

Tools for Teaching

Volume 1: The Relevance of Genesis

Outline

Does it matter whether Genesis relates the true history of the universe, or is merely a fairy-tale for grown-ups? What has happened to once-Christian nations?

1. Genesis is foundational to the rest of the Bible's message.
 - a. All major doctrines of Christianity are based either directly or indirectly on Genesis 1–11.
 - God created man and gave him dominion over the creation (Genesis 1:28).
 - God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to tend it (later, because of sin, man was forced to toil for a living) (Genesis 2:15; 3:17–19).
 - God created Eve from Adam's side and brought her to him, establishing the pattern for marriage between one man and one woman for life (Genesis 2:21–24).
 - God created all things in six days and rested on the seventh, establishing a pattern for our seven-day week (Genesis 1:31–2:3, Exodus 20:11).
 - Adam disobeyed God's command, and sin and death entered the world and passed to all his descendants (Genesis 2:16; Romans 5:12–14).
 - God cursed His creation because of Adam's sin (Genesis 3:14–19, Romans 8:22).
 - God killed an animal to provide clothing for Adam and Eve after Adam disobeyed (Genesis 3:21). This was the first death and the first blood shed in payment for sin—a picture of what Jesus Christ would later do (Hebrews 9:22).
 - Jesus Christ (the Last Adam) came to live a perfect life, and to pay the penalty for sin, introduced into the world by the First Adam (Genesis 3:15).
 - God will create a new heavens and Earth one day, doing away with the curse forever (Revelation 21:4, 22:3; Genesis 3).
 - b. The New Testament references Genesis as history.
 - Paul (Romans 5:12–14; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22)
 - Jesus (Matthew 19:4–6)
 - Peter (2 Peter 3:5–6)
2. Problem: Genesis is being undermined by evolutionary humanism, thus the fabric of Christianity in many cultures is collapsing (Psalm 11:3).
3. Solution: Christians must uphold the Bible's authority from the very first verse, and tear down the strongholds of evolutionary/"millions of years" thought patterns (Isaiah 58:12).

Conclusion: The doctrine of Creation (based in Genesis) explains that one man's sin led to the death, pain and suffering we experience today, whereas the anti-God doctrine of evolution and its stablemate, a belief in an "old Earth," proposes the opposite: namely that millions of years of death, disease and struggle preceded (or even led to) man's existence. If Genesis is merely myth, there is no basis for morality or any Christian doctrine. Since Genesis is true history, the foundation for Christianity is firmly established.

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Carl Sagan, program entitled "One voice in the cosmic fugue."

The secrets of evolution are time and death. Time for the slow accumulations of favorable mutations, and death to make room for new species.

Dr Hugh Ross, *Creation and Time*, page 56.

So, God's revelation is not limited exclusively to the Bible's words. The facts of nature may be likened to a sixty-seventh book of the Bible.

Dr Hugh Ross, Staley Lecture Series, Toccoa Falls College, March 18–20, 1997.

Not everyone has been exposed to the sixty-six books of the Bible, but everyone on planet earth has been exposed to the sixty-seventh book, the book that God has written upon the heavens for everyone to read. And the Bible tells us it's impossible for God to lie, so the record of nature must be just as perfect, and reliable and truthful as the sixty-six books of the Bible that is part of the Word of God.

Concerning (leading anti-creationist) Dr Eugenie Scott, at a seminar for teachers, as recorded in a personal letter from a friend of AiG dated April 3, 1996.

I attended the "Teaching Evolution" seminar yesterday—led by Eugenie Scott ... An awful negative was suggested to those experiencing opposition from students. The teachers were advised to suggest to the Bible-believers to consult their clergy who would usually assure them that belief in evolution is OK!

G. Richard Bozarth, "The meaning of evolution," *American Atheist*, February 1978, page 30.

It becomes clear now that the whole justification of Jesus' life and death is predicated on the existence of Adam and the forbidden fruit he and Eve ate. Without the original sin, who needs to be redeemed? Without Adam's fall into a life of constant sin terminated by death, what purpose is there to Christianity? None.

Thomas H. Huxley, agnostic evolutionist and "Darwin's bulldog," *Science And Hebrew Tradition Essays*, 1897, page 236.

If Adam may be held to be no more real a personage than Prometheus, and if the story of the Fall is merely an instructive "type," comparable to the profound Promethean myths, what value has Paul's dialectic?

Thomas H. Huxley, *Science And Hebrew Tradition Essays*, 1897, page 232.

I confess I soon lose my way when I try to follow those who walk delicately among "types" and allegories. A certain passion for clearness forces me to ask, bluntly, whether the writer means to say that Jesus did not believe the stories in question, or that he did? When Jesus spoke, as of a matter of fact, that "the Flood came and destroyed them all," did he believe that the Deluge really took place, or not?

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Thomas H. Huxley, *Science And Hebrew Tradition Essays*, 1897, pages 207–208.

And what about the authority of the writers of the books of the New Testament, who, on this theory, have not merely accepted flimsy fictions for solid truths, but have built the very foundations of Christian dogma upon legendary quicksands?

G. Richard Bozarth, "The meaning of evolution," *American Atheist*, February 1978, page 19.

Christianity is—must be!—totally committed to the special creation as described in Genesis, and Christianity must fight with its full might, fair or foul against the theory of evolution.

Hugh Montefiore, bishop of the Anglican (Episcopal) church, *Confirmation Notebook of the Church of England*, page 20.

9. How did sin arise? (a) The Garden of Eden is a "myth," i.e. a historical tale embodying spiritual truth. From the viewpoint of anthropology it is exceedingly unlikely that there was a First Man and Woman. Yet the "myth" contains great truths (e.g. trying to pass the blame to others, wanting to do just what we are told not to do). It shows the universality of sin and sets it within human history. (b) Human beings are the result of evolution, and shaped by natural selection. Self-centeredness and aggression were essential at every stage of evolution. (c) Human beings naturally inherit this self-centredness ("original sin") and without it babies could not survive.

...

What the cross is not: the cross is not the Son standing in my place to take the punishment that I ought to have. Such a view is immoral. In any case, no one person could suffer the whole world's punishment.

G. Richard Bozarth, "The meaning of evolution," *American Atheist*, February 1978, page 30.

The day will come when the evidence constantly accumulating around the evolutionary theory becomes so massively persuasive that even the last and most fundamental Christian warriors will have to lay down their arms and surrender unconditionally. I believe that day will be the end of Christianity.

Dr E.O. Wilson, professor of sociobiology at Harvard University, *The Humanist*, September 1982, page 40.

As were many persons from Alabama, I was a born again Christian. When I was 15, I entered the Southern Baptist Church with great fervor and interest in the fundamentalist religion. I left at 17 when I got to the University of Alabama and heard about evolutionary theory.

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Richard Suhre, suit to remove Ten Commandments from Haywood County Courthouse, North Carolina.

... raised a Methodist in Indianapolis and went to church regularly as a child and teenager. “I believed all this God stuff,” he said. “I was a good little boy and all that ... In school, we opened every morning with the Lord’s Prayer. That was big stuff.” That changed when he attended Purdue University in Indiana. After taking physics and chemistry, he began to question the veracity of the Bible. In particular, he doubted how the entire world could have flooded in the days of Noah’s Ark. “The Bible says it rained for 40 days and 40 nights,” he said. “It included Mount Everest. Where the —— did all that water come from? Out of the ground?”

Recommended resources:

The Lie: Evolution, by Ken Ham

The (Revised and Expanded) Answers Book, edited by Dr Don Batten

The Genesis Record, by Dr Henry Morris

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discussion

1. What are some theological reasons the Earth cannot be millions of years old?

Answer: The idea that the Earth is millions or billions of years old undermines the Bible's message of sin, death, and salvation. The doctrine of Creation (based in Genesis) explains that one man's sin led to the death, pain and suffering we experience today, whereas the anti-God doctrine of evolution and its stablemate, a belief in an "old Earth," proposes the opposite: namely that millions of years of death, disease and struggle preceded (or even led to) man's existence. If Genesis is merely myth, there is no basis for morality or any Christian doctrine. Since Genesis is true history, the foundation for Christianity is firmly established.

2. What must occur in order for true revival to be realized?

Answer: Uphold the Bible's authority from the very first verse, and tear down the strongholds of evolutionary/"millions of years" thought patterns (Isaiah 58:12), so that people will understand what sin is, what its consequences are, and why Jesus needed to die on behalf.

3. The book of Genesis is

- The foundation of all Christian doctrine.
- Historical narrative.
- The most quoted-from or referred-to book in the entire Bible.
- All of the above.

Answer: D

4. The humanist, Thomas Huxley

- Agreed with theologians who reinterpreted Genesis.
- Admitted that evolution was only theory.
- Pointed out the hypocrisy of the theologians who reinterpreted Genesis.
- None of the above.

Answer: C

5. To understand Christian doctrine, one needs to

- Read the book of Genesis.
- Believe the main parts of Genesis.
- Believe and understand the book of Genesis, particularly chapters 1–11.
- Believe those parts of Genesis quoted in the New Testament.
- None of the above.

Answer: C