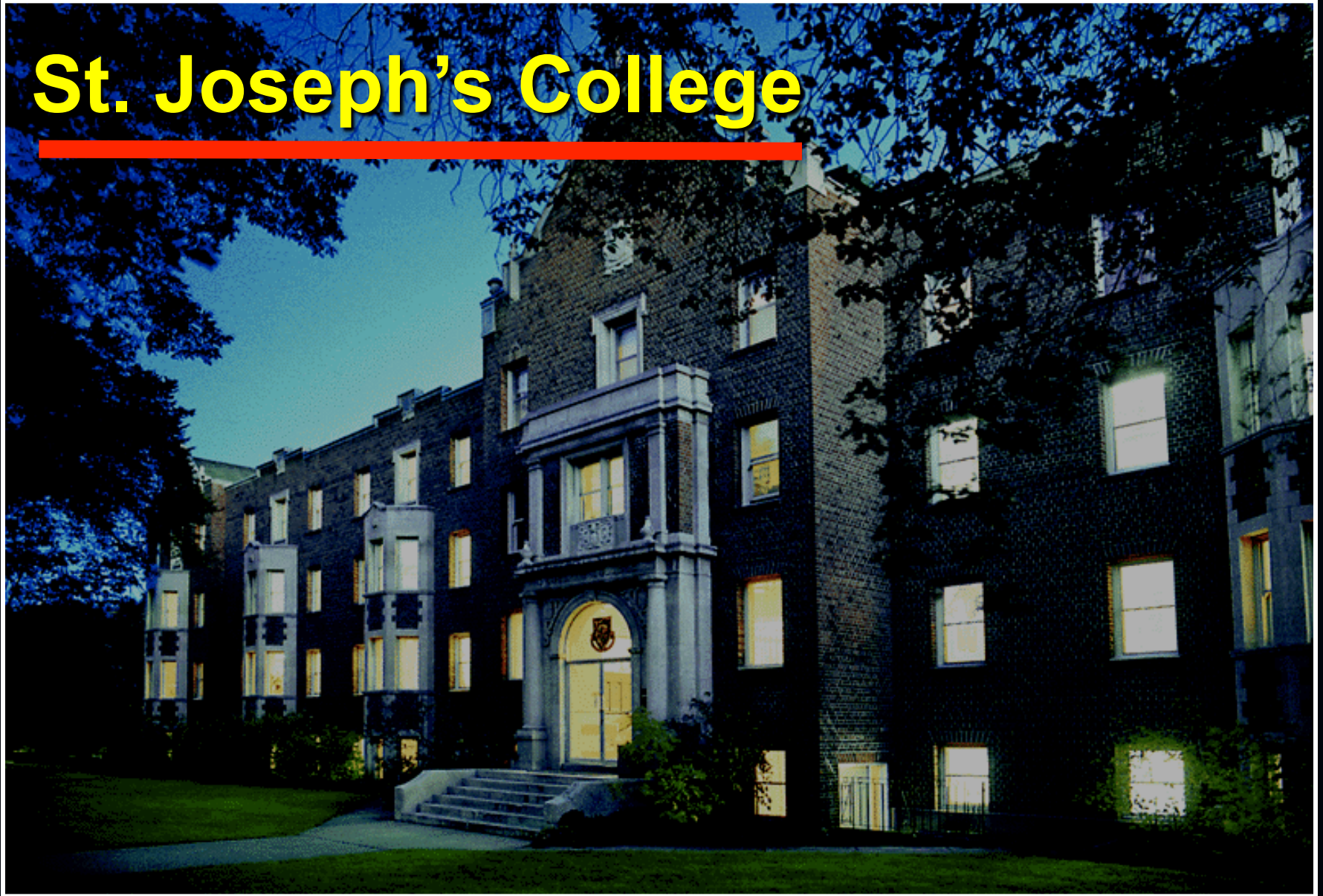


Teaching Science & Religion: Some Mid-Career Reflections & Suggestions

Denis O. Lamoureux
Associate Professor of Science & Religion
St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta



St. Joseph's College



The Students:

- From every faculty
Only theology course for most
- 60% in sciences
- 75% Christians
1/2 Catholics & 1/2 Evangelicals
- 50% wrestling with evolution
- Most Christians have Sci & Rel
in separate **Compartments**

Pedagogical Model

Constructivist Learning

- Exams: Describe & Defend
- Readings:
 - 1/3 Atheists/Agnostics
 - 1/3 Catholic
 - 1/3 Protestant
- Lamoureux's views

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

AC
13 Jan 11

Course Thesis Statement

This course dispels the popular myth that religion and science are in conflict. Instead, it argues that if the limits of both religion and science are respected, then their relationship is not only **complementary**, but also **necessary**.

The Main Problem Behind Sci-Rel Conflict:

Concordism

The Solution:

**Hermeneutical
Principles**

Course Outline:

Philosophical

Series & Principles

Religion?

ence?

Mod. Sci & Rel

Inter

Historical

Astronomy Galileo Affair

Geology & Flood

Evolution & Religion

Theological

Genesis 1-11

Modern Origins Deb

Problem of Suffering & Evil

**Hermeneutical
Principles**

Categories & Principles

METAPHYSICS-PHYSICS PRINCIPLE

Metaphysics

Ultimate Beliefs

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Intuition



Faith



Reason

#1
C1

Personal
?

Physics

Theories & Laws

Observations & Experiments

SCIENCE

SIN
?

METAPHYSICS-PHYSICS

Dystel.

PRINCIPLE

Tel.

I.D.
delusion

Metaphysics

Ultimate Beliefs

I.D.
real

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Jump

Intuition

Faith

Reason

Jump

Dawkins

Physics

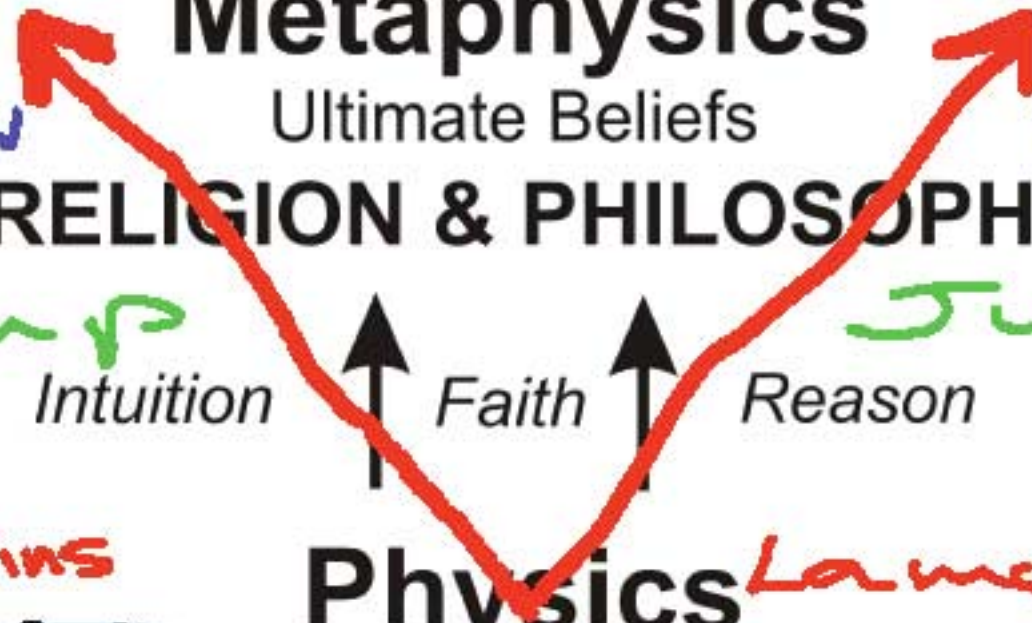
Laumoureux

Theories & Laws

Observations & Experiments

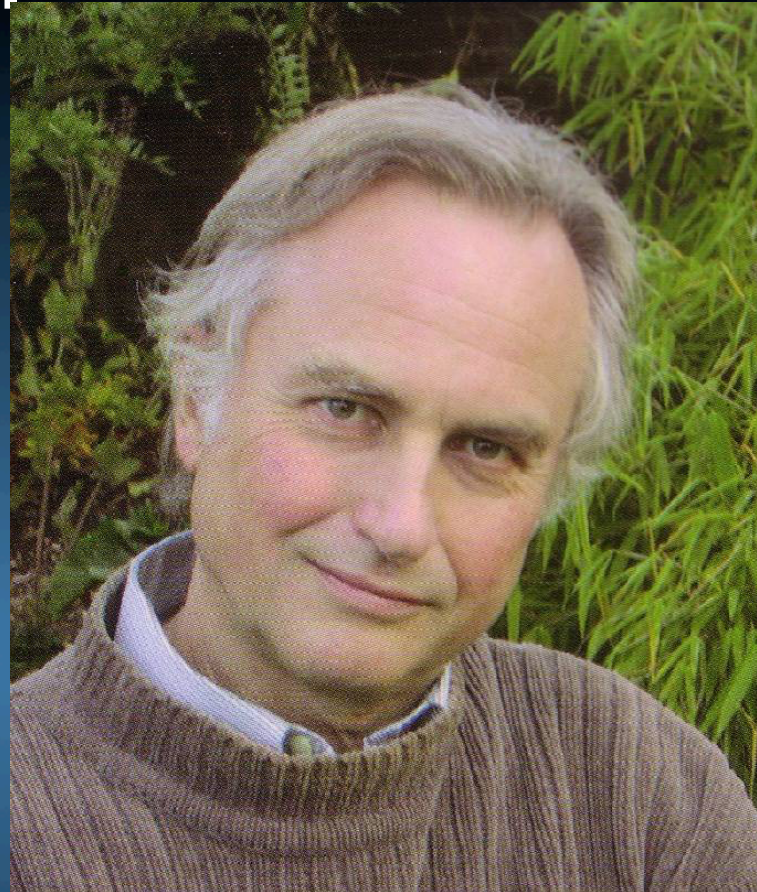
SCIENCE

Don't Conflate
BUT Separate



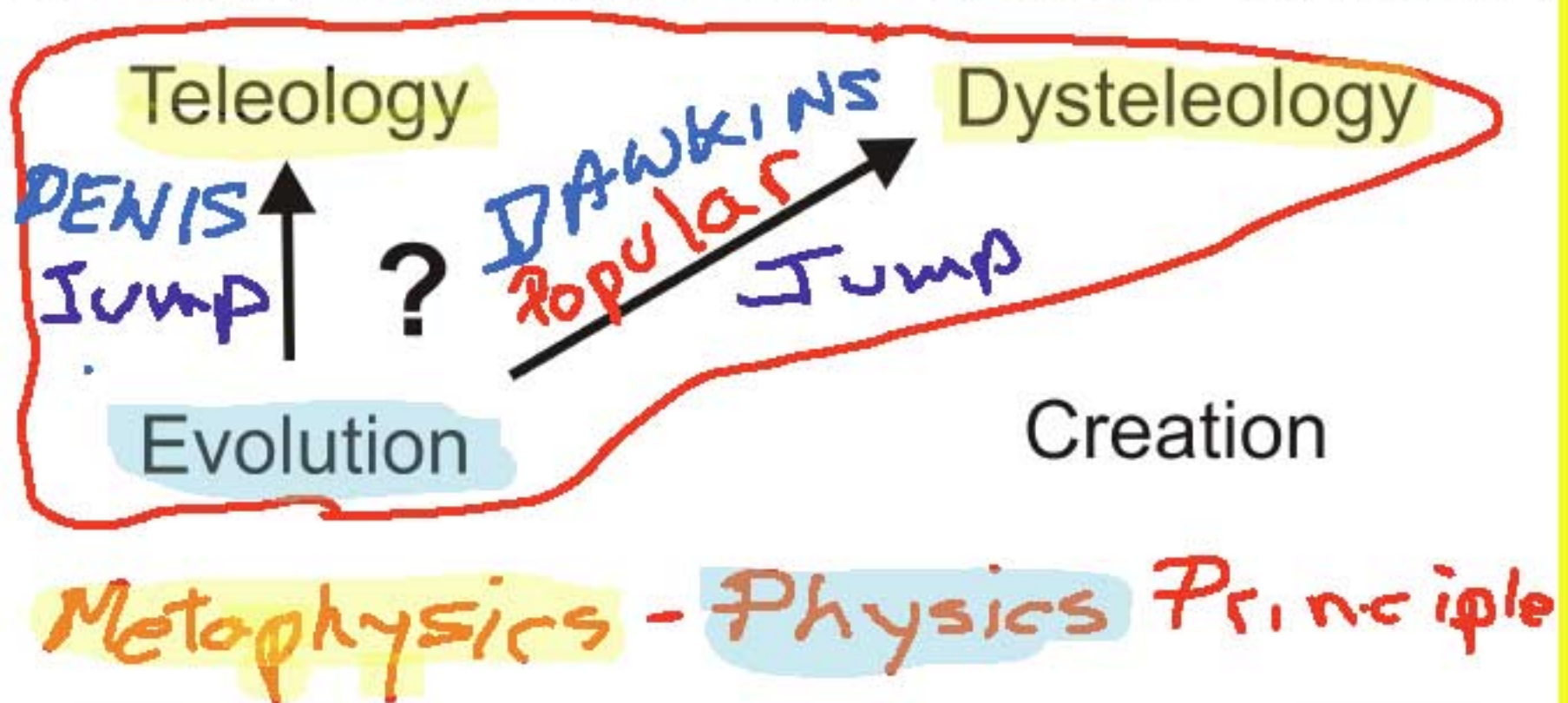
Richard Dawkins

Lamoureux is a man with an air of desperation . . . an intellectual coward.



P.12

RE-CATEGORIZING THE ORIGINS DEBATE



CHRTC 350

Science & Religion: Christian Perspectives

Denis O. Lamoureux

EVERYONE please take:

- (1) Syllabus
- (2) Survey
- (3) Final Exam Essay Questions

Those **WITHOUT** class manuals
please take: (1) Class Notes
(2) Class Handout

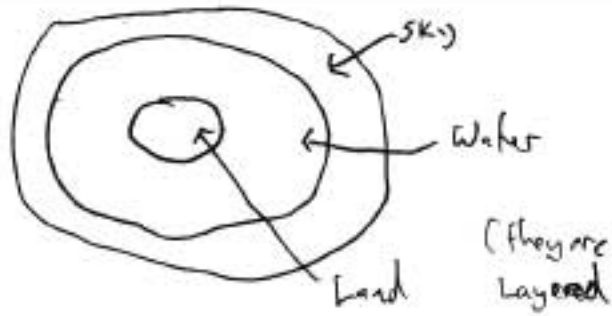
Do question
#13 first
P/se
draw
a
diagram

12. The first two verses in the Bible state:

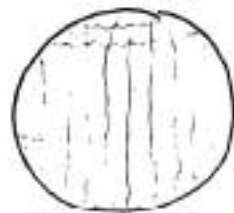
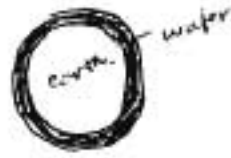
"¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

DRAW a picture below of verse 2 (use a dove to depict the 'Spirit of God'):

WHY?



(they are layered)



spirit of god is everywhere

all cover in water



DRAW a picture of the scene in verse 2 as you envision (1) the earth and (2) the waters.

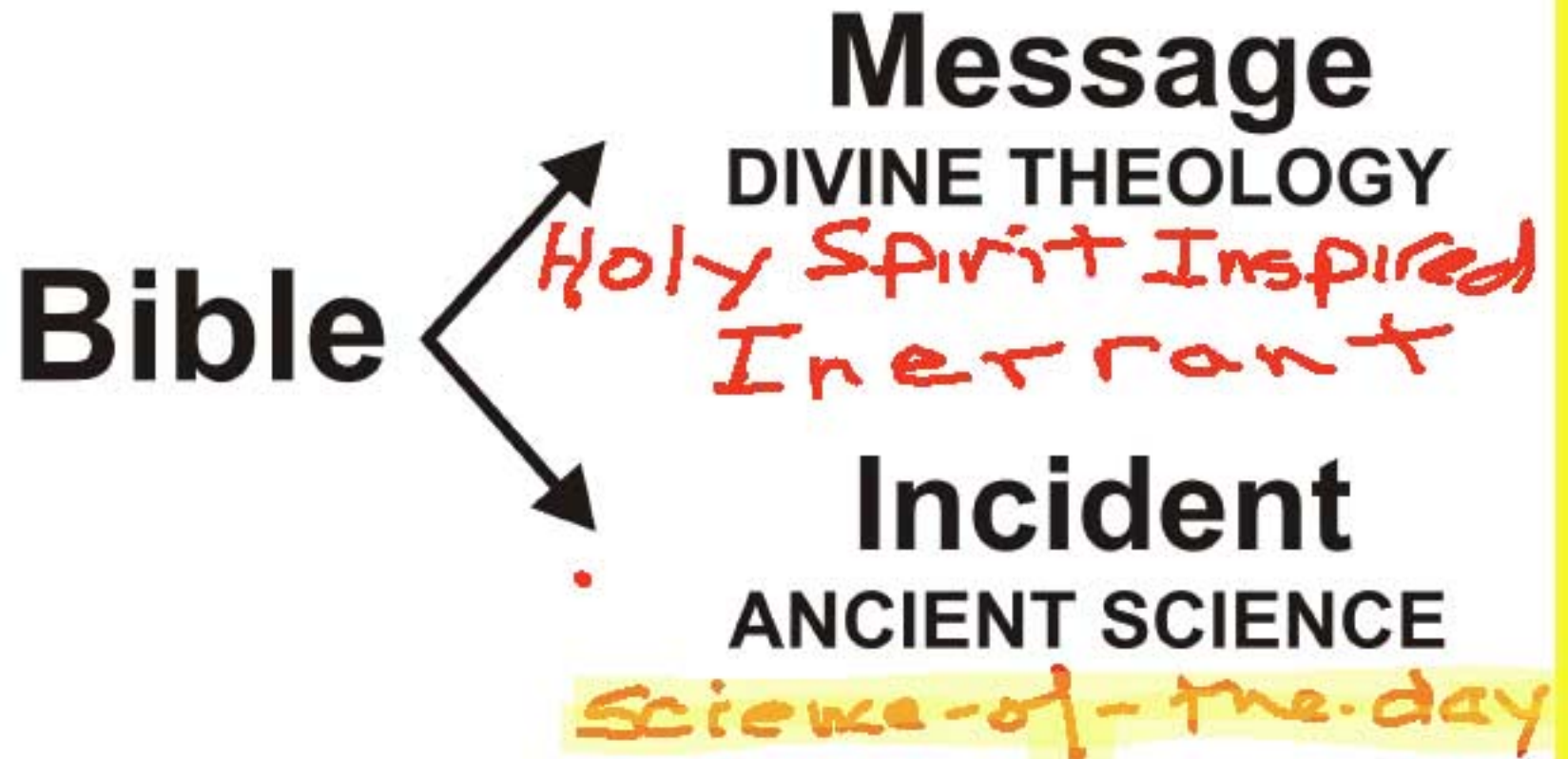


*I saw your lecture at Red Deer College last year. This is why I know this.

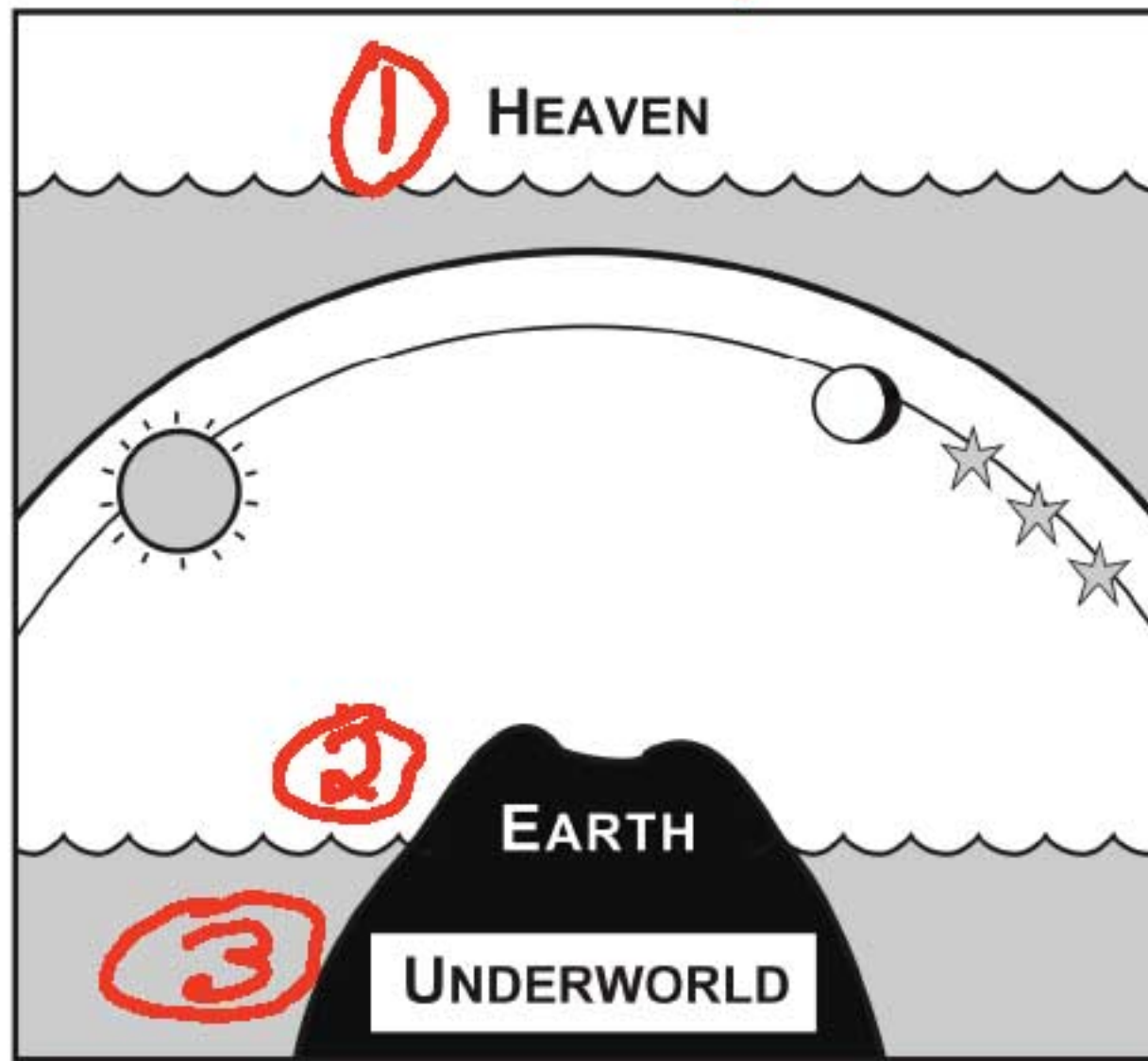
MESSAGE-INCIDENT

P.7

PRINCIPLE



THE 3-TIER UNIVERSE *Part 2*



MESSAGE-INCIDENT

P.7

PRINCIPLE

Bible

Phil 2

Message
DIVINE THEOLOGY
Jesus is Lord

Incident

ANCIENT SCIENCE

Don't Conflate
But Separate

3-Tier Uni.

What is Religion?

Martin Luther

That to which
your heart clings
and entrusts
itself is really
your **God**.



Religion ^{approx.}
<sub>equal
to</sub> **Metaphysics**

Doctrine of Creation

Gen 1 & 2 Conflicts

Two sources?

What is Science?

Metaphysical Naturalism
distinguished from
Methodological Naturalism

Critical Realism

Numbers in Ancient World

Sumerian King Lists **BEFORE** the Flood

King	Ancient Document		'60 ² Times X' Formula	
	W-B 444	W-B 62	W-B 444	W-B 62
Alulim	28,800	67,200*	60 ² X 8	*
Alalgar	36,000	72,000	60 ² X 10	60 ² X 20
Enmenluanna	43,200	21,600	60 ² X 12	60 ² X 6
Enmengalanna	28,800	—	60 ² X 8	—
...kidunnu	—	72,000	—	60 ² X 20
...alimma	—	21,600	—	60 ² X 6
Dumuzi	36,000	28,800	60 ² X 10	60 ² X 8
Ensipazianna	28,800	36,000	60 ² X 8	60 ² X 10
Enmenduranna	21,000*	72,000	—	60 ² X 20
Ubartutu	18,600*	28,000	*	60 ² X 8
Ziusudra	—	36,000	—	60 ² X 10

Hebrew Patriarchs **BEFORE** the Flood

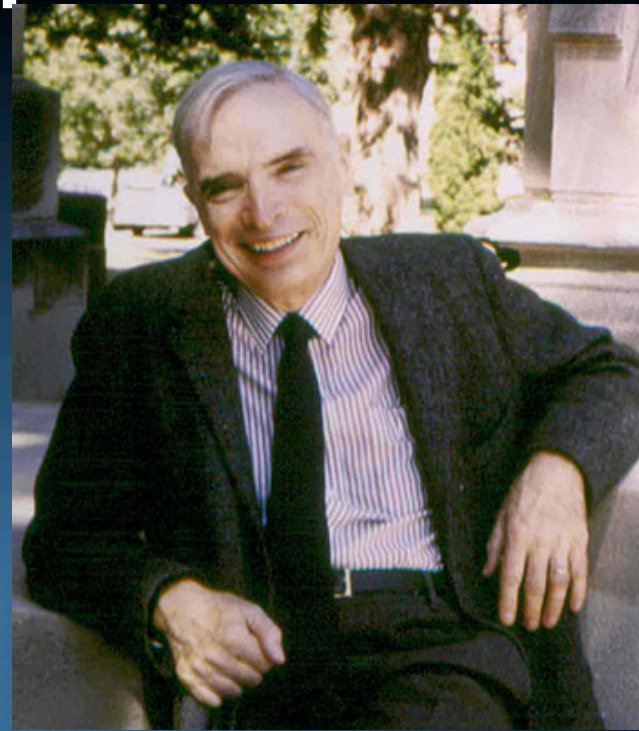
	Age at Son's Birth	Period Lived after Birth
	A	B
1. Adam	130	800
2. Seth	105	807
3. Enosh	90	815
4. Kenan	70	840
5. Mahalalel	65	830
6. Jared	162	800
7. Enoch	65	300
8. Methuselah	187	782
9. Lamech	182	595
10. Noah	500	[450]

Models Relating Science & Religion



John Haught

Conflict
Contrast
Contact
Confirmation



Ian Barbour

Conflict
Independence
Dialogue
Integration

3. SCI-REL MODEL

WINTER

NO NAMES PLEASE

Yes No Uncertain



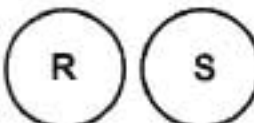
2011


A. Metaphysics-Physics Principle

___ I accept this principle 99-0-1

B. Type of Sci-Rel Model

3-89-8 ¹ ___ ² 0-89-11

___ ³ 6-86-8

___ ⁴ 69-17-14

___ ⁵ 83-3-14

___ Combination of Positions

Use the numbers above:

C. Another Diagram?

Draw on the back

D. Your THESIS STATEMENT

In about 20 words or less on back

COMMENTS ON THE BACK

☐ I DO NOT want my comments used publicly

Intelligent Design

Biblically Based ID Model:

Ps 19

Rom 1

Wisdom of Solomon 13

⁵ For from the **greatness** and **beauty** of created things come a corresponding perception of their Creator.

⁸ Yet, not even they are to be excused.

4. INTELLIGENT DESIGN

AM

NO NAMES PLEASE
Yes No Uncertain

90

A. Ontology

Character



(circle one)

Artistic

Engineered

1 0

2 8

3 80

4 12

5 0

Artistic Gradient

Optimal

None

1 32

2 52

3 10

4 0

5 0

Engineered Gradient

Optimal

None

1 40

2 44

3 12

4 0

5 0

Integrity



90

Design is Real

5

Design is a Delusion

5 u

B. Epistemology

Range

Proof

Argument

Suggestive

Consistent

Inert

1 12

2 68

3 12

4 5

5 0

Epistemological Impact of Sin



High

None

1 36

2 24

3 24

4 10

5 5

Integrity

88

The mind is Trustworthy in understanding design

5

The mind is NOT Trustworthy in understanding design

5 u

C. Draw Intersection of ID Parameters

(on the back of page)

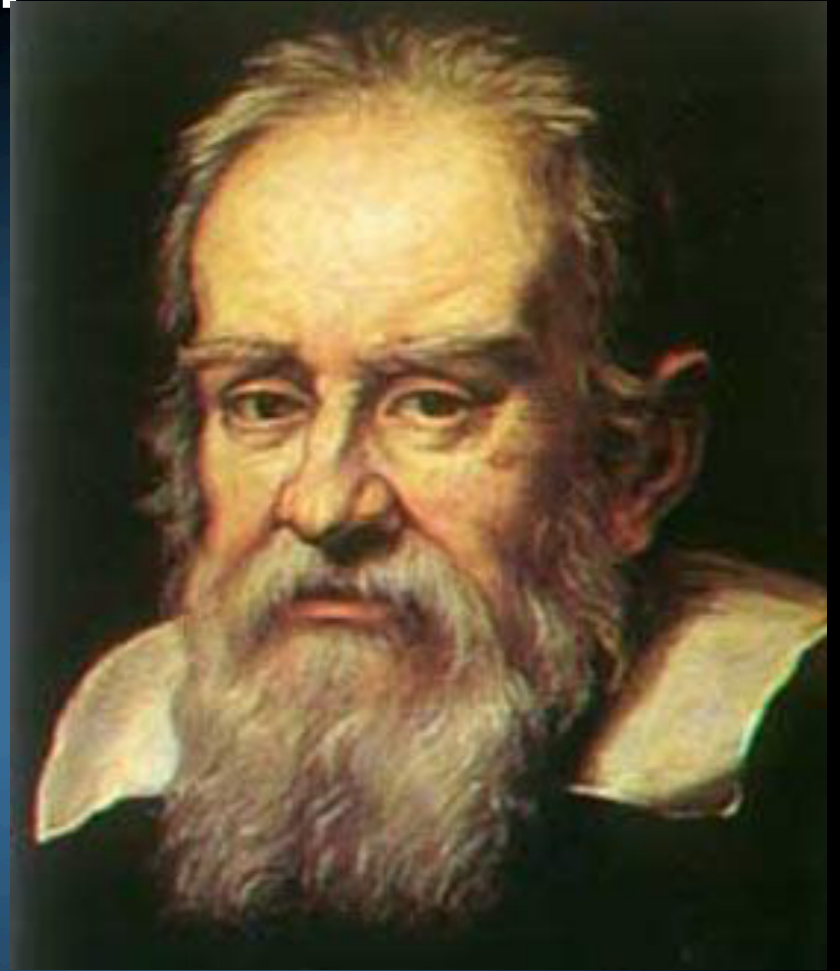
T most

Astronomy & The Galileo Affair

Galileo Galilei

*Letter to the
Grand Duchess Christina
(1615)*

- Accommodation
- Ancient science
- Science incidental
- Holy Spirit inspired
- Science assists hermeneutics

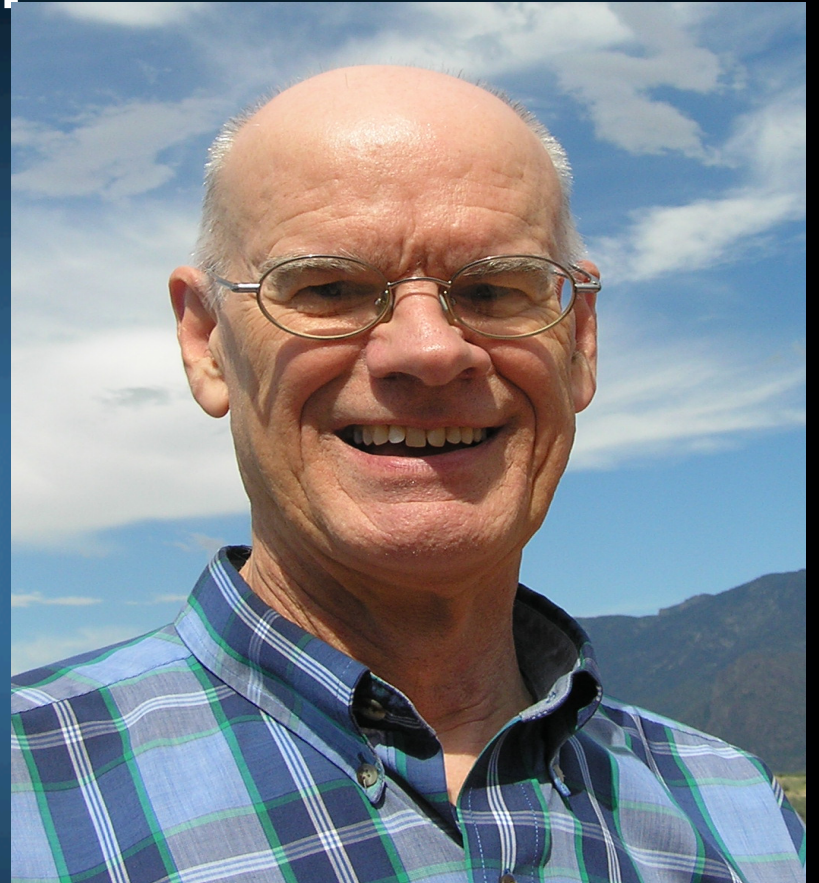


**“The intention of the Holy Spirit
is to teach us **how**
one goes to heaven
and **not how** heaven goes.”**

**The intention of the Bible is to
teach us that God is the Creator,
and **not how** the Father, Son and
Holy Spirit created.**

Geology & Noah's Flood

A Case Study of the
Church's Response to
Extrabiblical Evidence

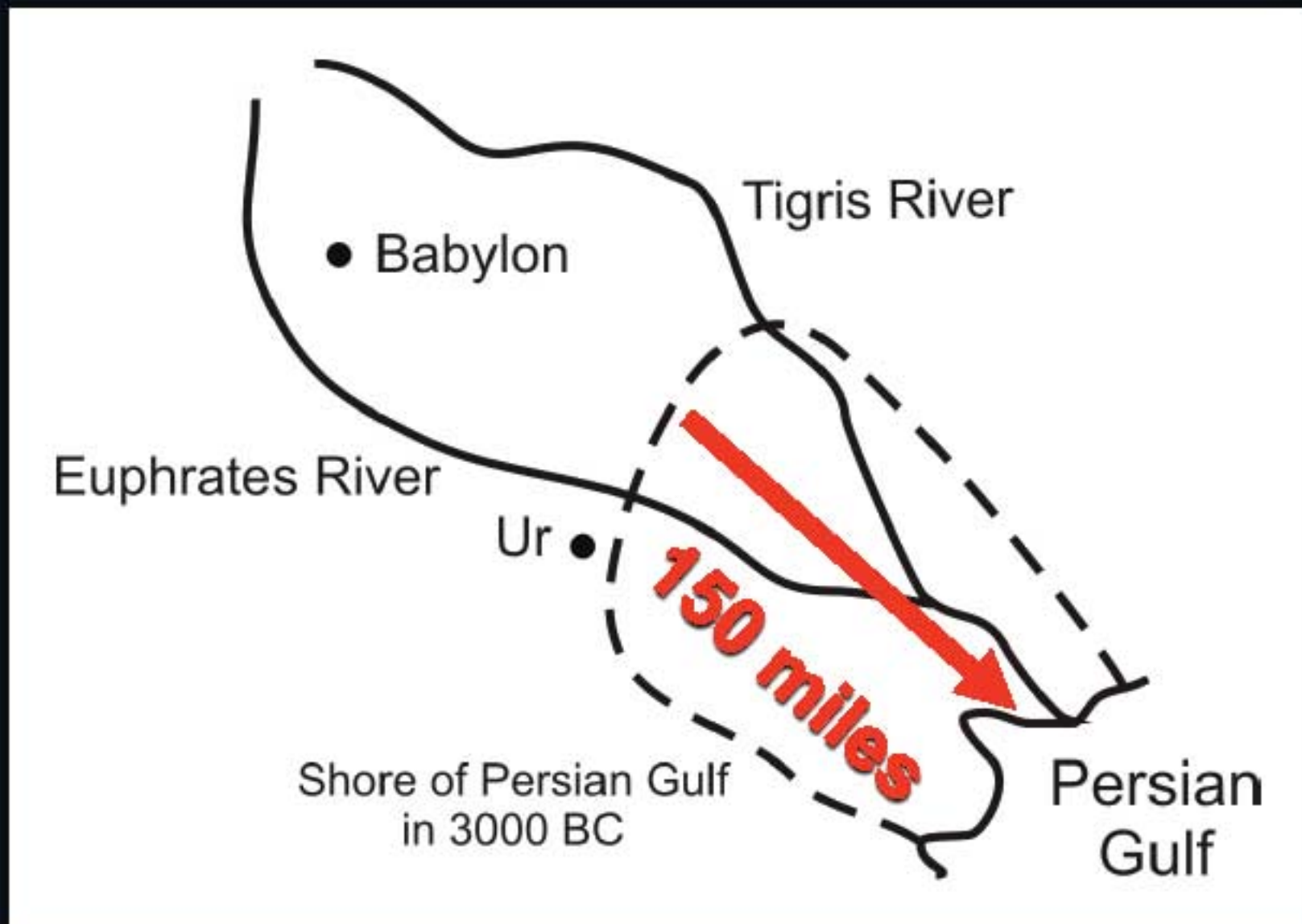


Scientific Data



Concordism





Reading for the Week:

- **Flood of Noah**
- **Flood of Gilgamesh**
- **Flood of Priestly Author**
- **Flood of Jahwist Author**

P Creation
P Flood

J Creation
J Flood

Redactor

P Creation
J Creation
P Flood
J Flood
P Flood
J Flood

Gen 1

Gen 2

Gen 6-9

5. BIBLICAL FLOOD

No Names Please

Yes No Uncertain

AM
%

The Flood was:

- ☐ a real global event 7 - 70 - 33 ◀ ▪
- ☐ a real local event 15 - 55 - 30 ◀ ▪
- ☐ Mesopotamian flooding rivers 55 - 15 - 30 ◀ ▪

Noah was:

- ☐ a real historical person 26 - 44 - 30 ◀ ▪

Jesus believed Noah was: (Matt 24:36-39 Lk 17:26-27)

- ☐ a real historical person 22 - 26 - 52

Biblical Flood Account (Gen 6-9) derives from:

- ☐ ANE Flood Accounts (eg Gilgamesh Epic) 65 - 87 - 27

Biblical Flood Account features:

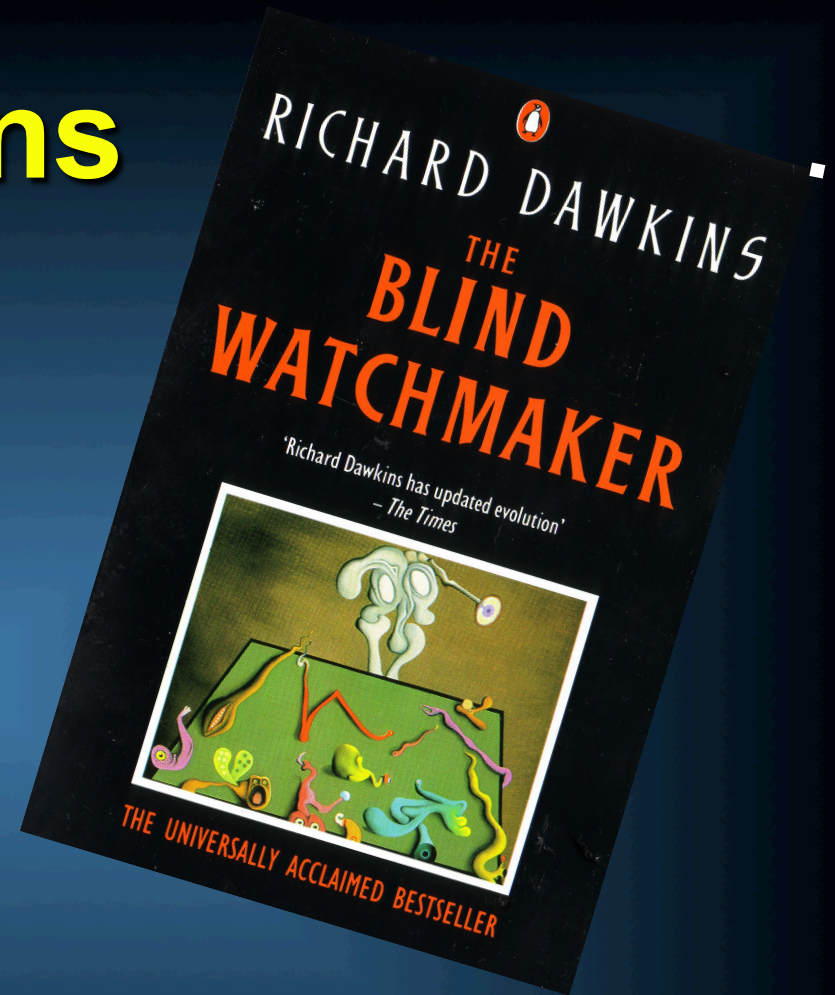
- ☐ conflicts between the events 93 - 3 - 3
- ☐ two sources (Jahwist & Priestly flood accounts) 100 - 0 - 0
- ☐ the de-creation of a 3-tier universe 62 - 12 - 26

The purpose of the Biblical Flood Account is:

- ☐ to reveal actual history 11 - 67 - 22
- ☐ to reveal a theological message 100 - 0 - 0

Evolution & Darwin's Religion

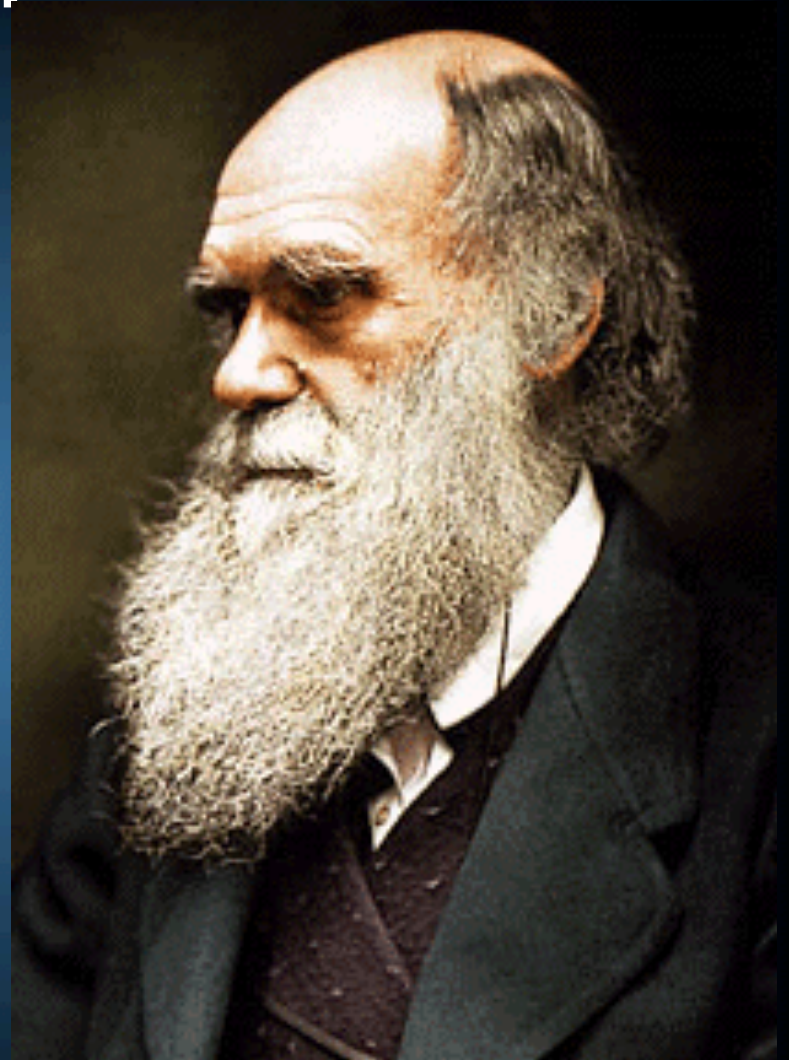
Richard Dawkins



Darwin made it possible to be an
intellectually fulfilled atheist.

Charles Darwin

“Religious Belief”
in *Autobiography*
(1876)

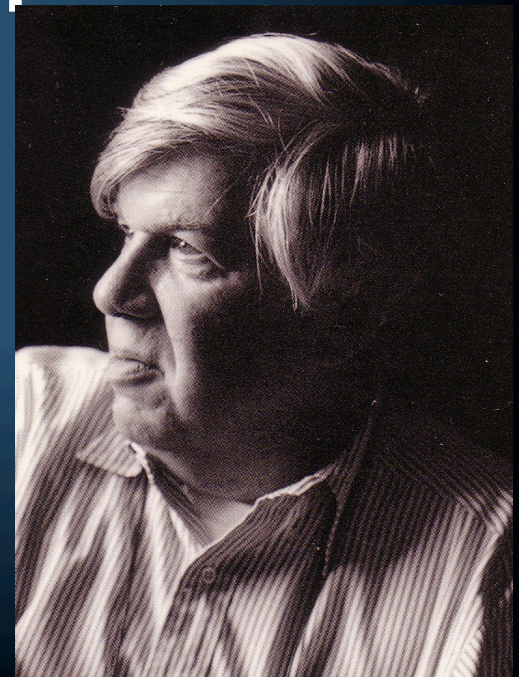


It seems absurd to doubt that a man
maybe an **ardent Theist** and an
evolutionist.

Letter to J. Fordyce (1879)

Evolution is both true
and entirely compatible
with Christian belief—a
position I sincerely hold.

Stephen Jay Gould (1997)



Genesis 1-11

EARTH & HEAVENS

Structures

Flat circular earth with ends, foundations & underside
Flat circumferential sea around earth & bordered by horizon
Firmament overhead in heaven & set on foundations
Sun, moon & stars set in firmament
Sea of waters above in heaven held up by firmament
Beams of Divine dwelling set in waters above

Reality

No
No
No
No
No
No

Operations

Earth is immovable
Sun, moon & stars move through firmament
Stars occasionally fall to earth

No
No
No
No

PLANTS, ANIMALS & HUMANS

Structures

Mustard seed is the smallest seed
Bats are birds
Rabbits & rock badgers are plants
Male reproductive seed contains a miniature person
Female reproductive organs are seedless
Female womb is a field for male reproductive seed

No
No
No
No
No
No

Operations

Seeds die before germination
Earth is the only cause of seed growth
Females are the only cause of infertility
Demons cause epilepsy, blindness, deafness, etc.

No
No
No
No

Concordism

Fails

Re-Cycle & Re-Interpret Ancient Motifs

De Novo Creation

Lost Idyllic Age

Great Flood

Tribal Formation

AM

6. GENESIS 1-11

No Names Please

Yes

No

Uncertain

A. Message-Incident Principle

___ I accept this principle

100% - 0% - 0%

B. Genesis 1-11

___ Conflicts exist between the events in Gen 1-11

eg, creation events in Gen 1 & 2 100% - 0% - 0%

___ Gen 1-11 features two main sources (Priestly & Jahwist)

eg, Gen 1 (P) & Gen 2 (J) 94% - 0% - 6%

___ Gen 1-11 features stylistic numbers with dates/ages

eg, 7, 10, 12, 60 77% - 0% - 23%

___ The Cosmic Fall in Gen 3 is a real historical event

ie, suffering and death entered the world after Adam sinned
0% - 65% - 35%

___ Gen 1-11 was written after 1000 BC/E

74% - 6% - 20%

___ Gen 1-11 features ancient motifs Check off those you accept:

☐ *De Novo* Creation 94% ☐ Great Flood 97%

☐ Lost Idyllic Age 97% ☐ Tribal Formation 90%

C The Literary Genre of Gen 1-11 is:

☐ Fairy Tale ^{0%}

☐ Allegory/Parable ^{6%}

☐ Ancient Origins Account ^{87%}

D. Real History begins with: (Draw a line)

Another Point in the Bible
Explain on back

Gen 12

Abraham & Family

Gen 11:10-26

Genealogy of Shem

Gen 11:1-9

Tower of Babel

Gen 10

Table of Nations

Gen 6-9

Flood of Noah

Gen 5

Genealogy of Seth

Gen 4

Cain & Abel

Gen 3

Fall of Adam & Eve

Gen 2

Creation of Adam & Eve

Gen 1

Creation in 6 Days

E. The purpose of Gen 1-11 is:

_____ to reveal real history ^{10% - 77% - 13%}

_____ to reveal theological messages ^{97% 0% - 3%}

^{U: 15% 90%}
^{N: 4%}

COMMENTS ON BACK

☐ I DO NOT want my comments used publicly

Origins Debate

7. ORIGINS DEBATE

NO NAMES PLEASE

Yes No Uncertain

A. Hermeneutics

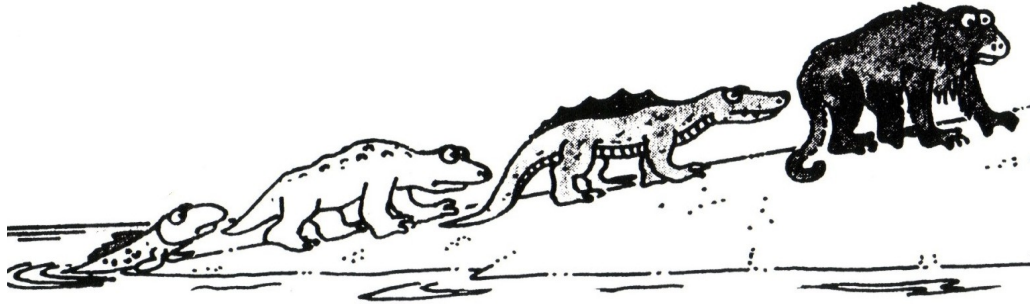
- Scientific & historical concordism are foundational to the anti-evolutionary positions 96% - 7% - 3%
- The Principle of Accommodation solves conflicts between the Bible & science 87% - 3% - 10%
- The Bible states there is a hard structure (firmament) above the earth 90% - 3% - 7%
- I believe there is a hard structure (firmament) above the earth 0% - 97% - 3%

B. Positions

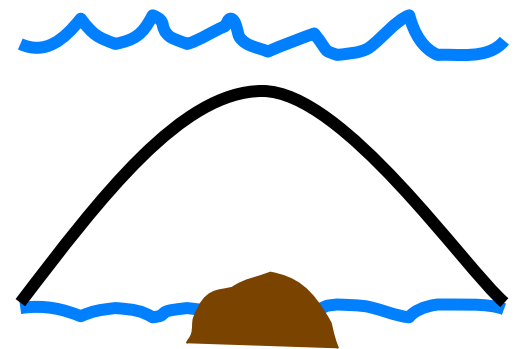
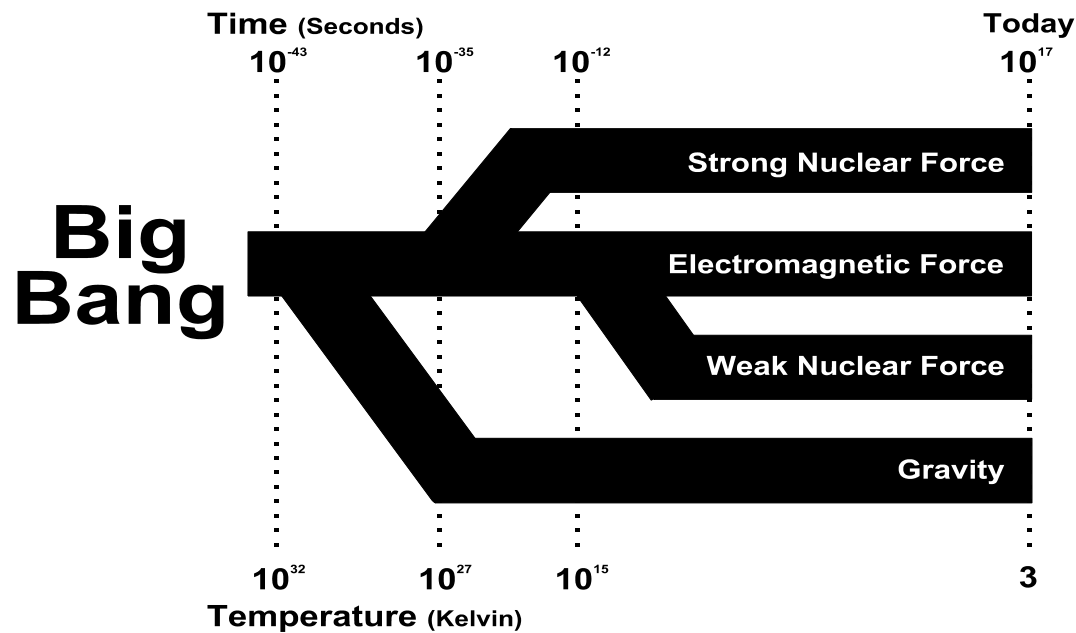
- Young Earth Creation 7% - 87% - 6%
- Progressive Creation 3% - 90% - 7%
- Evolutionary Creation 63% - 19% - 16%
- Deistic Evolution 3% - 80% - 17%
- Dysteleological Evolution 0% - 90% - 10%
- Religious Agnostic (but accept evolution) 7% - 47% - 6%
- Scientific Agnostic (not familiar with science) 3% - 87% - 10%
- Between/Combination of Positions
 - Give a brief explanation on back 20% - 73% - 7%
- Another Position (e.g., Pagan Evolution)
 - Explain on back 0% - 100% - 0
- Has your position 'evolved' in CHRTC 350?
 - Explain on back 63% - 30% - 7%



Biological Evolution



Cosmological Evolution



8. HUMAN ORIGINS

NO NAMES PLEASE

Yes No Uncertain

A. Metaphysics

_____ Human origins is dysteleological 3% - 85% - 17%

_____ Human origins is teleological 83% - 0% - 17%

_____ Humanity bears the Image of God 83% - 3% - 14%

_____ Humanity is sinful 83% - 3% - 14%

B. Origins

_____ *De Novo* Creation 10% - 83% - 7%

Adam & Eve created as stated in Gen 2
Adam from dust of the ground & Eve from Adam's side

_____ Evolutionary Monogenism 10% - 77% - 13%

a pair of individuals (Adam & Eve) given spiritual realities
quickly at one point in time

_____ Evolutionary Punctiliar Polygenism 0% - 80% - 20%

a group of individuals (many Adams & Eves) given spiritual
realities quickly at one point in time

_____ Evolutionary Gradual Polygenism 53% - 20% - 27%

many generations of individuals (no Adam/s & Eve/s) given spiritual
realities slowly & mysteriously over an extended period of time

_____ Have your views 'evolved' in CHRTC 350?

70% - 27% - 3%

COMMENTS ON THE BACK

Any stories? Any concerns?

☐ I DO NOT want my comments used publicly.

Theodicy

9. THEODICY

NO NAMES PLEASE

Yes No Uncertain

A. Logical Arguments

— Augustinian Theodicy 13% - 77% - 10%
Fall from Original Perfection
Sin of Adam & Eve introduces suffering & death
Anti-evolutionary

— Irenaean Theodicy 19% - 61% - 20%
Fall from Original Innocence
Suffering & evil part of the process of spiritual growth
Anti-evolutionary

— Process Theodicy 3% - 94% - 3%
God not all powerful & all knowing
God grovelling along through existence like humans
Evolutionary (God is also evolving)

— Hick's Soul Making Theodicy 71% - 6% - 23%
Epistemic distance from God required for a loving relationship
Evolutionary

B. Existential Aspects 87% -3% -10%

— Pain & Suffering necessary & good. Used for:

☐ glorifying God 68% ☐ testing 61%

☐ spiritual development 10% ☐ salvation ~~77%~~ 74%

— *Deus Absconditus* necessary & good 77% -16% -7%

☐ 'Star Trek beamed down Jesus' would disrupt relationship with God
57%

COMMENTS ON THE BACK

Any stories?

☐ I **DO NOT** want my comments used publicly.

Conclusion

EVOLUTIONARY CREATION

A Christian Approach to Evolution

Denis O. Lamoureux



TO THE STUDENTS OF CHRTC 350
SCIENCE AND RELIGION: CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES
1997–2007

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

THEY TAUGHT ME THE MEANING OF
LOVING GOD FAITHFULLY AND FEARLESSLY
WITH OUR MIND