

# Did God Use Evolution to Create?

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## Did God Use Evolution to Create?

- Why do some Christians believe in millions of years?
- How do they attempt to make the Bible conform to millions of years?
- Scripture shows these Christians place their Christian faith in jeopardy.

A 2014 Pew poll found that 53% of US Christians believe humans evolved over time, while only 42% agreed that humans have always existed in their present form.<sup>1</sup> These numbers are in the red box on your screen.

Evangelical Protestant churches are listed in the top row of the blue box. Confessional Lutherans (WELS, ELS, LCMS) are included in that group. The larger and much more liberal ELCA Lutheran church is included in "Mainline Protestants" shown in the bottom row of the blue box. Notice the large difference between the two rows in the blue box. 38% of Evangelicals believe in millions of years, versus 65% of those in Mainline churches. That's a very large difference! One interesting note from this survey is that Evangelical Protestants with a college degree were no more likely than those without a college degree to say humans evolved. That was not true true for other Christian denominations, where those with a degree were more likely to embrace evolution.

Roman Catholics are highlighted in green. Note that 29% of Catholics reject evolution, even though the Catholic Church embraced evolution more than 60 years ago. In 2014 Pope Francis denounced a six day creation by stating "God is not a wizard," and that "We are the direct descendants from the Big Bang that created the universe."

Well-known Christian author Lee Strobel believes that God used the Big Bang and billions of years to create. In his bestselling book, *The Case For a Creator*, Strobel titles chapter five, "*The Evidence of Cosmology: Beginning With a Bang.*" Strobel approvingly summarizes his interviews by writing, "The Creator is intelligent and has continued to be involved with his creation after the Big Bang." (page 283)

The popular John Ankerberg show supports the belief that God used the Big Bang and billions of years to create. The show's website states: "Belief in a young earth and no death before the fall is an unnecessary theological construct which, in turn, results in the necessary belief in errant science."<sup>2</sup> Many articles on the Ankerberg website argue that science and Scripture are two sources of truth. They claim both sources of truth (science and the Bible) must be true. Since science has proven billions of years, then we MUST interpret Scripture to also teach billions of years. This places fallible and sin darkened human reason as judge over God's Word. It should be the other way around. God's Word should judge all other sources of knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/chapter-4-social-and-political-attitudes/>

<sup>2</sup> "The Earth and the Cosmos...Old or Young? The question should not divide Christians into warring camps. It is NOT a doctrinal issue. However, the matter of truth discovery is at stake. The truth issues are both theological and scientific. If theology and science appear to contradict, as they do on this issue, there is an error in one, or the other, or both! People are watching and listening to this discussion. It is bad if our theology or our science is errant, even worse if both are errant. If truth is discovered in each of these spheres, there will be no disagreement! The witness of Holy Scripture and the witness of nature will NOT contradict each other. ... The scientific evidence for a very ancient earth (4 ½ billion years) and cosmos (13.7 billion years) is overwhelmingly strong. ... Belief in a young earth and no death before the fall is an unnecessary theological construct which, in turn, results in the necessary belief in errant science." (The Earth and the Cosmos...Old or Young? By: The John Ankerberg Show; Written by James Virkler 2009, <https://www.jashow.org/articles/science/age-of-earth/the-earth-and-the-cosmos-old-or-young/> (accessed August 15, 2016)

Now John Ankerberg holds to many solid Christian teachings. I have repeatedly watched a two hour video of Dr. Ankerberg giving a wonderful gospel presentation. While one might expect very liberal Christian leaders to embrace evolution, Dr. Ankerberg is an example of a conservative Christian who believes God used billions of years to create.

While some Christian churches have accepted evolution since the early 1800s, more churches join the evolution band wagon every few decades. How can this be? Did God use evolution to create?

Let's start by comparing evolution and creation. We begin by reviewing the evolution story.

**Some parts of the evolution story are true. Much of modern science has been woven into the evolution story.**

None of the following conflict with Scripture or a young universe:

- supernova* - We have watched stars go supernova.
- rising mountains* - Mountains increase and decrease in height.
- tectonic plates* -Continents seem to be moving on tectonic plates.
- extinctions* -Many animals (such as dinosaurs) have gone extinct.
- dark mater* -It may be that most of the universe is made of dark matter.
- new species* -Natural selection produces new species (but not new kinds).
- one continent* -There may have been only one continent on earth in the past.
- dark energy* -Dark energy may exist, pushing our universe ever larger in size.
- black holes* -There may be a super massive black hole at the center of every galaxy.
- ice sheets* -Massive ice sheets probably sculpted the North American landscape.

Even though parts of the evolution story are true, much of the evolution story goes against Scripture. We can be CERTAIN that the parts of evolution which go against Scripture are FALSE, because 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.

At the beginning of time, 13.81 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, which they scattered across the universe when they exploded in supernovae. The matter these exploding 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. 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.

Famous evolutionist Carl Sagan said in the original Cosmos TV series, we are all "star stuff." He said this because evolutionists believe that matter from exploding stars changed into people, over billions of years, all by itself. No creator needed.

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

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. During those six 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.”*] God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, on day six 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, 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. 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. 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 two 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.

**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.

**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 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.” Atheistic evolutionists interpret evidence in light of this.

The evolution story is how evolutionists IMAGINE things might have come into existence without a creator god. This is an important point. If you take home just three thoughts from this presentation, this should be one of them.

The evolution story is written using science alone. The use of other sources of knowledge is forbidden when writing the evolution story. Science is an attempt to explain everything through natural causes. This very basic definition of science is overwhelmingly accepted by the scientific community. This definition has corollaries (or consequences). If there is a god, that god could do miracles. Miracles are not natural causes. Therefore a scientist must reject the possibility of miracles when using science.

This works very well in creating our modern technological world. We do not take miracles into account while designing airplanes and cell phones. But the assumption of natural causes is the worst assumption possible when considering origins. The assumption of natural causes means that if something is the result of a miracle, then science will never understand its

origin. So if there is a creator god who made the universe, science alone will never be able to discover that fact. Evolutionists start with the assumption that there is no creator god. Evolution is the best story they can construct without a creator god.

If God really did create everything as he reveals in Scripture, then evolution is wrong, since evolution rejects that possibility regardless of the evidence.

### **Evolution has countless “no Creator God” assumptions.**

For example, the evolution story:

- assumes deep time (millions and billions of years).
- assumes hydrogen gas molecules self-assembled into stars.
- assumes rocks self-assembled into the earth.
- assumes polar ice layers represent years, not individual storms or day/night warming/cooling.
- assumes the Oort Cloud exists, even though they claim zero evidence for it.
- assumes non-living molecules self-assembled into life.
- assumes similarities between animals are due to common descent, instead of common design.
- assumes no global flood on earth, yet proposes global floods on other planets.
- assumes soft tissue from dead dinosaurs remains soft for 60 million years.
- assumes rock layers were deposited over millions of years, even though the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens showed that it can happen in months.

Evolutionists use “no Creator God” assumptions in EVERY conclusion they make.

Even though the evolution story excludes the possibility of a creator, many Christians accept the evolution story as true. These “Old Earth Creationists” then attempt to add the Creator God of the Bible to the evolution story.

### **Every line of the evolution story was written with the marching orders to exclude God, yet some Christians attempt to add God to the evolution story. Think about what this means.**

Imagine that a royal family cared for a centuries old, 100 acre flower garden. Visitors were told the history of how the gardens were planted and maintained by gardeners. A visitor was struck by the great beauty of the gardens, but he did not believe the royal family’s history of how the gardens came to be. He then wrote a very detailed natural history of the gardens, claiming the gardens came about without the care of any gardeners. Now a second visitor trusted that natural history story as being true, but he still believed gardeners were involved in some way. This second visitor revised the natural history story by adding back gardeners, asserting that gardeners initiated and guided the natural processes which created and preserved the gardens.

Now the royal family’s garden history was correct, while the made-up natural history without gardeners was a fairytale. It was foolish to add gardeners back into that fairytale, yet that is exactly what Christians are doing by adding God to the evolution story. Writing God into the fairytale called “evolution” makes no sense.

There are many ways Christians add God to the evolution story. They usually have God causing the Big Bang 13.81 billion years ago. Most then have God doing little or nothing for billions of years, while the earth, stars, and galaxies form naturally. Most think God was involved when non-living chemicals assembled into the first living thing several billion years ago. Maybe God also helped form each new kind of plant and creature as they came into existence. When human-like creatures had sufficiently evolved, God breathed the Breath of Life into them and they became the first humans with souls. This is how some Christians weave the Creator God of the Bible into the evolution story.

**But evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.** Christians who accept evolution place their Christian faith in jeopardy. False teachings about creation are just like all other false teachings, they lead away from Jesus. They are extremely dangerous to a person’s Christian faith.

God compares false teachings to gangrene.<sup>3</sup> Gangrene is decaying flesh on your body. It must not be ignored as it can quickly kill you. It should be medically treated immediately. False doctrine is like gangrene. False doctrine should be treated immediately because it can kill you eternally.

God also compares false teachings to yeast.<sup>4</sup> Yeast is used to make bread rise. A small amount of yeast alters the entire loaf of bread. False doctrine is like yeast. A false teaching about a seemingly small matter can grow and affect so much more. Even “little” false beliefs should be addressed before they lead to other false teachings and eventually destroy your Christian faith.

Thank God that many who hold to false teachings here on earth will still receive their crown of life and spend eternity with God. That does not in any way minimize the great danger of false teachings. The devil, the world, and our flesh will constantly use any false doctrine we believe against us. Satan can tempt us “If Genesis 1-11 is myth, what about other parts of the Bible?” “Science proves creation is a myth, maybe the resurrection of the dead is myth too.”

God does not want his word to be changed, nor added to, nor subtracted from. Many Christians rewrite Scripture to accommodate the evolution story. They ignore God’s warnings against doing so.

In Proverbs 30:5-6 we read, “Every word of God is flawless; ...Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.”

In Matthew 5:18 God declares, “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

In Deuteronomy 4:2 God commands, “Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it.”

In Revelation 22:19 God warns, “And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life.”

God is serious about what he reveals to us in Scripture. We dare not speak in the place of God, as Christians do when they claim God used evolution to create.

**There are many ways Christians interpret Scripture so that it seems to conform with evolution and billions of years.** One common way is to think that each day in the Genesis creation account represents millions or billions of years. That view has been popular since an Anglican preacher began teaching it in 1823, thirty-six years before Darwin published his famous book, “On the Origin of Species.”

Evolution attacks the gospel and the need for a Savior. Evolution denies the doctrines of sin, the law, and death. Evolution dispenses with the need for a Creator. Evolution has shipwrecked the faith of many.

Let’s examine Scripture and see some of the many reasons why evolution is incompatible with the Christian faith.

Christians who accept millions of years often claim that the six creation days in Genesis represent six periods of millions or billions of years. Yet by simply reading Genesis it is clear that the author of Genesis intended the word day (*yom*) to mean one day/night period of ordinary length (about 24 hours). Even Hebrew experts who do NOT believe in a six day creation admit this. Let’s quickly look at a few of the many reasons why each creation day is 24 hours in length.

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<sup>3</sup> 2Tim 2:17

<sup>4</sup> Matt 16:5-12

Both the English word “day” and the Hebrew word “yom” can mean different things. It is easy to understand what is meant from the context.

We all know what each “day” means in the sentence: Back in my grandmother’s DAY, it was a two DAY journey, to spend a DAY at the fair. The meaning of “day” is clear from the context. It is the same for the Hebrew word “yom.”

“Yom” is used throughout the Old Testament, yet it’s meaning is only questioned in Genesis 1. It is easy to understand what “yom” means in Genesis 1, yet some Christians try to force evolutionary timescales into the creation account by changing the meaning of “yom” to millions and billions of years.

God has full knowledge of future events. He certainly knew before creation that Christian evolutionists in 2016 would teach that “yom” refers to millions of years. It seems to me that God added many extra words to the creation account to make it beyond obvious that he created in six days of normal length. God numbered each day in Genesis chapter 1, and he told us that each day had a morning and an evening. This point alone makes it utterly foolish to read millions of years into each creation day. When days are numbered they never refer to long periods. When days are said to have a morning and an evening (a light and dark cycle) they never refer to long periods. God even defines the “darkness” as “night” in Genesis 1:5, immediately before numbering day one.

- “There was evening, and there was morning –the first day.” Genesis 1:5.
- “There was evening, and there was morning –the second day.” Genesis 1:6.
- “There was evening, and there was morning –the third day.” Genesis 1:13.
- “There was evening, and there was morning –the fourth day.” Genesis 1:19.
- “There was evening, and there was morning –the fifth day.” Genesis 1:23.
- “There was evening, and there was morning –the sixth day.” Genesis 1:31.

God also numbers the seventh day: “By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, **because** on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.”

Genesis 2:2-3 (NIV).

In giving the Ten Commandments, God explains why the Sabbath Day is to be kept holy. God’s explanation would fall apart if each day of creation were millions of years.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. **For** in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. **Therefore** the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” Exodus 20:8-11

Again God tells us that he created everything in six days as an example for Israel to follow. God’s explanation would fall apart if each day of creation were millions of years.

“For six days work is to be done, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death. The Israelites are to observe the Sabbath, celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, **for** in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.” Exodus 31:15-17 (NIV).

Forcing each day of creation to be millions or billions of years does not make Genesis 1 conform to the evolution story. Evolution and creation are completely different in the ORDER they claim things came to be.

<i>CREATION</i>	<i>EVOLUTION</i>
earth before sun	sun before earth
earth before stars	stars before earth
daylight before sun	sun before daylight
seas before sun	sun before seas
seas before stars	stars before seas
plants before sun	sun before plants
plants before stars	stars before plants
birds before land creatures	land creatures before birds

**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	Genealogy of Noah has Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, and Adam.
1 Chronicles 1:1-27	Noah's descendants formed The Table of Nations.
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 to the 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 the flood.
Mark 10:6-9	Jesus defends marriage by referring to creation.
Luke 3:23-38	Genealogy of Jesus has Noah, Methuselah, Enoch, Seth, 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 the flood.
Acts 3:17-21	Peter refers to the restoration of all to the 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 taken 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	Flood destroyed the ungodly; Noah and 7 others saved.
2 Peter 3:3-6	Earth was formed from water and 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.

Christians who believe in millions of years must deal with the above passages and many others. Some of these Christians claim the prophets and Apostles were mistaken about creation. That thought alone rejects the inerrancy of Scripture. We know that God inspired the human writers of the Bible and led them to write without error.

**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.

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:

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.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

### **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 six 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 return creation to its original state?

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.”<sup>5</sup>

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

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<sup>5</sup> Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker: Why Evolution Reveals a Universe Without Design*, revised ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2006), 10.



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)

### **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 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 six 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)

**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**