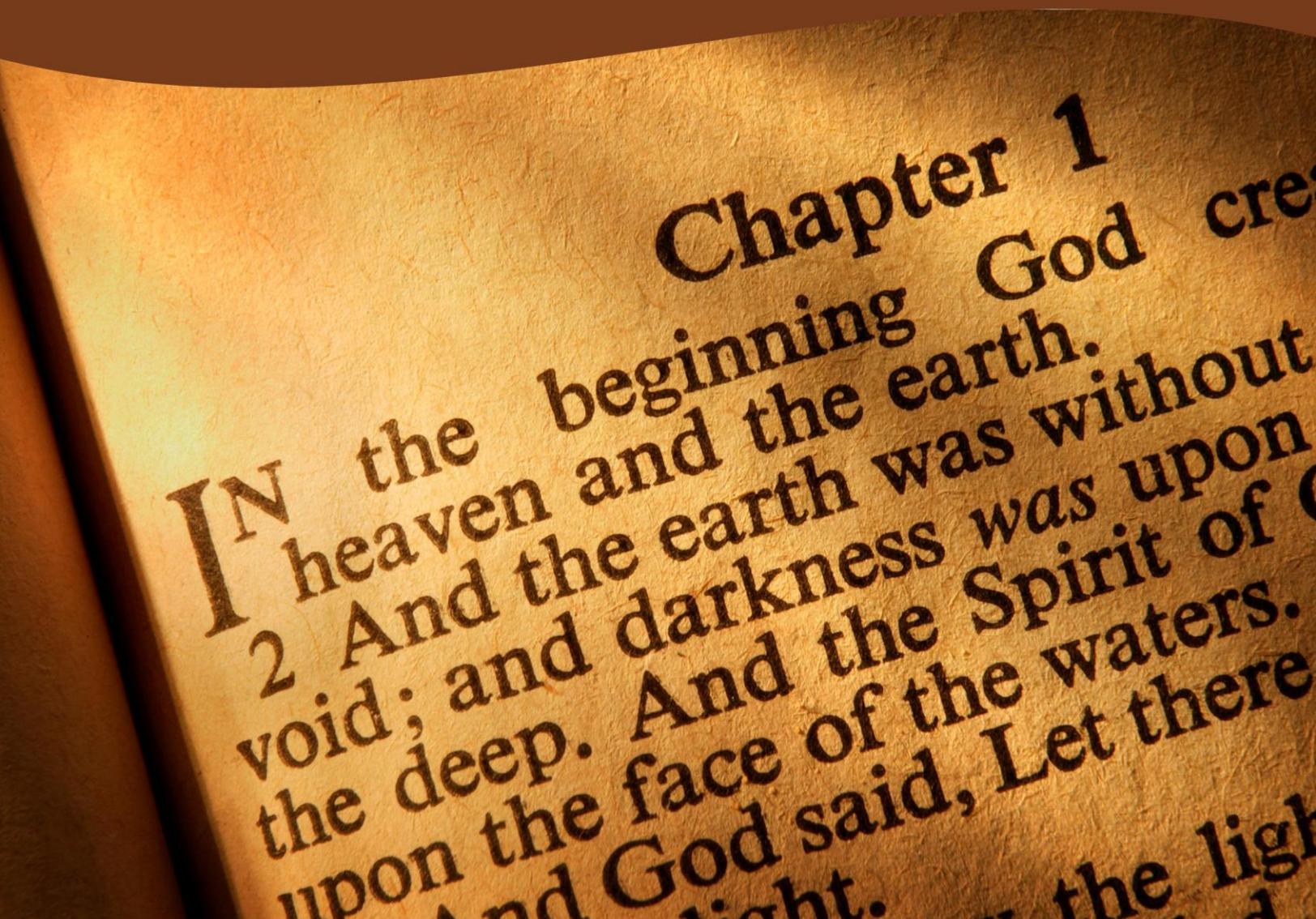


Creation vs. Evolution

Interpreting the Evidence



Chapter 1

IN the beginning God cre
2 And the earth was without
void; and darkness was without
the deep. And the Spirit of
upon the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there
light. the ligh

Dr. Carl Wieland
Darren Nelson

Creation vs. Evolution: Interpreting the Evidence

Dr. Carl Wieland and Darren Nelson

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Creation, Chronology, and History

Dr. Carl Wieland

Remember those games where you fire off a word or phrase at someone, and he has to instantly tell you of the first word or image that pops into his head? Do that with “evolution vs. creation,” and a significant number will voice a response that includes the word *science*. Very few, if any, would ever fire back with the word *history*. But the origins debate is much more about history than it is about science.

• • •
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The word *science* conjures up images of test tubes, men in white coats doing precise measurements, or space travel—that sort of thing. We tend to associate science with experiments, measurements, hard facts—things that work and are very real.

People today find it hard to imagine that the ideas of evolution and millions of years could be wrong, because they link them with *that* sort of science. Call this operational or experimental science if you like (I personally love it). It has to do with how the world works, not how it began. It’s about laws, like gravity. If you don’t believe someone when he tells you how quickly an object falling to Earth will accelerate, you can check it for yourself—any time, over and over, if you want. It’s repeatable, testable, observable. But that sort of science is not the way people can study the past. We can’t observe the past,¹ can’t repeat the past or do experiments on the past as such. We can’t even dig up the past, despite what you sometimes hear. (A piece of ancient pottery or a dinosaur bone always exists in the *present*.)

When we try to work out what happened in the past—where something came from, how it got to be the way it is—we really want to

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¹ Some say that the exception is when we observe light that left distant stars years ago. But while the light may have left that star many centuries ago, for instance, the light reaching the observer’s eye is doing so in the present. For an understanding of how light from the farthest reaches of the universe could have reached us in a world created 6,000 years ago, see Professor John Hartnett’s new book *Starlight, Time and the New Physics*, available from CMI’s webstore at www.Creation.com.

know about its *history*. To tackle those questions, the approach that's used can be called "historical science" (or forensic science). It's more like a detective trying to work out what happened at a murder scene. The methods used to gather the clues, measure things, etc. can be very precise, but in the end it's all about telling a story about what you think might have happened and then seeing how the facts fit or don't fit. And the same facts (despite television's *CSI*)² can usually fit several different stories.

Facts Are Silent

Incidentally, modern philosophers of science all agree that *facts do not speak for themselves*—they have to be *interpreted*. Today even when some Christians look at rock layers or deep canyons, they conclude that the "facts" are screaming out at them and that the formation of these land forms required vast periods of time. But it's not hard to demonstrate that, even if it *had* taken millions of years to form such things, raw facts can tell us no such thing. How can we demonstrate that? Simply think back to the times of some of the greatest scientists who ever lived—Isaac Newton, for instance. He saw rock layers and canyons, but he *never once* saw the millions of years. Why do many people think they "see" them today? Because they have been trained by their culture to interpret the same facts through the filter of a different worldview, a different belief system, from the one Newton had.³ We all have such a filter, by the way—it's the way this historical science thing works.

• • •
Over and over, His
[Jesus'] teaching
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• • •

² *CSI (Crime Scene Investigation)* is a popular though excessively "gory" TV series about fictional forensic "detectives." The characters often suggest that evidence "speaks"—and that it does so infallibly.

³ Another point to consider about the relative merits of homeschooling, by the way.

What about “Prehistory”?

Some argue that the word *history* should refer only to the period in which people were on the earth—everything before that is “prehistory.” But since the Bible indicates that people were there six earth-rotation days after the beginning of the entire universe,⁴ then for all practical purposes, there is no such thing as prehistory anyway.

Once we begin to think of the origins debate in terms of *history*, it’s a whole new ball game. Documentary evidence is crucially important for historians. We have no doubt at all that Julius Caesar existed, and we are convinced of all sorts of important details about his life and times. Yet, if we had to rely on the non-written, physical evidence dug up from ancient Roman sites, we would have nothing like this information and could come to all sorts of erroneous conclusions. We might not have even suspected that there was such an emperor, if we did not have written evidence. But the documentation about Julius Caesar could be regarded as a few negligible scraps compared to the massive documentary evidence for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

• • •
The notion that Adam was a Neolithic farmer, descended from less-evolved animals, or that He was just a metaphor, is nothing short of bizarre . . .
• • •

Through His resurrection, Jesus validated His claim to be God, and in so doing put His stamp on the authority, accuracy, and authenticity of the Word of God, the Bible. Over and over, His teaching referred to “It is written” as a final answer to an argument.

Genesis as History

The risen Christ, on the road to Emmaus, showed the disciples all things concerning Himself in the Old Testament scriptures—*“beginning with Moses and all the prophets.”*⁵ And the first book of Moses is Genesis. Luke’s genealogy of Christ, His ancestral line, is of the form “son of X, who was the son of Y, who was the son of Z” and so on, starting with Jesus’ earthly father. Of the people mentioned in

⁴ Affirmed by Jesus (e.g., Mark 10:6).

⁵ Luke 24:27

this list, many are referred to in other parts of the Bible as real people with families and so on. This chain going backwards ends when it reaches "*son of Adam, which was the son of God.*" (Luke 3:38) All the New Testament writers, as well as the Lord Jesus, wrote in such a way that it is obvious they saw Adam and Eve as real figures in history, living in a real place at a real time. The notion that Adam was a Neolithic farmer, descended from less-evolved animals, or that He was just a metaphor, is nothing short of bizarre if we apply the normal rules of exegesis. For one thing, metaphors don't have sons.

In short, Jesus and all the New Testament writers took Genesis as real history, and its characters as real people. So does the rest of the Old Testament. Genesis history is consistent with God's nature, too, as opposed to belief in millions of years of pointless death, cruelty, and extinction prior to man's appearance. And the gospel itself *presupposes* the history in Genesis, which is really a brief outline of the *history* of "life, the universe and everything"—including people. To say otherwise is not only to disconnect the Bible from the real world, but also to do violence to the normal rules of scholarship, exegesis, and even common sense. Furthermore, the structure of the Hebrew used in Genesis is typical of historical narrative, not poetry or metaphor or similar forms of literature.⁶

Those Begatting Things

Many see the importance of the Bible's "big picture" history—the creation of a good world, with no death or suffering in man or animals, then the Fall/Curse bringing in all the "bad things" that will one day be removed forever when, as Revelation puts it, there will be "no more Curse."⁷ But many wonder why we have to have all those long, boring genealogy lists in Genesis.

Actually, dates are crucial to historians, and such genealogies give extremely important "date" information. When I commenced in creation ministry, I was happy to answer a question about Earth's age with "somewhere around 10,000 years or so." It seemed close enough to the Bible's 6,000—at least it was nowhere near the millions and billions we hear of continually. And who knows, there may well have been some deliberate gaps in the genealogies—"son" might have

⁶ See the classic booklet *15 Reasons to Take Genesis as History*, by my colleagues Don Batten and Jonathan Sarfati—available at www.Creation.com.

⁷ Revelation 22:3

meant “grandson,” and so on. But I was wrong. The genealogies in Genesis are “watertight” (they tell you the father’s age when the son was born). This lengthy and detailed information in the Bible is there for many reasons, not the least being the incredible historical authenticity it lends to the text.

Egyptian History vs. Bible History

One of the reasons why even many evangelicals have, even while rejecting huge time spans, liked to be a little “flexible” about the exact dates calculated from the Bible is because they are aware of serious conflict between these dates and the dates accepted as reliable history from other sources. For example, accepted historical dates for Egypt mean that the beginning of its civilization must have happened well before the global Flood of Noah. (The pyramids are strong, but nothing manmade could withstand the forces that reworked the earth for well over a year, laying down all those layers we see in the Grand Canyon, for example.) Acceptance of the standard Egyptian chronology leads to all sorts of other problems too. The Exodus, the conquest of Canaan, and the reigns of David and Solomon—archaeology knows of no evidence to support the fact that these events occurred during the time periods assigned to them by the Bible.

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... today there are prominent
non-Christian archaeologists
... who are telling us that
Egyptian chronology is
probably quite wrong ...

Interestingly, however, today there are prominent non-Christian archaeologists, such as Sir Colin Renfrew and David Rohl, who are telling us that Egyptian chronology is probably quite wrong—much too long. Several of the kings whose reigns are documented in the literature of Egypt were actually ruling at the same time, for instance. Christian archaeologist David Down has shown that if you simply presuppose that the Bible has it right on any one of these things, then suddenly there is consistent archaeological evidence in the right time periods for *all* of them. This shrinks the Egyptian chronology in line with the trend described earlier, and there is no longer a problem of pyramids existing before the Flood. It all hangs together and makes sense. Isn’t that what we can expect when we start by trusting the Word of the One who made everything?

What About Theistic Evolution?

Darren Nelson

Many Christians do not “get” what the big deal is about evolution. “God could have used evolution as His means to create the universe as easily as speaking it into existence. Evolution doesn’t affect the *spiritual* truths of the Bible.” If “evolution” is taken to mean the belief that microbes have turned into people and everything else over millions of years, this is simply untrue. The purpose of this article is to present some reasons why evolution and the Bible are irreconcilable. If the Bible is the book it claims to be, evolution *cannot* be true. If evolution is true, God (if He exists) is not the One presented in the Bible. That may strike some as a huge claim, but it is actually easy to get there if the claims of the Bible and those of evolution are taken to their logical end.

Four Truths About God and the Bible

Let’s begin with a compilation of four interrelated truths about God and the Bible. These are historically recognized, defining truths of the Christian faith with which very few Christians would disagree. The first is that God is the ultimate Author of Scripture. Men did not write the Scripture using their own limited knowledge and understanding. They were God’s instruments for putting His Word on paper. They undoubtedly wrote things that they themselves did not fully understand, but they *never* wrote anything out of their own heads without the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). The second truth is that God desires to be known. That is the reason for the Bible and the Incarnation. God wants people to know Him and be known by Him. God delights in revealing Himself. Third, God is a Truth-teller. He *cannot* lie (Titus 1:2). Jesus claims to *be* Truth (John 14:6). And because God wants to be known, it’s important to Him that He be understood. The fourth basic truth is that God puts a high value on His Word. It is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105). It will endure forever (1 Peter

- *God is the ultimate Author of Scripture*
- *God desires to be known*
- *God is a Truth-teller*
- *God puts a high value on His Word*

1:25). It is the light by which ideas are examined to determine if they are true.

Evolution Is Unbiblical

Taken in conjunction, these foundational truths form a picture of the Bible as a reliable source of information because it was composed by a truthful God who wants to be known and who values His Word enough that He has preserved throughout history the meaning He intends it to have. This picture of God and His Word comprises the first reason evolution is unbiblical. Evolution simply and emphatically is not found in the Bible in any form, hint, or insinuation. Moreover, it contradicts the plain meaning of the inspired language, disrupting the meaning of the foundational chapters of Genesis as well as many other passages interspersed throughout the pages of Scripture. Evolution is unbiblical by definition.

The Nature of God

Let's consider secondly the nature of God in relation to the original Creation as presented in the Bible. The Bible presents God as morally excellent and perfect, holy, good, purposeful, peace-loving, a God of love. It presents Him as One who identifies with the lowly and hopeless. Jesus teaches that the meek will inherit the earth.

• • •
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God of love.
• • •

He commands us to be like God, considering others ahead of ourselves and looking out for the weak and downtrodden of society. The Bible makes it clear that death and suffering were not part of the original Creation but entered as a result of man's sin and the subsequent Curse (Romans 5:12 ff). Death is said to be our enemy. Jesus' death and

resurrection are said to have conquered death (1 Corinthians 15:54, 2 Timothy 1:10). The universe is said to be "groaning" as it waits for the Curse to be lifted (Romans 8:22). Heaven, described as a place where there is no suffering and death, is presented as a restoration to the perfect condition that existed before the Fall.

Consider how opposed that is to evolution, which, by its nature, is random, cruel, thoughtless, violent, and wasteful. It *requires* death

and suffering. It requires individuals to put themselves first and eliminate the weak. It is the very antithesis of Godliness. (Even a Creation scenario that interprets the fossil record as a testimony to long ages before man must therefore put such “bad things” before the Fall.) The Genesis account concludes with God surveying all He has made and pronouncing it “very good.” Can we imagine such a statement being made by a loving and righteous God over a world that had seen *billions* of years of death and suffering, inefficiency and wastefulness? The God of the Bible is not capable of such an atrocity. If it is true that evolution was used to create the world, the creator is surely not the God of the Bible. That god would be closer to Baal or Beelzebub than to Jehovah.

A Salvation Issue

Let’s turn to a third line of thought. A disturbing fact with which the Christian evolutionist must reckon is that evolution turns large numbers of people away from the Christian faith every year. Thousands of people—especially young people—reject Christianity each year because the first eleven chapters of Genesis are contrary to what is being presented to them as undisputed scientific truth. So evolution *is*, in a sense, a salvation issue. People are rejecting the truth of the Word of God because of it. This alone should cause us to stop and seriously question the veracity of evolution.

Impassable Walls

The summation of what has been presented so far is that the Christian evolutionist holds an untenable position in that he must believe the following: that God created the universe over billions of years using violence, death, and suffering despite the Bible’s emphasis that God is a kind and loving God; then He inspired the writer of Genesis to record the process in an entirely different way bearing no resemblance to what actually happened despite the Bible’s emphasis on God being a Truth-telling God—all the while knowing that the discrepancy would turn people away from Himself despite the Bible’s emphasis that God desires to draw people to Himself. Could this be true? This simply cannot be. It is antithetical to the nature and character of God. Jesus Himself said that a kingdom divided against itself could not stand. Yet wherever we turn, evolution leads us to logically impassable walls. There is no way around the conclusions that

either the Bible is not "God-breathed," that God is a liar, or that Jesus was not really divine, any of which leave our religion in shambles.

• • •
The sad fact is that the typical Christian has more faith in the claims of science than in the claims of the Bible.

• • •
One of the most common arguments presented by the theistic evolutionist is that the days of Creation do not necessarily have to be literal twenty-four-hour days, but rather ages in the order of millions or billions of years. After all, the Bible says a day is like a thousand years to God. Also, the Hebrew word for *day* (*yom*) can,

as in English, mean "age." The Genesis account of Creation is therefore seen in an allegorical sense, with each day corresponding to an age in the evolutionary/ancient earth scheme. It is deemed that the integrity of God and the Scriptures are preserved by such an interpretation. God is still telling the truth, but in a poetic and/or metaphorical way.

Besides the linguistic problems associated with it, there are several problems with this view. First, in allegory, each symbolic element in the story corresponds to some element in reality. The elements in the Creation account in Genesis do not correspond significantly to real historic events if evolution is true. If the "days" of Genesis 1 were allegorical ages, then one would expect the order of the events in the Genesis account to correspond to the supposed evolutionary order. But they aren't even really close. For example, the Bible states that God created the earth before the stars, whales before cows, bats before rats. This is the opposite of what the evolutionary/long ages view claims. The Bible even says that

plants were created (one day) before the sun! Since we Christians claim to believe that the Author of Scripture is God Himself, we are led back to a familiar dilemma for Christian evolutionists. To accept the allegory as written makes God a liar, but to appeal to the ignorance of the human authors denies the inspiration of Scripture.

• • •
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• • •
The book of Genesis is written as a single historical narrative, beginning at the Creation of the world and ending with the death of

Joseph. Where in that unbroken line of events does myth stop and true history begin? Sadly, the answer for most Christian evolutionists is at the point where the text stops offending our sensibilities with silly stories about talking serpents, worldwide floods, and towers reaching to the sky. And this is the heart of the whole matter. The sad fact is that the typical Christian has more faith in the claims of science than in the claims of the Bible. An uninformed Christian perceives himself caught between a rock and a hard place. He either has to reject evolution and look like an idiot on par with one who denies a round earth, or he has to reject the natural reading of Scripture. What is he to do? Well, the Bible is a religious book and therefore subjective and open to a degree of interpretive license. Evolution, presented as objective science and entitled to the benefits thereof, is regarded as proven truth. Frankly, it's often seen to be much easier to accommodate science by altering the meaning of the Bible than vice versa.

A Church of Individualized Cults

We've become a church full of rationalists, people who put our own reason as the highest authority. Whether or not something lines up with Scripture doesn't appear to concern us much. If the Bible is in any way counterintuitive to our logic regarding the world or the character of God, we relegate the offending passages to allegory or metaphor. They simply are not allowed to mean what they seem to mean. We who call ourselves God's own people reinterpret Scripture so eagerly and willingly that we are, in essence, creating our own Bibles and our own religions, bearing less and less resemblance to Biblical Christianity. We are in danger of becoming a church of individualized cults.

To confront the problems resulting from his faith in evolution, the Christian evolutionist has resorted to doing that which has been historically unacceptable—removing the Bible from its place of authority and reinterpreting Scripture as he sees fit. This is a solution that shows neither intellectual integrity nor a respect for the things of God. I would encourage us to face the hard issues and to grapple with the truth of God, whose “ways are not our ways, nor thoughts our thoughts.” Ultimately, this is about getting back to a commitment to Scripture—to trust that God is who He says He is, that the Bible is His Word, and to let Truth speak for itself.

The Voyage That Shook the World

Dr. Carl Wieland

A new film that could shake large numbers out of their evolution-based complacency to considering the God of the Bible

For months now, humanist and atheist groups have been celebrating 2009 as the “year of Charles Darwin,”⁸ parading him as a hero of science.

To help Christians make a powerful stand, [Creation Ministries](#)

[International](#) has released a high-quality, big-budget⁹ documentary, ***The Voyage That Shook the World***.

• • •
The film features
stunning onsite nature
footage from around
the world, period
drama reenactments,
and interviews with
world-class experts . . .

Produced by CMI’s subsidiary, **Fathom Media**,¹⁰ and using both in-house and consultant professionals of a high level of experience and expertise, the film is framed around a retracing of Darwin’s voyage on HMS *Beagle*.

• • •
The primary purpose of this 52-minute, high-definition “documovie” is to move the creation/evolution debate into the secular mainstream and to break down some of the seemingly impenetrable barriers of evolutionary prejudice.

The Voyage has been produced with world TV networks in mind, taking advantage of the potential to reach their viewing audiences of millions.¹¹ Follow-up DVD sales to believers would allow them to introduce non-Christians to this film as well, adding greatly to the numbers potentially reached.

⁸ It’s the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Origin of Species*, and the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth.

⁹ Close to one million dollars, about three-fourths of which was raised by donations worldwide.

¹⁰ This allowed us more freedom to approach the places we wanted to film and be judged on the merits and the aims of the project, without being discriminated against on the basis of our name.

¹¹ Movies for cinema screenings generally need to be 90 minutes long at least, thus less suitable for TV broadcast.

Designed for modern secular audiences, *The Voyage* has deliberately avoided a polemical path in favor of a thoughtful, questioning approach. And it does not engage in gratuitous “Darwin-bashing”—this complex individual, who was in fact right about many things, is treated with dignity, but not deference.

• • •
... the film is framed around a retracing of Darwin’s voyage on HMS *Beagle*.
• • •

The historical framework in which the film is set also allows it to make bold reference (often from the mouths of secular science historians) to Genesis, the Flood, recent creation, and our descent from Adam and Eve—but in such a way as to add to the assembling jigsaw without the sense of having things rammed down the viewer’s throat. The viewer is taken on a thinking “voyage” that clearly indicates Darwin’s theory of evolution has not resolved the issues—subtly challenging the viewer to consider the Bible’s account as being the better explanation, after all.

The film features stunning onsite nature footage from around the world, period drama reenactments, and interviews with world-class experts from, for example, Harvard, Cambridge, and so on. It also features scientists from both the creationist and “ID” movements.

If Darwin Had Known What We Now Know . . .

The film also highlights the fact that Darwin saw himself early on as more of a geologist than a biologist. His “Bible” on the voyage was Lyell’s ***Principles of Geology*** (with its long ages of time displacing the Flood in Earth history). As a prominent evolutionary academic reinforces in the film, Lyell was out to destroy the idea that Genesis was real history.

• • •
Designed for modern secular audiences, *The Voyage* has deliberately avoided a polemical path in favor of a thoughtful, questioning approach.
• • •

As we revisit the sites Darwin saw, we find repeatedly that his conviction about Lyell’s “deep time” (so crucial to Darwin’s theory) is not scientifically sustainable.

For example, we examine the upright fossil trees in South America which Darwin thought had grown in place and been subject to slow up-and-down

movement of the land over millions of years. The documentary examines these trees in the field, revealing definitive evidence that they did not grow in place at all, but were torn off and deposited catastrophically.

Out of Their Own Mouths . . .

Interestingly, some of the most telling statements come from the lips of the evolutionist experts themselves.¹² For example, Darwin's racism, his tendency from an early age to invent big imaginary stories, and the way in which evolution, by undermining Genesis, destroys the foundations of Christianity in general, including the doctrine of salvation. Also, the film includes a powerful statement from a leading evolutionary scientist of how scientists can be locked in by their worldviews such that their minds are closed to other possibilities.

In one revealing interview, the Head of Research at the Darwin Research Station discusses the "surprising" things happening on the Galápagos Islands. For example, finches' beaks changing very *rapidly* under selection, cycling back and forth, from big to small and back again. But such shifting back and forth is clearly not evolution as Darwin envisaged it. As one creationist biochemistry professor indicates in the film, processes such as this add no real novelties to nature of the sort evolution requires.

Myth-busting

The *Voyage* undermines several commonly believed myths about Darwin, including these:

- The idea of evolution dawned upon Darwin, based on the "facts of observation." (He was soaked in the evolutionary ideas of his grandfather's book.¹³)
- He thought of natural selection in the Galápagos Islands, mostly from observations of the finches. (He did not even know they were all finches at the time and missed the natural selection,

¹² The fact that the project would be dealing with the controversy was disclosed to each interviewee in advance. We believe their views have been fairly and respectfully represented, and we are grateful to all of them for their important contributions.

¹³ See www.Creation.com/Erasmus.

which was happening on these islands, already discussed by creationist Blyth.)

- Religion played no part in his ideas (in fact, in common with then-popular currents of religious thought, he was trying to impose a particular anti-biblical notion of God onto nature).

Creation Ministries International believes that *The Voyage That Shook the World* can be a powerful rallying point for believers in 2009, as well as a pre-evangelism tool. So much of the information all around us is of high production quality but is pro-evolution. The sheer quality of this film will greatly encourage your family. Why not get your unbelieving friends to see it? It may break the ice and give you an opportunity to follow up with some of the many other powerful resources and information we have available (see www.Creation.com).

To see a trailer of the film and news on TV broadcasts, etc. throughout this year and beyond, visit this website: <http://TheVoyage.tv>.

Further Resources

- ✓ [Clash over Origins: Creation vs. Evolution DVD](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [Evolution Impossible DVD](#), by Dr. Vij Soderer & Phillip Bell
- ✓ [Genesis & the Gospel Connection DVD](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [Genesis: The Missing Piece of the Puzzle DVD](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [Rod's Ark DVD](#), by Rod Walsh
- ✓ [Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed DVD](#), by Ben Stein
- ✓ [Days 1-7: Your Complete Children's Guide to Creation Week](#), by Russell Grigg
- ✓ [Refuting Evolution](#), by Jonathan Sarfati, PhD
- ✓ [Refuting Evolution 2](#), by Jonathan Sarfati, PhD
- ✓ [Skeptics vs. Creationists Booklet](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [The Mystery of Ancient Man Booklet](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [Booklets Sample Pack](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [Witnessing Pack](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.
- ✓ [The Creation Answers Book](#), Creation Ministries, Intl.

About the Authors



Dr. Carl Wieland is the Managing Director of Creation Ministries International (CMI) in Brisbane, Australia. Originally a medical doctor, he has headed the Australian Creation ministry for more than twenty years. A well-known speaker and writer on Creation issues, he also served as a director of one of the largest Creation organizations in the USA while it was still a part of the same grouping. CMI currently consists of seven international affiliates, including an office in Atlanta. The *Creation* magazine he founded now reaches subscribers in more than 110 countries. See CMI's website, www.Creation.com.



Darren Nelson currently resides outside Knoxville, Tennessee. A high school mathematics teacher for many years, he has taken an indefinite sabbatical from the classroom to be the primary homeschool educator of his two children, Muriel and Noah.

Appendix

How to Begin Homeschooling

- 1. Discuss With Your Spouse:** Educating your child at home is a huge decision and should be one that is made with your spouse. Do not begin unless you are in agreement about this decision. You will need the support of your spouse not only at the beginning, but also throughout the year.
- 2. Research the Homeschool Laws Applicable in your Area:** Be fully aware of the legal requirements before you begin and especially before you take a child out of public school. For the U.S., each state's legal requirements can be found on the www.HomeschoolLegal.com website. Internationally, refer to www.HSLDA.org.
- 3. Research Styles of Home Education:** There is no single right way to educate your child at home; however, there are many differing philosophies you may want to consider.
 - **Charlotte Mason:** Based on a method introduced by nineteenth-century educator Charlotte Mason, this approach includes nature studies/journaling, narration, and living books.
 - **Classical:** Based on Dorothy Sayers' *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which child development is broken up into three "stages" of learning commonly called "the Trivium."
 - **Delight Directed:** This puts the learning in the hands of the child, based on his or her interests. Parents help facilitate this type of learning with appropriate instructional materials.
 - **Eclectic:** A mix of philosophies and curricula to accommodate each child's abilities and interests. Parents choose from any method or style only those components that fit their specific needs.
 - **The Principle Approach:** An approach based on the principles of our Founding Fathers and an emphasis on God's Word as the basis for every subject.
 - **Traditional Textbook:** Normally uses a full-range, packaged, textbook-type curriculum that also may include a scope and sequence, testing, and recordkeeping.
 - **Unit Studies:** All or most core subjects are covered while studying any one topic or unit of study, using a variety of resources and supplemental activities.
 - **Unschooling:** A relaxed setting where learning is directed by the child. Parts of this philosophy are based on research by John Taylor Gatto and John Holt.

- 4. Find Support:** After finding your style of choice (or a mix of more than one choice), you may want to choose a support group that reflects that specific style or just a general homeschool support group in your area. Meeting with other home educators offers encouragement as well as knowledge and assistance with your homeschool questions. Often, organized classes or activities for your children are offered through support groups as well. For information about homeschool support groups in your area, check these listings:

U.S.:

www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com/Homeschool_Nations/State_Listings.php
www.HomeschoolLegal.com

UK:

<http://www.home-service.org/>
<http://www.heas.org.uk/>

New Zealand:

<http://www.che.org.nz/>
<http://hef.org.nz/>
<http://www.ahe.org.nz/>
<http://www.homeschoolers.wellington.net.nz/>
<http://community.library.org.nz/cgi-bin/display.pl?id=296>

Guam:

www.HomeschoolBlogger.com/guam
<http://www.tumon.com/ghsa>

Australia:

<http://www.hea.asn.au/hea/>

Canada:

www.shbe.info
www.machs.mb.ca
www.aheaonline.com
<http://nshea.webcentre.ca/>
<http://www.eho.org/support/canada.asp>

- 5. Gather Resources:** Some families start with a complete curriculum package, while others start with a notebook and a library card. Choosing your resources depends on your style or method of education and your own interests. If you are financially burdened, there are free homeschooling resources on the web, as well as discounted, used books in abundance.

You Can Do This! Parents around the world are taking back their God-given responsibility to educate their children, and you can too. We have developed two downloads to help you get started:

- ✓ [Homeschool With Confidence](#)
- ✓ [Simple Recipes for Successful Homeschooling](#)

Disclaimer: The above information is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Please check the legal requirements in your area.

To a Homeschool Mom **By Amelia Harper**

He gave this gift with gentle hands,
A treasure rich and rare;
But sand and rock and rugged stone
Obscured the gem so fair.

“I give this gift to you,” He said,
“To polish and to prime;
The future lies within your hands,
So make use of the time.”

Some others placed their precious gifts
Within another’s care,
Because they knew the craft took time—
And time they could not spare.

But you were not content to trust
This task to other hands.
You sought to teach yourself the craft
That such a task demands.

For, you said, “No other hand
Can craft this gem so fair;
My loving eyes can better see
The treasure hidden there.”

So carefully you chipped away
Till brilliance sprang from stone.
You shaped each facet, smoothed each face,
Until the task was done.

Some days you feared that you would fail;
Some days, you saw success.
But still you labored on with love
And gentle tenderness.

Thus, soon the gem He gave to you
Reflected Light sublime;
And then you knew no other task
Was better worth your time.

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- ***Freebie Fridays*** – The best free homeschool resources online, emailed each Friday
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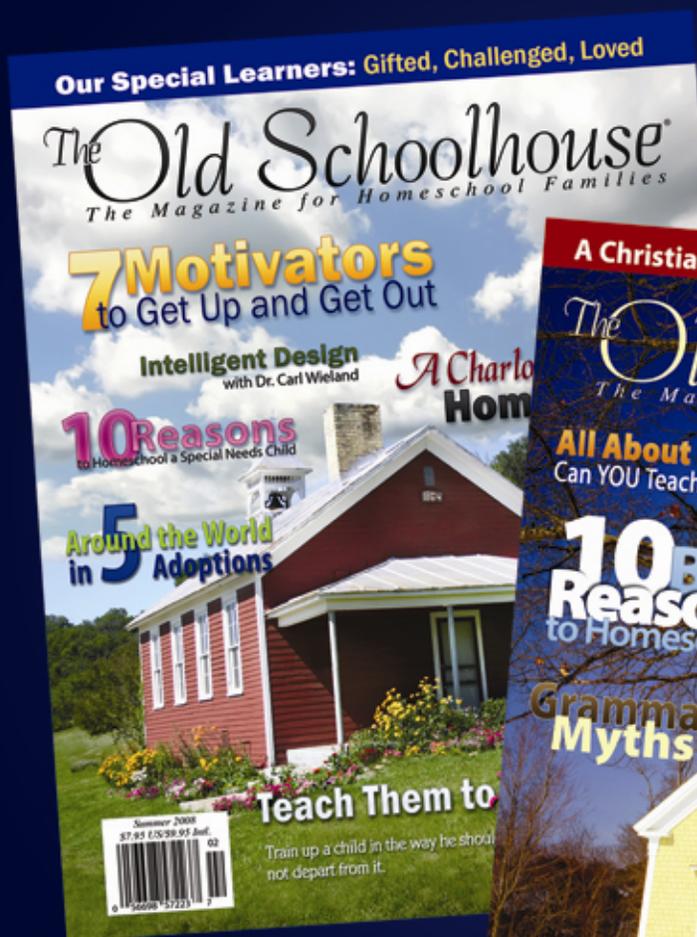
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