

# Answer Key for *The New Answers Book 4* Study Guide

## Chapter 1—Does the Gospel Depend on a Young Earth?

1. In your own words, describe the essence of the good news about salvation.

Answers should contain the essentials based on verses such as Acts 16:31, Romans 10:9–10, and Ephesians 2:8–9. When we repent of our sins before a holy God and believe that Jesus died and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for our sin on our behalf, we can receive the gift of eternal life.

2. How do we know we need to be saved from sin and death, and how can we receive that salvation?

We know that our sin separates us from God and that we need to be saved from the penalty of sin because of what God has told us in the Bible.

3. What's the difference between humbly accepting the biblical teaching that Jesus is the only way of salvation and accepting the teaching found in Genesis 1 that God created all things in six actual days (and the genealogical lineages given throughout the rest of the Bible that show these events happened just a few thousand years before Jesus came to earth)?

Answers will vary, but it should be stressed that we need to accept the authority (and plain teaching) of God's Word in all areas.

4. What are three things found in the fossil record that, if they had been around for millions of years, contradict the account given in Genesis 1–3?

Thorns (Genesis 3:17–18); Disease; Carnivory (Genesis 1:29–30)

5. What do these passages teach about why death is present in today's world: Genesis 2:17, 3:19–24; Romans 5:12–21; 1 Corinthians 15:21–26?

God declared at the beginning to Adam that the punishment for disobeying His command (sin) would be death. After Adam sinned, God mercifully prevented Adam and Eve from eating of the Tree of Life and living forever in their sinful state. He promised that as He had created Adam from the dust of the earth, Adam would return to the dust when he died. Death passed to all children of Adam and Eve (each one of us) because all have sinned. Paul considered death an “enemy”—not a “very good” part of God’s original creation.

6. What is the connection between the accounts given in Genesis 1–3, Romans 8:20–22, and Revelation 21:4, 22:3? How does accepting millions of years of earth history change that connection?

The accounts given in Genesis 1–3 describe how God created a “very good” world that He placed under a curse after Adam sinned. God declared the punishment for sin was death (Genesis 2:17, 3:19–24). Paul, in the book of Romans, reminds us that the whole of creation is groaning under the weight of the curse. And John, in Revelation, points out that one day the curse, along with death, sorrow, and pain, will be no more in the new heavens and earth. If there were millions of years of earth history before Adam entered the world, this means there were millions of years of death and suffering before Adam sinned, before God cursed His creation, and before God made death the penalty for sin. Therefore, if the new heavens and earth are a return to the way things were in the beginning, they would be a return to death and suffering—in other words, no different from the way the present heavens and earth are.

7. Does the gospel depend on a young earth?

Answers will vary, but the hope is that participants will see that accepting millions of years of earth history is inconsistent with what the Bible teaches and impacts how we view God’s teaching throughout the rest of His Word.

## Chapter 2—Do Plants and Leaves Die?

1. What Hebrew phrase referring to the “life principle” or “soulful life” of a being is used in reference to animals and humans but not in reference to plants? What is significant about this?

*Nephesh chayyah* is used in reference to animals and humans but not in reference to plants, showing that there is a qualitative difference between plants and animals/humans. Plants do not seem to be considered “alive” in the same sense that animals and humans are.

2. What was the function of plants in God’s original creation?

God created every green plant to be food for people and animals.

3. Describe the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Would it have been present before Adam sinned?

This law states that, in a closed system, all things tend toward disorder. Before Adam sinned, the second law would have operated in a “very good” way.

## Chapter 3—Dragons . . . Were They Real?

1. What Hebrew word is usually translated as “dragon” in the Old Testament?

*Tannin/tanninim* (plural form)

2. List five passages in the Old Testament that speak of dragons.

Answers will vary but may include Genesis 1:21; Exodus 7:9–12; Deuteronomy 32:33; Nehemiah 2:13; Job 7:12; Psalm 74:13; Psalm 91:13; Psalm 148:7; Isaiah 27:1; Isaiah 51:9; Jeremiah 51:34; Lamentations 4:3; Ezekiel 29:3; Ezekiel 32:2.

3. In the Old Testament passages that refer to “fiery serpents,” what is it about the surrounding context that would suggest the fiery serpents were real creatures?

The other animals referred to in these passages are real animals that we are familiar with today.

4. Which dragon accounts given by ancient historians are most striking to you?

Answers will vary.

5. Which dinosaur seems to correspond with the description given in *Beowulf* of the dragon Grendel?

*Baryonyx*

6. Of the Bible commentators who spoke of dragons, which two stand out to you the most?

Answers will vary.

7. How do the pictures of dragons in petroglyphs and on flags and banners impact your understanding of the reality of dragons?

Answers will vary.

8. One hundred years ago, dragons were considered real creatures. Why do you think the perception of dragons has changed from real to myth?

Answers will vary.

9. On what day of Creation Week did God create dragons? Flying and sea dragons?

God created dragons (and dinosaurs) on Day 6 of Creation Week. He created flying and sea dragons on Day 5.

10. What factors have contributed to the extinction of dragons/dinosaurs?

Ultimately, our sin in Adam is responsible for ushering death into the world. Animals suffer as a result of the curse God placed on His creation after Adam sinned (Genesis 3). Specific reasons for extinction include change in environment, predation by man and other animals, disease, genetic problems, and catastrophic events.

11. What is the connection between Satan and dragons?

The vicious attacks by dragons could be the reason that Satan is called a “dragon” (Revelation 12:3).

12. Were dragons real?

Answers will vary, but the answer should be yes.

## Chapter 4—Peppered Moths . . . Evidence for Evolution?

1. What is the generally understood account of how peppered moths demonstrate “evolution in action”? Have you heard it before?

The peppered moths exist in two primary forms—one light-colored with spots and one almost black. In the mid-1800s, the lighter variety of the moth predominated. During the Industrial Revolution, the lichen on tree trunks died, soot got deposited on trees, and as a result, trees got darker. As this change occurred, the population of darker moths increased, presumably due to the camouflage offered by the darker trees. Bird predators could not see the dark moths against the dark bark. As the darker moth population increased, the lighter moth population decreased.

2. Describe the biggest issue surrounding Dr. Bernard Kettlewell’s original experiments with the moths.

Contrary to what Dr. Kettlewell assumed for his experiments, later observations of peppered moths revealed that moths don’t rest on tree trunks during the day. They fly at night and rest on the underside of branches. In these places, they are much better concealed from birds than were the moths in Kettlewell’s experiments (he had the moths resting on tree trunks during the day). The distinction between light and dark moths would be much less on the shadowy underside of a branch. And the unnaturally high concentration of moths in an unusual area might have changed the normal feeding pattern of the birds. Further, some researchers have suggested that birds may not be the primary predator of the peppered moths. These criticisms bring into question the entire issue of selective bird predation being the driving force behind this example of natural selection.

3. What have more recent experiments shown about the peppered moths?

Majerus has claimed that his more recent experiments have validated the results of Kettlewell’s work.

4. At the end of the day, does the account of the peppered moths demonstrate “evolution in action”?

The population change in the peppered moths experiments is the result of natural selection. However, this change is most certainly not molecules-to-man evolution. Natural selection and molecules-to-man evolution are not the same thing. Natural selection is easily observed in

nature and produces variation within a kind (Genesis 1:11–12, 21, 24–25). In this process, moths change into moths. The variation seen is simply the result of sorting and resorting of the genetic material present in the original moths. At no time has there been any new information introduced into the genome of the moth (which is what molecules-to-man evolution requires). There is nothing in the account of peppered moths to provide evidence for the process of molecules-to-man evolution.

## Chapter 5—Is Evolutionary Humanism the Most Blood-Stained Religion Ever?

1. What is “humanism”?

Humanism is the religion that elevates man over God. It encompasses any thought or worldview that rejects God and the 66 books of His Word, in part or in whole.

2. In what way can it be said that those who align themselves with humanism (in the broad sense)—such as atheists and agnostics—actually borrow from Christianity?

According to humanistic ideas, man has come up with the concept of “good” on his own. But if the Bible were not true, if human beings were merely the outworking of millions of years of mindless chemical processes, then why should we hold to a universal definition of “good”? Could there really be such concepts as right and wrong if evolutionary humanism were true? If we can all make our own truth, then wouldn’t one person’s “good” be another person’s “evil”? In order to even use the term “good,” humanists must borrow from the ultimate standard of good given by the ultimate good Himself—the Creator God of the Bible.

3. In the twentieth century alone, approximately how many people died as a result of the outworking of a humanistic/evolutionary worldview?

Over 778,000,000

4. In what way could it be said that World War II was brought about by evolutionary humanism?

The Nazis determined that their philosophy was the best way to bring about the common good of all humanity. They were defining what was “good.” Hitler and the Nazis’ evolutionary views certainly helped lead Germany into WWII because they viewed the “Caucasian” as more evolved (and, more specifically, the Aryan peoples of the Caucasians), which to them justified their adoption of the idea that lesser “races” should be murdered in the struggle for survival.

5. What is the connection between the exponential increase of abortions and evolutionary humanism?



The idea that “ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny” (babies in the womb undergo animal development states) was popularized by Ernst Haeckel. These ideas have made it justifiable, within an evolutionary humanistic worldview, to kill the unborn since they are simply animals. This idea was based on faked drawings of embryos.

6. What is the ultimate cause of wars and deaths?

Sin

7. What is the answer to stopping the continuing bloodshed in the name of evolutionary humanism?

We must return to the authority of God’s Word and allow God and His Word to shape our view of mankind (that we are all made in His image and that He is the Giver of life). We need to point those who believe humanity is the answer to the Savior who took the sins of humanity on Himself to offer them salvation.

## Chapter 6—Was Charles Darwin a Christian?

1. What beliefs about God did Charles Darwin’s grandfather and father possess?

His grandfather was a deist, and his father was an atheist.

2. What is “natural theology”?

The idea that God can be known by close examination of His creation (nature). If something looks designed, there must be a designer.

3. How might “natural theology,” by itself, affect a person’s understanding of God in light of all the death and suffering present in nature?

By learning about God only through nature—the present world—we can’t know what has happened in the past to make it this way. Apart from the Bible, we can’t know that Adam’s sin ushered death and suffering into God’s original “very good” world. And we might attribute all the death and suffering directly to God without understanding that it was sin—our sin—that is the root cause of the broken parts of creation.

4. Did Charles Darwin profess Jesus Christ on his deathbed?

There is no substantial evidence that he did. So, no.

5. Was Charles Darwin a Christian?

No

## Chapter 7—Cavemen . . . Really?

1. What comes to mind when you hear the term “cavemen”?

Answers will vary. Allow discussion.

2. At its most basic, what does the term “caveman” refer to?

Someone who lives in a cave.

3. Of the five groups of “cavemen” mentioned in the text (Neanderthals, Cro-Magnon man, *Homo erectus*, Denisovans, *Homo floresiensis*), which of these have you heard the most about previously? What have you heard about them?

Allow responses.

4. What evidences point to the fact that Neanderthals were simply one people group—part of the human race?

DNA evidence shows they were similar to *Homo sapiens*; they buried their dead with care; there are indicators that they hunted and butchered large animals in complex activities; they possessed complex stone axes and tools.

5. What evidences point to the fact that Cro-Magnons were part of the human race?

Flax fibers suggest they sewed garments or wove baskets; they left cave paintings relating to the moon’s phases; ornate artifacts (tools and jewelry) have been found.

6. What evidences show that *Homo erectus* was a group of post-Babel humans?

Charred remains indicate the ability to build fires; butcher sites and stone tools show hunting abilities; they crossed oceans, indicating they built seafaring vessels.

7. When did all of these “cavemen” live?

They were descendants of the people that dispersed from Babel—grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Noah and his family.

8. What are some aspects of being made in God's image that help us determine humanness?

Our early ancestors made musical instruments and tools, farmed, built cities, and otherwise represented God as stewards of His creation (Genesis 4).

9. What factors may have contributed to the physical differences (as found in DNA comparisons) between Neanderthals and modern humans?

Environmental pressures that selected for traits; genetic effects in small populations; genetic drift; founder effect

## Chapter 8—Should There Really Be a Battle between Science and the Bible?

1. As you begin this chapter, what have your thoughts in the past been on the alleged battle between science and the Bible?

Allow responses.

2. The scientific method is based on ideas that assume what about the world we live in?

Repeatability, falsifiability, testability—all assume that there is a uniformity to the world.

3. How did the understanding that there is a Creator and Lawgiver of the universe help science to flourish?

It was the notion of a Creator God who arranged an orderly universe that directed and encouraged the study of natural philosophy. Medieval scholars thought that nature followed the rules that God had ordained for it. Because God was consistent and not capricious, these natural laws were constant and worth scrutinizing. It is only the biblical view of the nature of God and His creation that allows for the expectation of reliably discovering the underlying truths of the operation of the universe created by God. And it is only the biblical worldview that calls for a study of the creation to better understand the Creator and to rule the creation properly (Genesis 1:28) to find cures for disease, produce technology, increase food production, etc., for the good of mankind.

4. What is the difference between operational science and historical science?

Operational science employs the pure and applied methods of scientific inquiry to figure out how physical things operate or function. With operational science, researchers use observable, repeatable experiments to test hypotheses and develop our understanding of the world. Historical science deals with questions of history and origins.

5. With historical science, what do creationists rely on to inform their understanding of the past? What do evolutionists rely on?

Biblical creationists look to the authority of the Bible to inform their understanding of the past because it contains the eyewitness testimony of the Creator about key events in the past that explain the world we live in. Evolutionists have no eyewitness of the imagined events of millions of years ago and thus no objective standards to judge the validity of the evolutionary stories.

6. How is the principle of uniformity seen in the Bible?

In the early chapters of Genesis, we see that God created the various kinds of plants and animals “after their kind”—to reproduce according to their kind. Genesis 8:22 communicates God’s intention to uphold the earth in a way that is consistent. Connecting this to passages such as Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:17 provides a solid foundation for understanding why the universe is the way it is.

7. What is the difference between the principle of uniformity and the idea of uniformitarianism?

The principle of uniformity is the idea that God created an orderly universe that continues to operate in orderly ways as He upholds it. Uniformitarianism is the idea that “the present is the key to the past,” meaning, the way things happen in the present is the way they’ve always happened.

8. What is the concept of neutrality? What is wrong with this idea?

It is the idea that people can examine ideas in a truly neutral manner. But everyone has a bias, and everyone starts their reasoning from their foundational worldview.

9. What is the “reification fallacy”? How does it relate to the debate about “science”?

The reification fallacy gives personal qualities to an abstract idea. “Science” can’t say anything, but scientists can. The data from observations are facts and are the same for everyone, but data may not include all the relevant observations that could be made and also must be interpreted to arrive at conclusions. Neither science nor the data can ever truly tell us anything. Facts are always interpreted in light of faith.

10. After reading this chapter, have your thoughts changed on the “battle” between science and religion? Why?

Allow responses.

## Chapter 9—What Did Reformers Believe about the Age of the Earth?

1. What have been the two main views in church history about the days of Genesis 1?

That the days were regular, 24-hour days; that the days were allegorical, and that God created in an instant

2. What were Martin Luther's views on the days of creation?

He believed that God created in six actual days, about 4,000 years before Jesus came to earth. He accepted the days of Genesis 1 as historical.

3. Why did John Calvin believe that God revealed He created the world in six days about six thousand years ago?

To protect the Church from pagan fables about our origins, to glorify Himself as the only Creator and Lord, and to call us to submit our minds to God's will and Word

4. What did John Calvin believe the order of creation week reveals about God?

God can meet all our needs even without the natural means He ordinarily uses.

5. What two dangers face those who embrace a symbolic view of Genesis?

The first is the danger of losing confidence that the words can clearly communicate truth. The doctrine of the perspicuity of Scripture is on the line. The second danger is that of doctrinal minimalism—reducing theological statements to a minimum rather than allowing them to affirm positively.

## Chapter 10—What Are Some of the Best Evidences in Science of a Young Creation?

1. How can you prove, absolutely, how young (or old) the universe is?

Only one dating method is absolutely reliable—a witness who cannot lie, who has all the evidence, and who can reveal to us when the universe began! And this witness is the God of the Bible.

2. If sediments have been accumulating on the seafloor for three billion years, what should the result be? What is actually observed?

The seafloor should be filled with sediments many miles deep if the earth is billions of years old. Yet the average thickness is less than 1,300 feet.

3. What is the problem with suggesting that heat and pressure can make hard rock layers pliable over long periods of time?

The heat and pressure would have transformed these layers into quartzite, marble, and other metamorphic rocks. Yet the bent rock layers are still sedimentary!

4. What was found in fossilized dinosaur bones that indicates the bones are far less than millions of years old?

Fossilized dinosaur bones had blood vessels of the type seen in bone and marrow, and these contained what appeared to be red blood cells with nuclei. The vessels even appeared to be lined with specialized endothelial cells found in all blood vessels. Further, the bone marrow contained what appeared to be flexible tissue.

5. At the current rate of decay of the magnetic field, what is the maximum age of the earth?

It can be no older than 20,000 years.

6. What property of helium makes it useful for finding the age of a rock?



Helium is a noble gas, which means it does not combine with other atoms. It readily diffuses out of the rocks and escapes into the atmosphere. Helium diffuses so rapidly that all the helium should have leaked out in less than 100,000 years.

7. What does the presence of Carbon-14 in fossils indicate?

That the fossils are, at most, a few hundred thousand years old—not millions of years old.

8. What factors cause comets to be short-lived?

When a comet comes close to the sun, the sun's heat evaporates much of the comet's ice, reducing its size with each pass, and eventually the comet fades away. Comets are also destroyed in collisions with planets and by being ejected from the solar system.

9. What factors have contributed to the saltiness of the seas?

Rivers, glaciers, underground seepage, and atmospheric and volcanic dust dump large amounts of salt into the oceans. It's likely that God created a saltwater ocean in the beginning, and the Flood must have dumped a large amount of salt into the ocean.

10. What two facts surprised scientists who found DNA in bacteria allegedly 250 million years old?

They were shocked that the DNA was similar to modern bacterial DNA. They were surprised that the DNA was still intact since DNA breaks down quickly.

## Chapter 11—Have People Always Been Intelligent, or Were They Originally Dumb Brutes?

1. Contrast the two opposing views of human history.

In molecules-to-man evolution, early man would have been much more simplistic with limited abilities. From a biblical perspective, God created man in His image with intelligence, moral aptitude, linguistic abilities, and creative genius.

2. Of the evidences of the genius of ancient man, which do you find most intriguing? Why?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 12—What about Living Fossils?

1. What is a “living fossil”?

Organisms that can be found both living in the world today and also found preserved in the rock record as fossils.

2. How do living fossils present a problem to Charles Darwin’s prediction about change in organisms?

The number of living fossil genera is much more than would be predicted if all organisms were continually changing over time into other organisms. Evolutionary change is predicted over time, but some genera remain unchanged for tens or hundreds of millions of years (according to the evolutionary timeline).

3. How can living fossils be explained from a biblical perspective?

A Creation-Flood model might suggest that only a few select genera that were alive before the Flood were able to survive with their body shape unchanged. Living fossil taxa from the pre-Flood world would then be organisms that found comparable ecosystems in which to live after the Flood and had at least several representatives that survived the Flood. After the Flood, rapid diversification occurred, probably because of climate changes and/or the opportunity for organisms to fill new niches.

## Chapter 13—What Is the State of the Canopy Model?

1. What do all canopy models have in common?

They all interpret the “waters above” the expanse (firmament) in Genesis 1:7 as some form of water-based canopy surrounding the earth that endured from Creation until the Flood.

2. Is the canopy model a direct teaching of Scripture?

No. It is an interpretation of the text. Interpretations of Scripture are not Scripture.

3. What issue arises with Genesis 1:14–15 if there were a canopy?

A canopy would prevent the stars from being seen on earth, thus limiting their ability to fulfill God’s purpose for them: to serve as signs and to mark seasons on the earth.

4. How does the canopy model affect the placement of the stars and other heavenly bodies?

According to the biblical text, the entirety of the stars, including our own sun, were in the expanse. That means that they would have been created within the earth’s atmosphere if the canopy model were true. This goes against what we can observe.

5. Would a vapor canopy, if it existed, actually regulate the temperature of the earth?

No, a vapor canopy would cause major problems for the regulation of earth’s temperature. It would absorb radiation and become hot, which would heat the surface of the earth by conduction downward.

6. Apart from the canopy model, what factor most affects human life longevity?

Genetics

## Chapter 14—Are There Transitional Forms in the Fossil Record?

1. What is a “transitional form”?

Fossils that represent stages of transformation of one organism into a different kind of organism

2. Has a plausible sequential progression of intermediate stages been observed in the fossil record?

Rarely, if ever

3. Do evolutionists admit that there are few transitional fossils?

Yes (see quotes in the text by Gould, Eldridge, and Darwin)

4. What is the “hopeful monster theory”?

The transitional stages (hopeful monster) occurred rarely and relatively quickly, leaving no fossil evidence.

5. Is the famous “March of Progress” illustration based on fact?

No

6. What is one difference between feathers and scales?

Scales are continuous folds in the epidermis; feathers grow from individual follicles.

7. Why do people deny the evidence for God’s handiwork that is so obvious?

They “suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18).

## Chapter 15—Could the Flood Cataclysm Deposit Uniform Sedimentary Rock Layers?

1. What were the four main causes for generating water currents during the Flood?

The normal ebb and flow of tidal oscillations; repeated tsunamis; progressive rising of the ocean floor; superstorms

2. What is cavitation?

A process in which the fast water flow generates vacuum bubbles that hammer rock surfaces, pulverizing the rock rapidly

3. What processes would cause a boulder to be transported in water?

At the highest water speeds, when the amount of sediment in the water is greater than the amount of water in the slurry mixture, the density of the slurry is so great that even boulders are transported, suspended in the slurry.

4. Theoretically, how would Flood waters deposit uniform sediment layers?

The Flood waters at the base of the flow would tend to erode in source areas as the current flow increased, and then they would start switching to depositional as the water currents flowed over the continents and started to deposit their loads. Thus, when the water currents subsequently slowed as they continued further sediment deposition, they would not be eroding at the same time. The outcome would be to deposit uniform sediment layers during their passage across the continents as they progressively spread out and deposited their sediment loads.

5. Have floodwaters ever been observed to deposit uniform sediment layers?

Yes

## Chapter 16—Should We Be Concerned about Climate Change?

1. At the most basic, what is “climate change”?

Long-term changes in climate (mainly temperature)

2. How does the promise God gave (Genesis 8:22) relate to the climate change debate?

God promised that the seasons would continue as long as the earth remains, indicating that a temperature control system is in place to regulate temperature extremes.

3. How do the news reports about climate change of the 1970s compare to those of today?

The climate was thought to be cooling in the 70s and is thought to be warming today.

4. Are environmental scientists unbiased?

No. Everyone has a bias and a worldview through which he interprets the evidence.

5. What two factors are responsible for 80 to 90 percent of the total greenhouse gas effect?

Water vapor and clouds

6. What percentage of the total greenhouse gas effect is caused by man-made carbon dioxide?

Less than one percent of the total

7. After reading this chapter, has your view of climate change changed?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 17—What about Creation, Flood, and Language Division Legends?

1. How should we understand the various creation legends found around the world in light of the Bible?

These legends are a great confirmation that the Bible retains the true account recorded by God in His Word.

2. Why are these legends difficult to explain from a naturalistic worldview?

It is difficult to explain the similarities between the legends if people supposedly evolved and slowly filled the earth with a gradual changing of languages and no global Flood.

3. Look up Genesis 1–3. Of the creation legends discussed, which do you find most intriguing?

Answers will vary.

4. Look up Genesis 6–9. Of the flood legends given, what differences between the legends and the biblical account stand out to you?

Answers will vary.

5. Look up Genesis 10–11. Of the language legends listed, what similarities between the legends and the biblical account stand out to you?

Answers will vary.



## Chapter 18—How Big Is the Universe?

1. Should the size of the universe really be measured in terms of millions and billions of light years?

Yes. The universe is so much larger than we could ever comprehend, and the methods used for finding distances seem to be accurate.

2. Why isn't a big universe a problem for biblical creationists?

Only a truly powerful Creator could conceive and make such a large universe. It is as if He created the world so large that we finite creatures, upon seeing His handiwork, ought to fall down prostrate in worship of Him.

## Chapter 19—Could Noah’s Ark Have Been Made of Wood?

1. To what do the 120 years mentioned in Genesis 6:3 refer?

To the time from when God decreed the Flood to when the Flood began.

2. Which of the proposed methods for joining wood in a large ship do you find most interesting? Why?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 20—What about Environmentalism?

1. Is the material world inherently evil?

No. God declared the universe He created “very good” in the beginning.

2. Should the earth be seen as fragile?

No. God created a very good earth—a very robust place that would do what God intended it to do—provide a habitat for humanity.

3. How is today’s elevation of animals above humans a reflection of Eve’s action toward the serpent in Genesis 3?

Adam and Eve were to rule over creation—over the animals. But Eve listened to the serpent and put herself in subjection to it. Humans today are still to rule over animals—we are not to give them a status that makes them more important than humans.

4. What biblical passages invalidate the claim that vegetarianism is ethically superior to meat eating?

Genesis 9:1–3; 2 Peter 2:12

5. How do the verses in Psalm 104:5–9 touch on the dire warnings of a catastrophic rise of sea level?

According to those verses, God has set for the sea a boundary—that the waters will not pass over the land and will not return to cover the earth (as they did during the Flood).

6. What is the real source of fear of natural catastrophes?

The absence of the fear of the Lord, manifested in persistent sins (idolatry, worshipping pagan gods, speaking in the name of false gods, killing God’s people, worship of nature, etc.).

7. Has your attitude toward environmentalism changed after reading this chapter? Why?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 21—What about Distant Starlight Models?

1. What is the “horizon problem” with the big bang model?

In the supposed big bang, the light could not have been exchanged, and the universe was expected to have many variations of temperature, but this was not the case when measured.

2. Why do many reject the “light in transit” solution to the light-travel time dilemma?

Starlight contains a tremendous amount of detailed information about stars. If the light were created in transit, then the light would not really represent an actual happening but would be something that had been encoded to look like an actual event. This amounts to deception.

3. How does knowing that there are several different proposed solutions to the light-travel time problem affect your view of the “dilemma”?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 22—What Are the Tactics of the New Atheists?

1. Why is there such hostility toward Christianity?

Christianity is the truth. Those who love darkness will attack the light (John 3:19–21). A person is either for Jesus or against Him (Matthew 12:30, 25:46)—there is no middle ground.

2. Does it surprise you that Richard Dawkins admits living things “really look as though they’re designed”? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

3. Are the tactics of the new atheists really new?

There is nothing new under the sun. The new atheists are shaking their fists at God in the same way the pre-Flood people denied His existence, and the people at Babel determined they didn’t need Him. There are no new arguments or tactics that can or should shake the fact that the God of the Bible is the one true God who provides salvation through His one true Son, Jesus.

## Chapter 23—Were There Any Volcanoes, High Mountains, and Earthquakes Before the Flood?

1. What were the “fountains of the great deep” referenced in Genesis 7:11?

These were primarily ocean springs that possibly included terrestrial springs that tapped waters residing within the earth’s crust.

2. Were there mountains before the Flood?

There were mountains in the pre-Flood world because it was those mountains that Genesis 7:20 describes as being eventually covered by the Flood waters. However, they were probably not as high as today’s mountains.

3. Were there volcanoes and earthquakes before the Flood?

We have to infer from the geologic record that there were likely some volcanic eruptions accompanied by earthquakes in the pre-Flood world, but these occurred far away from human habitations out on the deep ocean floor.

## Chapter 24—What about Beneficial Mutations?

1. What is needed for a single-celled ancestor to evolve into a human?

Novel (new) traits must be gained.

2. What is a “beneficial mutation”?

A change in a population that results in a beneficial outcome in certain environments

3. How do the proposed beneficial mutations in bacteria operate?

They operate on pre-existing traits, genes, and systems but cannot account for the origin of completely new traits/genes/systems.

4. Can gene duplication account for the origin of new genetic information?

No. This mechanism simply duplicates already existing genetic information but doesn't involve a net increase in new genetic material.

5. What is *mediated design*?

God specifically designed the created kinds with genes that could be turned on to help them adapt to new environments.

6. What are epigenetic markers?

Chemical tags on DNA that exist outside the actual sequence of DNA.



## Chapter 25—What about the Hebrew Language and Genesis?

1. According to Hebrew dictionaries and most classic commentaries on Genesis, how should *yom* be understood in the context of Genesis 1?

As an ordinary day of approximately 24 hours

2. What is a *hendiadys*?

A figure of speech that uses two related words to identify one idea

3. What significance does the vav-consecutive have to Genesis 1?

The repeated use of the vav-consecutive indicates that a passage is narrative (it is repeatedly used in Genesis 1, showing that this passage is narrative). It also indicates sequence, and it traces an extended sequence of actions throughout the section.

## Chapter 26—The Recapitulation of Recapitulation: Does Embryology Prove Evolution?

1. What does *ontogeny* mean?

Development from the earliest stages to maturity

2. What does *phylogeny* mean?

It refers to evolutionary ancestry and is based on the presumption that all living organisms evolved from simpler forms through natural processes.

3. What does *recapitulation* mean?

It refers to summarizing, repeating, or restating something.

4. What was the problem with Ernst Haeckel's original embryological drawings?

He substantially altered the drawings in order to prove his point.

5. What moral issue has been legitimized by Haeckel's fraudulent drawings?

Abortion. People have been told that the human embryo goes through various animal stages so the baby in the womb is nothing more than an animal and can be killed.

6. What confirmed the "biogenetic law" is false?

Careful observation and comparison of the phylotypic stage of each animal

7. What are the "gill slits" in human embryos?

These are folds of tissue destined to develop into various anatomical parts of the head and neck. They never function as, or even remotely resemble, gills.

## Chapter 27—Is Speciation Evidence for Creation or Evolution?

1. What is the evolutionary idea of speciation?

It is the idea that when an organism has changed into numerous reproductively isolated species, this is evidence of molecules-to-man evolution.

2. What is the biblical perspective of speciation?

God created all animals “after their kinds.” We infer that this means animals were created to reproduce within the bounds of their kinds. When an organism changes into numerous reproductively isolated species (within that kind), this is an example of variation within a created kind.

3. What are different versions of shared genes called?

Alleles

4. Generally speaking, how do mutations work?

Mutations are changes in DNA that occur after sin corrupted God’s creation, and they do not produce new genes. Mutations only produce alleles, variations in pre-existing genes.

5. What is recombination?

The shuffling of pre-existing genes

6. What type of genetic information is required by evolutionary processes?

A net increase in completely new genetic information not stemming from pre-existing genetic information

7. How does speciation work in the wrong direction from that required by evolutionary ideas?

Speciation produces only variation within kinds as a result of the subdivision and/or alteration of pre-existing genetic variability.

## Chapter 28—Are Genetically Modified Organisms Wrong?

1. What is a genetically modified organism?

Any organism that has been modified with DNA from another organism.

2. According to the Bible, is there anything wrong—in principle—with genetically modifying organisms?

No. No one can point to any verse or idea to suggest that artificial selection is wrong, let alone GMOs. Therefore, nothing is wrong with the process of genetically modifying any organism.

3. In principle, is there anything wrong scientifically with genetically modifying organisms?

No

4. Are GMOs wrong in practice?

Answers will vary.

## Chapter 29—What about Design Arguments Like “Irreducible Complexity”?

1. What is the “design argument”?

The design argument says that design reveals a designer and some of the attributes of the designer.

2. What Bible verses provide a basis for the design argument?

Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:4; Isaiah 45:18; Job 9:10, 37:5; Psalm 139:14; Acts 17

3. What is “irreducible complexity”?

Irreducible complexity is the term applied to a structure or mechanism that requires several precise parts to be assembled simultaneously for there to be a useful function for that structure or mechanism.

4. How is irreducible complexity incompatible with molecules-to-man evolution?

Irreducible complexity cannot be produced by evolution because evolution is restricted to step-by-step change, where every change must give a survival advantage. Evolution has no ability to bring about the many precise design changes that are necessary to make the leap from one design concept to another. If there are examples of irreducible complexity in nature, then the theory of evolution absolutely breaks down.

5. Explain “common design” from a biblical perspective and from an evolutionary perspective.

From a biblical perspective, common design is where the same design solution is used in different situations by a common Designer. From an evolutionary perspective, homology is the idea that similar structures have evolved in different creatures by chance over time.

6. How is over-design a challenge to evolution?

Over-design involves design features that are above and beyond what is needed for survival. Over-design should not be produced by evolution because, with evolution, every aspect of design must be capable of being explained in terms of what is needed to survive.

7. Which of the examples given of over-design stands out to you the most? What other examples can you think of?

Answers will vary.

8. What is the Intelligent Design movement? What are its limitations?

The ID movement argues the case for intelligent design without any reference to the identity of the Creator and without any reference to the Bible. Limitations include that it denies Jesus the glory due to Him as the Creator, it does not give an explanation for the origin of death and suffering in nature, and it does not promote a biblical worldview.

## Chapter 30—What about the Origin of the Solar System and Planets?

1. According to the eyewitness account given in the Bible, how did the solar system form?

God created the earth first (on Day 1) and then the stars, planets, moon, etc., on Day 4.

2. What did “spiral nebulae” turn out to be, under careful observation?

Distant galaxies composed of billions of stars

3. What are two problems with the modern nebular hypothesis?

Answers will vary: The angular momentum problem remained. Scientists don't know and have never observed what could cause the microscopic bits of matter to coalesce into planetesimals. Another problem is what caused the gas cloud to contract to begin with.

4. Do stars form today?

Biblically, we do not have a clear answer. God made stars on Day 4, but this doesn't necessarily preclude that stars have not continued to form since that time. However, no one has actually observed a star forming.

## Chapter 31—Did Noah Need Oxygen Tanks on the Ark?

1. Since atmospheric pressure is relative to sea level, why would Noah not have had trouble breathing while he was on the Ark?

Since the Flood was worldwide, the sea level would have been the same around the world, and as rising sea levels pushed the air column higher, the air pressure at sea level would stay the same.

3. Were the mountains and valleys before and during the Flood the same height as they were today?

The Hebrew phrase in Psalm 104:8 would seem to indicate that the mountains rose and the valleys sank at the end of the Flood, leading to the conclusion that pre-Flood mountains and valleys were not as pronounced as they are today.



## Chapter 32—The Image of God

1. What is the difference between how God created animals and how He created people?

God created humans in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26–27). He created animals after their kinds.

2. What is unique about the dignity of humans?

People are able to have a personal relationship with God. People can learn truth and can know the Source of truth. People are able to worship and glorify God for something beautiful.

3. What is unique about the dominion of humans?

God created humans to be caretakers of the earth and its animal inhabitants (Genesis 1:28–30). People are to rule the earth for God and to develop a culture that glorifies the Creator.

4. How is the image of God in humans tarnished because of sin?

Human beings now search for significance in themselves and their accomplishments instead of finding significance in the Creator whose image we bear. We remain rational, spiritual beings, but our rationality and spirituality no longer impart a true knowledge of God. The outworking of our relationships no longer reflects the relationship between the Trinity. Humans exercise dominion over the earth but in many ways are selfish dictators who rule over nature for selfish gain, working against the will of God in the world.

5. How is Jesus the true image of God?

He is equally God and not a mere copy of the original. He is the original image. Jesus shows us the glory of God, and when He comes again in His glorified humanity, He will be manifested directly as the true image of God.

6. How does God restore His image in people?

Jesus Christ is our only hope for restoration. Without saving faith in the life, death, Resurrection, and return of Jesus, the image of God in us will remain tarnished by our sin and rebellion. Jesus

Christ is the true image of God; therefore, when you submit your life to Jesus, God works through the power of His Holy Spirit to restore His image in you.

## Chapter 33—Dear Atheists . . . Are You Tired of It All?

1. Which attribute of God do atheists claim when they say, “There is no God”?

Omniscience

2. What provides the basis for truth?

The Creator God who exists and is truth (John 14:6)

3. On what basis should Christians share their faith?

Christians should want to see people repent of their evil deeds and be saved from death.