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Genesis Introduction
"Introduction to Genesis"
Pastor Gary Hamrick

This is our first study in Genesis, but this will be the third time Pastor Gary will lead the congregation on a journey through the Bible. Pastor Gary will use this message to lay a foundation for our study in Genesis going forward.

Why an introduction and not just get on with things? This introduction is important because it deals with what we believe regarding a subject that really is the linchpin of the Bible – a study of Creation and the Creator. After all, if you can't accept [Genesis 1:1](#), then it's bound to be the case that you're going to have a hard time accepting the rest of the Bible and, if God isn't big enough to be Creator, then how can he really be your Savior?

If we reduce God to some smaller cosmic presence within a larger universe that he is somehow responsible *to*, rather than responsible *for*, then what help could he ever really be to us? This philosophy makes God out to be nothing more than one cog in the wheel of the cosmos, and "round and round we go, where it ends, nobody knows."

Hopefully, people will come to the place, if they haven't already, where they will understand and embrace the fact that he is Creator, Lord and Savior. The Lord is majestic, powerful and purposeful; he reveals himself in the pages of the Bible and he had each of us in mind when he created the vast expanse of the Universe. Jeremiah had it right when he wrote In [Jeremiah 32:17](#), *"Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."*

Respecting science is a good thing, but science doesn't hold an exclusive position above Scripture. It's important to recognize that the Bible and science are not mutually exclusive. The concerns many people have with science center on extremely large-scale assumptions (like Darwinian Evolution), which try to explain things apart from God. These assumptions are then posited as facts. However, when these so-called facts or scientific theory conflicts with Scripture, it's important for Christians to always defer to the Bible.

There are critics and skeptics who are outspoken in their criticism of Christians who believe in Creation versus Evolution. Unfortunately, Christians have been silent far too long. Many have kowtowed to the Bill Mahers of the world, who believe that Christians are either misinformed or small-brained people, especially when it comes to the subjects of Creation and Evolution. It's time for Christians to be unashamed and unapologetic about the truth of Creation, and to be informed and equipped in their faith to know why they believe what they believe.

In this introductory study of Genesis chapter one, we'll learn about science that disputes the theory of Evolution, including interesting quotes by Christian scientists and others who openly refute the foolishness of what some have called the religion of Evolution.

Times Sure Have Changed!

1. In 1925, John Thomas Scopes, a 24-year-old, Tennessee science teacher, was charged with the crime of violating the Butler Act by teaching Evolution in a public school.¹
 - a. The trial lasted 15 days, but the jury deliberated just eight minutes, finding John Scopes guilty of teaching Evolution.
2. It's interesting to note that the presiding judge, Judge John T. Raulston, opened the trial by reading the first 27 verses of Genesis chapter one!
3. Until the mid-20th Century, Creationism was taught in nearly every school in the United States, however, that changed when a 1968 U.S. Supreme Court ruling determined that teaching Creationism violated the Establishment clause of the 1st Amendment.²

¹ Use this link to read a myriad of articles on the Answers in Genesis Web site:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/search/?q=scopes+monkey+trial&search=Go>

² <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-amendments/bill-of-rights/>

- a. The Court not only interpreted the Establishment clause to mean that Congress could not establish a State religion, but that the States could not do anything that would further religion.
 - b. Their opinion determined that Creationism furthers religious belief, so it was deemed unconstitutional and it hasn't been taught in public schools ever since.
 - c. For nearly the first 200 years of our history Creationism was taught and Evolution was mocked, now Creationism and Christianity are mocked and Evolution is taught as fact.
4. It seems that we have fallen prey to the very thing Adolf Hitler advocated when he said, "Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it."³

What Are We To Believe?

5. The general consensus of the world would be that man has gotten smarter, which means that really smart people believe Evolution and really dumb people believe in Creationism.
6. We should not let anyone convince us that only intelligent people believe in Evolution and that all the PhDs are on the side of Darwinism, because that's just plain nonsense.
7. Dr. Edward Blick, Ph.D. - "Evolution is a scientific fairy tale just as the 'flat earth theory' was in the 12th century. Biblical creation is the only sensible alternative."⁴
8. Dr. John N. Moore, Ed.D. - "Now I believe in Jesus Christ as the Creator of all things in contrast to the totally unscientific idea of grand scale evolution and spontaneous generation of life. All known scientific data fit into the special creation account of the beginning of the universe, of life, and of men."⁵
9. Some might say, "Okay, so you found a few quotes by a few fanatical Christians who happen to be scientists." Well, here's an interesting quote from a self-described atheist, Dr. Stanley Salthe, Ph.D.

³ http://thinkexist.com/quotation/make_the_lie_big-make_it_simple-keep_saying_it/175795.html

⁴ Dr. Blick was a Professor of Aerospace, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, at the University of Oklahoma (1959-2007), as well as an Adjunct Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma.

⁵ Dr. Moore was a Professor of Natural Science (retired in 2010) at Michigan State University.

- a. "Darwinian evolutionary theory was my field of specialization in biology. Among other things, I wrote a textbook on the subject thirty years ago. Meanwhile, however, I have become an apostate from Darwinian theory and have described it as part of modernism's origination myth."⁶
10. There are many other Ph.D's and M.D.'s, including more than 700 who have signed a statement that they do not believe in Darwinism.⁷
- a. Each signer must "either hold a Ph.D. in a scientific field such as biology, chemistry, mathematics, engineering, computer science, or one of the other natural sciences; or, they must hold an M.D. and serve as a professor of medicine."⁸
11. But wait, that's not all!
- a. A 2005 poll by the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Social and Religious Research⁹ found that:
 - i. 60% of American medical doctors reject Darwinism, stating that they do not believe man evolved through natural processes alone.
 - ii. Only 38% of American medical doctors polled, agreed with the statement: "Humans evolved naturally with no supernatural involvement."
 - b. In 2010, the Gallup organization reported that 40% of Americans believe in strict Creationism; only 16% believe humans developed over millions of years, without God's involvement.¹⁰
 - c. A 2011 study conducted by Penn State, and published in *Science* magazine, concluded that 60% of high school biology teachers are reluctant to teach evolution and they "undermine the authority of established experts and legitimize creationist arguments."¹¹
 - d. Dr. Michael Behe, a Professor of Biochemistry at Lehigh University, wrote *Darwin's Black Box*.¹² He was a supporter of evolution, simply because that's what he was taught, and he accepted it without being a critical thinker. He came to the conclusion that Darwinian Evolution could not explain the complexity of the human cell, because the evidence didn't support it.
 - i. He read a book by Michael Denton entitled, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, and he is now a strong advocate for Intelligent Design.

⁶ Dr. Salthe is Professor Emeritus of Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, with a Ph.D. in zoology from Columbia University.

⁷ Use this link to download a PDF of this document, as well as find other resources:

<http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/>

⁸ <http://www.dissentfromdarwin.org/faq.php>

⁹ <http://www.discovery.org/a/2611>

¹⁰ <http://www.gallup.com/poll/145286/Four-Americans-Believe-Strict-Creationism.aspx>

¹¹ <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/answer-sheet/science/study-most-high-school-biology.html>

¹² http://cdios.calvaryd.org/product_info.php?products_id=3821

- ii. Dr. Behe's new viewpoint prompted Lehigh University to post a disclaimer on their Web site that indicates his views do not represent the views of the university.¹³

Three Illustrations

12. Those who mock Christianity argue that we don't use our minds, and that we just accept things without thinking critically, so let's think critically about a few things that Darwinian Evolutionists expect us to believe.

13. Microraptor Gui¹⁴

- a. Since Evolution is built on the premise that all life emerged from a single cell that mutated into different biological forms (macroevolution), there is obviously a need to explain how birds evolved.
- b. Evolutionists firmly believe that birds evolved from dinosaurs, however, there's one glaring problem: there has never been a discovery of a single transitional fossil!
- c. Professor Xu Xing, from the Chinese Academy of Science, believes the link between dinosaurs and winged birds with feathers has been discovered.
 - i. A dinosaur bird fossil, discovered in 2003 in northeast China, is said to be 150 million years old.
 - ii. Professor Xing believes "the four-winged shape of the Microraptor Gui may represent a very important state in the evolutionary transition from dinosaurs to birds."¹⁵
 - iii. Pastor Gary's humorous dramatization of the Microraptor Gui (about the size of a chicken) determining on its own initiative to grow wings and feathers emphasizes the fact that it doesn't take a whole lot of critical thinking to determine that this new "evidence" is anything but real science.

14. The Evolution of Man

- a. How can seemingly intelligent people expect anyone to believe the theory of the evolution of man – from "goo, to zoo, to you" – over millions of years?

¹³ <http://www.lehigh.edu/bio/faculty/behe.html>



¹⁴

¹⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8273938.stm>

- b. Do they really expect us to believe that over time, decisions were made to just stand more erect? ¹⁶

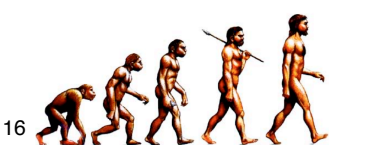
15. The Flashlight

- a. The complex systems of life and the universe have not evolved from random, successive events of gradual modification over long periods of time, and it's not possible that those things simply evolved and spontaneously became highly functional.
- b. How can seemingly intelligent people expect anyone to believe that shaking a bag full of flashlight components over millions of years would bring you to the place where the flashlight would operate? (To say nothing of how the components got there in the first place!)

A Dangerous And Destructive Theory

16. The theory of Evolution is destructive for several important reasons beyond the scope of mere science.

- a. It inverts the divine order of God.
 - i. [Romans 1:20-25](#) - *"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 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen."*
- b. It denies personal accountability to God.
 - i. [Job 40:3-5](#) - *"Then Job answered the LORD: 'I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer — twice, but I will say no more.' "* (Also see [Job 38-39/40-41](#))



The God Of Heaven And Creator Of The Universe

17. [Psalm 19:1-2](#) - *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge."*
18. [Isaiah 40:26](#) - *"Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name."*
19. [Psalm 8:3-4](#) - *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in lace, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?"*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Genesis 1:1-5](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences regarding things they learned about evolution and creationism in public schools.
4. Read and discuss the quotes by Christian scientists, and the polling research Pastor Gary mentioned. (See #7, #8, #9, and #11 on page 4)
5. Read and discuss [Romans 1:20-25](#).
6. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: stand firm in the face of skeptics and those who mock Christianity and Creationism; (select someone in the group to read [Psalm 8:3-4](#) and [Psalm 19:1-2](#) during your prayer time as way to reflect on the wonder of God's creation.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).