

(TEACHER'S COPY) (2022)

**PROVE
IT!**

PROVE IT (Part I): IN DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

“Follow the argument [evidence], wherever it leads.” Socrates

I. Is There A God? An Atheist and Agnostic will both ask this question: “How Can You Say God Exists?”

a. Atheism is self-defeating:

i. Definition: “A” (Greek word of negation meaning “**AGAINST**”); “Theos” (means “**GOD**”).

Atheism means “**AGAINST GOD**.”

ii. Knowledge Box: Out of entire universe of knowledge, how much of the total do you have? Draw a box. Presume that all the known and unknown knowledge of the Universe is inside the box. Ask atheist to place a mark inside the box to represent how much knowledge they possess of the whole. Ask atheist: “Isn’t it possible that outside of everything you know, there is a God?” All an atheist can say is, “I haven’t seen God in my experience yet.” To make a statement of absolute negation, you must know everything in the box. It is an absurd position.

To Know there is no God, you must **KNOW EVERYTHING**.

“OK, I can’t say I know for sure that there is NO GOD, but I just don’t know if He exists?”

b. Agnosticism takes no position:

i. Definition: A (Greek word of negation meaning “**AGAINST**”). Gnosis (means “**KNOWLEDGE**”). “I just don’t know.”

Agnosticism means: “**AGAINST KNOWLEDGE**.”

ii. Folly of Agnosticism: There is no comfort in taking no position. Taking no position is the only way to guarantee that you will be wrong. If you want to be 100% sure that you will be wrong on a test question, don’t answer the question.

1. Pascal’s Wager:

Blaise Pascal was a mathematician. He invented **CALCULUS**. Pascal became a Christian. But, in his earlier life, he was a big gambler. Pascal set forth the best known probability argument for weighing your decision between belief and unbelief (it is known as “Pascal’s Wager”):

Question: Who talked about “Hell” on more occasions than any other person in the Bible? **JESUS**. If there is a Heaven and a Hell (Rev. 20:14-15, 21:8), then where you place your bet (your faith) is the most important decision you will ever make. Where will you place your bet (your faith)?

PASCAL’S WAGER:	BELIEF (Payoff)	UNBELIEF (Payoff)
If God Exists	+	-
If God Does Not Exist	0 (neither + nor -)	0 (neither + nor -)

Summary: You get no points for unbelief. The only points you get are for belief. A betting man would put his \$ on the existence of God. The up-side is better, and there is no down-side.

Conclusion: Since the stakes are Heaven or Hell, you ought to be an **OPEN MINDED SEEKER**. How you decide matters.

II. **3 Arguments for God’s Existence** (there are many more arguments, but here are a few):

a. COSMOLOGICAL Argument for the Existence of God--

i. “Cosmos” means “**WORLD**” or “**ORDER**”.

ii. “Logos means “**WORD**” or “**REASON**” or “**STUDY OF**”. Study of the World or Order.

iii. Basically, the cosmological argument is about the **FIRST CAUSE**.

1. Example: **DOMINOS**. If you see 1,000 dominos lying down in a straight order, you will presume someone pushed the 1st domino over. The fallen dominos are an effect of the cause. The cause is the pushing of the first domino.
2. Everything we see is an **EFFECT**. And every effect has a **CAUSE**. An effect is contingent on a cause. If you see a person, she is an effect. Her cause was her parents. Can trace back to the first person. A wave in the ocean is an effect. What's the cause of that wave?
3. Who was the **First Cause**? Only the First Cause is uncaused (supernatural). Christianity offers an explanation. Atheism does not. In science (the atheist's only bible) all effects must have a cause and Atheists have no explanation for the first cause (since "supernatural" cannot be used by the Atheist to explain anything).

b. **DESIGN** Argument for the Existence of God—(Not random and purposeless)

- i. Example: If Find a **WATCH** on the beach would you presume that the sand, water, time, sun conspired in such a way to form the watch and throw it on the beach? No, you'd presume a watchmaker. Or if you see a brick wall, do you presume the bricks fell into place? No, you presume a brick layer. If a watch suggests a **WATCH MAKER**, then does an eye suggest an **EYE MAKER**?

c. **MORALS** Argument for the Existence of God—(Where do we get our morals?)

- i. Name something in the news that you think someone did something wrong. You don't have to be a Christian to know it was wrong. Across time and cultures, it would have been considered universally wrong (murder).
- ii. Example: **SCHOOL SHOOTINGS**. How do you know it was wrong? God implanted. Suggests there is a **LAW GIVER**.

III. **Atheist Leaders Abandoning Atheism Due to Increasing Evidence Tilting Toward Existence of God:**

- a. When leading Atheist leaders, authors, lecturers, and intellectuals begin announcing that their logic, based on evidence, has led them to believe in the existence of God, we all need to take note. After years of writing pro-atheist books, giving pro-atheist lectures, and leading tens of thousands to atheism, why would these secular-humanist atheist leaders change their minds?
 - i. In 2004, as reported by the Associated Press (*There is a God, leading atheist concludes*, 12-9-04), Oxford Philosophy Professor **ANTONY FLEW**, a leading author, lecturer & debater who championed atheism for 50+ years, announced that he now believed in God: "My whole life has been guided by the principle of Plato's Socrates of 'Follow the evidence, wherever it leads,'" and modern scientific investigation of DNA "has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce [life], that intelligence must have been involved" concluding "a super-intelligence is the only good explanation for the origin of life and the complexity of nature."
 - ii. In May, 2009, as reported in the Wall Street Journal (*Look Who's a Believer Now*, 5-29-09), **A.N. WILSON**, leading atheist and "58-year old British biographer, novelist and man of letters" (author of the pro-atheist books "God's Funeral" and "Jesus: A Life") announced that he now believes in God and in Jesus as the Messiah concluding that as he has matured in age he sees that atheists are like "people who have no ear for music or who have never been in love."

IV. **If A God, Which God?**

- a. See Part II

PROVE IT (Part II): IN DEFENSE OF THE CHRISTAIN WORLDVIEW

I. **THESIS**: The “first cause” is the God of the Jewish and Christian Bible. Jesus is the Messiah. Belief in and following Jesus as Messiah is the superior system of values, principles and priorities that best benefit society and best benefit all individuals.

II. **INTRODUCTION**:

1. **We Swim in a World of Competing Ideas**: Why is there a stop sign on a street? Because someone had the idea to put it there and convinced others. Why is abortion legal? A group had the idea to make it legal and convinced others. We are engaged in a warfare of ideas. Billboards flash ideas to try to persuade you. When you read the newspaper, it is trying to persuade you. Some movies try to persuade you. It can be subtle. You are taking it all in, even if you aren’t paying attention (for example, if you are in a deep conversation with one person while other people are chatting all around you and someone says your name, all of a sudden you hear your name though you thought and perceived that all other conversations were being tuned out).
2. **Worldview--How We Organize, Interpret and Filter all Information**: A Worldview is one’s core philosophy and belief-system through which they organize, view, and interpret all information. Is there a God? Which God? Is abortion wrong? Is gay marriage wrong? What about homosexuality? What about spanking children? What about killing someone if they don’t believe in your religion? If you know a person’s Worldview, you can predict how the person will answer many of these questions.
3. **Three Different Worldviews**: (1) Secular-Humanism; (2) Biblical Worldview; (3) Other Religions Worldview (Muslim/Buddhist/Witchcraft, all other religions).
4. **Reality of Being a Teenager**: As teens, most of you are still under your parents’ direction, and you haven’t had to think much for yourselves. Once you get away from your parents and the “Biblical bubble” you have been living in for most of your life, you will find that today’s culture will attempt to rob you of everything Biblical. You will be challenged and made to look like a fool if you attempt to stand up for anything Biblical—unless you are prepared and understand what you are about to be thrust into. There is a cultural battle for your heart and mind. There will be a calculated effort to dissuade you from continuing to have a Biblical Worldview. [Charlie Galvin story].
5. **Why Would Anyone Want to Discourage You from Holding a Biblical Worldview?** Christians are considered dangerous by atheists and secular humanists. According to the Journal of the Humanist: “The need in America is not to return to the God of the Bible, but to outgrow him. When religion ceases to be a benign compliment to secular values and assumes the role of competitor or antagonist of things secular, the soul of the liberal society is in peril.” Thus, an effort will be made to turn you into a secular humanist.
6. **The god of the Secular-Humanist Worldview is Thought and Reasoning**. Why is it so easy for a secular-humanist professor to back a Christian student into a corner? Because the Christian student isn’t prepared to rationally communicate Biblical ideas to a secular world. Why not? Because Christians take the Bible as true (i.e., “God said it, so it’s true”). There is nothing wrong with this approach as long as you can continue to live in a Biblical bubble. But secular-humanists have a problem with this approach because it violates their god (thought and reasoning). The language of the secular-humanist is thought and reasoning. So to speak persuasively to a humanist and to defend your own faith under questioning, you must appeal to thought and reasoning.

7. **The First Christians Used Thought and Reasoning to Engage Their Society:** “reasoning in the synagogue...trying to persuade” (Acts 18:4); “trying to persuade them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets from morning until evening” (Acts 28:23); “demonstrating by the Scriptures [Old Testament] that Jesus was the Christ” (Acts 18:28); “reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God” (Acts 19:8); “reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus” (Acts 19:9).

III. WHY DEFEND THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW:

1. “[C]ontend earnestly for the faith.” Jude 1:3
2. “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15.
3. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” Hosea 4:6
4. “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8
5. “Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument.” Colossians 2:2-4
6. “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:4
7. “But whenever a man turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.” 2 Corinthians 3:16
8. “If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:31-32.

IV. SUPPORT FOR THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW BY APPEALING TO THOUGHT AND REASONING:

- **SHOW ME THE EVIDENCE:**
Evidence: “Testimony, writings, material objects, or other things presented to the senses that are offered to prove the existence or nonexistence of a fact.” *Black’s Law Dictionary*.
- In Courts, a jury is not asked to decide with 100% certainty what the true facts are.
- Preponderance of the evidence: “A standard of proof [used in civil cases] which is met when a party’s evidence on a fact indicates that it is ‘more likely than not’ that the fact is as the party alleges it to be.” *Black’s Law Dictionary*. This test does not require 100% certainty (but only 50.1% certainty). You can be 49.9% uncertain.
- Beyond a reasonable doubt: The standard of proof used in criminal cases. Even this stricter test does not require 100% certainty.
- When someone is convicted or held liable for damages, there is no certainty that the decision is correct. And, the law does not require certainty; only a weighing of the evidence. Juries and Judges have to take a leap of faith to reach a decision.
- All exercise faith. To reach a decision on anything, **faith fills in where evidence ends**.
- Chair: When you sit down, you are exercising faith that the chair will hold you—there is no certainty. You don’t have 100% of all facts about that chair. It requires the exercise of some faith.
- Atheists have faith. I do not have enough faith to be an atheist. Consider the order of the World. Consider the order and intricacy of the eye. Where did matter come from?
- Attorney story: I had an agnostic attorney friend. We were once eating in a restaurant under a beautiful painting. My friend was admiring the painting. And I said to him, “to believe that all things we see around us just happened without a creator is like saying this painting appeared without an artist.”
- Sir Isaac Newton created a machine that accurately portrayed the rotations of the planets. A hand-crank was used to wind up the machine, and the various planets would start

moving around the sun circularly in their proper orbits. While Newton was still working on the invention, and before he introduced it to the world, one of his atheist friends dropped in, saw the ingenious contraption, began turning the crank and was amazed. When Sir Isaac Newton walked into the room, the atheist friend proclaimed, “Sir Isaac, who created this marvelous machine?” And with a twinkle in his eye, Newton answered his atheist friend, “Oh, no one created it, it just happened one day.”

- Wrist Watch example: If I were walking along the beach and happened upon a wrist watch washed up on the shore, would it be logical (based on probabilities) for me to believe that the sand, wind, waves, and long passage of time all worked together to create the wrist watch? Or, would I naturally presume (based on evidence that is evident) that the wrist watch was created by a watch-maker. If it is logical to believe that a watch is made by a watch-maker, isn't it just as logical to believe that an eye (much more complex than a watch) is made by an eye-maker?
- No one should hold the Biblical worldview to a less or greater standard of proof than anything else we judge in life. We do not have to reach certainty to believe something is true. But we should look carefully at the evidence and measure it against probabilities (just as in a criminal or civil case). Plato/Socrates said, “Follow the evidence, wherever it leads.” So, as with judging anything else, our attitude should be “show me the evidence, let me weigh it, and then I will decide.” So, let us examine some of the evidence:

1. QUESTION ONE: WHAT RELIABLE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE IS THERE, OTHER THAN THE BIBLE, THAT JESUS LIVED OR THAT ANYTHING DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ACTUALLY OCCURRED?

ANSWER: IN ADDITION TO THE BIBLE, THERE ARE OTHER RELIABLE 1ST AND 2ND CENTURY HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO JESUS, PILOT, THE CRUCIFIXION, UNEXPLAINED DARKNESS OCCURRING DURING THE CRUCIFIXION, JESUS' BROTHER JAMES, CHRISTAINS, AND CHRISTIANITY:

A. **FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS** (Born 37 A.D.; first century Jewish/Roman historian. He was a Pharisee. In 66 A.D. he was the commander of Jewish forces in Galilee but surrendered to the Roman general Vespasian. After being captured, he was attached to the Roman headquarters. He authored *The Antiquities*, a history of the Jewish people from Creation to his time):

1. “About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him did not give up their affection for him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so called after him has still to this day not disappeared.” *The Antiquities* xviii.33 (early 2nd Century; passage known as *Testimonium Flavianum*). [Arabic text of same passage: “At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good, and [He] was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned Him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that He had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that He was alive; accordingly, He was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.” Kitab Al-Unwan Al-Mukallal Bi-Fadail Al-Hikma Al-Mutawwaj Bi-Anwa Al-Falsafa Al-Manduh Bi-Haqaq Al-Marifa].
2. “But the younger Ananus who, as we said, received the high priesthood, was of a bold disposition and exceptionally daring...he thought he had now a good opportunity, as

Festus was now dead...so he assembled a council of judges, and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ, whose name was James, together with some others, and having accused them as law-breakers, he delivered them over to be stoned.” *Antiquities* XX 9:1.

- B. **THALLUS** (Samaritan-born historian; in 52 A.D. wrote a history of the eastern Mediterranean world since the Trojan War. No existing copies of original writings, but other writers have cited to writings of Thallus. Around 221 A.D., Julius Africanus cited writings of Thallus regarding the darkness that fell on the earth) [To understand significance of darkness at noon (6th hour on Jewish clock), read prophecy in Amos 8:9-10 and fulfillment of prophecy in Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; and Luke 23:44-49]:
1. “Thallus, in the 3rd book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun—unreasonably, as it seems to me.” [Unreasonably, because it is a scientific impossibility for a solar eclipse to take place at the time of a full moon, and it was the season of the Paschal full moon when Jesus was crucified hours before Passover began].
- C. **PHLEGON** (1st Century Historian; Greek Author writing soon after 137 A.D., reported that in the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad (i.e., 33 A.D.) there was “the greatest eclipse of the sun...it became night in the sixth hour of the day (noon) so that stars even appeared in the heavens.” Wrote *Olympiads he Chronika*, much of which is not extant but is cited by other writers):
1. “[D]uring the time of Tiberius Caesar an eclipse of the sun occurred during the full moon.” Cited by Julius Africanus.
 2. [In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, there was] “the greatest eclipse of the sun...it became night in the sixth hour of the day [12:00 noon] so that stars even appeared in the heavens. There was a great earthquake in Bithynia, and many things were overturned in Nicaea.” Cited from a fragment from Phlegon, *Olympiades he Chronika* 13 ed.
 3. “And about this darkness...Phlegon recalls it in the *Olympiads*.... Phlegon mentioned the eclipse which took place during the crucifixion of the Lord Christ...and this is shown by the historical account itself of Tiberius Caesar.” Philopon (De. opif. mund. II 21).
- D. **TERTULLIAN** (Jurist and theologian of Carthage; in a defense of Christianity (197 A.D.) before the Roman authorities in Africa):
1. The darkness over the earth during the crucifixion was visible in Rome, Athens, and Mediterranean cities. According to Tertullian, it was a “cosmic” or “world event.”
 2. “Tiberius accordingly, in those days the Christian name made its entry into the world, having himself received intelligence from the truth of Christ’s divinity, brought the matter before the senate, with his own decision in favor of Christ. The senate, because it had not given the approval itself, rejected his proposal. Caesar held to his opinion, threatening wrath against all the accusers of the Christians.” Apology, V. 2.
- E. **CORNELIUS TACITUS** (Born 52-54 A.D.; Roman Historian; Governor of Asia in 112 A.D. In 115 A.D. he wrote that Nero persecuted the Christians as scapegoats to divert suspicion away from himself for the great fire that burned Rome in 64 A.D. Confirms Jesus as a historical figure who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, that the movement was based on a crucified man, and that an “immense multitude was convicted” in Rome showing the quick spread of Christianity):
1. “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in

Rome.... Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty: then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.” *Annals* XV.44.

F. **LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA** (around 100 -199 A.D.); a satirist of the second century:

1. “Christ...the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult into the world.... Furthermore, their first lawgiver persuaded them that they were all brothers one of another after they have transgressed once for all by denying the Greek gods and by worshipping that crucified sophist himself and living under his laws.” *The Passing Peregrinus*.

G. **SUETONIUS** (A.D. 120; Roman historian; court official under Hadrian, annalist of the Imperial House):

1. “As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus [another spelling of Christus], he expelled them from Rome.” *Life of Claudius* 25.4.
2. “Punishment by Nero was inflicted on the Christians, a class of men given to a new and mischievous superstition.” *Lives of the Caesars*, 26.2

H. **PLINEY THE YOUNGER** (Roman; Governor of Bithynia in northwestern Turkey in 112 A.D.; corresponded with his friend, Emperor Trajan; following written about 111 A.D. Following quote shows rapid spread of Christianity in city and rural areas among every class, including slaves, and that they worshiped Jesus as God, maintained high ethical standards, and were not easily swayed from their beliefs):

1. “I have asked them if they are Christians, and if they admit it, I repeat the question a second and third time, with a warning of the punishment awaiting them. If they persist, I order them to be led away for execution; for, whatever the nature of their admission, I am convinced that their stubbornness and unshakable obstinacy ought not to go unpunished....
They also declared that the sum total of their guilt or error amounted to no more than this: they had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternatively amongst themselves in honor of Christ as if to a god, and also to bind themselves by oath, not for any criminal purpose, but to abstain from theft, robbery, and adultery....
This made me decide it was all the more necessary to extract the truth by torture from two slave-women, whom they called deaconesses. I found nothing but a degenerate sort of cult carried to extravagant lengths.” *Epistles* X.96.

I. **JUSTIN MARTYR** (written around 150 A.D. referring to Pilate’s report during a speech to Emperor Antoninus Pius, in *Defense of Christianity*):

1. “‘They pierced my hands and my feet’ are a description of the nails that were fixed in His hands and His feet on the cross; and after He was crucified, those who crucified Him cast lost for His garments, and divided them among themselves; and that these things were so, you may learn from the ‘Acts’ of Pontius Pilate.” *Apology* 1.48

J. **JEWISH TALMUD (100-500 A.D.)**:

1. “On the eve of Passover they hanged Yeshu [of Nazareth] and the herald went before him for forty days saying [Yeshu of Nazareth] is going forth to be stoned in that he hath practiced sorcery and beguiled and led astray Israel. But they found naught in his defense and hanged him on the eve of Passover.” Babylonia *Sanhedrin* 43a. [“Yeshu” is another spelling of “Yeshua,” Hebrew for “Jesus”].

2. **QUESTION TWO: CAN THE COPIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BE RELIED UPON AS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE?**

ANSWER: USE A COMPARISON TEST WITH OTHER BOOKS OF ANTIQUITY

The New Testament claims for itself to be an accurate and historical account of actual events and persons. There are no living eye witnesses to any historical events that occurred more than about 125 years ago. Thus, most all of what we call “history” depends upon written accounts of others and the accuracy of those accounts. This is particularly true of events occurring in antiquity.

The historical reliability of the New Testament should be tested under the same standard that all other historical documents of antiquity are tested. The Bible should be held to no higher and no lower a standard. This is a comparison of the New Testament to other books of antiquity:

Author	No. of Copies	Original	Earliest Copy	Time Span
Plato	7	427—347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 years
Caesar	10	100—44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 years
Aristotle	49	384—322 B.C.	1,100 A.D.	1,400 years
Homer (Iliad)	643	900 B.C.	400 A.D.	500 years
New Testament	24,633	40—100 A.D.	125 A.D.	<85 years

The Bible compares favorably in all categories. The Bible is a series of eye witness accounts (evidence) of historical events. If we can believe the historical accuracy of any book of antiquity and that the copies are true to the originals, the Bible should be included without discrimination. If there is a God, it would make sense that He would leave us with some instructions on how to optimally live (B.I.B.L.E.—basic instructions before leaving earth). It would have been absurd for Apple to have created an advanced computer system and failed to include an owner’s manual. But wouldn’t it have been just as absurd for God to have created us, far more complex than any computer, and failed to have included an owner’s manual instructing us how to operate our lives to achieve the best results.

3. **QUESTION THREE: HOW DO YOU KNOW JESUS IS THE MESSIAH AND WHAT JESUS SAID IS TRUE?**

ANSWER: IF SOMEONE WERE TRYING TO LOCATE YOU, THEY WOULD WANT YOUR ADDRESS. OUT OF ALL THE UNIVERSE, EVERYONE HAS A UNIQUE ADDRESS: GALAXY (MILKY WAY), STAR SYSTEM (SOLAR), PLANET (EARTH), CONTINENT (NORTH AMERICA), NATION (UNITED STATES), STATE (TEXAS), COUNTY (HARRIS COUNTY), CITY (HOUSTON), SUBDIVISION (MEMORIAL), STREET (SMITHDALE), STREET NUMBER (#125), FLOOR (2ND), TURN LEFT OR RIGHT WHEN ENTER, HOW MANY DOORS DOWN, ON LEFT OR RIGHT, SIDE OF ROOM (LEFT)—16 DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF AN ADDRESS.

SIMILARLY, THE OLD TESTAMENT GAVE US THE “ADDRESS” OF THE MESSIAH SO WE COULD LOCATE HIM. THIS WAS DONE THROUGH PROPHECIES. THE FIRST BELIEVERS DID NOT HAVE THE NEW TESTAMENT BUT ONLY THE OLD TESTAMENT TO USE TO DETERMINE IF JESUS MET ALL THE CRITERIA TO BE THE MESSIAH. THESE ARE SOME OF THE PROPHECIES (GIVING US THE MESSIAH’S ADDRESS IN TIME, PLACE, AND HISTORY):

1. HE WILL BE BORN AT BETHLEHEM	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“But as for you, <u>Bethlehem</u> Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler of Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” Micah 5:2</p>	<p>“...Jesus was born in <u>Bethlehem</u> Of Judea....” Matthew 2:1 (<i>See also</i> John 7:42; Matthew 2:4-8; Luke 2:4-7)</p>

2. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF ABRAHAM	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“[God speaking to Abraham] And in your descendants [literally: “<u>seed</u>”] all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:18 (<i>See also</i> Genesis 12:2, 3)</p>	<p>“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of <u>Abraham</u>.” Matthew 1:1 “Now the promises were spoken to <u>Abraham</u> and to his seed. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as referring to many, but rather to <u>one</u>, ‘And to your seed,’ that is, <u>Christ</u>.” Galatians 3:16. [Note: God eliminates all family lines in the world except for Abraham’s]</p>

3. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF ISAAC	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“But God said to Abraham... ‘through <u>Isaac</u> your descendants shall be named [literally: ‘your seed will be called’].” Genesis 21:12</p>	<p>“Jesus,...the son of <u>Isaac</u>...” Luke 3:23, 3:34 (<i>See also</i> Matthew 1:2). [Note: Abraham had 2 sons, Isaac & Ishmael. God eliminates ½ of the lineage of Abraham: must be Isaac]</p>

4. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF JACOB	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from <u>Jacob</u>, And a scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.” Numbers 24:17 (<i>See also</i> Genesis 35:10-12)</p>	<p>“Jesus...the son of <u>Jacob</u>...” Luke 3:23, 34 (<i>See also</i> Matthew 1:2 and Luke 1:33.). [Note: Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Now God eliminates one-half of the lineage of Isaac: must be Jacob]</p>

5. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF JUDAH	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“The scepter shall not depart from <u>Judah</u>, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” Genesis 49:10 (See also Micah 5:2)</p>	<p>“Jesus...the son of <u>Judah</u>...” Luke 3:23, 33 (See also Matthew 1:2 and Hebrews 7:14).</p> <p>[Note: Jacob had 12 sons. Now God eliminates 11/12s of the lineage of Jacob: must be Judah]</p>

6. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF JESSE	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of <u>Jesse</u>, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.” Isaiah 11:1 (See also Isaiah 11:10)</p>	<p>“Jesus...the son of <u>Jesse</u>...” Luke 3:23, 32 (See also Matthew 1:6)</p>

7. HE WILL BE FROM THE FAMILY LINE OF DAVID	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“‘Behold, the days are coming.’ Declares the Lord, ‘When I shall raise up for <u>David</u> a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.’” Jeremiah 23:5 (See also 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalms 132:11)</p>	<p>“Jesus...the son of <u>David</u>...” Luke 3:23, 31 (See also Matthew 1:1, 9:27, 15:22; 20:30-31, 21:9, 21:15, 2:41-46; Mark 9:10, 10:47-48; Luke 18:38-39; Acts 13:22-23; Revelation 22:16).</p> <p>[Note: Jesse had at least 8 sons. Now God eliminates all sons except for David: must be David]</p>

8. HE WILL BE PRECEDED BY A WILDERNESS MESSENGER	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“A <u>voice</u> is calling, ‘Clear the way for the Lord in the <u>wilderness</u>; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.’” Isaiah 40:3 (See also Malachi 3:1)</p>	<p>“...<u>John the Baptist</u> came, preaching in the <u>wilderness</u> of Judea, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” Matthew 3:1, 2 (See also Matthew 3:3; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17)</p>

9. HE WILL HAVE A MINISTRY IN GALILEE	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of <u>Zebulun</u> and the land of <u>Naphtali</u> with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, <u>Galilee</u> of the Gentiles.” Isaiah 9:1</p>	<p>“He withdrew into <u>Galilee</u>; and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of <u>Zebulun</u> and <u>Naphtali</u>. From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” Matthew 4:12-13, 4:17</p>

10. HE WILL HAVE A MINISTRY OF MIRACLES	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“Then the eyes of the <u>blind</u> will be opened, And the ears of the <u>deaf</u> will be unstopped. Then the <u>lame</u> will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the <u>dumb</u> will shout for joy.” Isaiah 35:5-6a (See also Isaiah 32:3-4)</p>	<p>“And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and <u>healing</u> every kind of <u>disease</u> and every kind of <u>sickness</u>.” Matthew 9:35. (See also Matthew 9:32-33, 11:4-6; Mark 7:33-35; John 5:5-9, 9:6-11, 11:43-44, 11:47)</p>

11. HE WILL TEACH IN PARABLES	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“I will open my mouth in a <u>parable</u>; I will utter dark sayings of old....” Psalms 78:2</p>	<p>“All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in <u>parables</u>, and He was not talking to them without a <u>parable</u>....” Matthew 13:34</p>

12. HE WILL ENTER JERUSALEM ON A COLT/DONKEY	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a <u>donkey</u>, Even on a <u>colt</u>, the foal of a donkey.” Zechariah 9:9</p>	<p>“And they brought it to Jesus, and they threw their garments on the <u>colt</u> , and put Jesus on it. And as He was going, they were spreading their garments in the road. And as He was now approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives....” Luke 19:35-37a. (See also Matthew 21:6-11)</p>

13. HE WILL BE BETRAYED BY A CLOSE FRIEND	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“Even my <u>close friend</u> , in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.” Psalms 41:9 (See also Psalms 55:12-14)	“... <u>Judas Iscariot</u> [a Disciple] the one who betrayed Him.” Matthew 10:4 (See also Matthew 26:49-50; John 13:21)

14. HE WILL BE SOLD FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“‘[G]ive me my wages....’ So they weighed out <u>thirty shekels of silver</u> as my wages.... So I took the <u>thirty shekels of silver</u>” Zechariah 11:12	“‘What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?’ And they weighed out to him <u>thirty pieces of silver</u> .” Matthew 26:15 (See also Matthew 27:3)

15. THE MONEY WILL TO BE THROWN IN GOD’S HOUSE	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“‘ <u>Throw</u> it to the potter....’ So I took the thirty shekels of silver and <u>threw them</u> to the potter in the <u>house of the Lord</u> .” Zechariah 11:13	“And he <u>threw</u> the pieces of silver into the <u>sanctuary</u> and departed....” Matthew 27:5a

16. MONEY WILL BE USED TO BUY THE POTTER’S FIELD	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the <u>potter</u> , that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.’ So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the <u>potter</u> in the house of the Lord.” Zechariah 11:13	“And they counseled together and with the money bought the <u>Potter’s Field</u> as a <u>burial place for strangers</u> .” Matthew 27:7 [Note: The “Potters Field” still exists today in Jerusalem and can be traced back 2,000 years].

In the four previous prophecies we find in prophecy and fulfillment the following:

1. Betrayed (not discovered through natural investigation)
2. By a friend (not an enemy)
3. For 30 pieces (not 29)
4. Of silver (not gold, not copper, not bronze)
5. Thrown down (not placed or handed to)
6. In the House of the Lord (not in the street, not in the marketplace)
7. Money used to buy Potter’s Field (a specific piece of property still in Jerusalem)

17. HE WILL BE FORSAKEN BY HIS DISCIPLES	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“...Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be <u>scattered</u> ...” Zechariah 13:7	“And they all left Him and <u>fled</u> .” Mark 14:50 (See also Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27)

18. HE WILL BE ACCUSED BY FALSE WITNESSES	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“ <u>Malicious witnesses</u> rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.” Psalms 35:11	“Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain <u>false testimony</u> against Jesus, in order that they might put Him to death; and they did not find it, even though many <u>false witnesses came forward</u> .” Matthew 26:59-60

19. HE WILL BE SILENT BEFORE HIS ACCUSERS	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He <u>did not open His mouth</u> ...” Isaiah 53:7	“And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He <u>made no answer</u> .” Matthew 27:12

20. HE WILL BE SCOURGED, WOUNDED AND BRUISED	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“But He was <u>pierced</u> through for our transgressions, He was <u>crushed</u> for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him; And by His <u>scourging</u> we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 (See also Zechariah 13:6)	“Then he released Barabbas for them; but Jesus he <u>scourged</u> and delivered over to be crucified.” Matthew 27:26

21. HE WILL BE SMITTEN AND SPIT UPON	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“I gave My back to those who <u>strike</u> Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and <u>spitting</u> .” Isaiah 50:6 (See also Micah 5:1)	“Then they <u>spat</u> in His face and <u>beat</u> Him with their fists; and others <u>slapped</u> Him.” Matthew 26:67 (See also Luke 22:63)

22. HE WILL BE MOCKED	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“All who see me <u>sneer</u> at me; They separate with the lip, they <u>wag the head</u> , saying, ‘Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.’” Psalms 22:7-8	“And after they had <u>mocked</u> Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.” Matthew 27:31

23. HIS HANDS AND FEET WILL BE PIERCED: CRUCIFIED	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“...They <u>pierced</u> my <u>hands</u> and <u>my feet</u> .” Psalms 22:16 (See also Zechariah 12:10)	“And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they <u>crucified</u> Him....” Luke 23:33 (See also John 20:25)
Jesus was crucified in the usual Roman manner (hands and feet pierced by large dull spikes which attached the body to a wooden cross or stake). Crucifixion was not a means of execution when the prophecy was written. Stoning was the means of execution under Jewish law.	

24. HE WILL BE CRUCIFIED WITH CRIMINALS	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“...Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the <u>transgressors</u>” Isaiah 53:12	“At that time <u>two robbers</u> were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left.” Matthew 27:38 (See also Mark 15:27, 28)

25. HE WILL MAKE INTERCESSION FOR HIS PERSECUTORS	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“...Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And <u>interceded for the transgressors</u> .” Isaiah 53:12	“Father, <u>forgive them</u> ; for they do not know what they are doing....” Luke 23:34

26. PEOPLE WILL WAG THEIR HEADS	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
“I also have become a reproach to them; When they see me, they <u>wag their head</u> .” Psalms 109:25; Psalms 22:7	“And those who were passing by were hurling abuse at Him, <u>wagging their heads</u>” Matthew 27:39

27.	
HIS GARMENTS WILL BE PARTED AND LOTS CAST	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“They <u>divide my garments</u> among them, And for my clothing they <u>cast lots</u>.” Psalms 22:18</p>	<p>“The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, <u>took His outer garments and made four parts</u>, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. They said... ‘Let us not tear it, but <u>cast lots for it</u>, to decide whose it shall be....’” John 19:23-24</p>

28.	
GALL AND VINEGAR WILL BE OFFERED HIM	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“They also gave me <u>gall</u> for my food, And for my thirst they gave me <u>vinegar</u> to drink.” Psalms 69:21</p>	<p>“They gave Him <u>wine to drink</u> mingled with <u>gall</u>; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.” Matthew 27:34 (See also John 19:28-29)</p>

29.	
HE WILL SAY CERTAIN WORDS: FORSAKEN BY GOD	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?” Psalms 22:1a</p>	<p>“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?’” Matthew 27:46</p>

30.	
HE WILL SAY CERTAIN WORDS: COMMIT MY SPIRIT	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“Into Thy hand I commit my spirit.” Psalms 31:5</p>	<p>“And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.’” Luke 23:46</p>

31.	
HIS SIDE WILL BE PIERCED	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“They will look on Me whom they have <u>pierced</u>....” Zechariah 12:10</p>	<p>“But one of the soldiers <u>pierced</u> His side with a spear....” John 19:34</p>

32. HIS BONES WILL NOT BE BROKEN	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“He keeps all his <u>bones</u>; <u>Not one of them is broken.</u>” Psalms 34:20</p>	<p>“The soldiers therefore came, and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other man who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they <u>did not break His legs</u>, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.” John 19:32-33</p>

33. HIS HEART WILL BURST	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“My heart is like wax; It is melted within me.” Psalms 22:14</p>	<p>“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out <u>blood and water.</u>” John 19:34 [Note: Blood & water evidences that heart had literally burst]</p>

34. DARKNESS WILL FALL OVER THE LAND AT NOON	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“‘And it will come about in that day,’ declares the Lord God, ‘That I shall make the <u>sun go down</u> at <u>noon</u> [sixth hour on Jewish clock which is 12:00 noon on Jewish clock] And make the <u>earth dark in broad daylight...</u> and I will make it like a time of mourning for an <u>only son...</u>’” Amos 8:9-10</p>	<p>“Now from the <u>sixth hour</u> [12:00 noon on Jewish clock] <u>darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour</u> [3:00 p.m. on Jewish clock].” Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49</p>

35. HE WILL BE BURIED IN A RICH MAN’S TOMB	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“His grave was assigned to be with wicked men, Yet with a <u>rich man in His death...</u>” Isaiah 53:9</p>	<p>“There came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph...and asked for the body of Jesus...And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and <u>laid it in his own new tomb...</u>”Matthew 27:57-60</p>

36. MESSIAH MUST COME BEFORE THE SCEPTER DEPARTS	
PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
<p>“The <u>scepter</u> shall not depart from <u>Judah</u>, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, <u>Until Shiloh comes</u>, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” Genesis 49:10</p>	<p>[Note: “Scepter” is the tribal staff or tribal identity. Jewish commentators interpret “Shiloh” as Messiah. In 70 A.D., Rome destroyed Jerusalem & the temple. Judah lost all legal power. The Talmud states the Sanhedrin exclaimed “Woe unto us, for the scepter has been taken from Judah, and the Messiah has not appeared.” Talmud, Bab., Sanhedrin, Ch. 4, fol. 37, recto.</p>

V. JESUS MADE OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS ABOUT HIMSELF:

1. Jesus claimed to be the Messiah and co-equal with God the Father: See Mark 14:61-62 (“Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” And Jesus said, ‘I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven’); Matthew 27:43 (“I am the Son of God”); John 4:25-26 (“I who speak to you am He [the Messiah]”), 14:9 (“He who has seen me has seen the Father”), 10:30 (“I and the Father are One”), 10:36 (“I am the Son of God”), 18:36-37 (“I am a king”), 12:45 (“[H]e who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me”), 5:18 (“making Himself equal with God”), 6:38 (“I have come down from Heaven”), 8:12 (“I am the light of the world”), 13:13 (“I am [Lord]).
2. Jesus claimed that He was the only way to God: John 14:6 (“I am the way...no one comes to the Father, but through Me”).
3. Jesus claimed that He could forgive sins: Matthew 9:6 (“the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”); Matthew 9:2 (“your sins are forgiven”); Mark 2:5 (“your sins are forgiven”); Luke 5:20 (“your sins are forgiven you”).

A mere man saying what Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher but either (1) a liar (he knew his statements were false) or (2) a lunatic (he did not know his statements were false because he delusionally believed he was God). Or, He was telling the truth and is Lord. We have only three options: Liar, lunatic, or Lord. What does the evidence say? Where will you place your faith/bet?

CONCLUSION

To reach a decision about anything, we rarely, if ever, possess 100% of the facts. Yet, we make decisions every day based on partial evidence. Our faith fills in where the evidence ends so that we can make a decision (even about sitting down in a chair). The entire American legal system operates on this same basis. Looking at all of the factual evidence concerning God, the Bible, and Jesus, the evidence supports the following: The only true and correct worldview is God’s Worldview which is reflected in the Bible; acceptance of Biblical ideas is acceptance of God’s thoughts; and the highest aspiration of knowledge among humanity is to know and follow the thoughts of God. As Albert Einstein said, “*I want to know God’s thoughts. The rest are details.*” Anyone placing their faith in Jesus Christ stands on a mountain of supporting evidence.

ANSWERS TO EVOLUTION

Introduction:

Darwin's Theory of Evolution is not merely a scientific theory but has become the foundational pillar supporting the "religion" of secular-humanism (which, by definition, includes atheism), with Darwin as the High Priest and evolution as the Holy Grail. Secular-humanists believe that evolution provides an explanation for our existence without the need for any God (thus, no rules and no accountability). Atheist leader Richard Dawkins famously said, "Darwin made atheism intellectually respectable." Thus, when one criticizes evolution, one criticizes the core "faith" of the secular-humanist/atheist.

[Helpful websites for most current information on Darwin's Theory of Evolution: Discovery Institute: www.Discovery.org; Reasons to Believe: www.Reasons.org; Probe Ministries: www.probe.org.]

Is Darwin's Theory of Evolution a fact?

No! Darwin himself devoted three chapters in his *Origin of Species* to discussing weaknesses in his own theory and concluded that, "A fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides." Darwin's Theory of Evolution states that life naturally began from a single common ancestor and that from this common ancestor simple creatures changed over time into complex creatures through small, gradual, and natural mutations over a vast period of time. Darwin's theory does not address how life first began. Without a first biological entity capable of reproduction, the overall hypothesis that all life forms are derived from a single common ancestor fails.

A scientific theory is an attempt to describe the evidence in the natural world and make testable predictions. The key to good scientific reasoning begins with gathering as much reliable evidence as possible and examining it carefully. Then, scientists construct alternative theories and compare them in light of how well they explain the evidence. All the major scientific discoveries since Einstein's Theory of General Relativity have reduced the time available for evolution to have occurred and have revealed that the complexity of life is much greater than imagined. Many unresolved scientific issues remain.

Is there any proof that evolution happened?

That depends on what you mean by "evolution." The term "evolution" basically means "change," and is too broad to be very useful in discussion. Here are four definitional aspects of the Theory of Evolution:

1. Micro-evolution: small changes in a population over time such as the color of moths, or the size of a bird's beak, or a bacterial resistance to antibiotics. We observe micro-evolution today. No one doubts that minor changes occur within a species. But Darwin claimed much more—that his mechanism leads to new organs, body plans, and entirely new species (none of which has ever been observed). It makes perfect sense that a good designer would design each creature with built-in abilities to adapt to survive in changing climates and world conditions. The debate is not over micro-evolution.
2. Macro-evolution: the random development of new structures such as wings, new organs such as lungs, new body plans, and new species. Science has never observed macro-evolution. As National Academy of Sciences biologist Dr. Lynn Margulis—an avowed evolutionist—has pointed out: "New mutations don't create new species; they create offspring that are impaired." A growing number of scientists are voicing doubt in the theory of macro-evolution as evidenced by a recent petition of more than 700 Ph.D. scientists expressing scientific skepticism of the claim that random mutations and natural selection can account for the complexity of life. See the petition at www.Discovery.org.
3. Natural Selection and Survival of the Fittest: the fittest organisms survive due to useful mutations or minor variations being selected from existing genetic information (already present within the organism's "gene pool") that occur naturally within the population of the organism.
4. Universal Common Descent: postulates that all organisms naturally descended from a single common ancestor through small, gradual, and natural mutations over a vast period of time.

Darwin originally proposed that life forms became increasingly complex through a gradual process. Scientists now recognize that the fossil record does not support that all change is gradual. They observe that dramatic appearances of new life forms in the fossil record require extremely rapid, if not instantaneous, changes.

What is the Big Bang Theory?

Before Albert Einstein's relativity, he and most other scientists thought that the universe was infinitely large and infinitely old—with no beginning. Einstein originally "fixed" his theory to permit an infinite age. He finally accepted the necessity of a "recent" beginning and said later that his "fix" was "the greatest mistake of my life." The Big Bang theory holds that the entire universe expanded from a super-hot, super massive point. The theory holds that time and space were created all at once out of nothing. This sounds like the first chapter of Genesis. Many scientists originally disliked the Big Bang in part because it sounded too much like biblical Creation.

If the universe was created the way the Big Bang theory says it was, we should see stars and galaxies moving away from each other (and away from us). We should also be able to detect cosmic background radiation from the Big Bang's fiery explosion. Both of these phenomena have, in fact, been observed as the theory predicts.

Is the Big Bang Theory good news or bad news for the Theory of Evolution?

The Big Bang theory is *bad* news for the Theory of Evolution. Why? Darwin's theory requires vast amounts of time to produce the many complex life forms. Darwin believed that the universe had existed forever, which he believed provided an infinite amount of time for a simple blob of protoplasm to evolve into a complex creature. However, the Big Bang theory found that the universe did not exist forever but had a beginning at a specific point in time. The following represent the science community's most recent time calculations: age of the universe at a relatively recent 13.7 billion years; age of the earth 4.5 billion years; earth was hostile to life until 4 billion years ago; evidence of first life on earth appeared rapidly about 3.85 billion years ago. 530 million years ago the Cambrian Explosion produced almost every complex form of life (with all forms appearing within a mere 5-10 million year time span). Scientists now recognize that these relatively brief periods do not provide sufficient time for Darwin's original theory of slow, gradual evolution to work. Another area of *bad* news for the Theory of Evolution comes from a better scientific understanding of the cell. In the 1800's, when Darwin lived, most scientists thought the cell was a small lump of carbon compounds and that the creation of life was a fairly simple process. Modern science has found that the cell is an amazingly complex "factory" with an intricate system of biomechanical machinery. Within the last century, science has reduced the time available for evolution from infinite to a geological nanosecond. And, we now know that what evolution must explain is infinitely more complex than Darwin ever imagined.

Can molecules of non-living matter be transformed by a natural process into the organic building blocks of life (proteins)?

So far science has been unable to find a natural explanation as to how simple molecules become the incredibly complex molecules of life. All living things are assembled from the same basic compliment of 20 left-handed amino acids. Each different type of protein is formed from a unique arrangement of these specific acids. To form a protein that actually works requires biochemical machinery instructed by the code in DNA (a code containing a precise sequence constructed with a four letter alphabet arranged like letters in a sentence containing information equivalent to a library). Three letter sequences code for a certain protein that has a specific function in the cell. The chance that such functional complexity could arise to form even a single protein from random accidents is statistically essentially impossible. Even if one such protein were randomly produced, a coordinated system of hundreds of such proteins are required to be in existence and working together at the same moment in time to produce even the most elementary form of life.

Do the changes in Galapagos Finch beaks, or changes caused through selective breeding, prove that evolution takes place?

It depends on what kind of evolution we are talking about. The changes in the Finch beaks are a great example of micro-evolution. It is true that the effects of the drought changed the average beak size of some Galapagos Finches. This is an example of minor variations being selected from genetic information (the “gene pool”) already present in the finches’ DNA.

After a severe drought in the Galapagos Islands in 1977, the plants produced many fewer seeds (bird food) than usual. During the drought, the big-beaked birds were more likely to survive because they were able to eat the large, hard seeds as well as any small seeds. The smaller-beaked Finches were less likely to survive because they could not eat the larger seeds. But that is not the same as saying that the Finches evolved bigger beaks. Big beaks and small beaks were present in the population before the drought. Big beaks and small beaks were present in the Finch population after the drought. Furthermore, following a period of intense rain in the Galapagos, the average finch-beak size returned to its pre-drought size, and the so-called “evolutionary change” was reversed. A similar example of micro-evolution (that is often misrepresented) is seen in the development of bacterial resistance to antibiotics.

Selective breeding, or purposeful domestication, has been used to produce changes within species for thousands of years. By repeating this process (called selective breeding) over generations, one can modify the characteristics of the whole breed. These changes would be an excellent example of microevolution if it weren’t for one thing: intentional, deliberate, selective breeding is not a “natural force.” Animal breeders are intelligent, purposeful agents, not natural “environmental factors.” After thousands of years of intelligent dog breeding, neither a cat, rat, or bat has been produced; only many different kinds of dogs.

Does the fossil record support Darwin’s theory?

No. Darwin predicted that if his theory were correct, there should be evidence that simple life forms gradually developed into more and more complex creatures.

Paleontologists (those who study fossils) now recognize that the fossil record provides little support for Darwin’s theory. There are two very basic problems with the fossil record: (1) Animal types tend to appear suddenly in the fossil record (not gradually, as Darwin predicted) with each animal type “missing” the “link” to its former ancestor; and (2) Animals tend to remain relatively unchanged throughout their time on earth (not slowly developing into new forms as Darwin predicted). As noted paleontologist and evolution spokesman Stephen Jay Gould admitted: “The great majority of species do not show any appreciable evolutionary change at all. These species appear...without obvious ancestors in the underlying beds, are stable once established and disappear higher up without leaving any descendants.”

What is the “Cambrian Explosion” and does it support Darwin’s Theory?

Scientists sometimes call this event the “Biological Big Bang,” because the fossils of at least 19—and perhaps as many as 30 or more—radically new and complex animal groups or species, with radically different body types, appear suddenly on earth in a moment of geological time. Scientists call this remarkable event the “Cambrian Explosion” because this dramatic appearance of major animal forms occurs in the fossil record at the start of the Cambrian period.

The Cambrian Explosion does not support Darwin’s theory. To the contrary, Darwin predicted that we would find evidence that after somehow getting started, life would slowly progress into big differences. Instead, fossils from the Cambrian layer show multiple animal types with huge differences appearing in the same moment of geological time. Subsequently, many of these died out rather than develop into better-adapted forms as Darwin’s theory would anticipate. Also, as the genomes of many more organisms are decoded and possible relationships are inferred from similarities, scientists are beginning to acknowledge that Darwin’s “Tree of Life” is inaccurate and probably looks more like a field of twisted and sometimes dieing bushes.

Was there a gradual transition of an ape to man or the Primordial horse to the modern horse?

Despite the illustrations in textbooks showing gradualism (a gradual transition) in the evolution of the horse, or evolution of ape to man, there is no convincing evidence for it. In the case of ape to man, most presumed “missing link” discoveries have turned out to be ape-like and non-human, or a side track rather than a transitional kind of ape to man intermediary. Some “discoveries” were proven to be deliberate hoaxes.

Richard Leakey, the world’s foremost paleoanthropologist and son of Louis and Mary Leakey, said, “If pressed about man’s ancestry, I would have to unequivocally say that all we have is a huge question mark... If further pressed, I would have to state that there is more evidence to suggest an abrupt arrival of man rather than a gradual process of evolving.”

Does the presence of “vestigial organs,” such as the appendix prove that human beings evolved from earlier creatures?

No. Recent studies suggest that the appendix, which was once considered vestigial (left over organs that once served a purpose in man’s early ancestors) and is still offered as evidence of evolution in most science textbooks, actually has an important functional role in the immune system. Furthermore, the tailbone or coccyx is also functional, serving as a point of attachment for muscles of the pelvic floor.

In the past, some scientists have called the pituitary gland, the tear glands, the tear ducts, the spleen, and the pancreas vestigial.” In time, science has discovered that there are important functions for all of these organs or glands that at one point were considered vestigial. If science labels an organ vestigial, it does not necessarily mean that it is.

Do the similarities in the skeletons of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals prove that these species came from a single common ancestor?

No. There are two ways to look at these similarities (often referred to as “homology”).

1. Similarities exist because all organisms have the same ancestor, and their differences are the result of slight, natural mutation modifications over vast periods of time.
2. Similarities are the result of an intelligent designer (God) who created different organisms employing biological processes and skeletons that worked in the earth’s environment.

The problem with homology due to common ancestry is that the entire process has to occur naturally. One scientist compared this “descent with modification” to a succession of Corvettes lined up side by side. This scientist intended to illustrate that, like the fossil record, one can see the common similarities and the slight modification of each model every year. However, this illustration accidentally showed that the appearance of slight modifications over time was actually due to intentional actions of the automobile designer.

Could vision have developed by evolution one small mutation at a time?

The notion that vision requiring inimitable contrivances to adjust the eye to focus different distances, admit proper amounts of light, correct for spherical and chromatic aberration, and to collect and transmit the overwhelming information to the brain and process it into an image in our mind could have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications and natural selection, appears beyond belief. It certainly remains undemonstrated. Darwin stated in *Origin of the Species*, “If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.” In the famous book “Darwin’s Black Box” biochemist Michael Behe identifies vision as one of many irreducibly complex systems that could not have evolved one step at a time. ©KC2009-2022