



Are You a Christian Atheist on Origins?

The need for Christians to develop a biblical view of origins and history

Jason D. Browning

April 11, 2008

Views on Origins

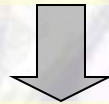
Secular Science

Evolution – No need for God



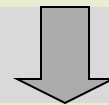
Intelligent Design

There is a designer (unspecified)



Old-Earth Creationism

The designer is the **God of the Bible**



Young-Earth Creationism

The history of the **Bible is true**

What is a Worldview?

- ▶ **A “worldview” is how you think about the world and answer the important questions of life:**
 - ▶ **Where did we come from, and who are we?**
 - ▶ **What has gone wrong with the world?**
 - ▶ **What can we do to fix it?**
 - ▶ **Where are we going?**

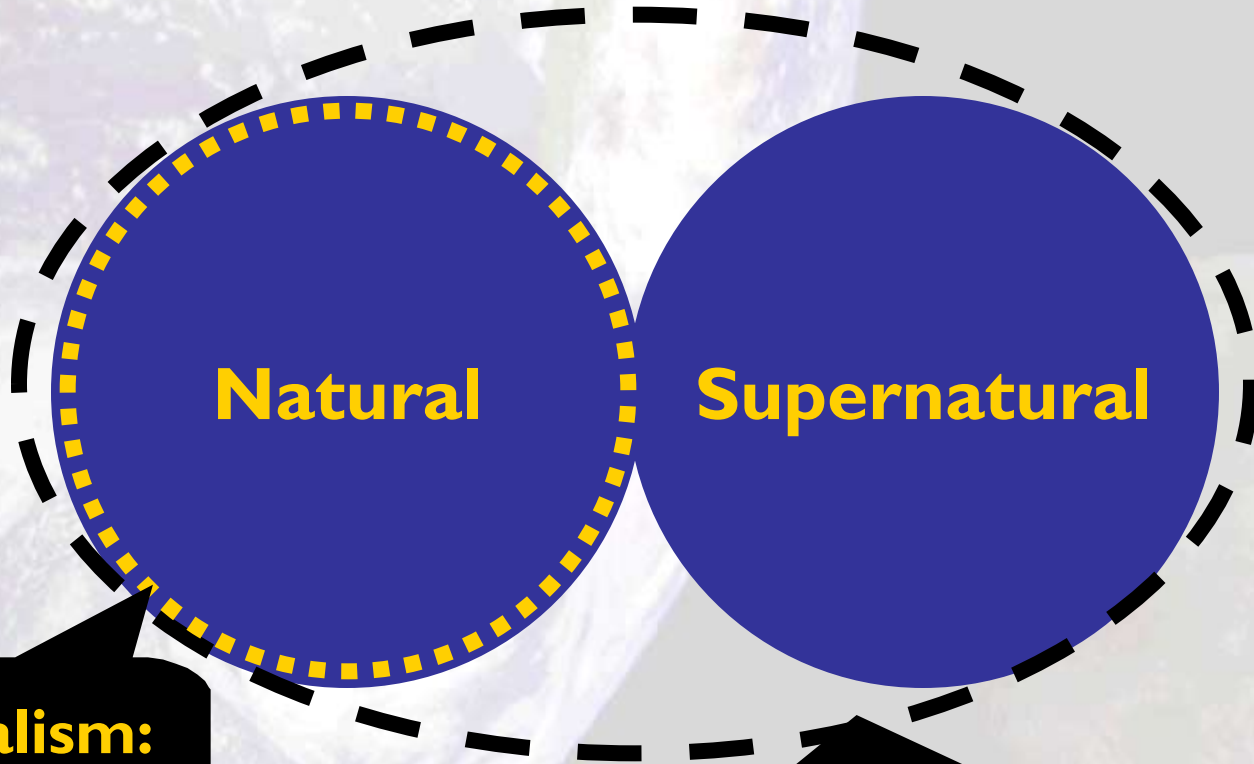
Two Basic Worldviews

- ▶ **Theism** – there is a **God**
 - ▶ **Biblical Christianity**
 - ▶ **Creation**

- ▶ **Naturalism** – nature is all there is
 - ▶ **Atheism (there is no God)**
 - ▶ **Evolution**

- ▶ **Each of these worldviews answers the important questions very differently!**

Where is the Truth?



**Naturalism:
Natural = True**

**Creation:
Natural + Supernatural = True**

Barna: Biblical Worldview Held by Only 4% of Adults



Written by Michael Foust

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Everyone has a worldview, but few have one that is biblical.

That's the conclusion of a national survey by Barna Research, which found that just 4 percent of American adults have a biblical worldview. Additionally, only 9 percent of those categorized as born-again Christians have a biblical worldview, Barna said.

The poll of 2,033 adults was conducted September through November 2003.

"Worldview" is a term used to describe the belief system by which a person understands or makes decisions about the world.

**Only 9 percent of born-again Christians
have a biblical worldview!**

Barna's Definition of a Biblical Worldview

- ▶ **Absolutes exist and the Bible defines them**
- ▶ **Christ lived a sinless life**
- ▶ **God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and He still rules it today**
- ▶ **Salvation is by grace and not by works**
- ▶ **Satan is a real being**
- ▶ **Christians have a responsibility to witness**
- ▶ **The Bible is accurate in all of its teachings**

Human Manifesto III

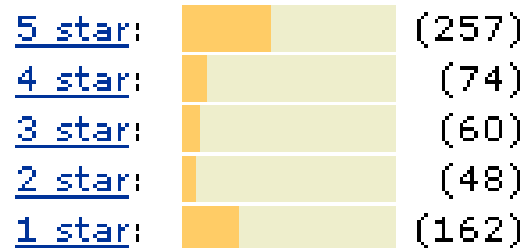
- ▶ **Knowledge of the world is derived by observation and rational analysis**
- ▶ **Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change**
- ▶ **Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience**
- ▶ **Life's fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of human ideals**
- ▶ **Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships**
- ▶ **Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness**

Effects of Your Worldview

Customer Reviews

Darwin's Black Box: The Biochemical Challenge to Evolution

601 Reviews



Average Customer Review

★★★★☆ (601 customer reviews)

Share your thoughts with other customers

Create your own review



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS

BEYOND RED vs. BLUE The 2005 Political Typology

READ THE REPORT TYPOLGY GROUPS WHERE DO YOU FIT? ANALYZE ISSUES PREVIOUS STUDIES PEOPLE.PRESS.ORG

Where Do You Fit?

To identify your typology group, we will show you a series of paired statements. **Even if neither statement is exactly right**, choose the one that comes closer to your views, and identify whether you feel strongly about that issue, or not so strongly.

	Statement 1	Strongly agree	Agree	Agree	Strongly agree	Statement 2
1	Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently
2	We should all be willing to fight for our country, whether it is right or wrong	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	It's acceptable to refuse to fight in a war you believe is morally wrong
3	Success in life is pretty much determined by forces outside of our control	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Everyone has it in their own power to succeed
4	It's best for the future of our country to be active in world affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	We should pay less attention to problems overseas and concentrate on problems here at home
5	The government should do more to protect morality in society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	I worry the government is getting too involved in the issue of morality

The Naturalistic View is All Around Us!

- ▶ **Television**
- ▶ **Movies**
- ▶ **Magazines**
- ▶ **Museums**
- ▶ **Public schools**
- ▶ **Science**

Life is largely portrayed as if there were no God!

JULY 23, 2001

STEM CELLS: THE BATTLE HEATS UP

TIME

HOW
APES
BECAME
HUMAN

*Ardipithecus
ramidus
kadabba*

What a new discovery tells
scientists about how our oldest
ancestors stood on two legs
and made an evolutionary leap

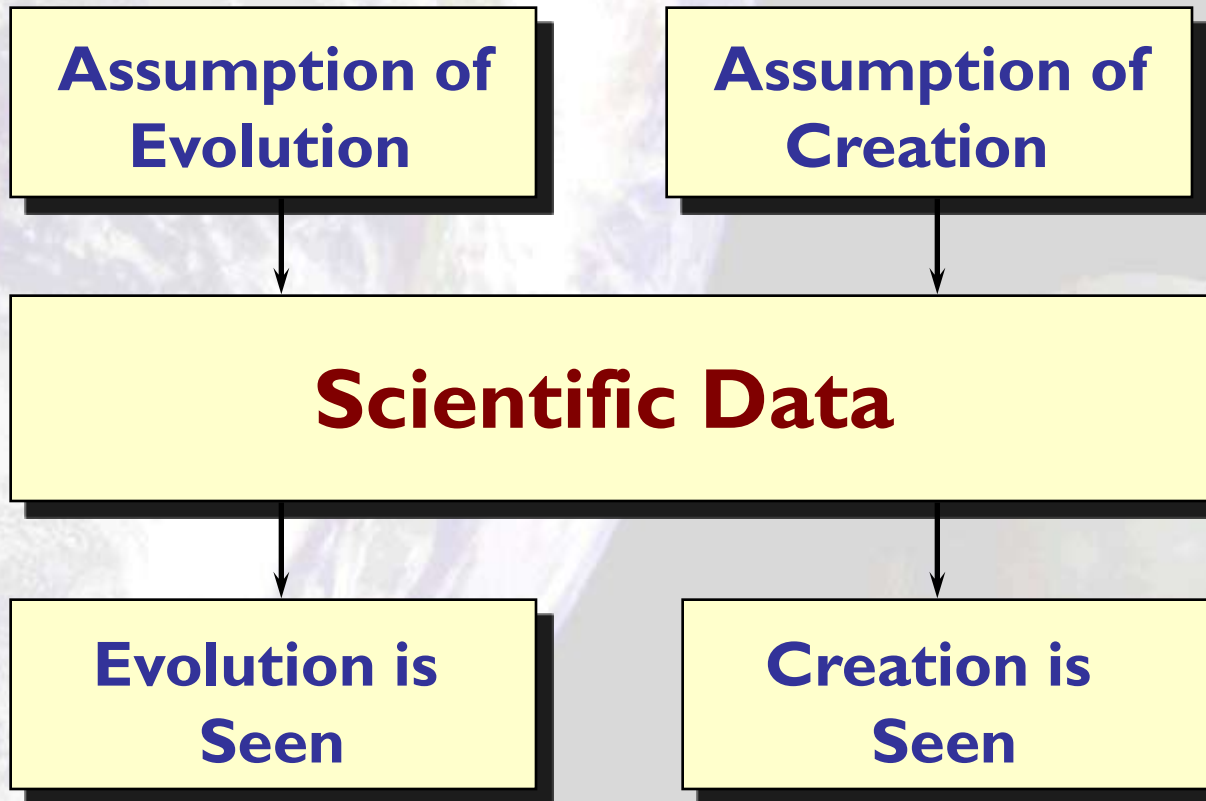
How Old is this Rock?



- ▲ **Collins Chew says it is 3.9 billion years old!**



Interpretation of Scientific Data



Interpretation is influenced by assumptions and biases

Grand Canyon: Evidence for A) Evolution over long ages, or B) Noah's flood?



Comparing Worldviews

	Creation-Christianity	Evolution - Naturalism
God	There is a God who is personal, eternal, exists outside of time	There is no God (nature is all there is)
The Universe	Created by God	Appeared from nothing through a “quantum fluctuation”
People	Created in the image of God	A cosmic accident – the result of evolution
Spiritual world	Is real, Satan is the leader of the fallen angels	Religion is a myth made up by man
Who is in control?	God	Man
Moral laws	Ten Commandments – absolute, unchanging	Determined by man, can be changed by man
Your future	Heaven or Hell	No life after death

God Wants us to be Scientists!

- ▶ **God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**

Genesis 1:28

- ▶ **The mandate from God for scientific study**
- ▶ **Man can only subdue and rule over the creation by studying it**



Amazing Scientific Insights in the Bible

The Bible is not a science book, but we should expect it to be accurate where it does touch on scientific matters

The Earth is a Sphere Suspended in Space



- ▶ **He [God] sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.**

Isaiah 40:22

- ▶ **He [God] suspends the earth over nothing**

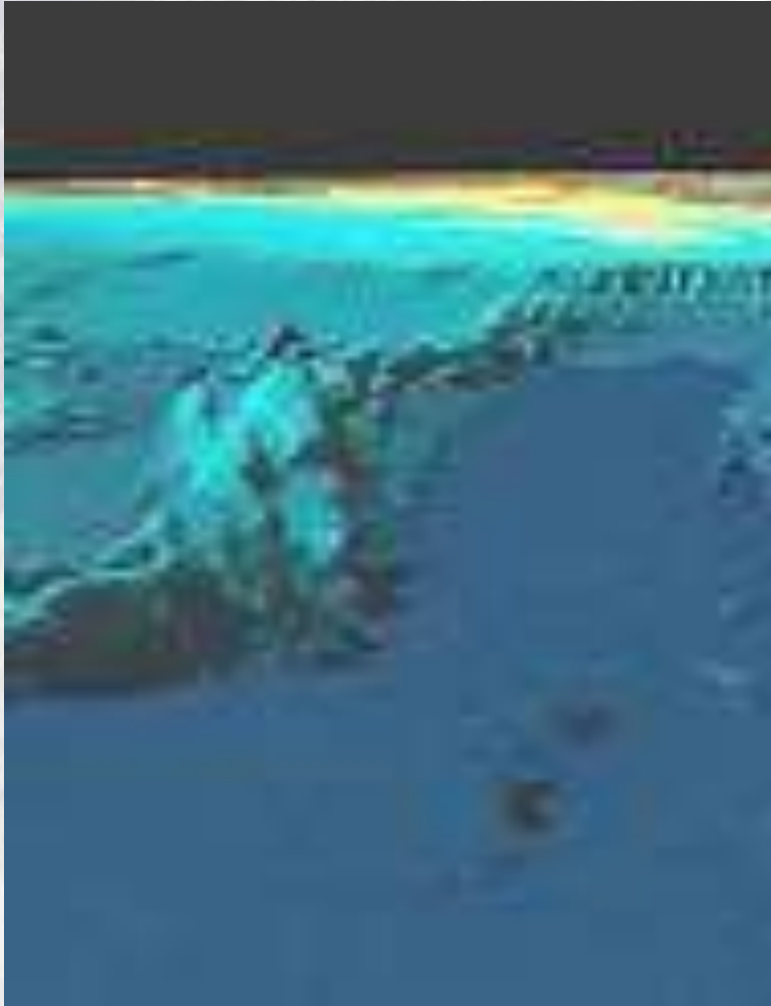
Job 26:7

Second Law of Thermodynamics

- ▶ They [the earth and the heavens] will perish, but you [God] remain; they will all wear out like a garment. *Hebrews 1:11*
- ▶ Describes the “Second Law of Thermodynamics” - the universal principle that everything is “mixing together” and decaying



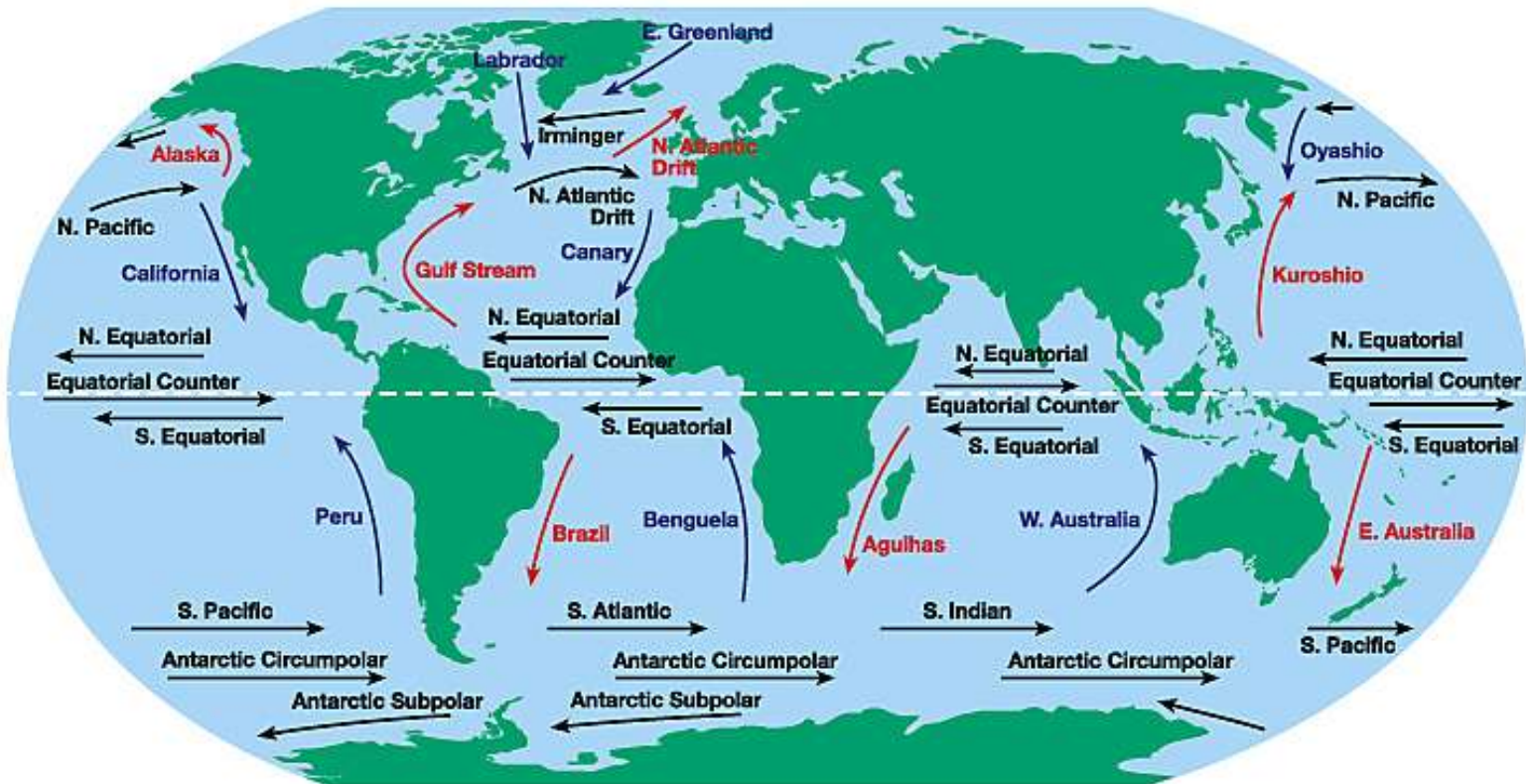
Mountains Under the Oceans



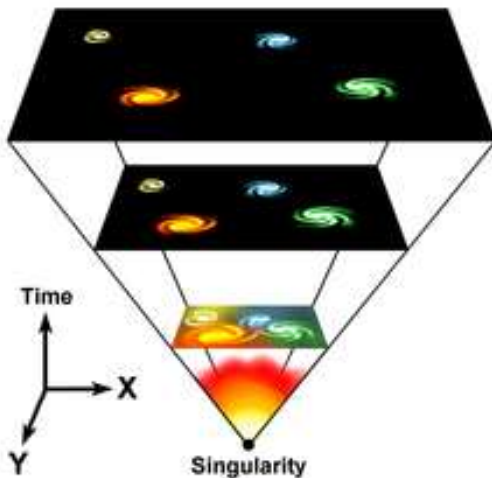
- ▶ **To the roots of the mountains I sank down**
Jonah 2:6
- ▶ **Jonah (860 B.C.) describes that there are mountains under the ocean!**

Ocean Currents

- ▶ The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. *Psalms 8:8*



The Expanding Universe

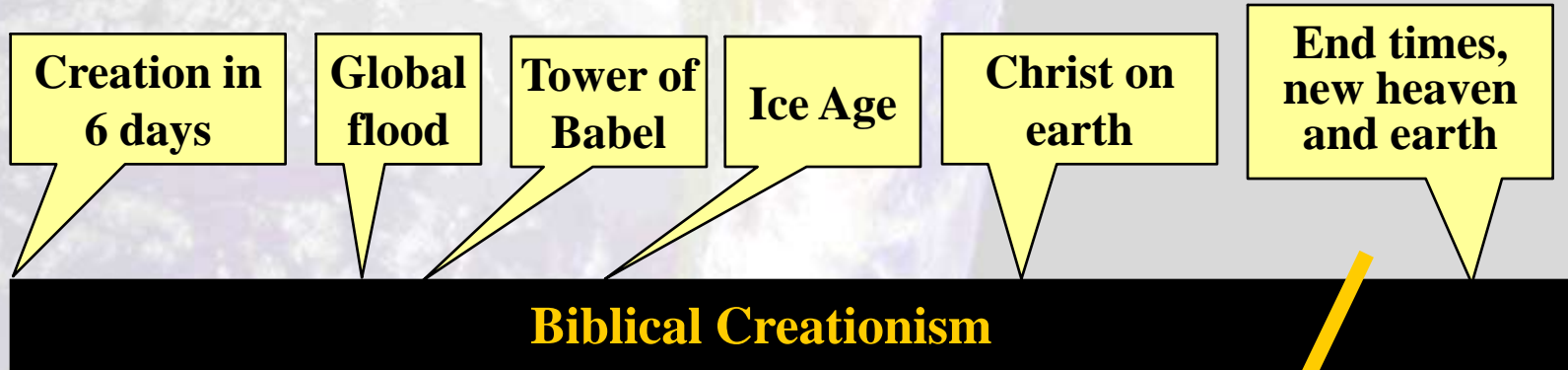


- ▶ **JOB 9:8** - He alone stretches out the heavens
- ▶ **PS 104:2** - he stretches out the heavens like a tent
- ▶ **ISA 42:5** - he who created the heavens and stretched them out
- ▶ **ISA 45:12** - My own hands stretched out the heavens
- ▶ **JER 10:12** - [God] stretched out the heavens by his understanding
- ▶ **ZEC 12:1** - The LORD, who stretches out the heavens

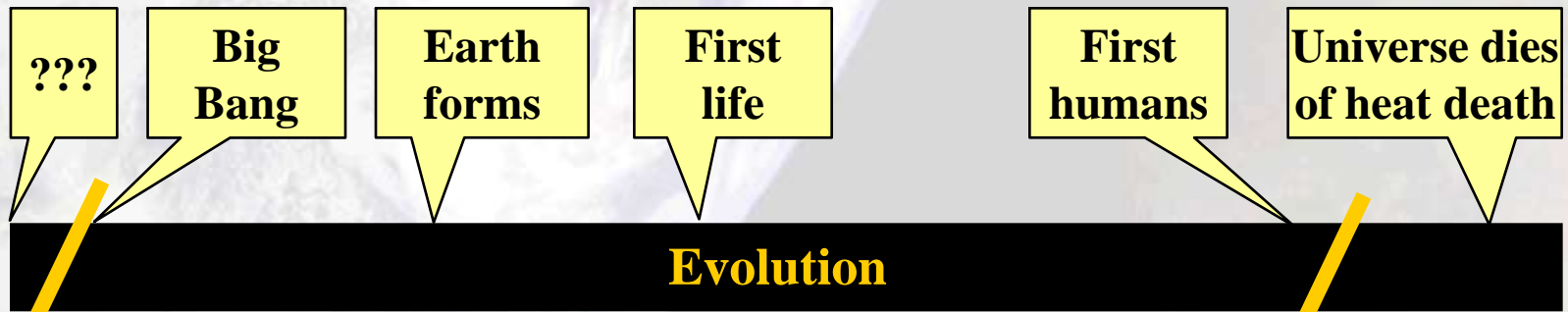
A composite image showing a large, detailed view of Earth on the left and a smaller, cratered view of the Moon on the right, both set against a dark grey background. The Earth shows swirling white clouds and blue oceans. The Moon is covered in numerous grey and white craters of various sizes.

**The Bible is a book about history –
God was the only one there at the start!**

Timelines of History



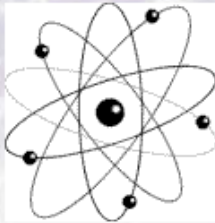
6-15,000 years ago ~5,000 ~4,500 2,000 Today



13 billion years ago 4.6B ~3.5B 100,000

Evolution Teaches ...

- ▶ The hydrogen gas of the “Big Bang” has turned itself into people!



Something from nothing!



“Big Bang”



Stars and planets



Life from dead chemicals

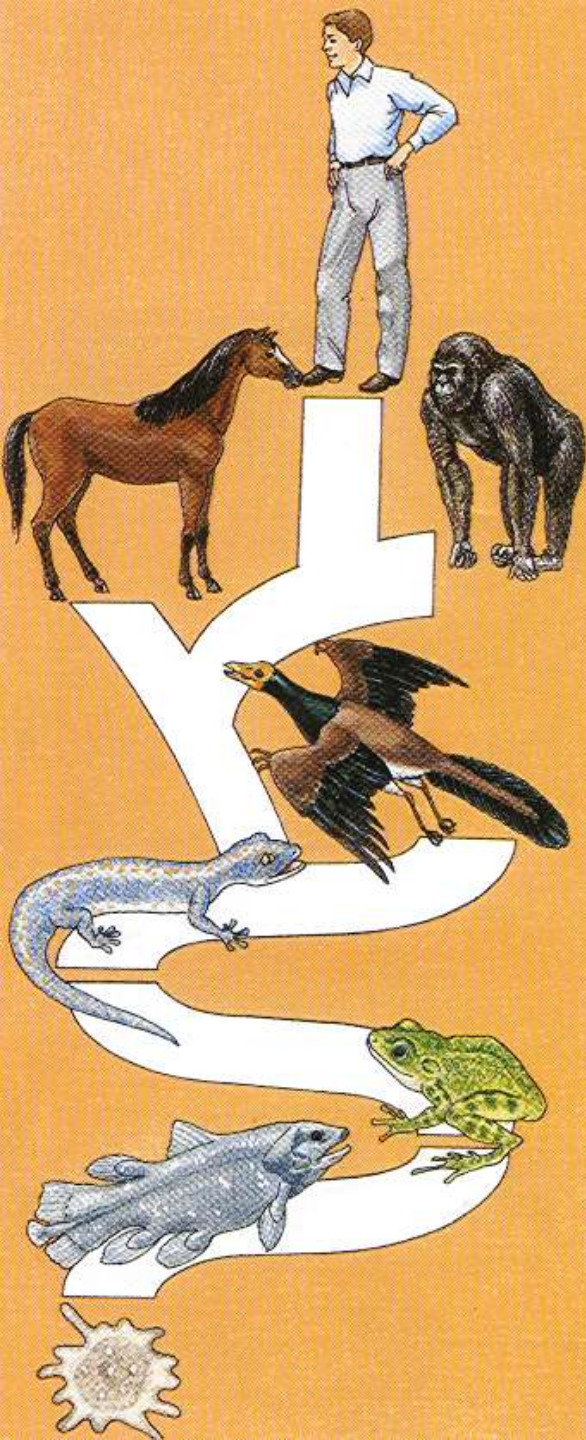


Advanced life

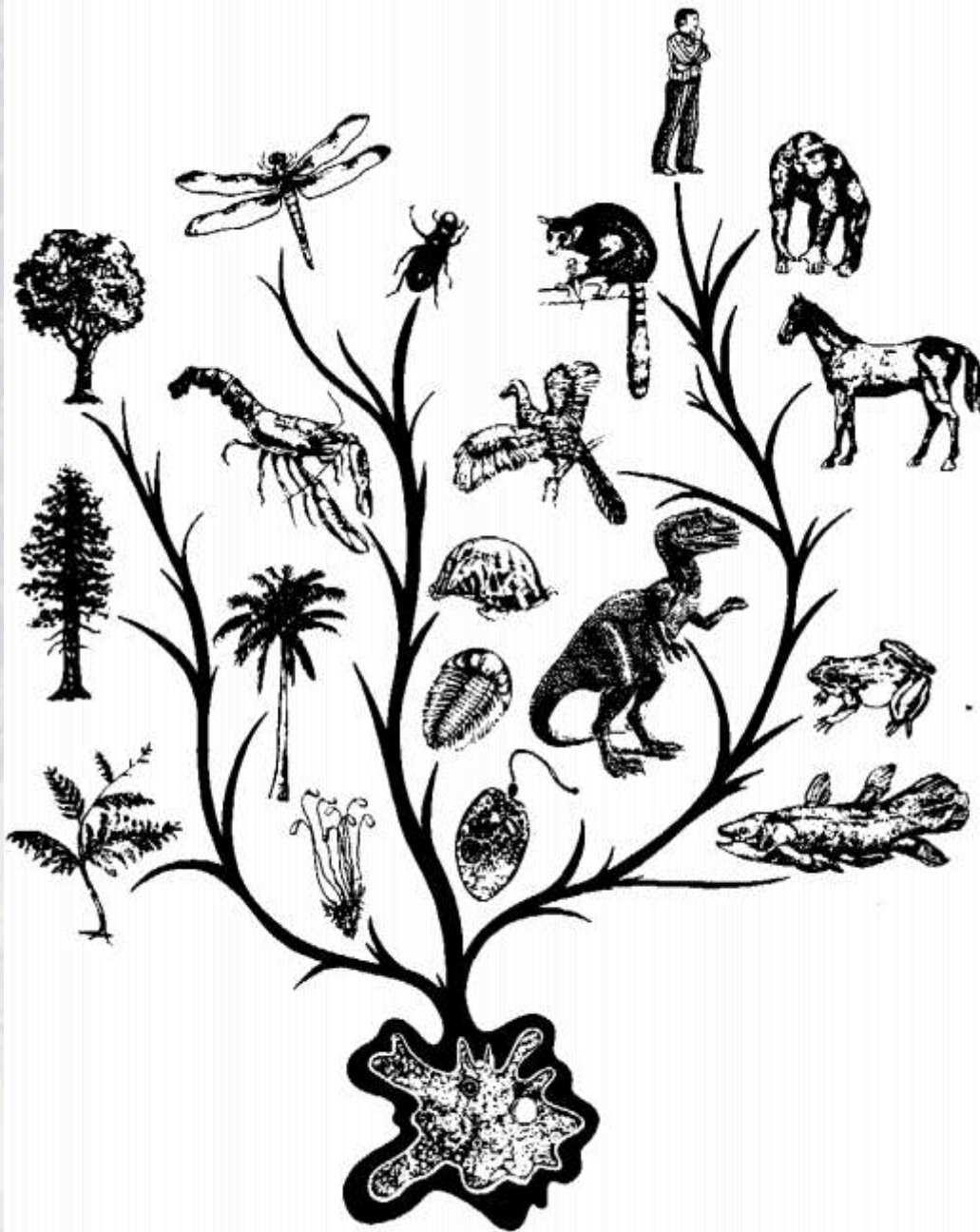


People

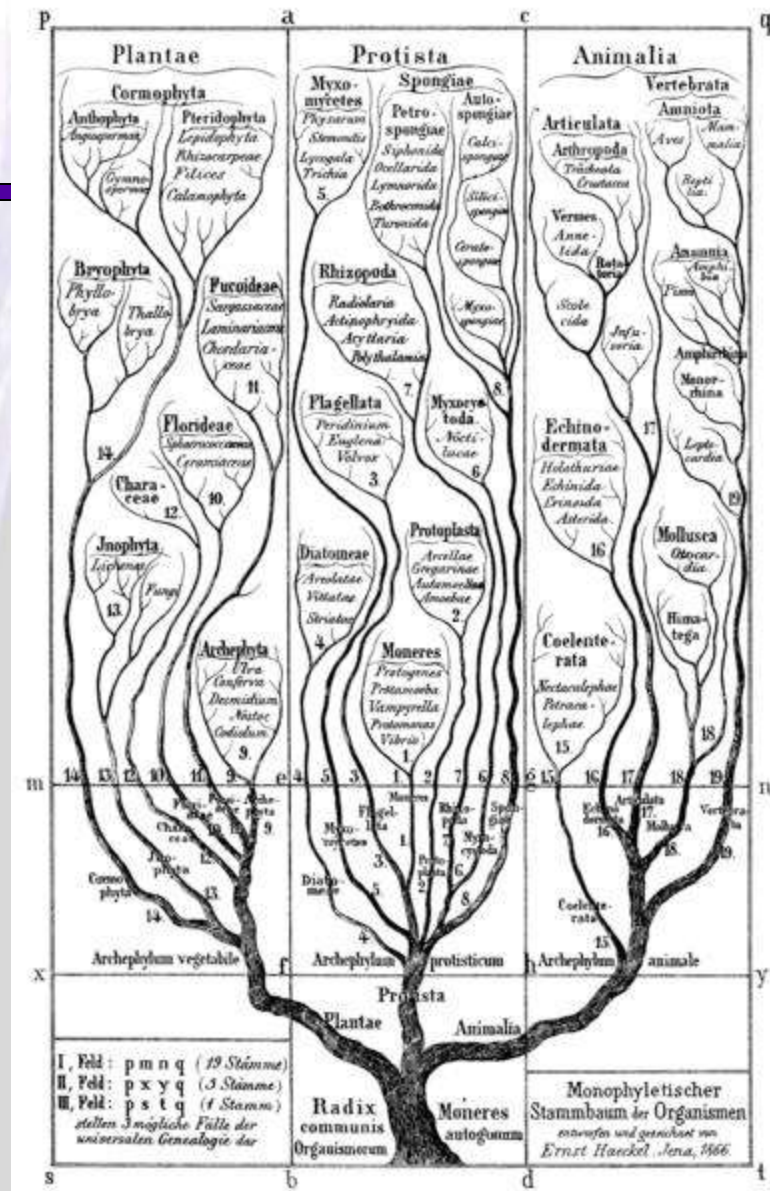
Evolutionary Stages



Dead chemicals } Abiogenesis
First life }
Invertebrates (no backbone)
Vertebrates (backbone)
Amphibians
Reptiles
Birds
Mammals
Primates
Man



Descent from a
Common Ancestor



Evolutionary Worldview Answers

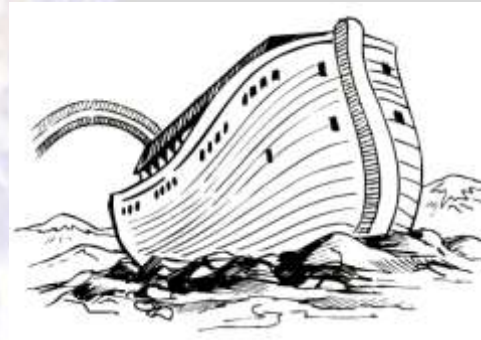
- ▶ **Where did we come from?**
 - ▶ **We are a “cosmic accident” that would likely never happen again if we could start over**
- ▶ **Who are we?**
 - ▶ **Nothing special – insignificant specs in a giant universe**
- ▶ **What has gone wrong with the world?**
 - ▶ **We can’t get away from the tooth and claw of our evolutionary past**
- ▶ **What can we do to fix it?**
 - ▶ **Better education, eliminate poverty, science and technology, ...**
- ▶ **Where are we going?**
 - ▶ **Nowhere special – this life is it!**

The Bible Teaches...

▲ A special creation



Adam and Eve in Eden

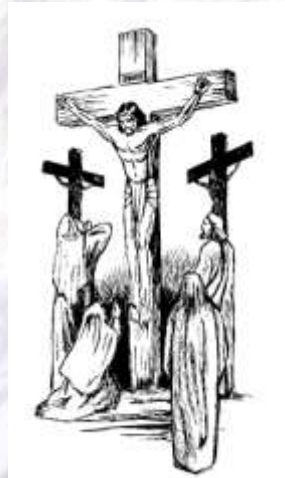


Noah's global flood



Tower of Babel

Browning - 2008



Jesus

NJBibleScience.org



**People – saved to Heaven,
unsaved to Hell**

CORRUPTION

CATASTROPHE



CREATION

CONFUSION



THE SEVEN C's OF HISTORY

CHRIST



CONSUMMATION



CROSS



DAYS OF CREATION IN GENESIS ONE



EARTH, SPACE, TIME & LIGHT



ATMOSPHERE



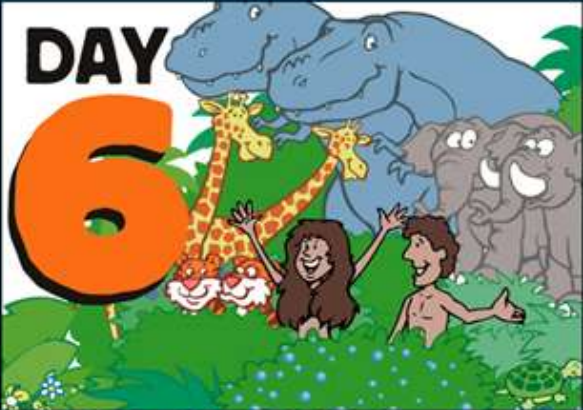
DRY LAND & PLANTS



SUN, MOON & STARS

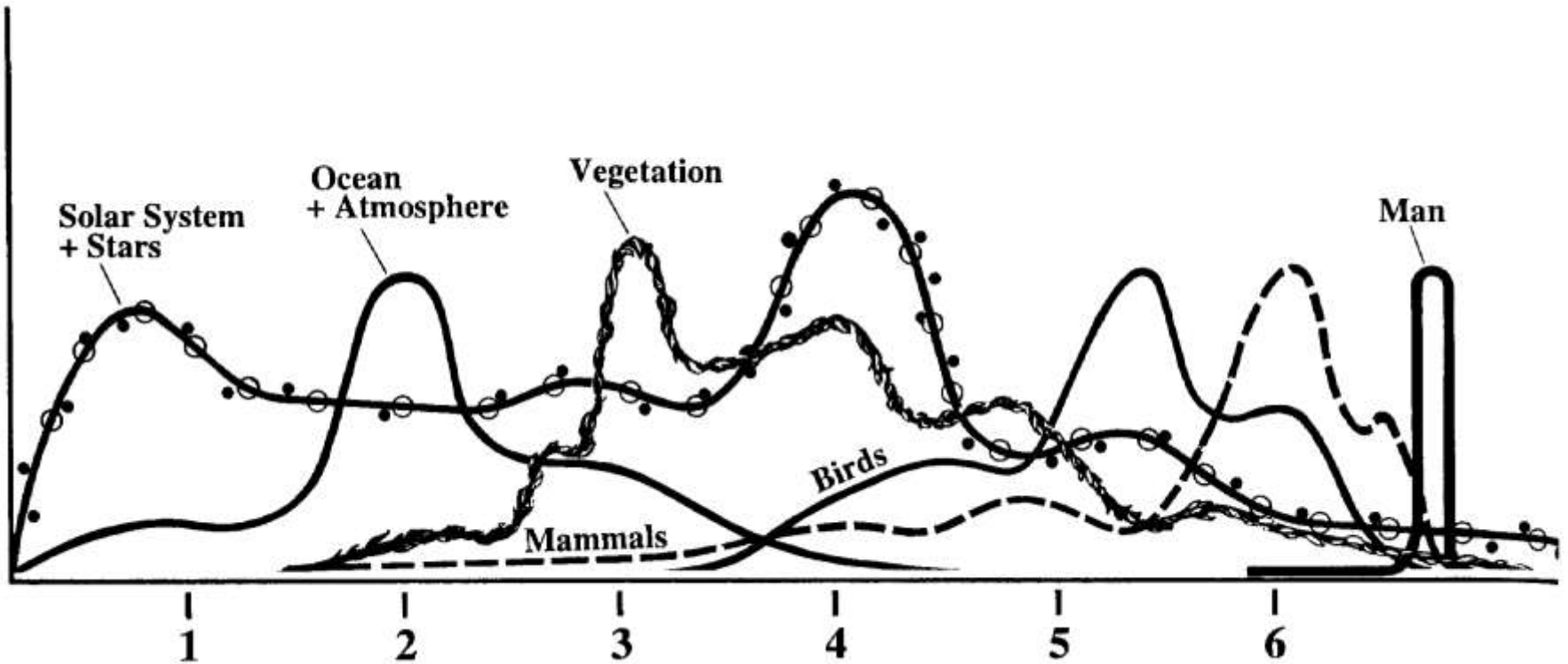


SEA & FLYING CREATURES



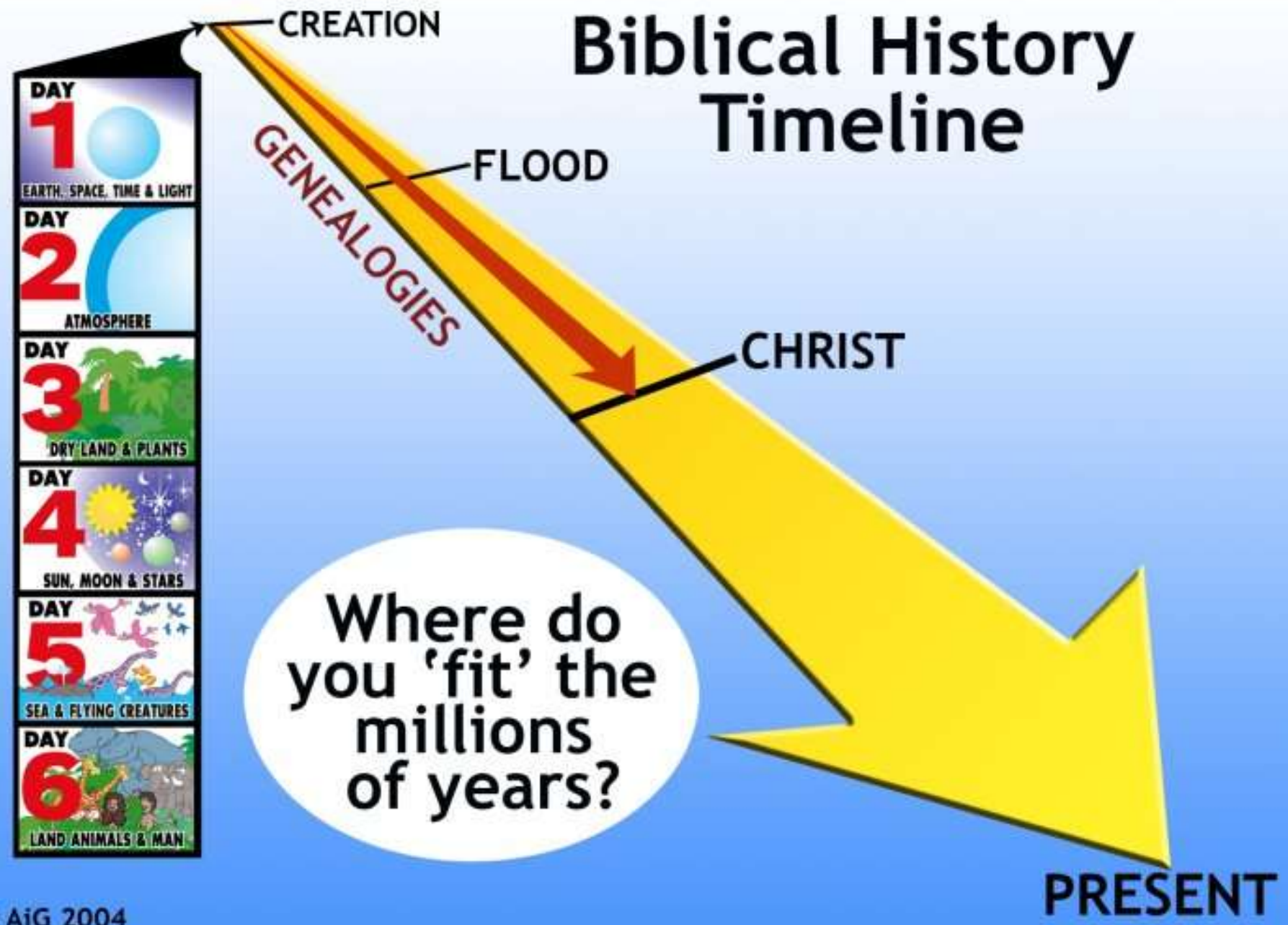
LAND ANIMALS & MAN

Day-Age Theory: Overlap of the Days



From "The Young Earth", Morris, p. 34

Biblical History Timeline



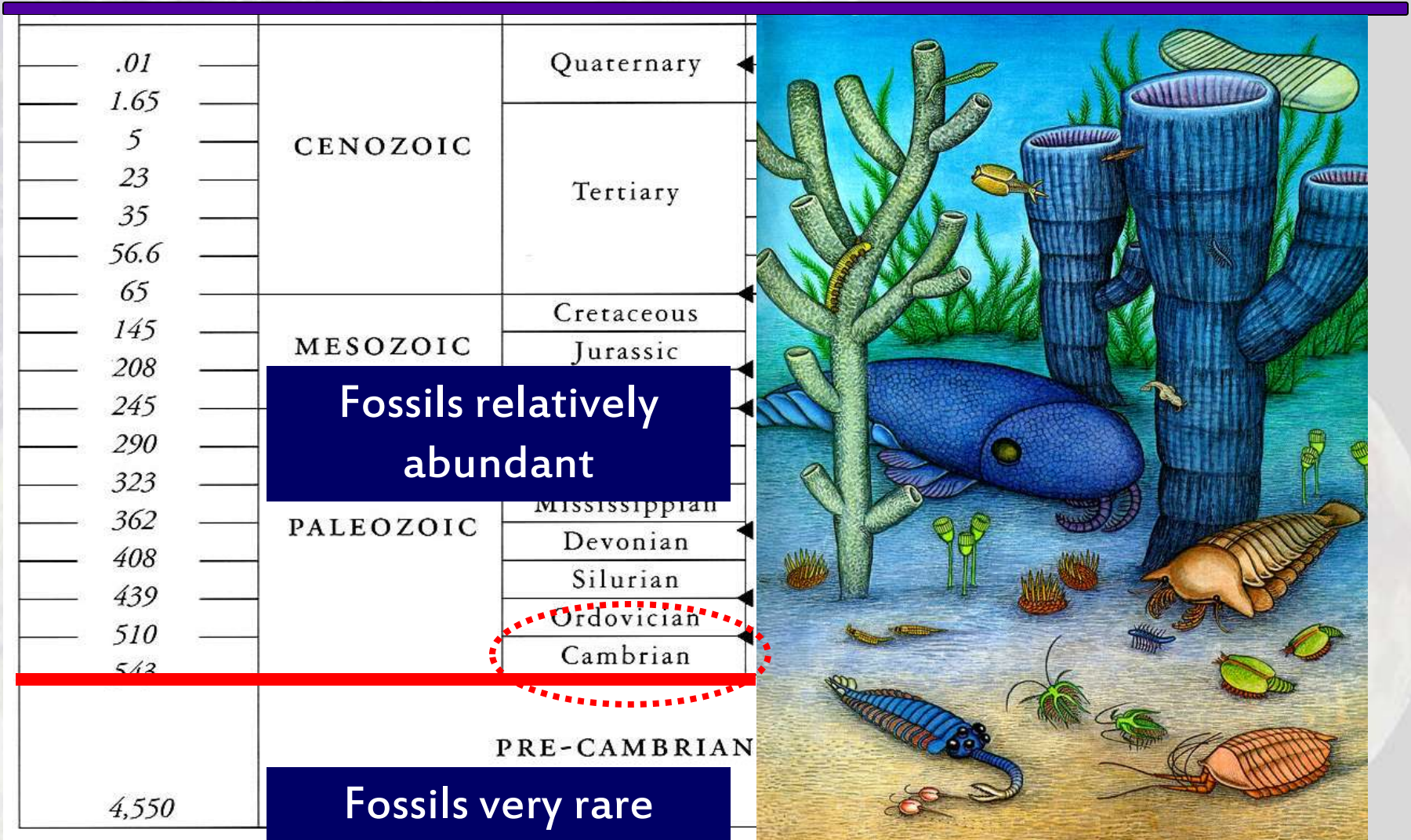
© AiG 2004



GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESION OF LIFE
CENOZOIC <i>recent life</i>	QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
	TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
MESOZOIC <i>middle life</i>	CRETACEOUS 72 Million Years Modern seed bearing plants. Dinosaurs		
	JURASSIC 46 Million Years First birds		
	TRIASSIC 49 Million Years Cycads, first dinosaurs		
PALEOZOIC <i>ancient life</i>	PERMIAN 50 Million Years First reptiles		
	Carboniferous		PENNSYLVANIAN 30 Million Years First insects
			MISSISSIPPIAN 35 Million Years Many crinoids
	DEVONIAN 80 Million Years First seed plants, cartilage fish		
	SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
	ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
	CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals, Brachiopods, Trilobites		
	PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

The Cambrian Explosion
















Competing Views of the Geologic Column

Evolution

Evolution of animals of increasing higher orders

Pre-flood, flood boundary

GEOLOGIC TIME SCALE		
PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESSION OF LIFE
QUATERNARY 0-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene	
TERTIARY 62 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Pliocene Miocene Oligocene Eocene	
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SILURIAN 20 Million Years Earliest land animals		
ORDOVICIAN 75 Million Years Early bony fish		
CAMBRIAN 100 Million Years Invertebrate animals,		
PRECAMBRIAN Very few fossils present (bacteria-algae-pollen?)		

Flood

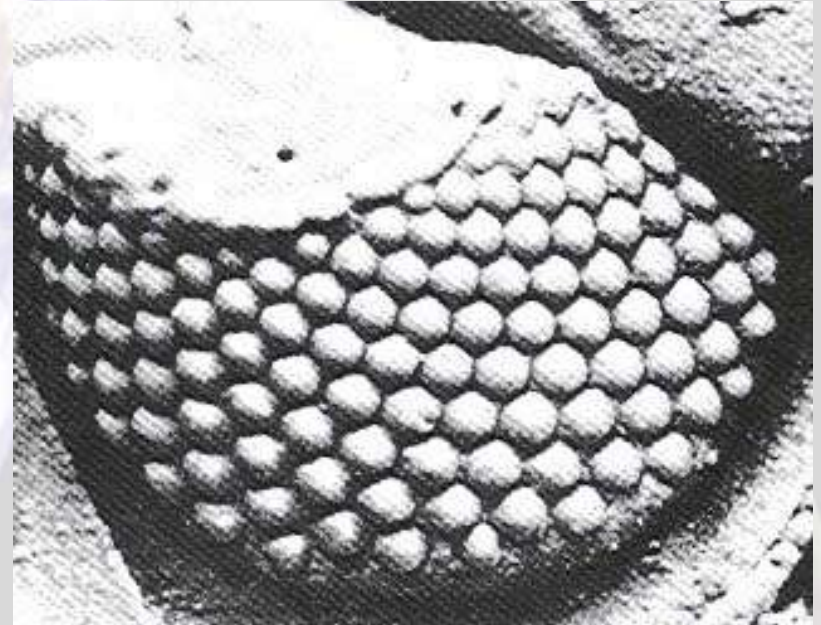
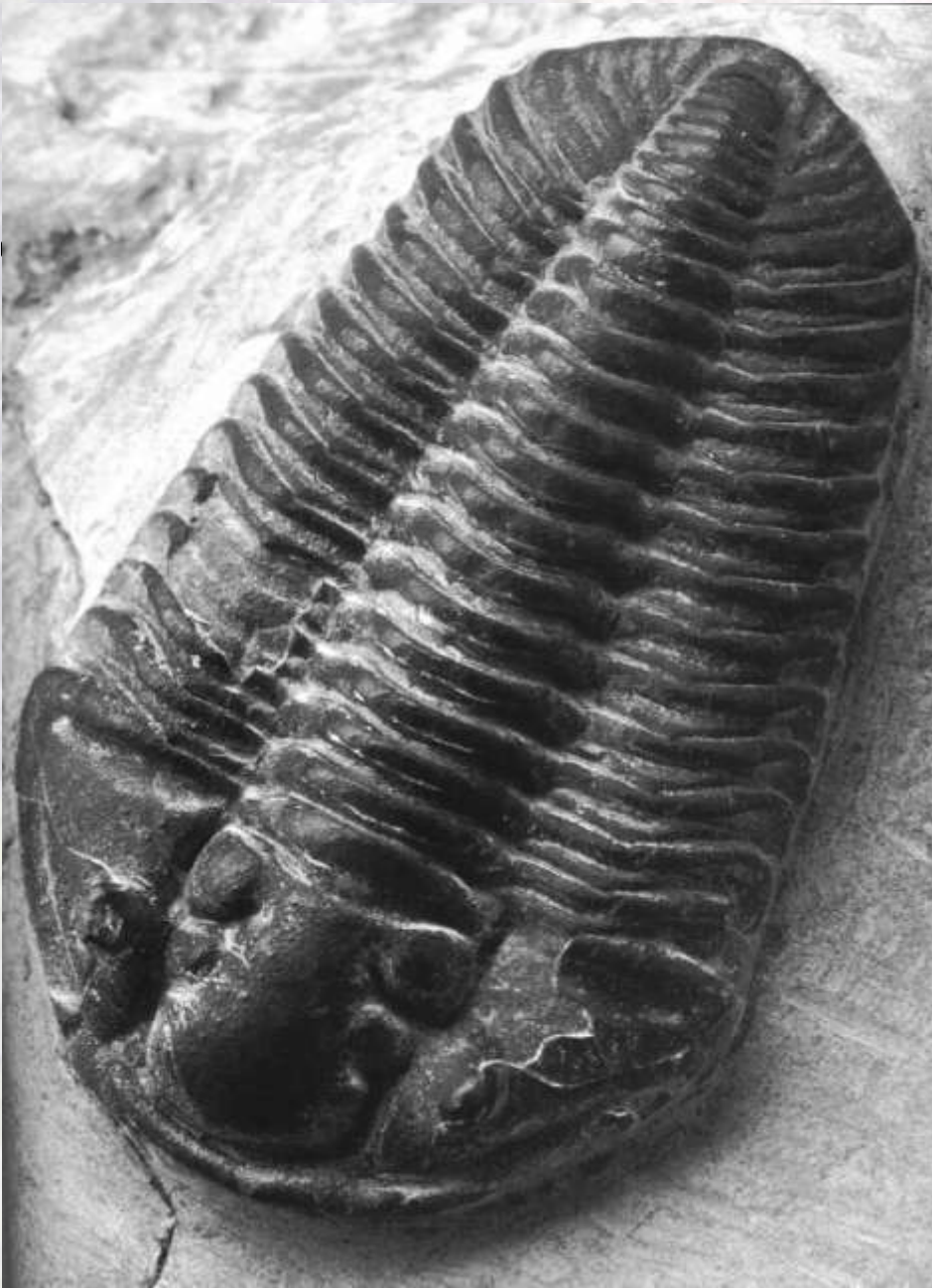
More mobile, smarter animals

Habitat zones

- Various Land
- Near-ocean
- Ocean

Simpler shaped

Trilobite Fossil

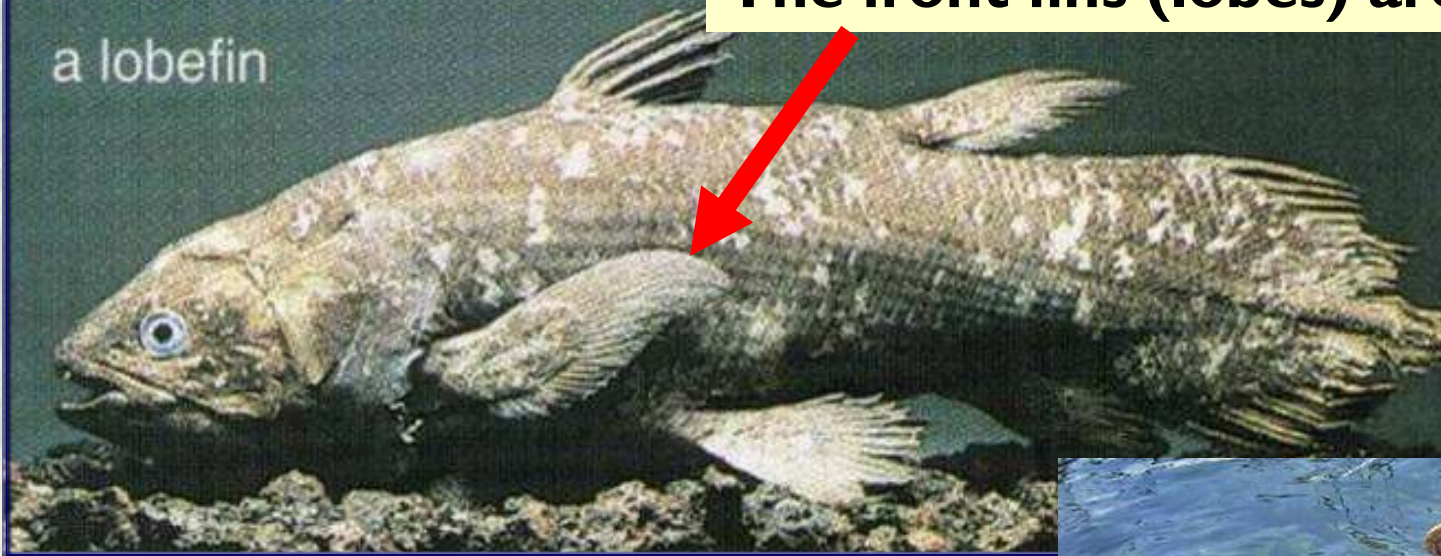


**Amazing eyes made of
inorganic calcite**

Living Fossil: Coelacanth Fish

Coelacanth,
a lobefin

The front fins (lobes) are still fins!



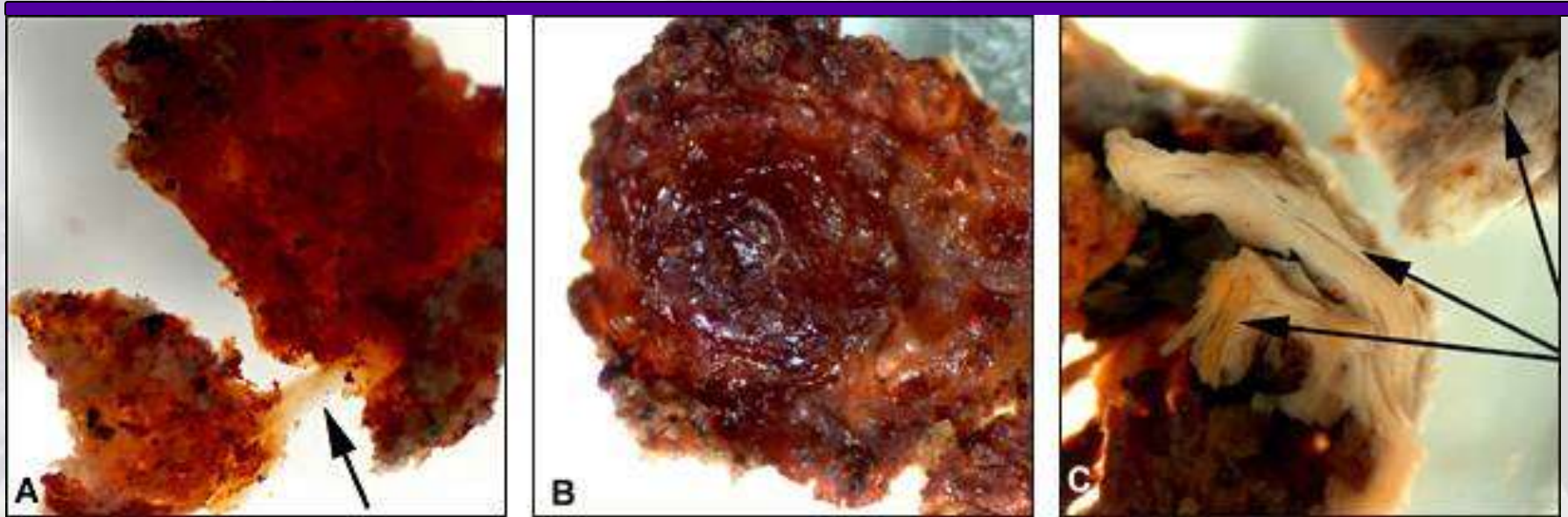
Supposedly extinct since the
**Cretaceous Period (70 million
years ago)** until found in 1938
still living



“Mini Grand Canyon” below Mt. St. Helens – Formed in Hours/Days



Dinosaur Blood Cells, Soft Fibrous Tissues, and Blood Vessels!



Dinosaur bone supposedly 65 million years old still has “fresh appearance” and elastic tissue!

http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2005/0325Dino_tissue.asp

Biblical Worldview Answers

- ▶ **Where did we come from?**
 - ▶ **We are specially made in the “image of God”**
- ▶ **Who are we?**
 - ▶ **Designed for fellowship with God**
- ▶ **What has gone wrong with the world?**
 - ▶ **The fall of Adam and Eve – sin and physical decay entered the world**
- ▶ **What can we do to fix it?**
 - ▶ **Christ came to redeem us and told us to “make disciples of all nations”**
- ▶ **Where are we going?**
 - ▶ **We will live forever in Heaven or Hell**

The End Times

(Pretribulation View)

- Dead believers to presence of Christ
- Dead unbelievers to Hades awaiting final judgement

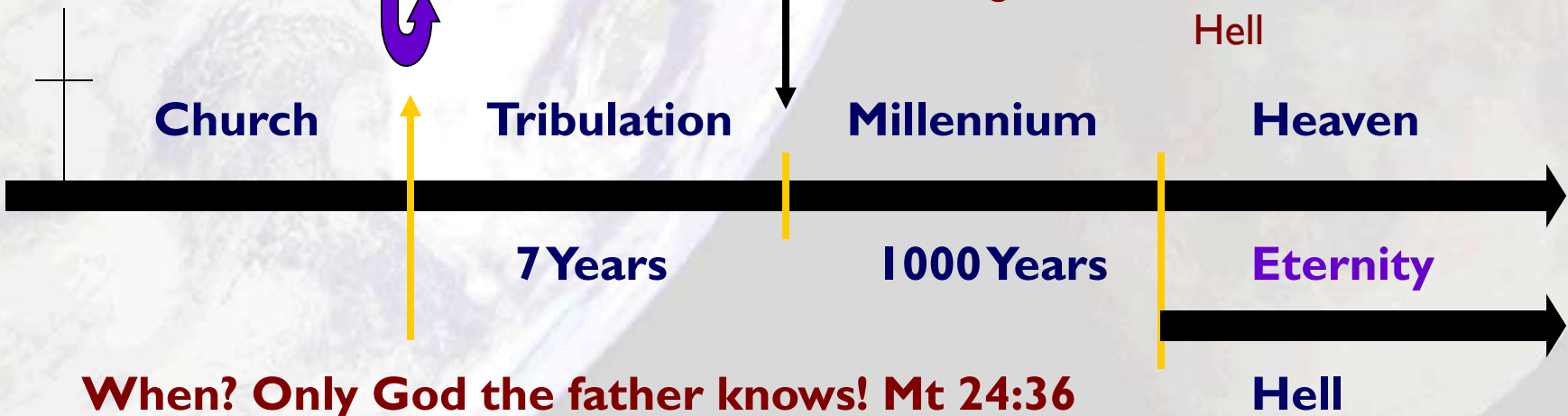
First Coming of Christ

Rapture

Second Coming of Christ; living judged

- Christ rules
- Church reigns
- Satan bound
- Nature restored
- Israel regathered

- Final judgement
- Believers rewarded
- Satan and demons cast into lake of fire
- Unbelievers sent to Hell



Why is there Evil and Suffering?

- ▶ **God gave us free will, therefore some will decide not to be good (we are not robots)**
- ▶ **Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, God cursed the Earth, so now we have:**
 - ▶ **Decay**
 - ▶ **Thorns**
 - ▶ **Storms**
 - ▶ **Earthquakes**
 - ▶ **Animals that eat meat**



The Fall of Man

- ▶ **To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you...” *Genesis 3:17-18***
 - ▶ **The Fall of Man not only introduced death, God also cursed the creation itself allowing for physical calamities to take place (e.g. tornadoes, floods, etc.). This was a removal of God’s complete sustaining power and decay would begin to take place...**
 - ▶ **The after effects of the flood increased the level of physical calamities**

**For we
know that
the whole
creation
groaneth**



**and
travaileth
in pain
together
until now.**

Romans 8:22

The Danger of Evolutionary Thought

- ▶ **The creation story is a myth**
- ▶ **The first eleven chapters of Genesis are a myth**
- ▶ **The fall of man is a myth**
- ▶ **Salvation is unnecessary**
- ▶ **Eternity in Hell!**

The Great Truths

▲ **Creation**

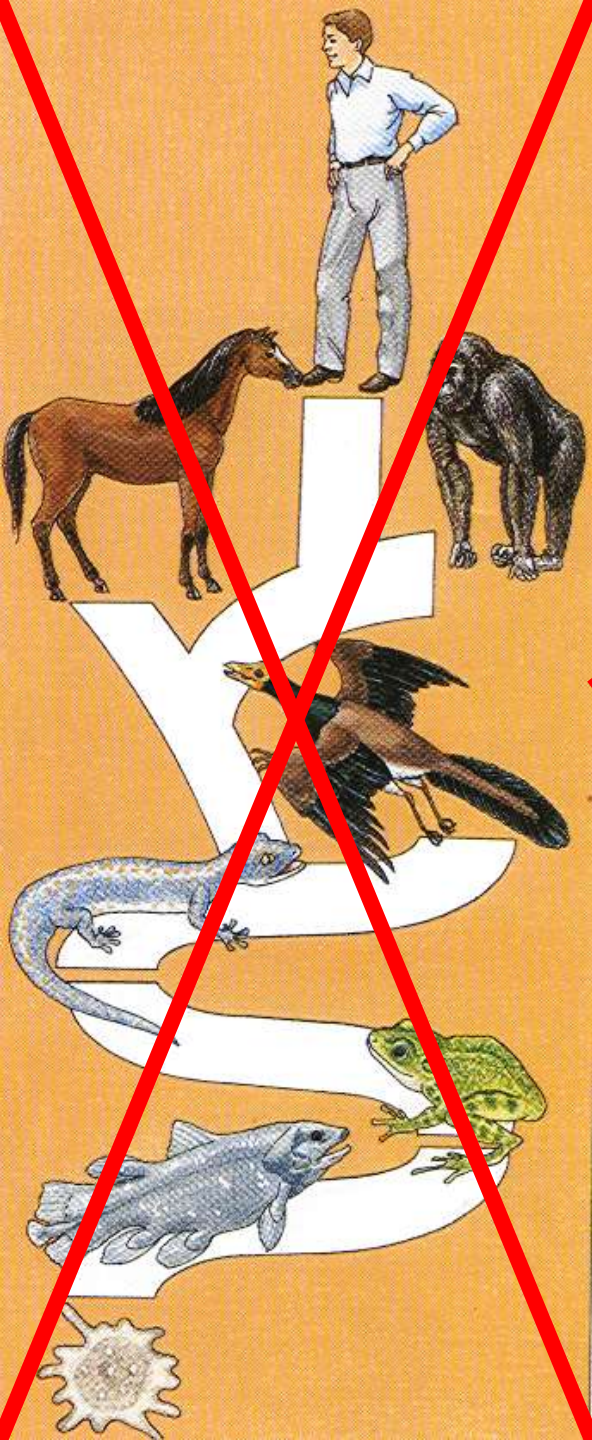
- ▶ **We are special – made to have fellowship with God**

▲ **The Fall**

- ▶ **Adam's sin (and our own sin nature) have separated us from God**

▲ **Redemption**

- ▶ **Christ came to restore us to fellowship with God, but we must accept it!**



**Evolution says I came from an ape!
But the Bible says I was created
by God!**