

# Scripture? or Human Reason?

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It is common to hear pastors, teachers, and authors make claims without revealing whether those claims are based on Scripture or on human reasoning. It is often left up to the reader/hearer to determine which is the case, so it is important for each of us to sharpen our discernment in this area. This quiz may help us with that goal.

We can be absolutely certain of the truth of statements that Scripture clearly teaches. Yet Scripture is silent on many claims, and we are free to evaluate the truth of those claims using our human reason. When we make such reason-based judgments, we cannot be absolutely certain that we judged correctly.

## **Classify each statement below as:**

- True based on Scripture, or
- Scripture takes no position, so we are free to accept or reject based on our human reasoning.

1. Most fossils are a result of Noah's Flood.
2. All people are distant relatives.
3. Mountains in the pre-flood world were much shorter than today's tall peaks.
4. God miraculously had all the animals travel to and go into Noah's ark.

5. Some dinosaurs had feathers.
6. Most of the universe is made of dark matter, which we cannot detect.
7. God's eternal power and divine nature is clearly seen in nature.
8. Massive ice sheets once covered much of the North American continent, sculpting the landscape.
9. Dinosaurs were on Noah's ark.
10. Dark energy is pushing our universe ever larger in size.
11. People have dominance over livestock.
12. The position of the sun in the sky marks seasons, days, and years.
13. There was only one continent on earth in the past.

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## ANSWERS

1. Most fossils are a result of Noah's Flood.

Scripture takes no position. Most creationists accept this claim. Other creationists reject this claim, and instead think that God created fossil-containing rock layers, and that dinosaurs and trilobites were never living creatures. There are many Scriptural problems with the idea of created fossils, and these are detailed in the article, "Did Dinosaurs Roam the Earth?" on pages 24–36 in the winter 2020 *LSI Journal* ([www.LutheranScience.org/2020winter](http://www.LutheranScience.org/2020winter)).

2. All people are distant relatives.

True based on Scripture. Genesis 3:20, The man named his wife Eve because she would be the mother of all the living.

3. Mountains in the pre-flood world were much shorter than today's tall peaks.

Scripture takes no position. This is the position of many/most creationists, as the water in the oceans today could cover the entire pre-flood planet, including its mountains. Creationists using the “created fossil” apologetic generally think the mountains we have today are relatively unchanged from creation week (see concerns expressed in question #1).

4. God miraculously had all the animals travel to and go into Noah's ark.

True based on Scripture. Genesis 7:13–16, especially verse 15, “Pairs of all the animals that have the breath of life in them went to Noah in the ark.” For more details, see page 24 in the fall 2020 *LSI Journal* at [www.LutheranScience.org/2020fall](http://www.LutheranScience.org/2020fall).

5. Some dinosaurs had feathers.

Scripture takes no position. Most creationists reject this claim, but feathered dinosaurs fit into the creation account without any difficulty. It is the evolution story that needs evidence of birds descending from dinosaurs. See the article, “Dinosaurs: Feathers or Scales?” on pages 27–31 in the spring 2016 *LSI Journal* at [www.LutheranScience.org/2016spring](http://www.LutheranScience.org/2016spring).

6. Most of the universe is made of dark matter, which we cannot detect.

Scripture takes no position. This is a claim on which many creationists and many evolutionists agree.

7. God's eternal power and divine nature is clearly seen in nature.

True based on Scripture.

Romans 1:20, 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.

8. Massive ice sheets once covered much of the North American continent, sculpting the landscape.

Scripture takes no position. This is a claim on which many creationists and evolutionists agree. They disagree on the time scales.

9. Dinosaurs were on Noah's ark.

Scripture takes no position. Most creationists accept this claim. Creationists using the "created fossil" apologetic reject this claim (see concerns expressed in question #1).

10. Dark energy is pushing our universe ever larger in size.

Scripture takes no position. This is a claim on which many creationists and many evolutionists agree.

11. People have dominance over livestock.

True based on Scripture.

Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crawls on the earth."

12. The position of the sun in the sky marks seasons, days, and years.

True based on Scripture.

Genesis 1:14, God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night, and let them serve as markers to indicate seasons, days, and years."

13. There was only one continent on earth in the past.

Scripture takes no position. This is a claim on which many creationists and many evolutionists agree. For a short discussion see page 28 of the fall 2020 *LSI Journal* at [www.LutheranScience.org/2020fall](http://www.LutheranScience.org/2020fall). Creationists using the "created fossil" apologetic generally think the continents we have today are relatively unchanged from creation week.