

24 July 2010 RIF Summer Seminar 1

Formidable Challenge by Young-Earth Creationism

Milo Schield
Conceptual Literacy Project

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www.StatLit.org/pdf/2010Schield2Seminar6up.pdf

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Young-Earth Creation

Idea: *Earth was created less than 10,000 years ago.*

Young-earth creation agrees with a literal reading of Genesis which holds that God created everything in its present form in seven 24-hour days.

Young-earth creation disagrees with:

- the big-bang theory of the origin of the universe
- theory of spontaneous generation of life
- Darwin's theory of evolution

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Creation Museum

Near Cincinnati Ohio

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Creation Museum:

Near Cincinnati OH www.AnswersInGenesis.org

**DAYS OF CREATION
IN GENESIS ONE** © AIG 2004

DAY 1 EARTH, SPACE, TIME & LIGHT	DAY 2 ATMOSPHERE	DAY 3 DRY LAND & PLANTS
DAY 4 SUN, MOON & STARS	DAY 5 SEA & FLYING CREATURES	DAY 6 LAND ANIMALS & MAN

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Eden

before the Fall:

- No pain
- No suffering
- No disease
- **No death**

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Flood Explains Prehistory

"On the same day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up"

Noah's Ark © AIG 2002

Genesis 6:14-16

437 feet long

73 ft wide

44 ft high

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MEANING OF LIFE	ABORTION
STANDARDS	PORNOGRAPHY
MARRIAGE	HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR
LAWS	LAWLESSNESS
CREATION	EVOLUTION
GOD'S WORD	MAN'S OPINION

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MEANING OF LIFE	ABORTION
STANDARDS	PORNOGRAPHY
MARRIAGE	HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR
LAW	LAWLESSNESS
"6 DAYS EQUALS GOD IS AUTHORITY"	"MILLIONS OF YEARS EQUALS MAN IS AUTHORITY"
	EVOLUTIONARY TERMITES

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Evolution of new Species versus Adaptation within Species

HUMAN REASON	GOD'S WORD
<p>EVOLUTION TREE</p> <p>FIRST LIFE ~4 billion years ago</p>	<p>CREATION ORCHARD</p> <p>CREATION ~4,000 years ago</p> <p>"I did not create and say, 'Let it be!'"</p>

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Evolution vs. Adaptation Different Assumptions

HUMAN REASON	GOD'S WORD
<p>EVOLUTION TREE</p> <p>FIRST APE ~10 million years ago</p> <p>"Lucy"</p>	<p>CREATION ORCHARD</p> <p>CREATION ~4,000 years ago</p> <p>"God has made of one blood all nations who inhabit the earth"</p> <p>"God created man in the same image"</p>

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US Prevalence of Young-Earth Creationists

Do you believe that God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.?

Year	1982	1993	1997	1999	2001	2004
%	44%	47%	44%	47%	45%	45%

Source: Gallup Polls

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US Views of Evolution by level of education

Humans and other living things have:	ALL	BA	<4	HS
1) Existed in their present form only**	42%	27	42	50
2) Evolved over time	48%	66	51	36
a. Guided by a supreme being*	18%	20	21	15
b. Through natural selection	26%	40	26	18
c. Don't know	4%	6	4	3
3) Don't know	10%	7	7	14

** Young-earth creationists? * Intelligent Design?
 BA = College grad, <4 = Some College, HS = HS or less
 2005 Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life. <http://pewforum.org/surveys/origins/>

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US Views of Evolution by religious belief

Humans and other living things:	ALL	Sec	Cath	Prot	Evg
1) Existed in present form only**	42%	15	31	32	70
2) Evolved over time	48%	71	61	60	20
a. Guided by supreme being*	18%	10	28	24	12
b. Through natural selection	26%	56	28	31	6
c. Don't know	4%	5	5	5	2
3) Don't know	10%	14	8	8	10

** Young-earth creationists? * Intelligent Design?
 SEC: Secular CAT: Catholic PROT: Mainline Protestant EVG: Evangelical Protestant
 2005 Pew Forum on Religious and Public Life. <http://pewforum.org/surveys/origins/>

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Young-Earth Creationists

'Billions of years' (distant starlight, radioactive decay) versus 'Thousand of years' (Bible taken literally). This is a big difference: a factor of a million!
 This is the difference between 1 inch and 16 miles.

Percentage of US adults who may uphold "young-earth":
 15% of those who are secular; 27% of college grads
 32% of mainline Protestants; 70% of Evangelicals

How can so many people disregard "science"?

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Unpacking the Argument Kinds of Theories

Theories Predicting Repeatable Things
 Testable, confirmable, may allow lab manipulation

- Theories of motion, light, heat, electricity, genetics
- Theories of gravity, special and general relativity

Theories Explain Unrepeatable Origins: Disputable
 Assumptions about conditions at distant times/places
 Applicability of our laws/theories to those times/places

- Origin of the universe (Big Bang)
- Origin of life (spontaneous generation)
- Origin of species (Darwin's theory of evolution)
- Origin of human consciousness

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Origin-of-Life No Mechanism

Evolutionists are really exercising their imaginations ... as they come up with their origin-of-life theories.

A million-dollar Origin of Life Prize is offered for "proposing a *highly plausible mechanism* for the spontaneous rise of *genetic instructions* in nature sufficient to give rise to life."

Atheist Anthony Flew became a theist because the more science learned, the bigger the origin of life problem became. See Flew's "*There Is a God.*"
 Flew now calls for teaching intelligent design in schools.

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Evolution: The Missing Links

According to Charles Darwin:

- “the distinctness of specific forms and their not being blended together by innumerable transitional links is *a very obvious difficulty*.”
- “Geological research has ... done *scarcely anything* in breaking the distinction between species by connecting them together.” (Denton, p. 56 and 58).

Denton: By the theory of evolution, innumerable transitional forms must have existed. Why do we not find them [the missing links]?”

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Assumptions are Arbitrary: Arbitrary = Optional

Arbitrary: contingent solely upon one's discretion
E.g., *an arbitrary decision*.

Science **cannot** test claims about unrepeatable origins.
Requiring a naturalistic explanation is arbitrary.

Two different assumptions:

1. Religious: Accuracy of the bible taken literally
2. Scientific: Everything has a natural explanation.

Science **cannot** say the religious assumption is false.

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Different Assumptions Different Starting Points

starting with Human Reason starting with God's Word

The Challenger lived in the Early Cretaceous world about 125 million years ago

The Challenger lived in the pre-flood world about 4,300 years ago

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Psalms 104:24 Isaiah 40:28

Input Output

GREAT EVIDENCE FOR CREATION! GREAT EVIDENCE FOR EVOLUTION!

Creation vs Evolution
Same hardware - Different operating systems

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Different Assumptions

Man's Theories Holy Bible

Secular history Biblical history

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But remember, assumptions have consequences

God Created Me!

ADAM IN YOUR PAST ABSOLUTES FROM GOD GOD SETS THE RULES

OR

APE IN YOUR PAST RELATIVE MORALITY MAN SETS THE RULES

OOH OOH AAAA!

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Assumptions are Arbitrary

Arbitrary = Optional

Arbitrary: contingent solely upon one's discretion
E.g., *an arbitrary decision.*

Modern philosophy holds that human choices involving ideas are arbitrary:

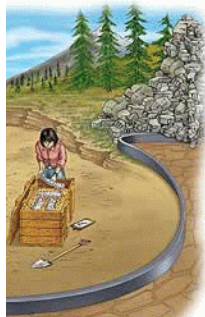
- Numbers are arbitrary: XVII vs. 17
- Words are arbitrary: dog vs. canine
- Language is arbitrary: English vs. Chinese
- Concepts are arbitrary: Freedom, Justice, Safety
- Theories are arbitrary: Global warming

So, assumptions are arbitrary: God vs. Nature

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Different Assumptions

Evolution vs. Adaptation



Them Dry Bones

One set of bones, two interpretations. How can two paleontologists, digging the same dinosaur fossil in the field, reach opposite conclusions?

The answer: starting points. Fossils don't come with labels. We must begin with assumptions! But which is correct?



Caught in a flooding river
died in the normal course of events

Caught in the Great Flood
And the Lord said, "I will destroy man and beast ... for I regret that I have made them." (Genesis 6:7)

Dried out on a river bank
died out in the sun

Floated on Flood waters
And all flesh that died that moved upon the earth. (Genesis 7:21)

Slowly buried by river sediments
Slowly buried and gradually fossilized

Suddenly buried in the Global Flood
The world that was then, being conditioned with water, perished. (2 Peter 3:6)

Exposed in the present
revealed by millions of years of erosion

Exposed in the present
Spoke to the earth and it shall hear you. (Job 35:6)

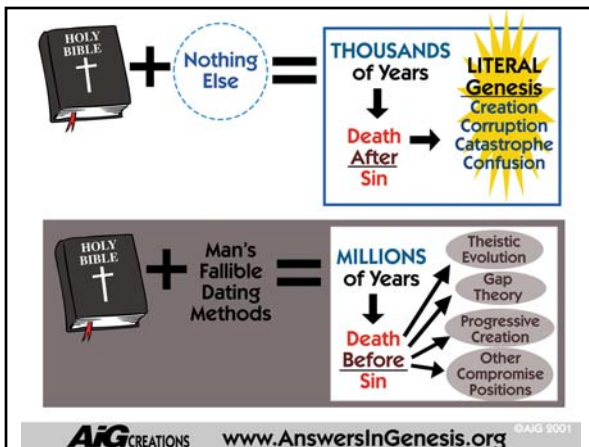
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Different Assumptions

Evolution vs. Adaptation

Different Views of Dinosaurs

because of Different Starting Points



HOLY BIBLE + Nothing Else = THOUSANDS of Years
↓
Death After Sin → LITERAL Genesis, Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion

HOLY BIBLE + Man's Fallible Dating Methods = MILLIONS of Years
↓
Death Before Sin → Theistic Evolution, Gap Theory, Progressive Creation, Other Compromise Positions

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Conclusion

Modern philosophy: Assumptions are arbitrary.
Generalizations (universals) cannot be challenged.

So, all differences in beliefs that are based on different assumptions cannot be challenged.

Prediction: United action by young-earth creationists and intelligent designers will transform US school education in science concerning evolution.

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References

Answers in Genesis materials:

- *Distant Starlight* [DVD] by Jason Lisle
- *Thousands, Not Billions* [DVD] by Don DeYoung

Order at www.AnswersInGenesis.org/PublicStore

Evolution: A Theory in Crisis by Michael Denton

There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind by Flew and Varghese.

The Turning of an Atheist by Oppenheimer, NY Times

