

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?

A multimedia presentation, which compares evolution and creation, looks at a few of the scientific problems evolution faces, and shows why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

by Mark Bergemann, Presented to Good Shepherd's Evangelical Lutheran School confirmation class, West Allis WI, on April 11th, 2013, and the Good Shepherd's Sunday Adult Bible Study, December 22, 2013. Updated January 27, 2014. Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, holds a B.S. from UW-Milwaukee, and serves as president of the Lutheran Science Institute.

For confirmation, religious, or science class.

Produced for confirmation class, but also well suited for teens and adults. There are seven discussion questions in the presentation. While this video is 25 minutes in length (plus discussion if any). The video has three distinct sections, so it can easily be shown in three parts.

Goals for this lesson:

1. To present a confession of the Christian faith that flows from Law and Gospel.
2. To emphasize the revealed truth of Scripture.
3. To briefly show the student:
 - The teachings of stellar and biological evolution.
 - How evolution is based on naturalism and the assumption that there is no creator god.
 - The scientific problems with evolution.
 - How evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.
 - How evolution can be a temptation to us, because the Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator.

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-- Script and student handout pdf.

-- Video with audio narration.

-- Imbed code to have this video play on your website (such as your church or school website).

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Presentation Recommendations

1. There are seven review questions throughout this slideshow. As time permits, pause the video and take answers from the class.
2. The following pages may be used as a student handout. They contain the entire narration for the slide show. Words in small italics are printed on the slides, while words in bold are NOT printed on the slides. Lines “-----” in the narration indicate when a mouse click was required to advance to the next animation or the next slide.
3. This video is divided into three sections, so it can be shown in three parts. The first two sections end with a section review, while the final section ends with a final review. The first two sections are less than 8 minutes, while the final section is less than 10 minutes.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



This presentation compares evolution and creation, looks at a few of the scientific problems evolution faces, and shows why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

We will consider the question, "Why do some believe in millions of years?"

We begin by reviewing the evolution story.



Much of the evolution story goes against Scripture. Therefore, we can be certain that those parts of evolution are false, because as Christians, we know that the Bible is true.

Let's list some of the FALSE parts of evolution, starting with the Big Bang. There are many evolutionary views, but the following is held by most evolutionists.

---- Some False Parts of Evolution -----



At the beginning of time, 13.7 billion years ago, a very small point rapidly expanded producing time, space, and energy. This is called "The Big Bang." Over thousands of years the resulting energy cooled, becoming the lightest elements of matter, hydrogen and helium. Some of that hydrogen gas was pulled into balls, under its own gravity, to form stars. Some of these first generation stars were large enough to produce heavier elements like iron,

---- Some False Parts of Evolution -----



which they scattered across the universe when they imploded in supernovae. The matter these imploding stars expelled pulled together to form new stars, and planets formed around them from the remaining matter. Our planet, earth, was formed 4.5 billion years ago.

---- Some False Parts of Evolution -----



Living things came about naturally from non-living chemicals. The first one-celled life forms gradually changed into all the various plants and animals. Through a process of death and suffering, driven by mutations, animals evolved into new kinds of animals. Ape-like creatures evolved into humans through this same process of death and suffering.

---- Some False Parts of Evolution -----



Famous evolutionist Carl Sagan said in the Cosmos TV series, we are all "star stuff."

He said this because evolutionists believe that matter from imploding stars changed into people, over billions of years, all by itself.



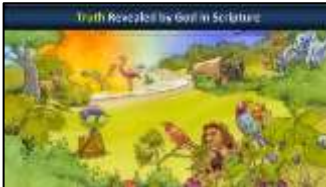
In the Bible we learn the truth of our origins from the one who was there, from God.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



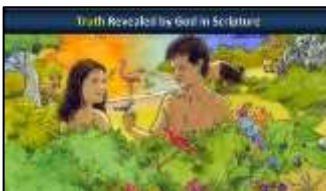
At the beginning of time, thousands of years ago, God created time, space, and everything in the entire universe. He did this in six days of ordinary length.

----- Truth revealed by God in Scripture -----



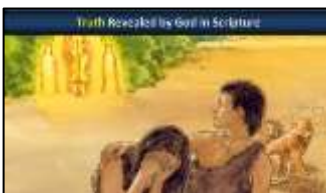
During those 6 days God created every “kind” of plant and animal. [The Biblical “kind” is not the same as the scientific word “species.” There are many species in most Biblical “kinds.”

----- Truth revealed by God in Scripture -----



God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, on day 6 of creation week. Adam and Eve are the ancestors of every human being, including every one of us here today. God created a perfect world. There was no suffering or death. People and animals lived in perfect harmony with each other. All animals and all people were vegetarians. Originally Adam and Eve were very happy and content,

----- Truth revealed by God in Scripture -----



but this changed when they turned against God. Their rebellion corrupted their entire thinking. We, as their descendants, have inherited this corruption. When Adam and Eve rebelled, everything changed. They now had evil thoughts and desires, and they did evil things. They no longer loved and trusted God as they had before. Their corrupt thinking (their sin) separated them from God, just as our sin separates us from God. Because of Adam’s rebellion, God cursed the earth, causing weeds to grow.

----- Truth revealed by God in Scripture -----



The animals were also affected, and they eventually began to kill each other. Suffering and death entered the world because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve’s children married each other and populated the world.

----- Truth revealed by God in Scripture -----



After many generations the earth became populated with people who did not care about God. Only Noah’s family still worshipped God. After warning the people for 120 years, God flooded the entire earth with water. God saved Noah’s family and 2 of every land animal, using a large ship called an ark. All the people and land animals alive today descended from the people and animals aboard Noah’s Ark.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



Section Review:

Why can we be absolutely certain that many parts of evolution are FALSE?

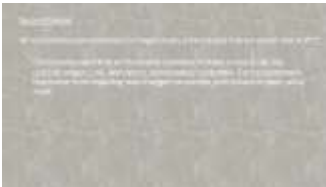
Much of evolution goes against what God reveals to us in Scripture. We can be certain that those parts of evolution are FALSE, because everything in the Bible is true.

In what ways does the evolution story differ from the creation account?



A few of the many differences are:

1. From the Bible we know that the universe is thousands of years old, but evolution teaches billions of years.
2. From the Bible we know that God created everything, but evolution teaches that God had nothing to do with how things came to be.
3. From the Bible we know that death is bad, because death is the penalty for sin. Evolution teaches that death is good. Evolution says that death is a way that plants and animals produce new and more complex kinds of plants and animals.



What did famous evolutionist Carl Sagan mean, when he said that we are all "star stuff"?

Evolutionists believe that matter from imploding stars, changed into people, over billions of years, all by itself.



Why is it correct to say that every person in the world is your relative, a member of your family?

Every person in the whole world is a descendent of Adam and Eve. We are all distant cousins.



Creation and evolution are so very different, because creationists and evolutionists hold different beliefs, or different worldviews.

Creation is the view that there is a Creator God as described in the Bible. Creationists interpret observable evidence in light of this.

Evolution is the view that all things came into existence naturally. If there is a god, he had nothing to do with origins. This view is called "naturalism." Evolutionists interpret observable evidence in light of this. [There are Christians who think God used evolution to create everything. We will talk about that later.]

Since evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god, they must write a story about how they think things might have come into existence without a creator god.

Sometimes that evolution story can seem compelling, but it is not what it seems. It is a lie. The physical and spiritual world God reveals to us in Scripture is true reality. The imaginary world described by evolution is a fairy tale.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



Even if our human reason (such as our science) told us that the Bible is wrong, we would still believe the Bible.

It is through faith we accept creation and other articles of the Christian faith.

Our reason does not fully understand several articles of faith, such as the Trinity, or why some come to faith and some do not, when God wants everyone to come to faith.



Even though we believe in creation by faith, our human reason can help us to better see the logical problems with evolution.

The world around us is often as we would expect, based on the Biblical account of creation.

The world around us is often not as would be expected, if evolution were true.

Evolution has many logical problems. Let's look at a few of those problems.



DNA and other evidence shows that there is only one race of humans. This is as creationists expected, because God reveals that we are the children of Adam and Eve. We are all related to each other.

If evolution were true, one would expect multiple races of humans. Evolutionists had originally assumed that there were many races of humans, not just the one race that exists.



The year-long global flood changed the face of the earth. Earth's vast quantities of fossils, deposits of coal and oil, and continental-sized sedimentary rock are what would be expected from a flood that covered the entire earth. Dead ocean creatures are buried by the trillions all over the earth and on the tallest mountains. Many creationists believe Noah's Flood produced most fossils, and that dinosaurs became extinct because they could not survive in the post flood environment.

Even though the evidence for a world-wide flood is overwhelming, evolutionists must interpret this evidence in other ways, as a global flood would mean their theory is wrong.

Sedimentary rock is formed when water (such as rivers or floods) lays down sediments that are then compressed to form rock. There are sedimentary rock layers, one over the other, all over the earth. Evolutionists assume that these rock layers, and the fossils they contain, were laid down over millions of years.

Much of the evidence for plants and animals becoming new kinds of plants and animals (biological evolution) is based on the assumption that the sedimentary rock layers were formed over millions of years. Evolutionists reject the possibility of a global flood on earth, because such a flood would mean their theory is wrong.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



God created animals with the ability to have offspring that are bigger or smaller, with longer or shorter hair, and with other changes. Each kind of animal can develop large variations due to natural selection.

Lions, cheetahs, and house cats are very different, but they may be of the same biblical kind. The dozens of species of cats alive today may have descended from one or two pairs of cats on Noah's Ark. Many cats can interbreed, including lions and tigers. It is so easy to see that cats may be of the same kind, that some four-year-old children will call all these various cats "kitty."

No new kinds of animals ever develop, but some kinds, like the dinosaurs, have gone extinct.



For evolution to be true, new kinds of plants and animals must develop.

Books on evolution often show a tree of life with one kind of animal turning into another kind.

But there is almost no evidence at all to draw such a tree. Some evolutionists now say the change from one kind to another must have happened very fast, since it left so little fossil evidence.

Section Review:

Creationists and evolutionists start with different beliefs, or different worldviews. What is the worldview of creation, and what is the worldview of evolution?

Creation is the view that there is a Creator God as described in the Bible. Creationists interpret observable evidence in light of this.

Evolution is the view that all things came into existence naturally. If there is a god, he had nothing to do with origins. This view is called "naturalism." Evolutionists interpret observable evidence in light of this.

Since evolutionists reject the possibility of a creator god, they must write a story about how they think things might have come into existence without a creator god.



Even though we believe in creation by faith, our human reason can help us to better see the logical problems with evolution. Evolution has many logical problems. Why is a global flood a problem for evolution?

The earth's vast quantities of fossils, and its many layers of sedimentary rock, are what would be expected, from a flood that covered the entire earth.

Much of the evidence for plants and animals becoming new kinds of plants and animals (biological evolution) is based on the assumption that sedimentary rock layers were formed over millions of years. Evolutionists reject the possibility of a global flood on earth, because such a flood would mean their theory is wrong.



Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith. Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy.

Let's look at some of the reasons why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



Creation and Noah's Flood are taught as true history throughout Scripture. The prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles spoke about Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, the flood, Eden, creation, the fall into sin, and the curse, as real people and true events.¹

--- Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith ---



If evolution were true, then death and suffering would be part of God's design.

God declared everything he created "very good" (Gen 1:31). Death is not "very good," yet evolution claims God used millions of years of death and suffering to create animals and people.

Death and suffering are a result of sin. Death and suffering are not the means God used to create animals and people.

--- Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith ---



Throughout Scriptures, God repeatedly reveals that death resulted from the disobedience of Adam, and that death will be destroyed by Christ Jesus. Romans 5:12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-49 explain this in great detail. [Here are a few quotes from those sections of the Bible \(NIV84\):](#)

In the Bible we read: Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

Just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

And finally: The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

--- Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith ---



In the Garden Of Eden, Satan tempted Eve by asking, "Did God really say?"

Today Satan tempts us through evolution by asking,

Did God really say, that He created everything in 6 days?

Did God really say, that there was a flood that covered the whole earth?

Did God really say, that death and suffering are a consequence of sin?

Did God really say, that Jesus came to destroy death and return creation to its original state?

¹ The Bible passages which scroll onscreen are listed in the appendix of this document.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



By our very nature, we are all rebels against God. The Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator, because then we would be subject to the creator's authority. This is why evolution can be so seductive to us.

Evolution promises to eliminate the need for a god.

Famous atheist Richard Dawkins said "Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist."²



God's creation plainly shows that there is a Creator God. Those who reject God, suppress that truth. In the Bible, God describes the corrupted thinking (the sin) with which we are all born.

We read from the Bible: Romans 1:18-22 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. (NIV-84)



Evolution is built on the assumption that there is no Creator God. In addition, evolutionists assume the geological and other natural processes we see today, are the same processes that shaped the past. They reject catastrophes such as a global flood. They deliberately forget about God. The following words describe the thinking of a modern evolutionist, even though God had these words recorded in Scripture almost 2,000 years ago.

2 Peter 3:3-6 In the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. (NIV-84)

² Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 10.

Why Do Some Believe in Millions of Years?



Final Review

- We know from Scripture that many parts of evolution are FALSE.
- Evolution is based on naturalism and the assumption that there is no creator god.
- Evolution has many scientific problems
- Evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Why do some people, even some Christians, believe in millions of years?

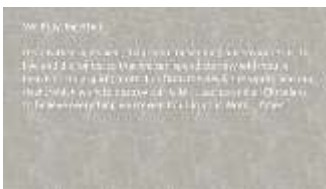
The simple answer is because of sin. The Old Adam in each of us does not want a creator, because then we would be subject to the creator's authority. Peer pressure also tempts us to reject God's revealed truth, and instead believe the lie of evolution. Everywhere we are told that creationists are unscientific. How can thinking people believe in a Creator God who made everything in 6 days? This is why evolution can be so seductive to us.



God reveals to us that wisdom of this world, such as evolution, is actually foolishness. Real wisdom is revealed to us by God in the Bible.

Jeremiah 8:9 The wise will be put to shame; they will be dismayed and trapped. Since they have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have? (NIV-84)

1 Corinthians 1:20-25 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength. (NIV-84)



We Pray Together:

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending our Savior Jesus to live and die for us, so that we can spend eternity with you in heaven. Jesus, you demonstrated your victory over death by rising from the dead. Our enemy, death, has been destroyed. Holy Spirit, protect us from the devil, the world, and our flesh, which work to destroy our faith. Lead us and all Christians, to believe everything you reveal to us in your Word. Amen

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Appendix

Creation and Noah's Flood are taught as true history throughout Scripture. The prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles spoke about Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Enoch, Noah, the flood, Eden, creation, the fall into sin, and the curse, as real people and true events.

Exodus 20:8-11	God created everything in 6 days, and rested on the 7th day.
1 Chronicles 1:1	The genealogy of Noah includes Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam.
1 Chronicles 1:1-27	Noah's descendants formed The Table of Nations (Genesis chap. 10).
Psalms 90:3	We return to dust when we die.
Psalms 103:14	The Lord knows how we are formed and that we are dust.
Psalms 104	Shows the order of creation.
Ecclesiastes 3:20	We come from dust and to dust we will return.
Isaiah 54:9	The waters of Noah covered the earth.
Matthew 19:3-6	Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation.
Matthew 19:28	Jesus refers to the restoration of all things to their original perfection.
Matthew 23:34-35	Jesus refers to the blood of righteous Abel which was shed.
Matthew 24:36-39	Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and how the flood swept away people.
Mark 10:6-9	Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation.
Luke 3:23-38	The genealogy of Jesus includes Noah, Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam.
Luke 11:50-51	Jesus refers to the blood of the prophet Able being shed.
Luke 17:26-27	Jesus refers to Noah, the ark, and how the flood swept away people.
Acts 3:17-21	Peter refers to the restoration of all things to their original perfection.
Romans 5:12-21	Death came to all men through the sin of Adam.
1 Corinthians 11:8	For man did not come from woman, but woman from man;
1 Corinthians 11:12	For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman.
1 Corinthians 15:20-22	Death came through a man. In Adam all die.
1 Corinthians 15:42-49	Adam, the first man, was of the dust of the earth.
2 Corinthians 11:3	Eve was deceived by the serpent.
1 Timothy 2:13-14	Adam was formed first, then Eve. Eve was first to be deceived.
Hebrews 11:4	Cain's and Abel's sacrifices.
Hebrews 11:5	Faithful Enoch was taken away by God and did not experience death.
Hebrews 11:7	Noah condemned the world, built an ark, and saved his family.
Hebrews 12:24	The blood of Jesus speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
1 Peter 3:20	In the days of Noah, an ark was built which saved 8 people.
2 Peter 2:5	God destroyed the ungodly with a flood but saved Noah and 7 others.
2 Peter 3:3-6	The earth was formed from water and the world was once destroyed by water.
1 John 3:12	Evil Cain murdered his righteous brother Abel.
Jude 11	Godless men have taken the way of Cain.
Jude 14	Enoch, the seventh from Adam, was a prophet.
Revelation 22:3	In heaven there will no longer be any curse.

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Text and slideshow by Mark Bergemann, for presentation to the confirmation class of Good Shepherd's Evangelical Lutheran School on April 11, 2013, and the Good Shepherd's Sunday Adult Bible Study, December 22, 2013. Updated January 27, 2014. Mark Bergemann, a retired electrical engineer, holds a B.S. from UW-Milwaukee, and serves as president of the Lutheran Science Institute.

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