



# God's Grand Design

Exploring Origins in Science and Scripture

Part 1

**Why does this  
topic of origins  
matter?**

Get on the email list:

josh@trc.life

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>God's Grand Design class</b>							
2	(these events are subject to change, check here for the latest)							
3								
4			Topic	Passage	Video	Notes	PPT	
5	10/4/23	Class 1						
6	10/11/23	No Meeting						
7	10/18/23	Class 2						
8	10/25/23	No Meeting						
9	11/1/23	Class 3						
10	11/8/23	No Meeting						
11	11/15/23	Class 4						
12	11/22/23	No Meeting (Thanksgiving)						
13	11/29/23	Class 5						
14	12/6/23	No Meeting						
15	12/13/23	Class 6						
16	12/20/23	No Meeting						
17	12/27/23	No Meeting (Christmas)						
18	1/3/24	No Meeting (New Year's)						
19	1/10/24	No Meeting						
20	1/17/24	Class 7						
21	1/24/24	No Meeting						
22	1/31/24	Class 8						
23	2/7/24	No Meeting						
24	2/14/24	Class 9						
25	2/21/24	No Meeting						
26	2/28/24	Class 10						
27	3/6/24	No Meeting						
28	3/13/24	Class 11						
29	3/20/24	No Meeting						
30	3/27/24	Class 12						
31	4/3/24	No Meeting (Spring Break)						

## Class Format:

7:00 - 7:20 lecture

7:20 - 7:40 video

7:40 - 8:00 discussion

Submit your topical questions!

josh@trc.life

**FIELDS OF STUDY:**

Theology. Geology. Philosophy.  
Paleontology. Biology. Astronomy.  
Archaeology. And many, many more.

FILLMORE  
Geological Evolution of the Colorado Plateau  
of Eastern Utah and Western Colorado

MEYER  
SIGNATURE  
IN THE CELL

The Edge of Evolution  
How Life Becomes  
New  
Dr. MICHAEL J. BEHE

IN SIX DAYS

Answers Book 1  
LAIN F. HOGGE

Answers Book 2  
KEI HAN

Answers Book 3  
LAIN F. HOGGE

Answers Book 4  
KEI HAN

INSPIRED EVIDENCE  
HOW LIFE BECAME  
NEW  
DR. MICHAEL BEHE

THE GENESIS RECORD  
MORRIS

ONE FACE, ONE BLOOD  
HARD & WARE

THE BATTLE FOR THE BEGINNING  
MAYNARD

THE NEW CREATIONISM  
PAUL GARNER

DEFENDING COMPROMISE  
SARAFI

ICONS OF EVOLUTION  
WELLS

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT  
JONATHAN D. SARAFI  
A HISTORY OF THEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSY ON GENESIS 1-11

CONVINCE THE GRIPS  
WELLS

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT  
JONATHAN D. SARAFI  
A HISTORY OF THEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONTROVERSY ON GENESIS 1-11

Geophysics with the Chronology  
of the GENESIS FLOOD  
Boyd & Swilling

EARTH'S CATASTROPHIC PAST  
VOLUME 1  
STELLING

EARTH'S CATASTROPHIC PAST  
VOLUME 2  
STELLING

THE CREATED COSMOS  
Faulstich

MICHAEL J. BEHE  
Dr. Jonathan Sarafi  
RY DESIGN  
THE LONES FLOOD  
WATSON AND HOGGE

THE EXPANSE OF HEAVEN  
MARTINSON

SEARCHING FOR ADAM  
MARTINSON

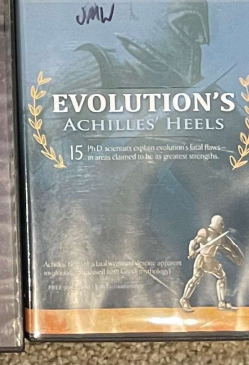
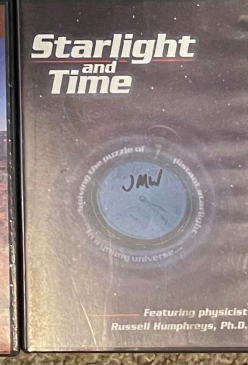
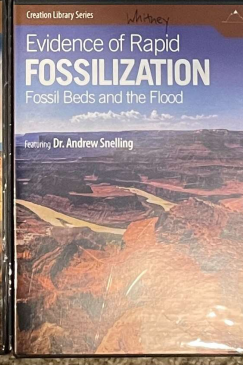
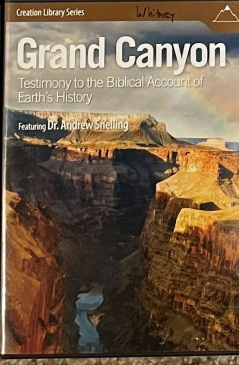
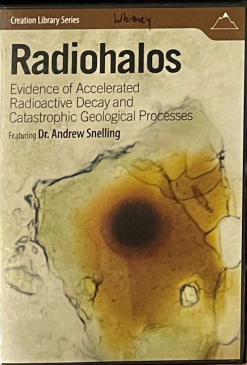
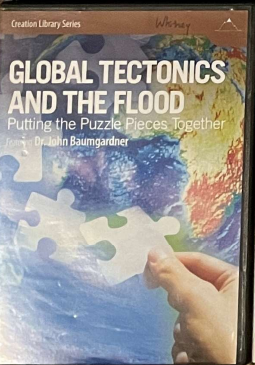
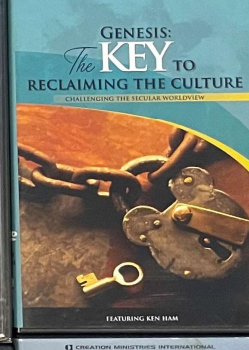
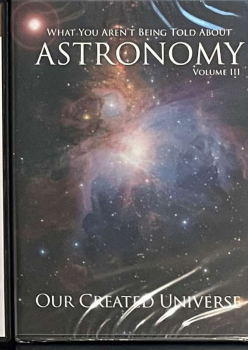
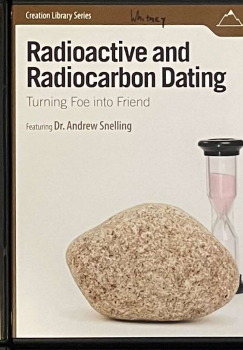
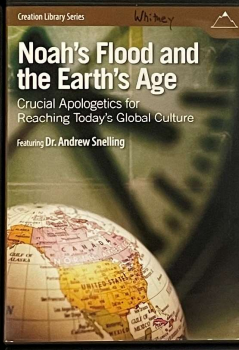
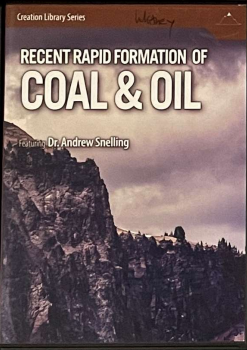
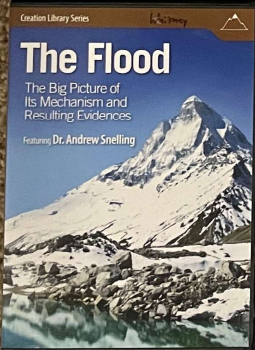
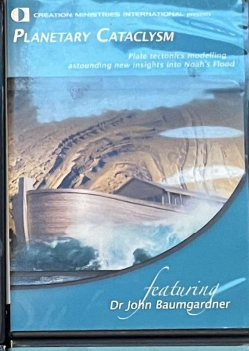
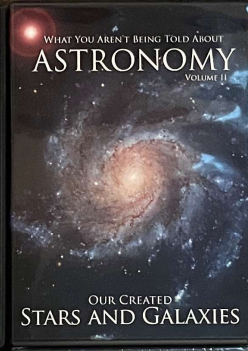
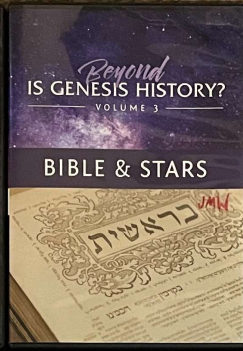
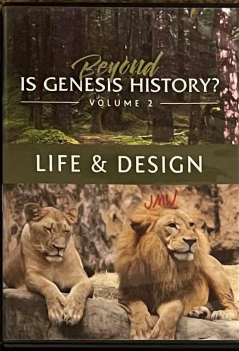
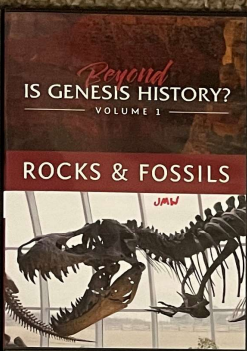
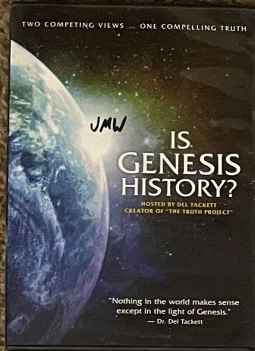
BONES OF CONTENTION

THE GRAND CANYON  
HARRIS

NATIONAL PARKS OF UTAH  
THE GRAND CANYON

Beyond the Visible Landscape  
DINODROME MYSTERIES  
GOD AND EVOLUTION  
DIE DRAGONS  
NOMADIC HIKERS  
THE HISTORY OF THE GRAND CANYON  
TOWER HOUSE  
GLASS HOUSE  
CREATION TO BABEL  
TOWER BABEL  
THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES  
GENETIC EVIDENCE  
TRACED  
THE GRAND CANYON  
GRAND CANYON  
ANCIENT LANDSCAPES OF THE COLORADO PLATEAU  
FLOOD BY DESIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
CARVED IN STONE  
THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH  
LEGIONS OF DINOSAUR PARKS AND MONUMENTS  
THE GLOBAL FLOOD  
Your Guide to the National Parks  
STONE ROAD PRESS



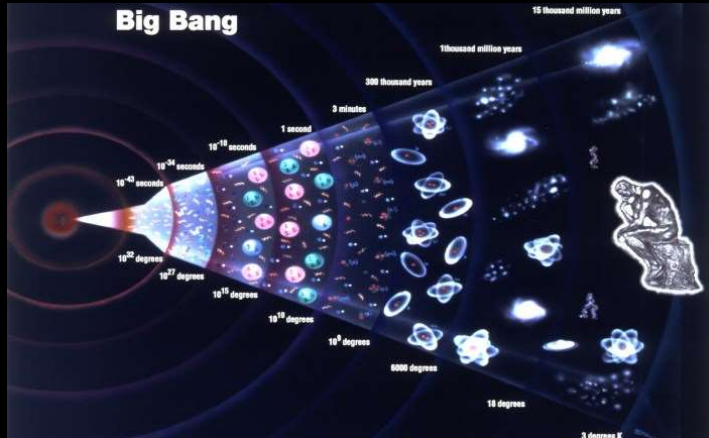






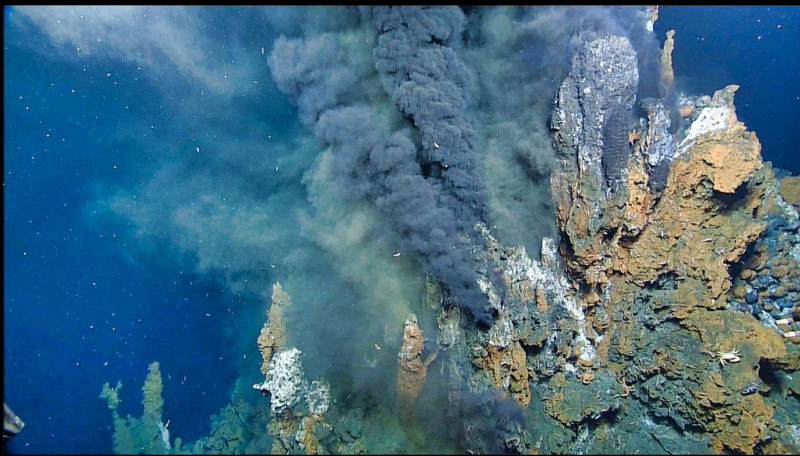
## **GENESIS 1:1**

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



Earth formed from debris orbiting around our sun about 4.5 billion years ago. The story begins earlier with the Big Bang nearly 14 billion years ago, which spewed hydrogen atoms throughout the universe.

**Los Alamos National Laboratory**



According to the conventional hypothesis, the earliest living cells emerged as a result of chemical evolution on our planet billions of years ago in a process called abiogenesis.

**Scientific American**

## **trc.life/flood**

The Rock Church believes the Bible (the inspired Word of God) is completely true. This means we believe it's accurate as related to earthly events – both in the past and in the future. We believe events described in the Bible happened just as they were written. The miracles described in the Bible are true, historical events that took place as the Scriptures depicted them.

## **trc.life/flood**

Creation: The Creation of the universe came about just as the Word of God described; it was a six-day Creation event. The true age of the earth (and all of the physical universe) is measured in thousands (not billions) of years (Genesis 1-11). Mankind began with two individuals who came into being through a special, personal, creative act of God (Genesis 2).



## **trc.life/flood**

Flood: There was a time when the entire world was covered with water as the result of a year-long Flood. This was a judgment from God on all human and land dwelling life. It resulted in the death of all humans (and animals) who were not in the Ark during the Flood (Genesis 6-9).

		Worldview	
		Christian	Non-Christian
Origins	Special Creation	God created the world/universe thousands of years ago.	?
	Evolution	God directed evolution millions/billions of years ago.	The universe/life/people evolved millions/billions of years ago



# WHY AM I HERE?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ We are just a cosmic accident, the product of time and chance.

*"There is no higher purpose. It's left to us. We must create our purpose. That's the only meaning we have in this universe."*  
—Michael Shermer<sup>1</sup>

*"Yes, secularism does propose a physical and purposeless universe, and many (but not all) of us accept the notion that our sense of self is a neuronal illusion. But although the universe is purposeless, our lives aren't. This conflation of a purposeless universe (i.e., one not created for a specific reason) with purposeless human lives is a trick that the faithful use to make atheism seem nihilistic and dark. But we make our own purposes, and they're real."—Jerry Coyne<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Michael Shermer said this in an interview with Lee Strobel.  
<sup>2</sup>See Lee Strobel, *The Case for Miracles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018), p. 46.

<sup>3</sup>Jerry A. Coyne, "Doubt on the Rampage Against Secularism, Gets It All Wrong" at <https://www.reasonandfaith.com/2013/12/25/doubt-on-the-rampage-against-secularism-gets-it-all-wrong>. Emphasis in original.



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ God created man in His image and gave man authority over this world. We are made to love God and one another and reflect God's glory to this world.

*"God created man in His own image...Be fruitful and multiply...rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves on the earth."—Genesis 1:27–28*

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."—Mark 12:30–31*



# WHY DO PEOPLE SUFFER AND DIE?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Death, suffering, and disease have always been part of the evolutionary history on our planet.

*"During the minute that it takes me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are slowly being devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease. It must be so. If there ever is a time of plenty, this very fact will automatically lead to an increase in the population until the natural state of starvation and misery is restored ...In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky; and you won't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice."—Richard Dawkins<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden* (New York: Basic Books, 1995), pp. 152–153



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ God made a perfect world, but man's rebellion brought death, suffering, and disease into this world.

*"God saw everything He had made, and it was very good."—Genesis 1:31*

*"...cursed is the ground because of you; in painful toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return."—Genesis 3:17–19*

*"Just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men..."—Romans 5:12*

*"The last enemy to be destroyed is death."  
—1 Corinthians 15:26*



# HOW DO WE KNOW RIGHT AND WRONG?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ The individual or the society decides what is right and wrong. This can vary depending upon the individual or the society.

*"Morality, or more strictly, our belief in morality, is merely an adaptation put in place to further our reproductive ends. Hence the basis of ethics does not lie in God's will or in the metaphorical roots of evolution or any other part of the framework of the universe. In an important sense, ethics as we understand it is an illusion fobbed off on us by our genes to get us to cooperate. It is without external grounding. Ethics is produced by evolution, but not justified by it, because, like Macbeth's dagger, it serves a powerful purpose without existing in substance."*

—Michael Ruse and E.O. Wilson<sup>1</sup>

Michael Ruse and E.O. Wilson, "The Evolution of Ethics" in James E. Hutchingson, ed., *Religion and the Natural Sciences: The Range of Empirical Grounds* (Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace, 1993), p. 310.



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ God is the standard of what is right and wrong—morality is rooted in the perfectly good nature of the unchanging, all-powerful God of the Bible.

*"God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."—1 John 1:5*

*"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"*  
—John 8:12

*"He has told you, O man, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"—Micah 6:8*

# IS THERE ANY HOPE?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- There is no hope of overcoming suffering, disease, and death. Someday you will die, and your body will rot. There is no afterlife. Every person, whether kind or murderous, will cease to exist with no final justice. Ultimately, life is meaningless.

*"The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference."*  
—Richard Dawkins<sup>1</sup>

*"The Earth is just a speck of sand in the universe. And there's no cavalry coming over the hill to rescue it."*—Bill Nye<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden* (New York: Basic Books, 1995), p. 133.

<sup>2</sup>"Bill Whitting, 'How We Must All Save the Earth,' *Madison Courier* (Madison, WI), February 21, 2009.



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

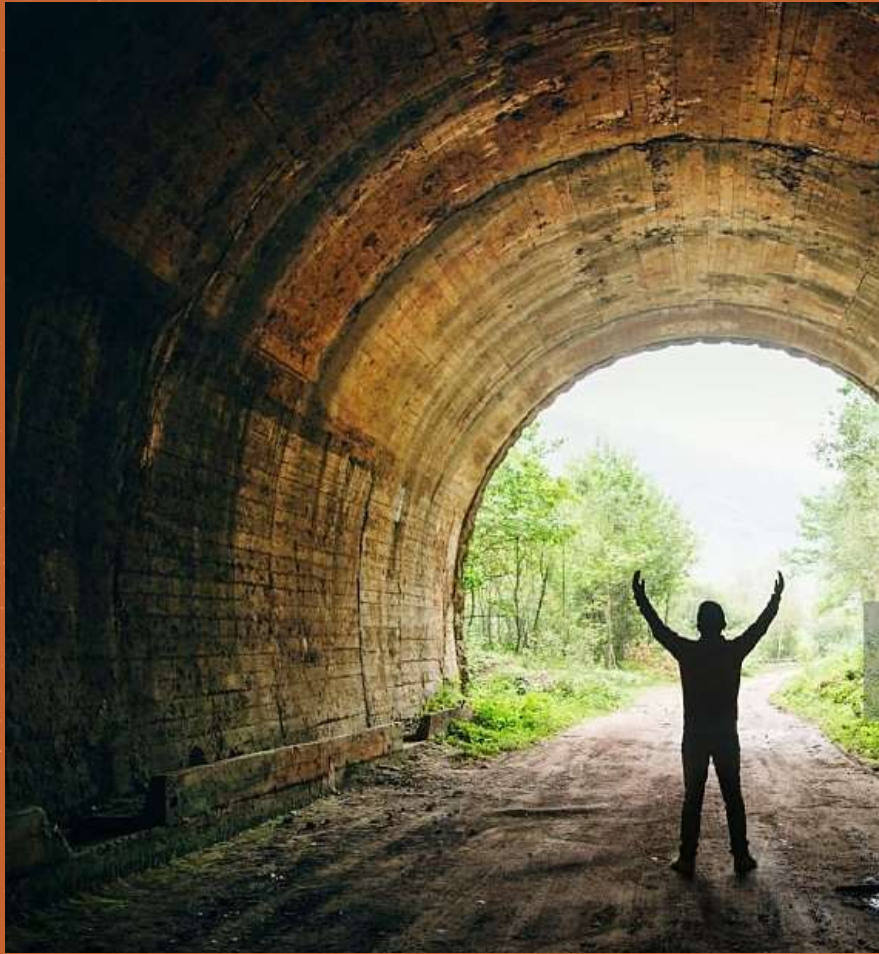
- God put on human flesh, stepping into history as a man, the Lord Jesus Christ. He suffered and died to pay the penalty for our sins. Those who believe in Him will be forgiven and live eternally with God.

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*  
—John 3:16

*"Look, the dwelling place of God is with man... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. There will be no more mourning, crying, or pain, for the former things have passed away."*  
—Revelation 21:3–4



#3592181



# WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ There is no afterlife for anyone. All people will eventually die and cease to exist.

*"I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark."*  
—Stephen Hawking<sup>1</sup>

*"There are no gods, no purposes, and no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead."*—William Provine<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ian Sample, "Stephen Hawking: 'There Is No Heaven, It's a Fairy Story,'" *Guardian* (United Kingdom), May 15, 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/may/15/stephen-hawking-interview-there-is-no-heaven>.

<sup>2</sup> William Provine and Philip Johnson, *Darwinism: Science of Naturalistic Philosophy? The Debate at Stanford University* (Stanley, CA: Regents of the University of California, 1998), DVD.



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Every person has been created to live forever—eternal life with the Creator or eternal separation from Him in the lake of fire.

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life. He will not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."*—John 5:24

*"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, that man was thrown into the lake of fire."*—Revelation 20:15



# WILL JUSTICE BE SERVED?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Ultimately, there is no justice. Yes, some people will pay for certain crimes in the present world, but other criminals will get away with their crimes. The mass murderer suffers the same fate as the most loving and kind person.

*"This concept of the afterlife really functions as a substitute for wisdom. It functions as a substitute for really absorbing our predicament, which is that everyone is going to die, there are circumstances that are just catastrophically unfair, evil sometimes wins and injustice sometimes wins, and that the only justice we are going to find in the world is the justice we make." –Sam Harris<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>"Is There an Afterlife?" - Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, David Wojpe, Bradley Aronson Share!," YouTube, December 29, 2011, video, 1:37:54, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U609216910w>



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ God is perfect in His love, and perfect love demands perfect justice. Justice will ultimately be served. Those who have received forgiveness of their sins through faith in the resurrected Savior's sacrificial death on their behalf will inherit eternal life. Those who reject Christ's payment of sins will suffer eternally for their rebellion against God.

*"Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."—John 5:28–29*



# HOW WILL IT ALL END?



## NATURALISTIC EVOLUTIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ The universe will eventually undergo a "heat death" when all usable energy has been used up. All life will end. Indeed, all chemical, biological, and physical processes will cease.

*"...we don't particularly welcome the idea of the annihilation of either ourselves as individuals, the party will go on and we'll have left, and we're not coming back, or, the entropic heat death of the universe. We don't like the idea, but there's a good deal of evidence to suggest that is what's gonna happen."—Christopher Hitchens*

<sup>1</sup>Baker University, "Does God Exist? William Lane Craig vs. Christopher Hitchens," YouTube, September 28, 2014, video, 2:27:42, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Fmiv1Jh4U8>



## BIBLICAL CREATIONIST WORLDVIEW

- ▶ This world will be burned up and the Lord will create a new heavens and a new earth that will be filled with righteousness.

*"...as you look forward to the day of God... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."  
—2 Peter 3:12–13*

Cosmic dust. That's all you are. The forces of nature combined with molecules in motion, and you came to be: a mere brute. No conscience. No morals. No meaning. You're nothing special. There's no grand plan for your life, either, other than the one you make up. You decide how to live. You do you. This is the tale that man tells you.

The Maker tells a different story about you. Before he made you, he knew you. He fashioned your frame. He breathed life into you. He stamped you with his image and now you're under his care. And like a master painter, he loves his creation. He loves you because he made you and you are his. You can flourish in his Kingdom. He even guides you through the letters of his Word.

## **Possible questions to investigate:**

What is science? What can science teach us about origins?

How old is the earth? What about radiocarbon/radiometric dating?

Did people evolve from primates? What about shared DNA?

Who did Adam and Eve's children marry?

What does Genesis 1 actually teach?

Did the flood happen? Do we see any evidence of it?

How did the animals spread over the earth after the flood?

How does plate tectonics fit into all of this?

What about the ice age?

Where are the human fossils?

Aren't there examples of evolution happening around us?

What does the Bible teach about astronomy? Does distant starlight present a problem?

How did we get the different races and languages?

How did Noah fit all the animals on the ark?

How do we get fossils? What happened to the dinosaurs?

How was the Grand Canyon formed? How do we explain the geological column?

Did Adam have a belly button?

## **Class Outline:**

Gen. 1-3 – Creation, evolution, human evolution, meaning of day

Gen. 4 – More about the age of the earth

Gen. 6-9 – The flood and implications for geology and biology

Gen. 11 – Origins of languages and different people groups



DORE/AETHON

## **JONAH 1:15-17**

So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. 17 And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

## **JONAH 2:10**

And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited  
Jonah out upon the dry land.





DORE/AETHON

## **3 Interpretative Options:**

Option 1: This story is fishy. Didn't happen. This person doesn't believe in miracles or God.

Option 2: This story is myth. It didn't happen like this. But this person believes in miracles and God. This is a myth to teach us a spiritual lesson.

Option 3: This story is true. The story actually happened as it is written. This person believes in miracles and God.

## **3 Interpretative Filters:**

1: What does the actual Hebrew text say in in the Old Testament?

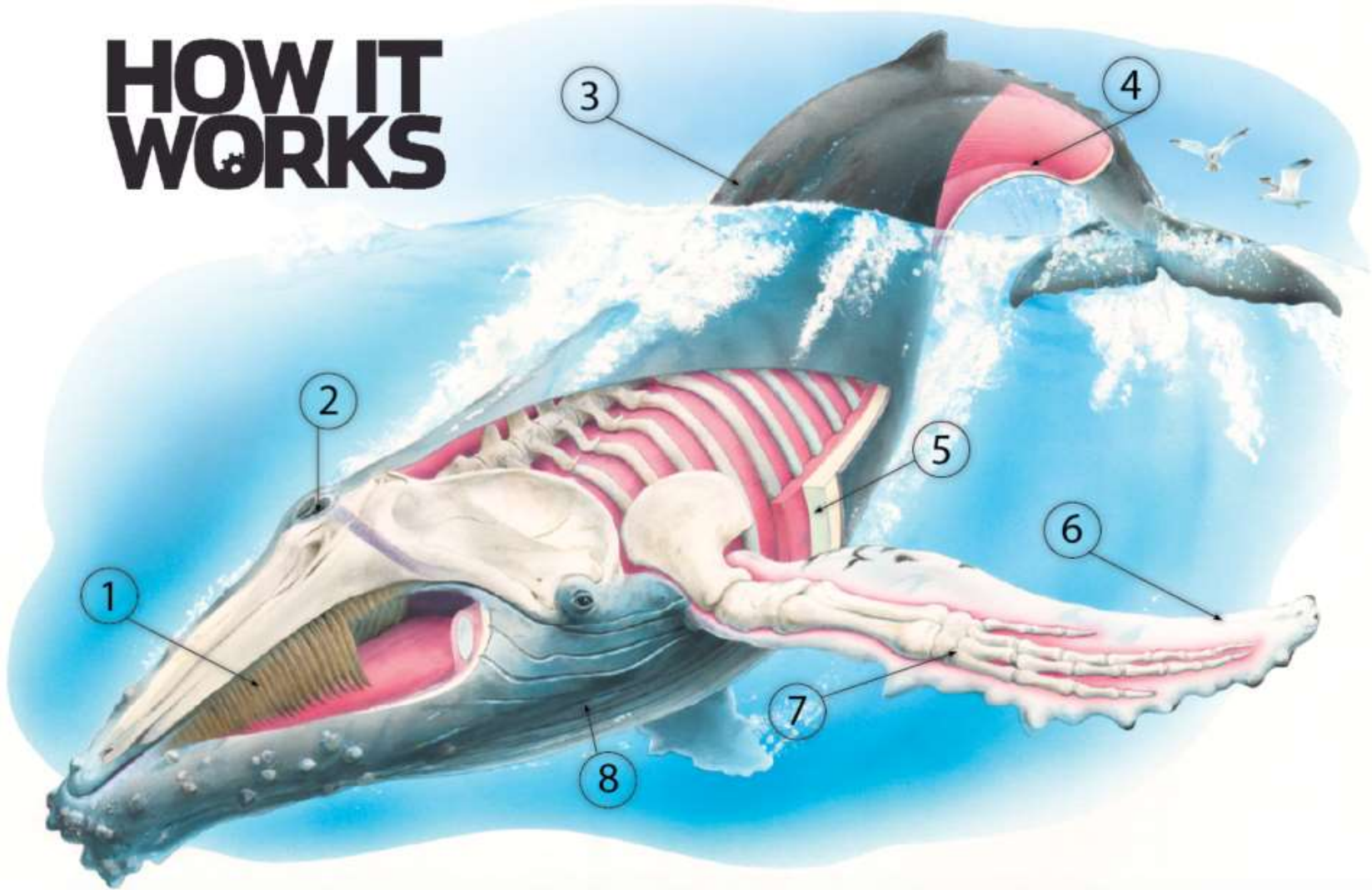
## ◀ Jonah 1:17 ▶

[Jonah 1 - Click for Chapter](#)

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# HOW IT WORKS



## **3 Interpretative Filters:**

- 1: What does the actual Hebrew text say in in the Old Testament?
- 2: What does Jesus and the New Testament teach on the subject?

## **MATTHEW 12:38-41**

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered [Jesus], saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish (kētous), so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

## **3 Interpretative Options:**

Option 1: This story is fishy. Didn't happen. This person doesn't believe in miracles or God.

Option 2: This story is myth. It didn't happen like this. But this person believes in miracles and God. This is a myth to teach us a spiritual lesson.

Option 3: This story is true. The story actually happened as it is written. This person believes in miracles and God.



## **3 Interpretative Filters:**

- 1: What does the actual Hebrew text say in in the Old Testament?
- 2: What does Jesus and the New Testament teach on the subject?
- 3: Is there any scientific evidence to support this Bible story?



Cape Cod Times  
Lobster diver Michael Packard from ...



New York Post  
Lobster diver swallowed by humpback...



CBS Boston - Breaking News, Sports, Weather, I-T...  
Nearly Swallowed By Whale Off Cape Cod ...



Today Show  
Lobster diver opens up after being ...



New York Post  
Cape Cod lobsterman swallo...



New York Post  
Cape Cod lobsterman's whale of ...



Wcvb-tv  
being swallowed by humpback whale ...



YourTango  
Michael Packard Was Nearly 'Swallowed ...



Cape Cod Times  
Cape Cod lobster diver swallo...

## **3 Interpretative Filters:**

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**Video:**

**Is Genesis History (12:28-23:33)**

1. Paul Nelson PhD, Philosopher
2. Steven Boyd PhD, Hebraist

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did you sign up for this class? What do you hope to get out of it?
2. What stood out to you from the lecture? Any thoughts on Jonah?
3. Had you considered the implications of these two different worldviews: evolutionary and creationist? Why does this topic matter to you?
4. What did you learn from the video?
5. What topic/question are you excited to study?



# God's Grand Design

Exploring Origins in Science and Scripture