds.
- 3) Contrast evolution’s tree of life with the creationist forest of life. Evolutionists take the forest of life (reality) and combine all the trees into a single tree (fabrication).
- 4) Discuss “punctuated equilibrium” and how it shows that evolutionists admit they have way too few (if any) fossils of creatures transitioning between one biblical kind and another.
- 5) Creationists and evolutionists often agree. There is much agreement about how natural selection changes plants and animals over generations.

Discussion —video 8

- 1) Review: What term is used in Genesis (e.g. Gen 1:11) for the natural boundaries of reproduction across all plants and animals?
- 2) Evolutionists like Richard Dawkins are correct when they describe the evidence of adaptations and changes for different types of plants and varieties of animals which we can observe today (within kinds). Describe how they manipulate that evidence as support for evolution (producing new kinds).
- 3) “Truth is not decided by majority vote.” Consensus in the scientific community is the determining factor for how evidence is supposed to be interpreted. Review: What three main biases will lead many scientists as they form their conclusions? What would happen if we based all truth off of the consensus of the majority despite their biases?

- 4) Creationists have a tree of life for each “kind” of plant and animal. Each “species” has its own branch on the tree for its kind. Evolutionists have a single tree of life with all plants and animals on the same tree. Each biblical kind has its own branch on the evolutionist’s tree of life. The place where the branches of two biblical kinds meet is where evolutionists place the common ancestor for those two biblical kinds. Question: Describe the type of creature that evolutionists propose as the ancestor of two biblical kinds, the creature they place where the branches of two biblical kinds meet.

- 5) What is “punctuated equilibrium” and why does it show weakness in the evolutionary idea that all plants and animals descended from the first life form?

- 6) Apply: You and your neighbor discuss a PBS science show that gave many examples of evolution, such as fish changing color over generations due to predators. Your neighbor sees this as proof that the biblical creation account is just a myth and that the Bible is not worth reading. How might you respond?

- 7) “There’s a world of difference between facts and truth. Facts can obscure the truth.” -Maya Angelou, American poet. Explain what this quote means and how it applies to the method used to support Darwinism.

- 8) The argument of micro-evolution (change within kinds) turns on its head when your presuppositions are different. Contrary to supporting evolution, natural selection within kinds can be used as evidence to support the scriptural view of creation. What does the incredible level of adaptability within each kind of plant and animal say about the Creator? (cf. Psalm 104:24)

Bible Passages —video 8

A recent 6-day creation by kind.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1 (EHV).

God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their own kind, livestock, creeping things, and wild animals according to their own kind,” and it was so. God made the wild animals

according to their own kind, and the livestock according to their own kind, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its own kind. God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24–25 (EHV).

Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11 (EHV).

The LORD spoke to Moses. He said, “Speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths diligently, because the Sabbath is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who sets you apart as holy. So you shall observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must certainly be put to death, for if anyone does any work on the Sabbath, his life shall be cut off from among his people. On six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must certainly be put to death. Therefore, the people of Israel shall observe the Sabbath by keeping the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a permanent sign between me and the people of Israel, for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’ Exodus 31:12-17 (EHV)

References —video 8

Sources quoted in this video:

Richard Dawkins explains why we should believe that evolution can “transform a fish into a human.” He writes,

Think about the difference between any one breed of dog and any other, for that is on average double the amount of change that has been wrought, by artificial selection, from the common ancestor. Bear in mind this order of evolutionary change, and then extrapolate backwards twenty-thousand times as far into the past. It becomes rather easy to accept that evolution could accomplish the amount of change that it took to transform a fish into a human.

[Richard Dawkins, *The Greatest Show on Earth—The Evidence for Evolution*, hardcover ed. (New York: Free Press, 2009), 82.]

In his *Greatest Show* book, Dawkins details many reasons why evolution can “transform a fish into a human.” Most of his reasons are change within the biblical kind. Here are changes within kind that are mentioned in our video, along with their page number in Dawkin’s book:

Natural selection can sometimes increase, and sometimes decrease, the coloration of male guppies (pages 133-139).

Wild mustard has been cultivated into cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, Brussels sprouts, collard greens, savoy, kohlrabi, and other vegetables (pages 27, 42, 81).

Wolves were bred into many dog breeds (pages 27-37, 42).

Race horses and greyhounds were bred for “athletic prowess” (page 38).

Dogs have been bred to have sheep-herding skills (page 39).

Cows have been bred for larger milk production (page 39).

Wild roses were bred into the roses we know today (pages 45-46).

Wild sunflowers were bred into the sunflowers we know today (page 46).

Foxes have been bred to be dog-like (pages 73-76).

Elephant tusk weight decreased due to poaching (pages 111-113).

Lizards on an island underwent change but were still lizards (pages 113-116).

Most of Dawkins' evidence simply shows natural selection producing change within kind and, in this area, Dawkins is correct. Natural selection really does produce change within kind. What evidence does Dawkins provide as proof that natural selection can produce new biblical kinds? He repeatedly asks that we imagine that natural selection can produce new kinds. Here are the three examples from our video. These expanded quotes show what Dawkins claims in a larger context.

Dawkins asks us to “imagine” that rabbits and leopards both descended from shrew-like creatures in the following “thought experiment,”

It is no wonder that Adam's first task, in the Genesis myth, was to give all the animals names. ...On the “population-thinking” evolutionary view, every animal is linked to every other animal, say rabbit to leopard, by a chain of intermediates, each so similar to the next that every link could in principle mate with its neighbors. ...It is not some vague thought-experiment confined to the imagination. On the evolutionary view there really is a series of intermediate animals connecting a rabbit to a leopard, every one of whom lived and breathed. ...Take a rabbit...place her mother next to her. Now place the grandmother next to the mother and so on back in time, back, back, back through the megayears, a seemingly endless line of female rabbits, each one sandwiched between her daughter and her mother. ...Steadily and imperceptibly, as we retreat through time, we shall reach ancestors that look less and less like a rabbit and more and more like a shrew (and not very like either). One of these creatures I'll call the hairpin bend, for reasons that will become apparent. This animal is the most recent common ancestor (in the female line, but that is not important) that rabbits share with leopards. We don't know exactly what it looked like, but it follows from the evolutionary view that it definitely had to exist. ...We now continue our walk, except we have turned the bend in the hairpin and are walking forwards in time, aiming towards the leopards. Each shrew-like animal along our forward walk is now followed by her daughter. Slowly, by imperceptible degrees, the shrew-like animals will change, ...until eventually, without ever noticing an abrupt change of any kind, we arrive at a leopard. Various things must be said about this thought experiment. First, we happen to have chosen to walk from rabbit to leopard, but I repeat that we could have chosen porcupine to dolphin, wallaby to giraffe, or human to haddock (pages 23-25).

Dawkins tells us to, “think what might be achieved in ten or a hundred million years.” He writes,

What lessons do we learn from the domestication of the dog? First, the great variety among breeds of dogs, from Great Danes to Yorkies, from Scotties to Airedales, from ridgebacks to dachshunds, from whippets to St Bernards, demonstrates how easy it is for the non-random selection of genes—the “carving and whittling” of gene pools—to produce truly dramatic changes in anatomy and behaviour, and so fast. ...If so much evolutionary change can be achieved in just a few centuries or even decades, just think what might be achieved in ten or a hundred million years (pages 36-37).

Dawkins asks, “Why shouldn’t” it be possible?

If human breeders can transform a wolf into a Pekinese, or a wild cabbage into a cauliflower, in just a few centuries or millennia, why shouldn’t the non-random survival of wild animals and plants do the same thing over millions of years? (pages 42).

Deeper Study —video 8

“Evolution’s Tree of Life.”

3 minutes to read; pages 28–29 of the winter 2016 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2016winter>.

“Punctuated Equilibrium.”

5 minutes to read; pages 28–30 of the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring>

“Evolutionists and Creationists Often Agree.”

24 minutes to read; pages 17–32 of the spring 2019 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2019spring>

“Some Truth in Evolution.”

“Evidence for Evolution.”

3 minutes to read; pages 24–25 of the [LSI Lesson Book](#) –2nd ed.

Video 9 – Dating Methods

Fossils and Dating Methods

—Videos 9 and 10, just like 7 and 8, show that evolution is a mixture of reality and fabrication. There is truth in evolution. The geologic column exists and has 12 layers. Even dating methods give us very useful information on the age of certain things. Evolutionists often use these true parts of the evolution story as evidence that the false parts of evolution are also true.

Dating methods give very useful information on the age of certain things. Evolutionists go beyond that, and use unprovable assumptions that lead to ages of billions of years.

Primary Points —video 9

- 1) Carbon dating is not used to date rocks. It is used to estimate the age of things that were once living, such as bones, shells, and wood. Evolutionists use carbon dating for ages they expect to be between 100 and 50,000 years.
- 2) For rocks that cooled from liquid magma (from a volcano or cooling deep underground) estimated ages are obtained using other dating methods such as radioactive potassium-40 that decays, or breaks apart, into decay products.
- 3) All dating methods are based on unprovable presuppositions. Evolutionists are aware that some of their presuppositions are often false, so they put great effort into minimizing errors due to false assumptions. Even so, they admit that their assumptions are unprovable and commonly false.
- 4) Dating methods are useful tools. We can estimate actual ages of up to several thousand years for once living material (wood, bones, shells, peat, etc.). We can estimate relative ages of some kinds of rocks, learning which rock may be older than another. But evolutionists go beyond this, using many unprovable assumptions including “deep time” (millions of years) and “no worldwide flood.” These assumptions lead to calculated carbon dating ages of up to 50,000 years for organic matter. These assumptions lead to calculated rock ages of millions and billions of years instead of relative ages.

Discussion —video 9

- 1) Review: Why does a Christian have the assumption the earth is relatively young at only a few thousand years old?
- 2) Review: What biases do evolutionist have when determining the date of something? How will a Christian’s assumptions differ when determining the date of something?

- 3) What method is often used to date things that were once living (bones, teeth, clam shells, wood)? What are some unprovable assumptions with that dating method?

- 4) One possible problem with the carbon dating method is that God created the world with a very different ratio of radioactive carbon C-14. If that were true what would happen to all the calculated ages of things that lived nearer to the time of creation?

- 5) How is volcanic rock dated? What are at least two unprovable assumptions with that dating method?

- 6) Review: Why is it important that Christians don't compromise and accept the world to be dated at billions of years instead of thousands of years old?

- 7) Carbon dating methods can have some indications of age which are reliable for a few thousand years back in time. And we can compare the relative ages of rocks between different rocks with a good degree of certainty. There is some partial truth and usable evidence with common dating methods. Review: Recall we mentioned three big assumptions held by evolutionists. Which two of those big assumptions lead evolutionists to a biased conclusion beyond the reliable boundaries of dating methods?

- 8) There is an indication in Scripture that the world was vastly changed after the great flood (e.g. "waters of the deep" were opened at the flood and rainbows formed with clouds afterwards, Genesis 9:12-16.) Our world may have been altered in atmosphere, changes in pressure, and many other cataclysmic events. If that were the case how would that further impact dating methods?

- 9) Apply: Your Christian family is watching a National Geographic special which indicates that a certain archeological dig has artifacts which are 5.79 million years old. Why might it be a good practice to interject and counter what the narrator says at that point? What might you say to your family to help them understand the biased dating methods?
- 10) Apply: You mention a Bible passage about Jesus to your atheist neighbor. He replies “Scientific dating proves the earth is 4.5 billion years old. Why should I believe anything the Bible says?” There are many ways to respond. What would you say?

Bible Passages —video 9

Biblical genealogies.

Biblical genealogies show the world is only thousands of years old, not millions or billions. One would have to insert more than twenty-thousand additional generations into the Biblical genealogies to reach even a few million years.

This is the account about the development of Adam’s family: In the day that God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them, and on the day they were created, he named them “mankind.” Adam lived 130 years, and he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his own image, and he named him Seth. The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were 800 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days that Adam lived were 930 years. Then he died. Seth lived 105 years, and he became the father of Enosh. Seth lived 807 years after he became the father of Enosh, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Seth were 912 years. Then he died. Enosh lived 90 years, and he became the father of Kenan. Enosh lived 815 years after he became the father of Kenan, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Enosh were 905 years. Then he died. Kenan lived 70 years, and he became the father of Mahalalel. Kenan lived 840 years after he became the father of Mahalalel, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Kenan were 910 years. Then he died. Mahalalel lived 65 years, and he became the father of Jared. Mahalalel lived 830 years after he became the father of Jared, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Mahalalel were 895 years. Then he died. Jared lived 162 years, and he became the father of Enoch. Jared lived 800 years after he became the father of Enoch, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Jared were 962 years. Then he died. Enoch lived 65 years, and he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God. Then, he was not there, for God took him. Methuselah lived 187 years, and he became the father of Lamech. After he became the father of Lamech, Methuselah lived 782 years, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Methuselah were 969 years. Then he died. Lamech lived 182 years and became the father of a son. He named him Noah and said, “This one will bring us comfort during our work and the hard labor that we must perform with our hands because the LORD has cursed the soil.” Lamech lived 595 years after he became father of Noah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. All the days of Lamech were 777 years.

Then he died. Noah was 500 years old, and Noah became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Genesis 5:1-32 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Genesis 5:3,

“Adam’s children were not born innocent, as Adam had been before he fell into sin. They were born sinful, as Adam had become. Adam’s image and likeness was sinful.”

This is the account about the development of the family of Shem. Shem was 100 years old and became the father of Arphaxad two years after the flood. Shem lived 500 years after he became the father of Arphaxad, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Arphaxad lived 35 years and became the father of Shelah. Arphaxad lived 403 years after he became the father of Shelah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Shelah lived 30 years and became the father of Eber. Shelah lived 403 years after he became the father of Eber, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Eber lived 34 years and became the father of Peleg. Eber lived 430 years after he became the father of Peleg, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Peleg lived 30 years and became the father of Reu. Peleg lived 209 years after he became the father of Reu, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Reu lived 32 years and became the father of Serug. Reu lived 207 years after he became the father of Serug, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Serug lived 30 years and became the father of Nahor. Serug lived 200 years after he became the father of Nahor, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Nahor lived 29 years and became the father of Terah. Nahor lived 119 years after he became the father of Terah, and he became the father of sons and daughters. Terah lived 70 years and became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Now this is the account about the development of the family of Terah. Terah became the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran became the father of Lot. Haran died before his father Terah. He died in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife was Milcah, the daughter of Haran, who was also the father of Iscah. Sarai was barren. She had no child. Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot, who was the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, who was the wife of his son Abram, and they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan. They came to Haran and lived there. The days of Terah were 205 years. Terah died in Haran. Genesis 11:10-32 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Genesis 11:26,

“If this genealogy from Shem to Terah includes every generation, it does not seem to allow enough time between Shem and Terah for the historical developments that are known to have taken place during this period and for the development of the historical setting of the life of Abraham. Genealogies often do have gaps in them, but there is no clear evidence for inserting gaps into a genealogy with this format.”

Solomon’s son was Rehoboam, Abijah was his son, Asa was his son, Jehoshaphat was his son, Joram was his son, Ahaziah was his son, Joash was his son, Amaziah was his son, Azariah was his son, Jotham was his son, Ahaz was his son, Hezekiah was his son, Manasseh was his son, Amon was his son, and Josiah was his son. The sons of Josiah were his firstborn Johanan, his second Jehoiakim, his third Zedekiah, and his fourth Shallum. The sons of Jehoiakim were his son Jeconiah and his son Zedekiah. The sons of Jeconiah the captive were Shealtiel his son, also Malkiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama, and Nedabiah. The sons of Pedaiah were Zerubbabel and Shimei. The sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam and Hananiah. Shelomith was their sister. Also five others: Hashubah, Ohel, Berekiyah, Hasadiah, and Jushab Hesed. The sons of Hananiah were Pelatiah and Jeshaiyah as well as the sons of Rephaiah, the sons of Arnan, the sons of Obadiah, and the sons of Shekariah. The sons of Shekariah were Shemaiah, Hattush,

Igal, Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat, six in all. The sons of Neariah were Elioenai, Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three in all. The sons of Elioenai were Hodaviah, Eliashib, Pellaiah, Akkub, Johanan, Delaiah, and Anani, seven in all. 1 Chronicles 3:10-24 (EHV).

A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa. Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram. Joram was the father of Uzziah. Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Achim. Achim was the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the father of Jesus, the husband of Mary, from whom Jesus was born (who is called Christ). So altogether there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian exile to Christ. Matthew 1:1-17 (EHV)

The EHV Study Bible comments on Matthew 1:16,

“Matthew’s genealogy apparently traces the legal ancestry of Jesus through his stepfather or adoptive father, Joseph, the husband of Mary. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus (1:20). Nevertheless, according to the legal reckoning of his ancestry, Jesus was the heir of David’s throne. Luke 3:23-38 apparently records the genealogy of Jesus through his mother Mary, but this opinion is not certain.”

The EHV Study Bible comments on Matthew 1:17,

“This genealogy has three parts of fourteen generations each. It does not attempt to or claim to include every generation. The purpose is to demonstrate that Jesus was the legal successor of King David and Abraham. God kept his promises of sending the Savior.”

Jesus was the son (so it was thought) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of

Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Malaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. Luke 3:23-38 (EHV).

The EHV Study Bible comments at Luke 3:23,

“Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus Christ, apparently through his mother Mary, all the way back to Adam. Matthew 1:1-17 apparently traces the legal ancestry of Jesus through his stepfather or adoptive father, Joseph, all the way back to Abraham. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus (Matthew 1:20), yet the text here indicates that it was thought that he was. Another theory about the two genealogies is that Matthew gives the legal genealogy of the royal family, and that Luke names the actual ancestors of Joseph.”

Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied about these people, saying, “Look, the Lord is going to come with tens of thousands of his holy ones Jude 1:14 (EHV).

References —video 9

Sources quoted in this video:

Evolutionists admit that their dating assumptions are unprovable and commonly false. A dating lab writes,

There is not a reliable way to determine if the assumptions are valid. Argon loss and excess argon are two common problems that may cause erroneous ages to be determined. [New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources, “New Mexico Geochronology Research Laboratory K/Ar and 40Ar/39Ar Methods,” New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, (accessed 8-20-21): <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/labs/argon/methods/home.html>]

Deeper Study —video 9

“Greenland Ice Dating” and “No Flood.”

2 minutes to read; pages 23–24 of the winter 2021 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2021winter>

“What You Need to Know About Carbon Dating” [and other dating methods].

18 minutes to read; pages 8–18, 23, 24 of the summer 2019 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2019summer>

“Dating Methods.”

8 minutes to read; pages 26–30 of the [*LSI Lesson Book*](#) –2nd ed.

Video 10 – Fossils

Primary Points —video 10

- 1) Evolutionists correctly point out that the geologic column has a sequence of twelve fossil-containing rock layers. Then they ask us to imagine that the plants and animals that left these fossils descended from a bacteria-like common ancestor.
- 2) To a geologist who assumes deep time (millions of years), the geologic column shows over 500 million years of common descent. To a geologist who believes in creation, the geologic column shows created kinds of plants and creatures killed in Noah's Flood and mostly laid down over a five-month period.
- 3) The lack of transitional forms in the fossil record led evolutionists to embrace "punctuated equilibrium."
- 4) The geologic column is an important scientific discovery, because it helps us better understand the original variety of creation and how so many amazing plants and animals have gone extinct.

Discussion —video 10

- 1) What is a fossil? What is the geologic column?
- 2) What was the common consensus and thus scientific conclusion regarding most fossils before Darwinism and Deep Time became popular ideas?
- 3) What parts of the geologic column do both Creationists and Evolutionists agree? Disagree?
- 4) Evolutionists think the geologic column formed slowly over 500 million years. What is a common creationist explanation for the geologic column?

- 5) In today's world, every major type of animal is greatly different from every other major type. Fish are different than lizards. No creature is half fish and half lizard. Also, there are no half lizard, half bird creatures. Yet evolutionists claim that birds descended from lizards, and that lizards descended from fish. What does the fossil record show about transitional forms?

- 6) Apply: You watch a television series about fossils. You find the show's claim that humans descended from fish rather compelling. The thought crosses your mind, "Did God use evolution to create?" What did you learn in the video we just watched (video 10 on fossils) that might help reduce the temptation to think that people descended from fish?

- 7) Ironically, rather than revealing millions of years of common decent, what amazing truth does the geologic column actually reveal about God's creation?

- 8) Nicholas Steno (1638-1686), the "Father of Stratigraphy" attributed the rock layers to Noah's Flood and held the earth to be at around 6000 years old. His work is still the basis for much of our understanding of the geologic column. How does his story help illustrate both the changing interpretations of science? How does his conclusion to the evidence he saw reveal the differences which our assumptions can make?

- 9) List the three big assumptions Christians can make with faith in God's revealed Word. What did you find most useful in this study for yourself? What information will you anticipate is the most useful as you practice Christian apologetics?

- 10) List some gracious things which our Creator God done which motivates you to hold to and defend those assumptions.

- 11) Apply: You are visiting the Grand Canyon and see signs that explain the layers of rock and hundreds of millions of years between them. What might you tell a young Christian who is reading those signs with you?
- 12) Review: Ministerial use of reason vs. magisterial use of reason. Why does the Christian delight in using reason to serve God, better know him, and listen to his Word? “By faith we know that the universe was created by God’s word, so that what is seen did not come from visible things.” -Heb 11:3.

Bible Passages —video 10

A recent 6-day creation.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1 (EHV).

Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy. Exodus 20:8-11 (EHV).

The LORD spoke to Moses. He said, “Speak to the people of Israel. Tell them, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths diligently, because the Sabbath is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, so that you may know that I am the LORD, who sets you apart as holy. So you shall observe the Sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it must certainly be put to death, for if anyone does any work on the Sabbath, his life shall be cut off from among his people. On six days work may be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must certainly be put to death. Therefore, the people of Israel shall observe the Sabbath by keeping the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a permanent sign between me and the people of Israel, for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’ Exodus 31:12-17 (EHV)

The Flood.

I myself am about to bring a flood of waters on the earth, in order to destroy all flesh under the sky that has the breath of life. Everything that is on the earth will die, but I will establish my covenant with you. You shall come into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. You shall bring a pair (male and female) of every kind of living flesh into the ark with you to keep them alive. Include the birds according to their kinds, the livestock according to their

kinds, every creeping thing on the ground according to their kinds. Two of every sort shall come to you, so you can keep them alive. Genesis 6:17-20 (EHV).

God did not spare the ancient world but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, along with seven others when he brought a flood on the world of ungodly people. 2 Peter 2:5 (EHV).

References —video 10

Sources used or quoted in this video include:

The video states, “Until the late 1700s, most Christian pastors and most scientists believed fossils were the result of a worldwide flood several thousand years ago. Then evolution thinking took over. Decades before Darwin’s 1859 book, the scientific community, and much of the Christian church, had already rejected a worldwide flood. Instead, they accepted an evolutionary explanation for fossils.”

[More details are provided, and reference sources are listed, on pages 22-25 in the winter 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018winter].

The video mentions Nicholas Steno (aka Niels Steensen) with these words, “The geologist who invented the basic scientific concepts used to create the geologic column was Nicholas Steno. He believed the earth was about 6,000 years old and that the fossils in the rock layers were deposited by Noah’s Flood.” The University of California website puts it this way,

Nicholas Steno’s work on the formation of rock layers and the fossils they contain was crucial to the development of modern geology. The principles he stated continue to be used today by geologists and paleontologists. ... This is now referred to as Steno’s law of superposition: layers of rock are arranged in a time sequence, with the oldest on the bottom and the youngest on the top, unless later processes disturb this arrangement. ...Steno himself saw no difficulty in attributing the formation of most rocks to the flood mentioned in the Bible. ...The data and conclusions that Steno put forth in his “preliminary discourse” were enough to have earned him the title of “Father of Stratigraphy.”

[Ben Waggoner, “Nicholas Steno (1638-1686),” The University of California Museum of Paleontology, 20July 2000, <http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/history/steno.html> (accessed 08-19-21)]

The video states, “Part of the evolution story is their ‘tree of life’ with an imagined first life form turning into every plant and animal that ever existed. Evolutionists have a hard time drawing this common descent family tree. For example, evolutionists do not agree on how to place dinosaurs into evolution’s tree of life. Since 2017 there have been three very different but equally valid ways to place dinosaurs into the tree.”

The American Geosciences Institute magazine reports that this division between experts on dinosaurs, “has revealed that something we thought was a certainty is actually a mystery. And so that mystery has to be solved.” [Lucas Joel, “Redefining Dinosaurs: Paleontologists are Shaking the Dinosaur Family Tree to its Roots,” *Earth — The Science Behind the Headlines*, vol. 64 no. 2, (February 2019) American Geosciences Institute.

<https://www.earthmagazine.org/article/redefining-dinosaurs-paleontologists-are-shaking-dinosaur-family-tree-its-roots> (accessed 08-19-21).

For more details and multiple references see pages 22-24 in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

Our video reports, “Placing humans into the tree is a second example. A 2016 article published by the American Geosciences Institute states, ‘The hominin [human] family tree is frequently revised, but researchers disagree about where many fossils should be placed on the tree.’” That American Geosciences Institute (AGI) quote is next to a sketch of the human evolutionary family tree. This AGI article further states,

But reparsing the hominin family tree is easier said than done. “This problem is just as much philosophical as taxonomical,” Tattersall says. “We’re wrestling with nothing less than human exceptionalism” — the idea that humans are so distinct from other organisms that the rules of taxonomy don’t apply to us, a problem that has plagued paleoanthropology from its earliest discoveries. “Homo has become a wastebasket of names with very little meaning,” Tattersall says. “And yet, we’re so emotionally attached to those names that even people who think they should be changed are unable to agree on how to go about it.”

[Mary Caperton Morton, *Redefining Homo: Does our family tree need more branches?*, *Earth — The Science Behind the Headlines*, vol. 16 no. 9, (September 2016). [American Geosciences Institute.] <https://www.earthmagazine.org/article/redefining-homo-does-our-family-tree-need-more-branches> (accessed 08-19-21).

For more details on how evolutionists are having problems trying to fit humans and apes into a family tree, see pages 25-27 in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring.

Deeper Study —video 10

“Fossils.”

“Fossils in the Geologic Column—Problems for Evolution.”

21 minutes to read; pages 6, 17–32 in the spring 2018 *LSI Journal* at <http://www.LutheranScience.org/2018spring>

“Fossils.”

11 minutes to read; pages 31–37 of the [LSI Lesson Book](#) –2nd ed.

Conclusion

Video 10 concludes with these words, “Thank you for watching this series on a Christian response to evolution. If the course was successful, you have seen how there is both truth and error in the evolution story, and how that story is based on unprovable assumptions like no creator, no flood, and deep time. We pray you will use what you have learned to help remove barriers to the gospel, as you tell others about Jesus. God bless.”

This Bible study has been modified by your Bible study leader from the free Video Bible Study Leader Guide available from the Lutheran Science Institute (LSI) at www.LutheranScience.org/LeaderGuide.