

## Science and the Christian faith

### Some relevant texts

- a) **Luke 10:27** “and He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your **mind**, and your neighbor as yourself.’” See also Matthew 22:37.
- b) **Colossians 2:1-4, 8** “For I want you to... reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden **all** the treasures of **wisdom and knowledge**. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.... See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and **deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition**, according to the elementary principles of this world, **rather than on Christ.**”
- c) **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:5** “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ.”
- d) How is this accomplished? **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15** “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.” **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:15** “Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (KJV 2000).

### Origin of the universe – Big Bang cosmology

- a) Age of the universe – Old or Young? Speed of light and size of the universe seems to imply that the universe is billions of years old; we can see light from distant galaxies that would take billions of years to get to us at the presently measured speed of light.
- b) Layers of sediments – millions/billions of years to form?<sup>i</sup>
- c) Dinosaur soft tissue.<sup>ii</sup>
- d) Helium diffusion and Uranium decay.<sup>iii</sup>
- e) Which worldview provides a foundation in which causality/induction is both possible and knowable?<sup>iv</sup>

### Evolution of species from non-living matter

- a) Origin from non-living matter, possible or impossible?<sup>v</sup>
- b) If evolution is true, how could it produce species with two sexes?<sup>vi</sup>
- c) DNA code is very complex<sup>vii</sup>, requires particular enzymes<sup>viii</sup>, and other molecular machinery<sup>ix</sup>, for its manufacture.<sup>x</sup> Yet, this very machinery needs the instructions inherent in an organism’s DNA in order for a cell to manufacturer the machines themselves. In other words, molecular machines are needed to construct DNA, but those machines need DNA to provide the cell with the instructions so the machines can be built; which came first? “How did stupid atoms spontaneously write their own software? ... Nobody knows ... ” [Life force, New Scientist 163(2204):27–30, 18 September 1999.

- d) DNA in living organisms appears to be degrading as time goes on; i.e., devolution not evolution.<sup>xi</sup>
- e) The handedness problem of organic molecules; the chirality problem.<sup>xii</sup> Enantiomers in living things are not a combination of left and right-handed molecules; amino acids (the building blocks of proteins) are virtually always left-handed and sugars are always right-handed. Miller-Urey experiment produced enantiomers, yet organic molecules need the components to be homochiral so that the correct three-dimensional shape is produced.

Similarities in DNA between creatures, specifically chimpanzees and human beings

- a) Whole genome comparisons are now, with some caveats, possible. DNA similarity between chimps and humans is not what it was originally claimed to be; it is probably less than 80%, and not the 98-99% originally claimed.<sup>xiii</sup>

Some discussion topics and points to think about

Discuss death and disease being the normal, natural course of events vs. the Bible's teaching that death is an enemy and disease/suffering are not the way things are supposed to be.<sup>xiv</sup> Discuss whether, according to the Bible, death, disease, and suffering could exist prior to the fall of man.

Discuss the implications of the overall deterioration of the human genome over time. What does this teach us about the original DNA that Adam and Eve must have possessed? Is this scientific evidence compatible with the theory of evolution? What does the rate at which the genome is deteriorating tell us about how long ago our first parents were created?

What are some of the necessary preconditions in order for science to even be possible?<sup>xv</sup> The following are just some of the things, but not all, of what needs to be true about us and the universe in order for science to be a workable endeavor.<sup>xvi</sup> What other things can you think of that need to be true in order for science to exist?

- 1) There is such a thing as *objective truth*.
- 2) The universe is *real*.
- 3) The universe is *orderly*.
- 4) God is sovereign, and therefore could have created the universe in any way that pleased Him. Therefore, apart from revelation, human beings need to *investigate* and *experiment* in order to learn how He governs His universe.
- 5) "Man can and should investigate the world, because God gave us dominion over His creation (Genesis 1:28)."<sup>xvii</sup>
- 6) Man has been endowed by His Creator with the ability to initiate thoughts and actions; he is not a mere biological machine whose thoughts and actions, contrary to the assertions of atheistic biologists and philosophers, are not fully determined by the laws of physics and chemistry. Cornell University evolutionary biologist William Provine taught that since evolution is true it necessarily follows that "there is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life, and no free will for humans, either."<sup>xviii</sup>

- 7) Man has the capacity for reason and logical thinking.
- 8) Science should be engaged in *ethically*, and reported *honestly* because God is a God of truth, and we are created in His image.<sup>xix</sup>

### Conclusion

Sometimes science is spoken of as if it begins with a capital ‘S’, as if it has an authority to which all must bow the knee. We must keep in mind that science is a human endeavor that is engaged in by fallible human beings, human beings whose sin causes them to suppress the truth. However, because the world is the way the Bible says it is (a purposeful, intelligible creation of the Almighty God), and because human beings are what the Bible says they are, namely creatures created in His image, science has often been a fruitful enterprise. By God’s grace, through the tools afforded us by our Creator, the discipline of science has proven very productive; it has enabled us to send men to the moon, cure numerous diseases, increase the yields of crops, and, even when it doesn’t acknowledge Him, it shines a bright light, illuminating the awesome power, majesty, and creativity of our Lord and Savior. “The heavens declare the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). Indeed, we, and His entire creation, are “fearfully, and wonderfully made” (**Psalm 139:14**).

### Supplemental Material on the Creation Days

Were the days of creation normal, 24-hour days?<sup>xx</sup>

- a) Even though the term can refer to longer or shorter periods of time, the general use of the Hebrew term ‘yom’ refers to a regular, 24-hour day as we experience it.
- b) In virtually every instance in which the word ‘yom’ is used with an ordinal (e.g., first, second, third, etc.) it refers to a regular, 24-hour day. Interestingly, the first day is referred to by means of a cardinal number (e.g., ‘one’ day, or day ‘one’). Hebrew scholar, and lecturer in Old Testament Studies at Acadia University, Dr. Francis Humphrey observes that it “appears that the text is in fact defining what a ‘day’ is in the rest of the creation week.”<sup>xxi</sup>
- c) In virtually every instance in which the word ‘yom’ is used with the terms ‘evening’ and ‘morning’ it refers to a regular, 24-hour day.
- d) Man’s Sabbath observance is patterned after the creation week; **Exodus 20:11** “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all this is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. **Therefore**, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”
- e) Genesis 1:31 “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.” If the creation days were not normal, 24-hour days, days that occurred only a few thousand years ago, then it necessarily follows that there existed billions of years of disease, suffering, and death prior to the fall of our first human parents. In other words, if the world is billions of years old, then death ruled on God’s “very good” creation for eons before sin entered the world.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://creation.com/sedimentation-experiments-nature-finally-catches-up> and also <http://creation.com/our-world-afk-mount-st-helens-iguanodons-guinea-pigs-clownfish>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/dinosaur-shocker-115306469/?no-ist> See also,

<http://www.icr.org/article/2032> and <http://creation.com/dinosaur-soft-tissue>

<sup>iii</sup> See, for instance, [http://www.creationresearch.org/crsq/articles/41/41\\_1/Helium\\_lo\\_res.pdf](http://www.creationresearch.org/crsq/articles/41/41_1/Helium_lo_res.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> An audio excerpt from Dr. Greg Bahnsen's debate with atheist George Smith: <https://vimeo.com/44908676>

<sup>v</sup> A great overview of the problems and impossibility of evolving life from non-life can be found here:

<http://creation.com/origin-of-life>

<sup>vi</sup> [https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j18\\_1/j18\\_1\\_120-127.pdf](https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j18_1/j18_1_120-127.pdf)

<sup>vii</sup> An excellent peer-reviewed article on the enormous complexity of DNA as an information storage mechanism can be read here: [https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j21\\_3/j21\\_3\\_111-117.pdf](https://creation.com/images/pdfs/tj/j21_3/j21_3_111-117.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> One "absolutely essential" enzyme speeds up reactions that would normally take 78 million years in water to occur without its presence: <http://creation.com/world-record-enzymes-richard-wolfenden>

<sup>ix</sup> View a video animation of some of these machines at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=LY0hZLDOb00](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=LY0hZLDOb00)

<sup>x</sup> <http://creation.com/incredible-kinesin> (See the descriptive text under the "Protein synthesis, DNA translation, mRNA transcription" video box at the bottom of the article for some examples of this).

<sup>xi</sup> Read an interview with former Cornell University geneticist, Dr. John Sanford at: <http://creation.com/geneticist-evolution-impossible>

<sup>xii</sup> See, for instance, <http://creation.com/origin-of-life-and-the-homochirality-problem-is-magnetochiral-dichroism-the-solution>

<sup>xiii</sup> A peer-reviewed article dealing with some of the latest research findings can be read at:

<https://answersingenesis.org/genetics/dna-similarities/blastn-algorithm-anomaly/>

<sup>xiv</sup> Genesis 3:17; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:26.

<sup>xv</sup> See, for example, <http://creation.com/science-biblical-presuppositions>

<sup>xvi</sup> This list is a summary of the one presented here, and originally formulated by myself: <http://creation.com/the-greatest-hoax-on-earth-chapter-17>

<sup>xvii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xviii</sup> Provine, W.B. *Origins Research* 16(1/2):9, 1994.

<sup>xix</sup> Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18; James 1:17.

<sup>xx</sup> See, for reference, <http://creation.com/the-days-of-creation-a-semantic-approach> , <http://creation.com/images/pdfs/cabook/chapter2.pdf> ,

<sup>xxi</sup> Humphrey, F. (2007, August). *The meaning of yom in Genesis 1:1-2:4*. Retrieved from <http://creation.com/the-meaning-of-yom-in-genesis-1> (last accessed, November 9, 2015).