



A CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

& Various Points of View
In the world



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Reader Be Aware: This is a highly academic and technical article on what some consider certain controversial world views.
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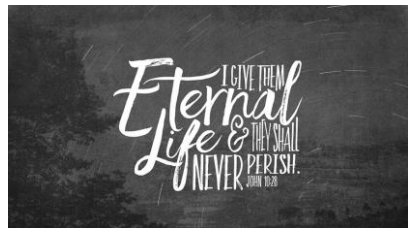
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Introduction

The subject matter, here, includes a defence of the Christian Faith and claims about Christ, the reliability and historical accuracy of the New Testament, the Deity of Christ, miracles, prophecy and resurrection. The different chapters include A Case for Christianity, Theistic Evolutionary thinking which include anthropological, astronomical and biological observations. This will also deal with the consequences of theistic evolution. Another chapter will discuss atheism and how it ties into evolutionary thought. Finally, this article looks at revived Gnosticism. In researching this article, I have read all of the material in each of the references provided, making notes and applying information to back up my own ideas. This has taken hundreds of hours. All of these articles and the authors in the references at the end support the ideas and points made by me. None of this is random, off the cuff information but well-researched information supported by a large Christian intellectual and knowledgeable population who are well-educated people in their own fields. They, like me, have become tired of those that demean the Bible, write against it and continually deny the claims of Jesus Christ.

Christianity

First, I want to especially recommend 'A Case for Christianity' by Don Stewart along with all the other books in this series of religious thought. The subject matter of the articles includes a defence of the Christian Faith and claims about Christ, the reliability and historical accuracy of the New Testament, the Deity of Christ, miracles, prophecy and resurrection. We see that Jesus also made prophecies which have come true. Recent findings in regards to the Red Sea Scrolls shows that we have the same Old Testament today that they had 250 BC. This is absolutely amazing. The article presents Christianity as a truth deserved to be heard by means of apologetics which consists of



answering questions and objections to Christianity. We learn that even though Apologetics has the idea of defending the faith, we also see that in some respects apologetics and evangelism are the same. Dr Stanford E. Murrell and Henry H. Barstow from Sovereign Grace Baptist Church wrote on the 7th of May, 2000 about the life of Jesus as being proof for a Case for Christianity along with miracles, validity of the work of Christ and also Paul's testimony.

Jesus is the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. If in Accepting Christianity to be the truth, then there are no other religions. Not only do other religions not represent truth, they hinder the truth of God and should be ignored. But there are many options beside this which people choose from, such as: agnosticism, which questions the existence of God; Atheism and Theism, where atheism claims that God doesn't exist and theism claims that God or gods to exist; polytheism and monotheism: polytheism is the existence of many gods but monotheism is the existence of one God; pantheism, if only one God exists, he is impersonal; deism says that God is not involved with humanity; Unitarianism says that there is only one aspect of God where as Trinitarianism says that there are a plurality of persons with the nature of the one God. To sum these explanations up, we can say:

- Agnosticism - I do not know if God or gods exist.
- Atheism - I do know, God or gods do not exist.
- Theism - I do know, God or gods do exist.
- Polytheism - Many gods exist. Henotheism - The henotheist worships only one of the many gods who exist.
- Monotheism - Only one God exists.
- Pantheism - All things that exist are part of God. Therefore God is impersonal.
- Deism - The one God who exists is personal, yet He is not involved with humanity.

- Personal Theism - The one personal God is intimately involved with humanity.
- Unitarianism - God is only one person.
- Trinitarianism - The one God who exists, is, by nature, a Trinity - three distinct persons within the nature of the one God.

There is an increasing antagonism toward the Gospel these days as it was in Paul's day. There are laws being passed in various countries to protect these religions and the people who hold them as truth. Of course, our goal as Christians is to bring people to Christ. In addition, more and more we are being required to explain the central beliefs of Christianity and the clarification of the Gospel message. We must be able to provide a thorough understanding of what it means to follow Jesus Christ and why we should. Arguing Jesus Christ is reasonable and logical; this is not only apologetics but also evangelism. Paul went about answering the sceptics in Athens. He went about answering questions and objections in Ephesus for two years. He argued the evidence for the Christian faith and defended attacks against the Gospel from unbelievers. Paul knew that all religions did not say the same thing. Jesus was not saying the same thing as Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammed. Christianity believes and teaches that God is personal which is just one difference between it and other religions. The unique claim of Jesus says, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.' This is an exclusive claim which makes all other religions incompatible with Christianity. The most important issue is who Jesus claimed to be and He demonstrated this by His authority. He used objective proof to back up the claim of being God. Remember in Mark 2:5, He said, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you.' Such a statement can only be said by God. Jesus was also the fulfilment of stated prophecy from many of the Isaiah clearly prophesied the coming of the Messiah in his book some six hundred years before the coming of Christ. And that separates Jesus from all other religions is His resurrection which was also foretold in Isaiah. These days we see that truth is no longer considered absolute. The Bible refutes this and stresses absolutes: faith in God

and faith in His Son, Jesus. Coming to Christ involves one's mind, heart and soul.

But there are untold stories of people that have been saved from a life of worry, a life of sinful living and a life where stealing, bad language, antagonistic thoughts, and rebellion, all are a common theme, especially against society and laws of the land. People have been radically changed overnight by the saving grace of Jesus Christ. I was one of those. I was a sailor in the US Navy. I thought drinking, cussing, sexual immorality was simply the norm. I had no idea that there was a life where you were loved, forgiven and encouraged to live free from all of this. I experienced this overnight. I cannot begin to explain what the power of the Spirit of God can do in a person's life. God works because he is real. Having Jesus in your life is not just religion it represents a truth in life. Having Christ in your life in the true reality.

In presenting Christ, we need to establish the reliability of the Bible. We can do this by stressing the textual accuracy and historical content of the Scriptures. Then the claims of Christ can be clarified. He's the Son of God, our Saviour from sin, the Truth, the Life, almighty God and the only hope for salvation. Recently it has been established without any doubt that our Old Testament Scripture hasn't changed in over two thousand years. We have the same Bible as they had nearly 250 years before Christ. But the claims of Christ have continued to be denied by those who don't know what they are talking about. They have never experienced his love in their lives. There is just too much evidence in terms of miracles, fulfilled prophecy and His resurrection. There are a number of miracles recorded revealing the power of Jesus. There is an over whelming amount of fulfilled prophecy that is directed toward Jesus with manuscripts that were written before Jesus. Then there is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are many outside sources that acknowledge Jesus' physical presence on the earth and some that talk about His resurrection. Again, there is prophecy that predicts this and it is acknowledged throughout the New Testament. There is yet the nature of the Bible. Jesus viewed His own teachings as authoritative and He referenced the

Old Testament constantly. Remember the Old Testament is the same today as it was 250 years before Christ.

Through textual criticism the reliability of the Scriptures are determined. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic while the New Testament was written in Greek. There is also a Greek copy of the Old Testament that was written several hundred years before Christ and now the most up-to-date copy is in the form of the Dead Sea Scrolls.. The oldest copy of the Old Testament dates by about 150 BC while some New Testament manuscripts date back to 200 AD. There are no original copies of the New Testament or Old Testament. Of course these have been translated into hundreds and hundreds of languages. The practice of reconstructing the text of a document is called textual criticism and its goal is to establish the original reading of the text. For the New Testament, as already mentioned, there are the Greek Manuscripts which was initial written on papyrus which was only able to survive because of the dry climate. Then the next source are manuscripts called 'Uncials'. These were written on animal skins or parchments. These writings had no punctuation or spaces between the words. These date from the 3rd, 4th and 10th centuries. Later uncial writing was replaced by minuscule's writings and consisted of smaller letters. Then there were lectionaries which the church used to read on Sundays and other special days. There are fragments of these dating back to the 6th century AD while complete manuscripts date back to the 8th century. Another source comes from different versions of the New Testament. Early Christians translated the Gospel into these versions to witness to people. Some of these include the Latin Vulgate, the Ethiopic, the Slavic, the Armenian and others. In reconstructing any text, the length of time between the copy and the original must be considered along with the number of that particular copy available. The more the better and the less time between the copy and original is better. Another source represents quotations of the church fathers. Since so many manuscripts are available, the original text has been assuredly preserved. There are considerations such as variant readings. These are differences in

particular words or phrases in the text between two different manuscripts. From a study of textual criticism most variations were unintentional. Those that were, consisted of grammatical improvements. Most scholars contend that these variations do not affect the reliability of the text or Christian theology. There are some disputed verses in the Bible. Some theologians say they were added later but these only represent a very few, about three in total. One such verse is 1 John 5:7 which states, ‘for there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. This argues the trinity. A summary of these variant readings: 80 to 85 percent of the text is exactly the same. Of the 15-20% that has variation, 99% of these are meaningless and do not affect the translation of the text. No Christian doctrine is affected by any of these so-called variations. As many variants people have claimed there to be, none of these changes the message of Jesus Christ; none. There has been a lot made of these recently, completely out of proportion to what actually exists.

In Genesis 10, there are a huge number of specific geographical references mentioned. There are over 300 references in Acts to names, places and events. This increases the importance of the historical reliability of the Scriptures. Biblical archaeology has expanded the understanding of the Bible amazingly. Nothing that has ever been discovered, goes against anything that has been said in the Bible. It has only gone to show that the events are historical accounts of people who walked and talked with Jesus and others in the Bible. The writers of the New Testament were eyewitnesses to the events or either they gathered information from those who witnessed the events. John said that he saw these things, he looked upon them and touched them with his own hands. Peter witnessed God speaking to Jesus, ‘This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased.’ The New Testament accounts were written immediately after those events. The first three Gospels were written while Jerusalem and the temple were still standing. The Book of Acts concludes with Paul in prison in Rome. The Gospel of Luke was written about 60 AD or before. Acts was



written around 62 AD. Matthew's Gospel was written in 41 AD. It's even possible that John was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Imperial Romans. John A.T. Robinson believes there's enough evidence to think that all the New Testament books were written before 70 AD.

Interestingly, Paul quotes Luke's Gospel in his first letter to Timothy. Tradition says that the four Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. There's also a unanimous attestation of these authors. In those days the keeping of the author's name on the scroll was a common practice. It was a way to keep them separated. The writers were alive and countless church brethren had contact with them. Many of the letters could have been written before the Gospels such as the first letter to the Corinthians which is said to have been written in 56 AD. All the letters were written before Paul died which was around 67 AD. In establishing these truths, there's an ancient document rule which states, '(1) If a document is discovered that claims to be ancient (2) and it comes from where we would expect to find it (3) and there is no evidence of forgery (4) and the text shows no sign that it has been changed (5) and it does not contain obvious contradictions or demonstrable errors; then we are to assume it to be true until evidence can be brought forward to the contrary.' If the message and story of Jesus Christ were not true, it could not have continued for the last two thousand years.

The Old Testament was about the preparation for the coming of Christ. It was preparing the way for the Messiah. There are over 400 direct quotes in the New Testament from the Old Testament; many from Jesus himself. The Gospels dealt with the manifestation of Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. Acts involved the spread of the message of Christ and the Epistles explained the two comings of Christ. The Book of Revelation is about Christ's second coming. Jesus claimed to be the only way to the Father. This was not invented by the Church. This was also stated in the Book of Acts. John 1:1 established Jesus at the very beginning of Creation, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Thomas, upon seeing the marks on Jesus' hands said, 'My Lord and my God,' thus acknowledging who

Jesus was. It is amazing to know that Jesus as the Word of God was at the very beginning of the Creation of the Universe. Throughout the New

CHRIST IS RISEN



Testament there are references to the fact that Jesus was the Son of God and that the writers considered that Jesus was God. John 1:14 says, 'And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.' This was done to reveal God to humanity. He came to be the final

sacrifice for the sins of the world. He was reconciling the world to himself. He came to destroy the devil and the devil's hold over people. The events of His life made a lasting impression on everyone that witnessed them. This was evident of His life along with the miracles He preformed while on earth. The Word of God is a power unto itself. For myself, after reading the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I knew without a doubt that Jesus was real. Jesus preformed miracles so that we might believe that he is the Christ, the son of God, and that believing we may have life in His name. His miracles revealed his authority over incurable disease with and without being physically present. They showed that He also had authority over nature, the supernatural, over sins, over life and death, over the natural and supernatural realm, all at the same time. Peter healed the lame man at the temple by telling him to walk. The healing miracles of Jesus were beyond any natural explanation. Jesus healed a paralysed man, a man blind from birth, a man dead four days, ten lepers all at once and a deaf mute man. The reasons they don't happen today are varied: lack of faith as we have hospitals to go to, anti-Christian teachings and heresy? Some say these miracles are happening in various places in the world in amazing situations. For Jesus, people were asking how He did these miracles. They didn't believe who He really was.

Other evidence for the truthfulness of Jesus is the prophecy about Him. One such prophecy as early as Deuteronomy 18:18-22: 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. 'But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.' "And you may say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?' "When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him." Christ was to be a descendant of Abraham and in the book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the Son of David, the son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1). Jesus was also from Isaac's line which was also predicted. God predicted, through the prophet Micah, the exact city where the Messiah would be born: Blessed are you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you, One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity (Micah 5:2). It was also predicted that Jesus was to come before the destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 AD. When Mary of Bethany poured perfume on the feet of Jesus, he said that her story would be told wherever the gospel was preached. Jesus also predicted the circumstances surrounding His death. The destruction of Jerusalem was predicted along with the destruction of the Temple. The nation of Israel will survive. And there were many many other predictions, of and from Jesus, that have been fulfilled. Jesus also predicted his own resurrection from the dead. Jesus rose from the dead as mentioned in 2 Timothy 2:8. Paul preached Christ risen. This is unique to the Christian faith for no other religious figure has ever predicted his own resurrection, then accomplished it. After His resurrection He met with his disciples and Mary and so many other people in many different places. He showed his nail scarred

hands to Thomas. He ate food with them and gave them the Holy Spirit. He was able to disappear and reappear anywhere and not too long afterwards He ascended into heaven in front of them.

There's also a lot of circumstantial evidence surrounding the truth of Jesus being who He said He was. Jesus led a perfect life which was characterized by divine claims. Christ changes lives; how could anyone ever explain what happens to people when they meet Jesus as their Saviour? The Conversion of Paul on the Damascus road wouldn't make sense if it wasn't for Jesus. The huge impact that Christ had on hundreds of thousands throughout the Roman world can only be explained by the power of Jesus. As a result of the risen Christ, Christians buried their dead expecting them to rise. And then there was the miraculous events at Pentecost and this list goes on. The Gospel gave us a completed picture of Jesus Christ. The growth of the church today also testifies to a risen Christ. Nothing of the history of the Old Testament, the time of Christ and the history of the Christian church down through the years would make any sense if Christ wasn't God and rose from the dead. There have been religions, non-Christian sects, Islam, liberal scholars, atheists, ideologies, and philosophies throughout history that have tried to destroy Christianity; yet here we are because of the risen Christ. Jesus knew of the prophecies of the Old Testament. He had total trust in the Scriptures and not only assumed but knew that the people and events mentioned in the Old Testament were real. He was with the Father throughout the history as events unveiled themselves. As God spoke to Noah and dealt with all the prophets about the people of Israel, he also confirmed these stories which people today have so much doubt about. He confirmed the Genesis account of creation! Adam and Eve! Cain and Abel! The great flood! Jonah and the whale! The things that Jesus taught, He considered authoritative. Why not, He was God! Every word that came out of His mouth was that of God! He told His own disciples of His own authority.

We have confirmed the reliability of the Bible by matching events up to historical backed Scripture and even archaeology and we have seen how

the Old Testament prepared the coming of Christ. I will, again, repeat that nothing ever found in archaeological digs has gone against anything that has been said in the Bible. Jesus, himself, confirmed that the Old Testament events and people were true. He confirmed that He is the only way to the father. There is no other. He claimed to be the Son of God which means from God and of God and God. We see that nothing makes sense in the Bible if Jesus isn't who He says He is. The entirety of the Bible is focused on Jesus. Miracles are also evidence to this truth. Fulfilled prophecies are also evidence to this truth. He rose from the dead. I believe the authors presented a valid and clear presentation of their objectives, providing explanations which we can easily use for evidence in witnessing to other people.

In reading through all the questions and then providing reason for the defence of the Gospel, some people will never accept these truths no matter what. Their hearts are hard and they are so anti-Christian that no matter what we say, it will make no difference. I believe our own hope for them is our prayers and our own lives as we live in testimony to Jesus Christ. I do not believe that we must ever defend the Gospel with vengeance in our hearts or antagonism of any kind. We must never show judgement toward others for that will only increase their rebellious attitude toward Jesus and Christians. Always return to your love for Christ and his love for you. He loved us so much that he gave his life for us. But this is difficult to do, sometimes. I really haven't read too much about defending the Gospels with a spirit of love and honestly letting the Holy Spirit control our speech. We are taught to love our enemies. This is not a cliché but sadly even committed Christian fail at this. We are told to love our neighbours; this is even a commandment, whether they be JW's, Mormans, Hindu, Muslims or general anti-Christian people. We are not told to accept what they say as being the truth. We can 'argue' against this in love.

In examining the four gospels we have a great amount of information to work with concerning Jesus' view of the Old Testament. His view can be simply stated in two words, "total trust." Jesus accepted the Old

Testament Scriptures as being divinely inspired - He never cast doubt on any of the accounts. Jesus assumed the people were actual people and the events literally occurred. We never find Him giving the slightest hint of anything but the complete acceptance of the Old Testament as the Word of God. I find this so amazing because we have the same Old Testament Scriptures today that Jesus referred to back then. With the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, we have a set of the Old Testament books that date back to 150 BC. But they actually date back further if you consider the manuscripts they were copied from.

A lot of what I've said here involves apologetics, that is defending the faith and the Bible. The comparison between apologetics and evangelism; know that there is no difference between apologetics and evangelism. It seems that the words can be used interchangeably, except perhaps apologetics can involve an argumentative attitude rather than a loving attitude; we should be careful about this.



II. Theistic Evolution as a Religion

Here, I will deal with various assumptions of science in relation to evolution and distinguish between the theory of evolution and the Biblical doctrine of creation. One such article that I will quote from is, 'Did God Use Evolution?' It was written by Werner Gitt who was a German Engineer at the German Federal Institute of Physics and Technology. It's also a comprehensive look into evolution as being totally opposite to God's thinking. Of course, I will quote from many of sources, as proof to back up what is being said. This will also show how evolution has in fact affected Christian and theological thinking in churches and Christians colleges. It is like a cancer spreading throughout Christianity. Once it has taken over everything in our beliefs, we die. My own discussion will include how Creation research deduces physical models based on fundamental Biblical statements and reveal the anti-biblical nature of the evolutionary viewpoint.

The following points will be covered: Principles of Science, Anthropological Considerations, Astronomical Observations, Biological Observations, Information Science Observations, Progressive Evolution or Complete Creation and Consequences of Theistic Evolution. Also attached in the Appendix are notes from Grant R. Jeffrey and his book, 'Creation: Remarkable Evidence of God's Design'. This adds additional information to the above. But don't let these informational titles discourage you from going further, for they will be explained thoroughly.

I believe that the Bible teaches a six day 24 hour creation and that dinosaurs were on earth the same time as humans. They died out due to the Noahic flood that happened about six or seven thousand years ago. I believe in a young earth, somewhere around ten thousand years old. Some think that there is evidence to say that the earth is about six thousand years old. But, these days we are continually bombarded with information to refute these claims and these refutations are said to be aligned with what the Bible teaches.

For example, in relating to the age of the earth to that of a six day creation; I think there is enough evidence just in studying the earth alone in terms of geology, astronomy, palaeontology, anthropology, biology and other sciences to prove the miraculous six day creation. The problem of course is the point of view that people take. If a person has a certain evolutionary point of view or certain assumptions, no matter what evidence is presented, they will not believe it. So let's look at some of the assumptions that people have first:

1. The Principles of Science and Creation verses Evolution: Principles of science theory require that every theory must have basic assumptions. These assumptions are only arbitrary beliefs which compares to a jury having come to a decision through a process of deductions. These beliefs must be free from inherent contradictions. A theory is only valid until it can be replaced by a new and better theory or must allow experimentation in order to negate it. If the theory proves false from experimentation then it should be discarded. Any science can be divided up into exact sciences or structural sciences and

structural science such as mathematics and informatics contain theorems which cannot be proved. And these theories can only continue if it is repeatable, otherwise they have to be rejected as being false. With evolution there are a lot of assumptions such as it being taken for granted as being true. It is only a theory. Another assumed point is that it holds true not only for life but for the entire universe. People also assume that all living organisms are based only on matter and materialistic principles with no creator or designer responsible or involved and that matter and energy in the universe is constant. However, there is no scientific explanation for the origin of matter and energy by evolutionists. All of these points are assumptions which are in many cases unprovable. In fact some of them create tremendous problems if thought through to the end. The main driving forces for evolution are mutation, selection, isolation and mixing. What this sums up to be is chance and necessity which takes in long periods of time, ecological changes and death. However there is not a single case, either experimental or observational of the origin of a new kind of organism and thus these remain simply an assumption. For the evolutionist, time is everything; in that, it will eventually happen regardless. Their theme sentence is 'the present is the key to the past.' But this is all verbal rubbish. Sir Arthur Keith summarizes the above: Evolution is unproven and unprovable. It is unscientific to accept it but the only other choice is Biblical Creation but non-Christian evolutionary scientists will die, steal, cheat and murder to say that evolution is correct.

Looking at creation, the following points are taken for granted: Biblical revelations are the key to understanding the world we live in. Even though the Bible is the source of our information, our present experiences don't allow us to evaluate something that has been created. In other words, 'which came first, the chicken or the egg?' Another assumption is that creation is a universal principle. Creationists believe that the Creator is the God of the Bible. He created all matter; everything was formed at Gods command. The present creation functions according to natural laws that were established at creation and the physical processes of living matter are subject to these laws,

but it must be understood that God's creative activities are not subject to these laws. His creation was a single event where the present natural laws came into existence. Also, the origin of energy cannot be explained in terms of known physical laws. In addition, the acts of God in establishing the Bible are outside our field of understanding. We can only understand it as God's Word revealed it to us. The creation of the world came about through the power, Word, wisdom, will and character of God, out of nothing. All aspects of creation clearly point to a Designer and Creator: God. Be wise and careful here for even Christians have been tricked into substituting different meaning with these statements. There is a definite beginning point of time where time and matter came into existence and these two points will have a definite end. Death is the result of sin and all life forms were affected by sin. The present geological structure of the earth's crust was caused by the Noahic flood. Even though matter and energy are necessary fundamental qualities of all life, they do not distinguish living systems from non-living systems. The main characteristic for life is the information that's required for all life processes and the ability to procreate. The creation of living organisms is finished. There will never be any new organisms or animals. This was done in the first six days of creation. Any changes that have come about since then are only variations of previously created original kinds.

So, continues Werner Gitt, in considering Theistic Evolution; it is somewhat different from plain evolution, yet it's very different than the Biblical doctrine of creation. It states that God used evolution as a means of creating. It considers the Bible irrelevant in present-day science and all evolutionary pronouncements have priority over Biblical statements. According to Theistic Evolution assumptions, the Bible must be reinterpreted when and wherever it contradicts the present evolutionary worldview. The Bible is only regarded as the product of historical influences and the writers reflected their own circumstances and world view. The Bible thus contains no authoritative, binding truths, but must be freshly interpreted and corrected for every era and in every situation. Also, normally any reference to the Bible by

Theistic Evolutionists is done in order to apply evolutionary meanings to it. Another assumption is that the existence of God is assumed. But in answer to these points, Christians should understand there are no scientific-philosophical objections today to use the Bible for explaining creation science. God's revelation and concepts far surpasses human reason. Evolutionary scientists can only present their models as hypotheses only which already stand on unstable ground. It's known that Biblical explanations have a wider range of use than scientific statements. Since science is secularized, the creationist model describing nature will be unacceptable for some. But according to 'Popper', any competing theory will be vindicated if it survives the most stringent tests and so far this is holding true for creationism.

2. *Anthropological Considerations:* This section looks at human traits in regards to evolution and creationism. From Darwin's viewpoint and evolution, the origin of man developed from lowly organised life forms. This idea goes all the way back to inorganic molecules or what's known as primeval soup. According to the Nobel prize winner Jacques Monod, our existence is a consequence of a game of chance. The universe was not pregnant with life nor the biosphere with man. From the creationist viewpoint, this is simply a science fiction story. And one of the most conflicting problems for the evolutionary scientist is the lack of transitional evidence that is absolutely necessary to support such a theory. On the contrary, in considering the Biblical account, every event was stated beforehand such as, 'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him.'

Evolution considered language as evolving and even evolutionists admit that language is a phenomenon unique to man. The existence of today's languages shows the diversification from common roots as a point of origin they say. But the linguist, H. Gipper says that this can't be sustained. The essence of human speech is not communication as communication exists everywhere in the animal kingdom but here communication isn't speech in considering the animal kingdom. But for the human, it's a knowledge medium. It lies in assigning specific meanings to articulated sounds. Beate Marquardt

assumes that language was not necessary for survival but was a luxury. Being a non-material phenomenon, all evolutionary hypotheses for its origin fail. The Bible says that God spoke to Adam, who understood what he was told. From this, we can confirm that God made man with the ability to talk and with language. Everybody, thereafter, spoke the same language until the Tower of Babel incident. But in the end, science cannot tell us anything about the origin of language

Looking at the sexes and marriage from an evolutionary viewpoint, the invention of sexual reproduction became a decisive reason for the development of the higher plants and animals to much more complex levels of organisation. Through fertilisation new combinations of genes arise with new variants and those that fit the environment best survive as put by evolutionists. However, after all the experimentation on breeding plants and animals, still, for example, a cow remains a cow! The creation account shows that God provided the capacity for reproduction. God made man and woman. They were different. And God brought Adam and Eve to be together as one. Eve was to be a helper to Adam and a companion. Marriage was devised by God as Jesus Himself confirmed in Matthew 19:4-6. Of course evolution says there were no matrimonial unions but group marriage existed which had no rules. From this, a progression from a matriarchy to a patriarchy is assumed by evolutionist. But marriage as shown was created from creation and the family is not a human convention. The family pattern has been developed by God as plainly shown in the New Testament. The ideas portrayed by society today are ideas that have come about through post Christian rejection of anything that is scripture.

For the evolutionist, there are four basic tenets in regards to death. Death is an essential prerequisite for evolution since without death, there could not have been evolution of life. It is an invention of evolution. But,



Professor Widmar Tanner, a biologist, sees no reason why there should be death. An axiom of the doctrine of evolution: death is necessary for evolution but the question arises, why is there death? It should not have evolved! Death is a biological point simply, and it leaves no room for life and death. The purpose of life is to contribute to the maturity and evolutionary development of the entire species. This point was directly adapted to communism.. But God made man in His own image and originally man was supposed to physically live for ever on earth but this all changed when sin came into the world. Before sin, death was unknown throughout creation. Everything that God made was perfect! Even now, the Biblical definition of death is to be separated from. Sin brought on spiritual death or separation from God. As mentioned it also brought on physical death which leads to eternal death or eternal separation from God. The connection between God and humanity collapsed when sin entered the world. Eternal life or death is the final destination of our existence. We can have eternal life through faith in Jesus or eternal death through faith in ourselves. This is the link between redemption and death. Man and woman now must chose what they want, living a life for God or a life of sin that leads to eternal damnation in hell.

Evolutionists say that civilization went from polytheism to monotheism but creationist say that it was monotheism to polytheism. In studying the history of Middle Eastern ancient civilizations there is evidence that monotheism ruled at a former time. There are no historical grounds for transferring evolutionary concepts to the origin of religions. Biblical doctrines are reduced to the level of human endeavour. The evolutionists turn God into the image of man as they do not want to be God's image. We know that the wonders seen in creation lead to the conclusion that a Creator must have been at work. Our own conscience bears witness that we are guilty before God. Cain and Abel demonstrated the difference between man's religious way and God's way. God's way brings eternal salvation; the religions of the world obstruct the way to redemption. In the evolutionary system, the body/soul/spirit reality of man is the victim of the improper reductionism.

They only differ in their degree of complexity. Marx and Engels said that the material world is the only reality. But matter is not a mental precept, only the brain is. Mental evolution is regarded as a third type, after chemical and organic evolution. But whenever the mind and its origin is mentioned in evolutionary statements, these are never based on scientific results, but always on evolutionistic presuppositions. This shows again that evolution is not the result of scientific research. It is impossible to understand human nature apart from Biblical revelation. In regards to this, all philosophies including evolution are based on the assumption that man is inherently good, e.g. humanism and Marxism. Many statements confirm the unanimous opinion that man is aggressive and selfish. An irrefutable conclusion is that hate and aggression and the tendency to kill are inherent; murder, homicide, torture, and genocide characterise the cultural history of man. In Genesis 8:21, it says that every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. Psalm 14:3: They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. Man was not created evil, but only became evil after he had sinned. If man is sinful, then he requires salvation.

3. *Astronomical Observations:* In the origin of the universe, if the universe began, that means accepting it appeared suddenly out of nothing. According to the standard evolutionary cosmological model the universe originated in the so called big bang. It assumed a constant rate of expansion and its age come basically from guess work or arbitrary. Steven Weinberg says that this theory is pure speculation. The two scientific objections to the big bang model is that 98 per cent of the rotational energy of the solar system is found in the planets, although they only comprise 1 per cent of the total mass. This ratio excludes the possibility that the earth and the other planets could have been formed from the mass of the sun. Also the earth possesses a large number of astronomical and physical peculiarities which make life on earth possible. The Bible describes the universe in various terms. Genesis mentions the heavens and the earth and describes God as the Creator of a completed universe. Evolution sees no temporal end to the universe. Gravity is

the driving force that keeps an eternally expanding universe and the open cosmos history has no end. But scientifically, we don't know whether we live in an open universe or a closed one. No scientifically based projections can be made in regards to it. The Bible doesn't show the world as being in a state of continual development but it is subject to decay. All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll as it says in Isaiah 34:4. In Isaiah 51:6, the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment. In 2 Peter 3:10, 13: the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. What ever we consider or think are insignificant when one looks at the consequences of the big bang hypothesis. Present astronomical knowledge recognises no singular geometrical point in our universe in accordance with evolutionary ideas. Therefore, there is no geometrical centre and also no defined edge. No place in the universe has a special position. According to the Bible, the earth occupies the central position because of its God-given role, even though it may not be in the geometrical centre. God created the earth first thus His attention was focused on this planet. Earth and His people has always been His main focus.

4. Biological Observations: The evolutionary view is life originated within the primeval soup. After organisms developed, somewhere in time, this developed to higher life forms. This presupposes a transition from life in the water to being able to live on land. Problems associated with this are body weight, breathing, disposal of body wastes, evaporation and dehydration and temperature fluctuations. The Biblical creation, aquatic animals were created on the fifth day, plants were created on the third day and multi-cellular organisms and God created man on land from the dust. Kinds for the biologists include those of a fertile community existing under natural conditions which possesses the same construction plan. Evolution considers all categories as related together but the essential quantity in all life forms is the information contained in the genes. The development of embryos is a process which is controlled and guided by information but this is not just a

simple process. This includes a finely balanced genome that determines the orderly development of a living being. But the evolutionists assume that simple construction plans could produce more complex plans by means of mutations and selection. This is false according to information theory where no such event has ever been observed. In fact, the main result of heredity is to continue with same characteristics and remain constant. Still, the resulting of cross-breeding, the basic type remains. For the evolutionists, mankind is supposed to have descended directly from the animal kingdom by means of the same process involving the same evolutionary factors which caused animals to evolve. The so-called proofs for evolution based on homologies emphasise the idea of descent from common ancestors and considers humanity just another animal. But science acknowledges the gap between man and animal. The human brain alone and its explicit mental capabilities possess qualities that can't be compared to an animal. What about human ability of speech. He has the unique ability to pay attention to various matters at will. And only mankind is fully bipedal; our hands are not required for moving about. Plus, only mankind has the ability to express emotions. The Bible clearly separates man and animal. Mankind has one kind of flesh while animals have another and birds and fish have yet another. Man was created in the image of God and set apart from land animals. It was only man that received that breath of God and God used his hands to form man and then him the Holy Spirit. Man also has free will and has the ability to think creatively. Man was created to be near and close to God and can actually communicate with God.

5. *Informational Science Observations:* Information, here, is biological information. It is a fundamental principle of life or rather the transfer of information. This requires a way to carry it to storage and also a control of the processes. It also requires a code to represent ideas which is information. This information also has certain characteristics such as syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Transmitting information requires a sender and receiving information requires a receiver. One must also realize that

information is not alive; it is not a probabilistic entity. Any type of mutation and selection cannot produce new information. The Biblical view of information looks at it from a syntactic viewpoint where code is based on mutual agreement. There is also a semantic aspect where language is a carrier of meaning. As the Bible says, ‘therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.’ We’ve seen that evolutionists regard life as a material process: ability to procreate, mutate, change and evolve. This leads to a simple formula: Life = complex matter = a function of chemistry and physics. The information view of life says that matter energy are necessary aspects of living form but this doesn’t distinguish between living and inanimate systems. But information is a basic characteristic of sentient beings and these form information processing systems. For example, the nervous system serves as the communication network for all relevant information for controlling the operation of all organic systems. From the informational view of life we can formulate another equation: Life = material part (physical and chemical aspects) + non-material part (information having an intellectual source). This comprises a radical difference over and against the formula as presented by evolution. Interestingly at the moment of death the totality of DNA information is still present in all the cells. The soul of man is not an ordinary engine; it only reveals itself in the nature of man. It can’t be tested physically or chemically. This part of the non-material part of man has been put there by the Creator. Thus a Biblical formula is stated in this way: Life = material part (structural appearance) + non-material part = the structural, operational, and communication information encoded by God + non-material part 2 (soul and spirit).

6. Progressive Evolution or Complete Creation: According to evolution, the entire cosmos, our earth and all life forms resulted from an extremely slow process of development from the simple to the complex, from barely structured to higher forms of organisation, from inanimate to animate, and from low life forms to higher levels and this process is still going on. It

says that cosmos went through this process beginning with a singularity of immense density and temperature and with the big bang. Man and animals are not seen as completed creatures. Humans are also continuing in this development also. But the Bible says that the cosmos was created directly by God in one week. It was finished and complete. Changes that has happened since then has only resulted in diversification within the original kinds.

7. The Consequences of Theistic Evolution: The Bible is the authoritative source of information. The entire Bible bears witness to this truth from God. The two testaments complement each other. The New Testament is the fulfilment of the Old Testament. Everything was consummated in Christ. The Old Testament can be viewed as a ramp leading up to the New Testament, but the Old Testament can only be understood from the viewpoint of the New Testament.

Nowhere in the Bible are there any indications that the creation account should be understood in any other way than as a factual report. But the doctrine of theistic evolution tries to undermine this basic way of reading the Bible as stated by Jesus and that's the same Bible we have today. Following the ideals of theistic evolutions leads to the abandonment of central Biblical teachings and

disobey God. The Bible says very clearly in 1 Samuel 15:23b: because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you.

Jesus reveals God to us as our father in Heaven Who is absolutely perfect. God is omnipotent; He is the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change. If a God with these characteristics creates something, then His works could only be perfect. But the Darwinistic principle of the survival of the fittest means that superior organisms will win the battle for survival. Death elevates life in evolution. Anyone who supports theistic evolution will eventually regard sin as a harmless evolutionary factor. Thus what Jesus did



on the cross to redeem us from sin will become absurd to the theistic evolutionist. This just shows the perverting power of sin in any person's life. The Bible explains that man has completely been ensnared by sin after Adam's fall. Only those people who realise that they are sinful and lost will seek the Saviour. Since sin is made meaningless by evolution people will no longer have the key to seek God. For the theistic evolutionist, God's incarnation becomes incidental. As Christians we know that the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ is one of the basic teachings of the Bible. The Bible clearly says that every spirit that acknowledges Jesus has come in the flesh from God and any spirit that does not, is the spirit of the anti-Christ. Neither does theistic evolution acknowledge that Adam was the first man nor was he created directly by God. It becomes a mythical tale for the theistic evolutionist. Not accepting Adam and Eve consequently affect the word of redemption of Jesus Christ and His death on the Cross. The Biblical Chronology has a beginning and end. The given measures of Biblical time are corrupted by the theistic evolutionist. Theistic evolutionists write such statements as, 'no serious biologist doubts the fact that evolution has happened, nor that all living creatures are cousins of one another's', but this essay has stated time and time again that evolution doesn't even qualify as a scientific theory. The frequently quoted transitional forms and missing links have never been found. Furthermore, evolutionists have missed the purpose of creation and the Bible: man is God's purpose with creation, man is the object of God's life, man is the purpose of God's plan of redemption, he is the purpose of the mission of God's Son, Man is the purpose of God's inheritance and heaven is man's destination. Unlike evolution, in theistic evolution Christian concepts are being integrated with these ideas.

Werner Gitt has given us a detailed account of the differences between evolution, scientific thought and Biblical truths. One of the points that has come clear is that evolution is not even a scientific theory. These evolutionary ideas have 'evolved' into false statements of affirmation by so many. They make statements about biology, palaeontology, genetics and so

many other things that have no scientific backing whatsoever. Theistic evolution is not just a statement or slight difference that can be easily accepted but it becomes a virus that infiltrates every aspect and doctrine of Christianity. It doesn't destroy the Bible but it destroys the person who opens themselves to any part of it. It also weakens the state of man by equating them to animals. This is shown in the world today, 'life is cheap!' We've seen how evolutionists just side step problems that affect its' very foundations. One such is human language which doesn't fit into evolution. Another is the ability of man to reason and think. Another involves the innate informational systems which the human body has. None of this relates to evolution. There are so many others. Generally speaking, I believe all of the author's objectives were met.

We have seen a scientific view of how different aspects of evolution were supposed to be presented and explained and shown how it wasn't. This part was comparing evolution and how it should relate to science and how it wasn't relating to science. This was then compared to the Bible and it clearly revealed what the Bible said about those same things. I was actually surprised at what is involved in theistic evolution. Christians believe this stuff without realizing what it represents. They accept a small part of it and then they find other 'deadly' aspects of it slowly creeping into their beliefs like a cancer. There is no 'sitting on the fence' in regards to evolution. Even the purpose of evolution degrades the Bible and everything it represents.

In another article, Jeffrey, G.R. (2003). *Creation: Remarkable Evidence of God's Design*; God alone is the Creator of both 'the heaven and the Earth.' The Scriptures declare at the beginning of Genesis, 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the Earth'. But, Jesus Himself, speaking of Genesis, warned: 'but if you believe not Moses' writings, how will you believe my words?' (John 5:47). Today, society and many Christians no longer accept Genesis as fact. This erosion into Christian beliefs is like taking a crowbar to a board in their Christianity. One loose board and then another and another until Christ is taken over by something new. But the Bible

teaches that the Universe, life itself, and humanity are the purposeful result of a supernatural act of Creation by a super-intelligent God that exists outside of time, space, and the Universe. For this reason and many other reasons, evolution is a false faith, for it takes faith to believe it. There is no in-between, it's either or. Sola Scriptura was a calling card for the Reformers; the absolute truth of the Holy Scriptures that motivated this cry.

The remarkable scientific discoveries in the areas of astronomy, the nature of the atom, the intricate genetic information encoded within DNA that controls all biological organisms and discoveries in biological science have combined to transform the world of science. More and more scientists believe that a Supreme Being, God had to have created the universe. Interestingly, evolution cannot stand up to science as by definition, science is the study of things in our Universe that can be measured and tested in a repeatable way by other scientists. Evolution cannot be measured this way. Earth, humans and everything that exist today reveals an incredible structure showing a design that can't have just happened. The universe is a purposely built, tuned and created watch, there is not randomness. Thus this design had to have a designer.

For example, the human body is created as the most fantastic creation of all. The interconnected systems of the human body are essential for growth, energy, motion, waste, reproduction and for the brain's awesome mental computational abilities. It is a structural masterpiece more amazing than science fiction. The brain alone is more complex than anything known to exist on Earth. Professors Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe in *Evolution from space* said that the human brain consists of about ten thousand million nerve cells, each putting out between ten thousand and one hundred thousand connecting fibres by which it makes contact with other nerve cells in the brain. These connectors total a thousand million million numbers in the order of 10^{15} which is beyond comprehension. Each of these is directly connected with more than fifty thousand other neurons through the incredibly small fibres, called dendrites, allowing instantaneous transfers of messages across the brain.

There are more than one quadrillion intricate electrical connections, or synapses, within the brain, making it the most phenomenally complex machinery scientists have discovered in the Universe. The rest of the brain, 90%, is made up of almost a trillion glial cells that may play a very important function in the staggering number of calculations performed every second. There is no computer or machine on Earth that equals this. So evolutionists believe all this was accidentally formed as a result of random-chance mutation. Another example, the DNA code governing the eye of a baby begins growing optic nerves simultaneously from both the optic centre of the brain and from the eye. A million microscopic optic nerves begin growing from the eye through the flesh toward the optical section of the baby's brain.

JOURNEY OF *Faith*

The lens of the eye is constructed of microscopic and transparent living cells. These cells allow light photons to enter through the cornea, pass through the optical fluid, then to be analysed by the phenomenal organ known as the retina. The retina lines the back of the eye and acts as a type of film, receiving the actual image composed of light photons passing through the iris, cornea, and eye fluid. The retina is thinner than paper, yet its tiny surface contains 137 million light-sensitive cells. Approximately 95 percent of these cells are rods that can analyse black and white images, while the balance of about seven million cone cells analyse colour images. Each of these millions of cells is separately connected to the optic nerve, which transmits signals at approximately 300 miles per hour. The retina is the most light-sensitive object on earth. It can detect one single photon of light in a dark room, far beyond the range of engineered optical instruments. These retina cells perform up to ten billion calculations per second in determining the nature of the image transmitted to the eye by light photons. No supercomputer on Earth is capable of matching these virtually instantaneous calculations.

Another example of amazing design is the ‘liver’. The Scriptures affirm that the blood is an essential factor in our life. It is the essential organ that purifies the bloodstream. Leviticus 17:11 says that the life of the flesh is in the blood. It is a complex chemical refinery that is involved in the production of glucose, which forms the main energy that allows our body to function. It is the primary filter to remove dangerous toxins from our blood’s circulatory system. It cleans blood from complex surplus and waste materials produced by the trillions of cells and produces essential globulins, including immune substances and chemical enzymes, to repair our veins. The cells in the liver are capable of performing up to five hundred separate chemical reactions simultaneously. It can produce up to one thousand essential chemicals, called enzymes, every day as required to instantly chemically alter food, drink, medication, etc to remove poisons and make food nutritious.

The atheist used to speak of the ‘simple cell’. Not so! The trillions of cells that form our body and all other live organisms are infinitely more complicated than the most sophisticated and complex supercomputers in existence today. Dr George Palade, a professor of the Rockefeller Institute in New York discovered an incredibly complex system operating within the ‘simple cell’. He was amazed to discover an unbelievable intricate and complex system throughout the protoplasm. It is a remarkable microscopic universe that involved a massive maze of infinitely microscopic tubes as well as incredibly tiny cells within cells. The cell is able to control the entry and exit of thousands of chemical, enzymes, and proteins that are essential for life to exist. Whenever any one of the sixty trillion cells in the body needs a hormone, an enzyme, a vitamin, a chemical, or a protein, or needs to excrete a harmful waste product, the cell communicates with the rest of our body, and the bloodstream sends its vital fluid through the over 75 thousand miles of veins, arteries, and capillaries that reach every single cell of our body. The cells perform complex and intricate functions which include energy generation; defence against biological invaders; intricate communication links to trillions of other cells simultaneously; sophisticated communication links within and

without the cell; transportation systems to move nutritional products within and without the cell; waste disposal systems to eliminate harmful toxins, and the generation of energy for all cell functions. Each cell is individually composed of over one thousand amino acid molecules, which must be arranged in an amazingly precise sequence. Biologists admit that the ‘simple cell’ could never perform their functions unless they were arranged in the precise pattern. Other amazing and complex creatures are the beaver, the honeybee, the monarch butterfly, peeps wasps, penguins, rattlesnakes, bats, dolphins, geckos, hummingbirds, Canadian geese, electrical fish, the woodpecker, and the list goes on.

Astronomy: Up until the 1920s scientists thought that the Universe was static; the ‘steady state’ universe had existed forever. But in 1927 Edwin Hubble discovered that enormous galaxies were moving away from our galaxy and from each other at stupendous velocities. God caused the Universe, including time, space, matter and energy to begin expanding at an extraordinary speed, which continues today. He used the force of gravity to cause matter to combine together to form galaxies and stars and if the expansion force and speed were more or less than what it is, the Universe would either collapse or it would never have stabilized in the first place. The two fundamental forces needed to be balanced to an absolutely astonishing level of precision that totally defies the odds of probability. And as for as the ‘Big Bang’ is concerned; Sir Fred Hoyle said that any such explosion would produce disorder. Note that from order there can indeed be chaos but from chaos there cannot be order. The universe is made up of 4 percent ordinary matter (protons, neutrons, and electrons) that strongly interact with photons (light); 23 percent exotic matter such as neutrinos that also weakly interact with light and then 73 percent of the Universe is space energy density, a self-stretching property of the space fabric of the universe. And as for the earth, it is exactly positioned at a distance and in a circular orbit that enables life to exist. If the Earth’s orbit were elliptical, like all the other planets of the Solar System, we would freeze for part of the year and burn up for part of the year.

The Anthropic Principle states that overwhelming scientific evidence demonstrates that the precise design and finely balanced fundamental forces governing our Universe argue persuasively that our Universe was either designed by a supernatural intelligence, namely God, or that there are an infinity number of Universes that don't support life and we just happen to exist in the only one that does. In order for the Universe to support life, it is result of fine-tuning of more than one hundred scientifically vital values, such as atmospheric conditions, positions, chemical composition, gravity, magnetism and many others.

Daniel 12:4 says that in the last days, knowledge shall increase. And the sum total of our scientific knowledge is now doubling every twenty-four months, an unprecedented even in human history. All life system on Earth is based on the existence of the element carbon. This came about in the creation where only hydrogen and helium existed. The collision of helium atoms produced a short lived and unstable element called beryllium which again collided with the helium producing carbon. All of this took place in the first second of God's creation. A committed evolutionist, Sir Fred Hoyle, spoke about the energy levels in Carbon 12 found in rocks suggests that a super intellect adjusted physics, as well as chemistry and biology and there simply are no blind forces operating in nature. The creation of this carbon resulted in the formation of all the other heavy elements in the Universe that are essential for life to exist. Note that the existence of carbon proves intelligent design. Professor John Maynard Smith in his book *Cosmic Coincidences* wrote about the infinite complexity and interconnectedness of all the fundamental forces to provide what is essential to the existence of our Universe and to human life itself.

Sir Martin Rees says in his book, *Just Six Numbers*, that the fundamental strong nuclear force is the electrical force that holds atoms together must be precisely balanced and calibrated to the force of gravity to allow the existence of the Universe. The precise balance between the gravitational force and electromagnetic force allows stars to exist and radiate

energy. The gravitational force holds the star together while the electromagnetic force energizes the star to radiate its energy. A nuclear strong force is roughly a hundred times stronger than electromagnetism, which is in turn ten thousand times stronger than the nuclear weak force, which is itself some ten thousand billion billion billion times stronger than gravity. Another remarkable essential element necessary for the existence of our Universe and human life is hydrogen and oxygen. Oxygen is the most abundant element on earth, making up 46 percent of the Earth's crust as it is combined with other elements in rock. It makes up 21 percent of the atmosphere is also combined with hydrogen in water. According to astronomer John D. Barrow, water is the most vital element in the existence for life but yet is an incredibly unusual and unlikely element to have formed in the Universe. It is the strangest substances known to science. Its specific heat, surface tension and other physical properties have values anomalously higher or lower than those of any other known material. Interestingly, a smaller planet would not have the gravitational pull to retain the water and atmosphere essential to life. If earth was any bigger, organisms would weight eight times more. This would destroy many forms of life. In addition, without the 23 degree tilt that earth has, the earth's surface would be uninhabitable because of the loss of cultivated land. Without the exact velocity of our solar system moving within the galaxy, we would be drawn toward the core of the galaxy.

Recently discovered DNA was found to store enormous amounts of encoded hereditary information that controls the growth, repair, and reproduction of the body. It is composed of two long chains of specialized chemical arranged into intricate pairs, forming a double helix that comprises the building blocks of the future organism. This DNA is coiled together within the nucleus of every one of the sixty trillion cells that make up our body. Even in the 'simply cell' it contains at least three million units, each unit aligned in a very precise, meaningful sequence. DNA code contains five billion letters. It is the genetic blueprint for life, holding unique instructions for building, repairing, and reproducing every living thing on earth. It is composed of four

subunits called nucleotides and these (not the red blood cells) are composed of a phosphate with ribose sugar together with one of four bases: guanine, cytosine, thymine; or adenine. And the genetic message that conveys the ways organs and body structures form is encoded in the intricate sequence of these chemicals. If we want to print these out, it would require three thousand volumes. RNA (ribonucleic acid) similar to DNA but serves the function of a messenger that conveys the genetic message to make proteins that are the body's essential building blocks that form all of our biological systems. There are information patterns discovered within DNA, and these patterns were also discovered to exist in language such as English which can be mathematically analysed. So, all living biological organisms are incredibly complex, even the simplest bacteria. The smallest cell in the body is composed of over fifty billion atoms arranged into more than one hundred different proteins along with a staggering amount of genetic information encoded in the DNA and RNA that govern the cell's activities, nutrition, repair and replication. The problem for the theory of evolution is that every part of this complex cell needs to be present for the cell to function at all. Dr. Francis Crick, an atheist and co-discovered of the structure of DNA, has admitted that there is almost no possibility whatsoever that the very first life could have spontaneously generated from the inorganic chemical that may have existed in the early Earth's atmosphere and surface water. This genetic code is not binary as such but it is a quaternary code consisting of four letters with four symbols.

Microevolution and macroevolution: Microevolution represent changes within a kind as dictated by the Bible and this happened, but macroevolution represents changes across different kinds and evolution dictates. This is further represented by evolutionists looking for missing links within animals. They believe that everything grew from a single organism. But as of today, there has never been macroevolution or missing links. There have been plenty of 'supposed' discoveries of missing links but all have proved false, misled, fabricated and simply lies. Evolutionists have never found any 'transitional examples' within the fossil records either. And most

evolutionists admit this. To date, every species discovered in the fossil record appears perfectly formed. Palaeontologists have never discovered a fossil showing a partially formed species or a partially formed organ. One such fossil, the Archaeopteryx is claimed to be absolute proof of at least one missing link, or transitional form between reptiles and birds. The unusual aspect of this fossil is that it displays a set of unusual teeth. Otherwise it is a true bird, complete with fully-developed wings and feathers. Then, there was the fraudulently designed combination of two distinct and totally unrelated fossils of a 'feathered dinosaur' by National Geographic© was the feet and tail of a small dinosaur known as a raptor and a birdlike upper torso combined. It was illegally exported from Liaoning Province in China and it was revealed that the entire fossil was a hoax and a fraud. There are also the supposedly found missing links in humans; first the Piltdown Man I and II, then the Ramapithecus, then the Java Man and the Nebraska Man and the Peking Man and the Neanderthal Man. The results of all these 'missing links' were found mostly to be lies and frauds, partial bones such as on 'nail' or a very small piece of skull or whole skeletons no different from modern man. Evolutionists have now developed the idea of punctuated evolution. This says that transitional steps happened quickly throughout the millions of years. Macroevolution is supposedly caused by mutations between kinds but mutation, as many scientists have pointed out, is a mistake, the equivalent of a copying error, and how could mistakes build up into a new body of complicated ordered information? The theory of evolution depends entirely upon the unobserved and unproven assumption that random mutations that occur over long periods of time. But practically every mutation is obviously harmful, and puts the organism at a disadvantage rather than an advantage. Mutations, by definition, are rare errors in the copying of the genetic code. In spite of this knowledge, a large majority of these biochemistry textbooks virtually ignored the subject of providing evidence supporting the theory of evolution. Harold C. Urey, a winner of the Nobel Prize for chemistry, declared that many scientists now admit to the impossibility of evolution and that

random mutations could never account for the remarkable biological diversity that characterizes life on Earth. Scientific reasons to reject evolution are in the second law of thermodynamic that says that the total amount of usable energy throughout the Universe is constantly decreasing. The Universe is running down.

If the theory of evolution were true, these millions of individual species would have needed, by random mutation, to beat the unimaginably large odds against the accidental evolution of its own species. Joined with evolution is the religion of atheism. Atheism is a belief system that excludes the concept of faith in God and replaces it with another type of faith.

III. Atheism As a Religion

Atheism is a belief system with a set of rules that people use to deny God. As sin and evil increase in the world so do strong motives of people openly denying God. I have quoted extensively from an article entitled 'Atheism' written by Mariano and published on the 11 June 2009. I will first look at the development of atheistic history and why people choose to be atheists. I will consider the ethics and morality of atheists and some of the more extreme 'beliefs' of atheism. Arguments against Christianity will be discussed along with a comparison between atheists and Christians. It is easily seen that Christians out shine those of Atheism by far in health, emotions and helping the poor. Christians even live longer! Atheism have adopted and moulded themselves to not only science but to worldwide ideologies which have seen people count as nothing.

Atheism, in a broad sense, is the rejection of belief in the existence of deities and particularly Jesus Christ. In a narrower sense, atheism is specifically the position that there are no gods. It is a belief but that belief has to do with the absence of belief that any deities exist. Atheism is contrasted with theism,



which in its most general form is the belief that at least one deity exists. Early Christians were referred to as atheists because they didn't accept the gods of the Greeks and Romans. But atheists prefer the meaning, 'lacking belief in a god.' They also contend that since God is not real, there was no creator and thus people were born atheists, not religious. People were taught religion. In a related word, 'agnosticism' can be defined as to indicate doubt or scepticism of a deity. In some senses, agnosticism is a stance about the similarities or differences between belief and knowledge, rather than about any specific claim or belief. There are other terms associated with atheism such as strong, weak, positive, explicit or critical atheism which generally refer to a lack of a god belief. Militant atheism or antitheism refers to atheists who consider the belief in God as a dangerous and ignorant superstition and go out of their way to remove it from the public sphere. Others have tried to classify it as religion in its own right, which I believe is the case. Some actually replace God by a sense of nature worship or even go so far as neo-paganistic thinking. Some cosmologists spiritualize the awesomeness of the universe while others, for example, evolutionists promote evolution as more than mere science, as an ideology or secular religion as an alternative to Christianity. But even evolution is a religion; it is a belief system and in many instances take the place of God.

Well, according to Mariano, this was the goal of Huxley who followed Darwin and also Herbert Spencer. Harvard entomologist and socio-biology's Edward O. Wilson also says that the evolutionists now have an 'alternative mythology' to defeat traditional religion. Richard Dawkins, who wrote, 'Is Science a Religion?' says that science does have some religion's virtues. But none of this is new; Claude Henri de Rouvroy, Comte de Saint-Simon in 1760 wanted to establish a new Christianity based on humanism and scientific socialism with a priesthood consisting of scientists, philosophers and engineers. The author states that science is indeed just a faith. This is shown in its extreme with the zealot and bigotry demonstrated by scientists as much as religious people. We must recognize that there are many in world at large

which is very indifferent to Christ, his birth, his passion, and his death. Yes, there are many who just don't care. Sam Harris who in his article *Selfless Consciousness without Faith* said that they should find ways of meeting emotional needs that do not require the abject embrace of the preposterous. In his book, *Rational Mysticism*, he uses the words spirituality and mysticism in a positive sense. A faith in a scientific hypothesis can create a spiritual practice of a conceptual scheme. The *Humanist Manifesto of 1933* states in order that religious humanism may be better understood we, the undersigned, desire to make certain affirmations which we believe the facts of our contemporary life demonstrate. This requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion.

People also choose atheism because of philosophy, science, emotion, rebellion or various combinations. There is a strong sense of rebellion sometimes associated with it; they enjoy living in their sins and do not wish to be told that their sins are wrong. There has become a strong opposition to being told they are living in sin. They become so antagonistic to the idea of someone or a deity being over them restricting them in any way. One such person, professor of philosophy and law, Thomas Nagel says, 'I am an atheist and I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. Gary Wolf, contributing editor to *Wired* magazine says that there is a need for more agnostics and would embarrass people by asking who was an atheist. He wants people to declare themselves. But the agnostic needs evidence of a God to believe and the atheist say that there is no God. Supposedly, Darwin became an atheist because of his growing resistance to Christianity which was influenced by the tragedy of his daughter's death. I can see where some of the people are coming from. In attending Bible College with young Christian believers wanting to share their faith with non-Christians, they could be fairly blunt sometimes and that comes over very personal with those they are speaking to. So, similar to Darwin, Ted Turner became suicidal after the breakup of his marriage to Jane Fonda along with his loss of control of Turner

Broadcast. His breakup was partly caused by her decision to become a practicing Christian. The atheist William Provine, professor of the history of science at Cornell University said, ‘Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us, loud and clear, and I must say that these are basically Darwin’s views: there are no gods, no purpose forces of any kind, no life after death, no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning in life, and no free will for humans. When I die I am absolutely certain that I’m going to be completely dead, that is just all, that is going to be the end of me. It really grieves my heart when people are so adamant like this, for when they come before God their sorrow will be so intensified. This leads me to think of the rich man and the poor beggar who ate the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table. When in hell, the rich man begged Abraham to send that Lazarus to touch his tongue with a drop of water. This is such a sad story.

Well, atheists differ on the issue of ethics and morality; some claim that there are absolutes and some do not. Since they don’t recognize ethics, their non recognition makes it go away. Even though it’s thought that atheists can make any statements about anything, the question is whether it’s viable or not. They can muse on issues of morality and conclude whatever they want. Furthermore, they often use games to uncover the fundamental principles governing our decision-making mechanisms. Dan Barker, co-founder of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, claims that Darwin has given what is good and refers to Jesus as a moral monster. He thinks that things like abortion are a ‘blessing’ for women. Recently in New Zealand, a law change has given women the right to abort babies up to maturity. This is virtually murdering babies. The majority of the New Zealand public was against this but the government no longer listens to the majority. The minority now has such a strong voice that what the majority thinks is no longer important. Baker continues by saying that atheism and free thought and true humanistic morality is more useful and reasonable than the negative baggage of theology, judgment and hell and the supernatural. Dan Barker says that people should decide whether they want to be known as a good or ethical person if they want

to. But this attitude brings on evil of all sorts; what is good and ethical if there is no acceptance of what is good. Well, others believe that one should be good, otherwise others can treat you like you treat them. Some even believe that rape, for example, can play a beneficial role in evolution and is part of evolutionary strategy. This comes down to sick and perverse evil thinking that has no boundaries. Furthermore, he says that if he had the ability, he would wave a magic wand and get rid of religion over rape. Atheists often admit that their value judgment is as random as any product of evolution. Any idea of rape being wrong is as arbitrary as the fact that we've evolved five fingers instead of six. We cannot admit that things might be good or evil, cruel or kind.

Thus atheism defines evil as being based on personal preferences. In teaching English as a second language, we have a set of verbs known as modal verbs. These verbs include words like may, might, should, could, need to, ought to, would, etc. So, the idea of 'should' or any word that expresses a need for permission goes against the argument for the problem of evil without first providing an absolute definition of evil. Atheism discredits condemnation and condemnation discredits atheism. To them condemnation is just an expression of personal moral preferences. However, they are able to think through moral issues and come to a conclusion. Just to remind you, I'm quoting from Mariano again here; the Greek philosopher Epicurus said, 'if a perfectly good God exists, there is no evil in the world. Since there is evil, no God exists. This is false dichotomy, of course, since a perfectly good God would allow free will thus his syllogism fails. This idea actually comes from the idea of 'Euthyphro Dilemma' which was fostered by Plato in 380 BC and also Socrates. More specifically, the question is phrased, 'is something good because God proclaims it to be good or does God proclaim something to be good because it is good?' The next point states, 'does God proclaim something to be good, because it is good?' But for the Christian, God does not merely exhibit attributes but He is the attributes. He did not arbitrarily invent ethics since His very nature is the ethos. Perfect goodness is an essential part of His character, not something outside Him, thus goodness reflects the nature of

God. It does not come from His commandments. Interestingly, the fact that evil is in the world, it is one of the very best reasons for rejecting atheism.

The extremists of atheism say, for example, that if parents who are raising their children according to their own faith; this should be considered, ‘child abuse.’ Don’t think this is silly; we hear statements like this more and more in these days. Furthermore, they say, placing a label on a child as being Muslim or Christian or any such names is also child abuse. Hitler, in fact, said the same thing, ‘It is evil to label children with their parents’ religion.’ But look at what Hitler did, he mass murdered six million people during his short time in power. Interestingly, atheists would deny this to children but would not deny their own teachings to children. Furthermore, this thinking is what drove Stalin, Hitler and Mao into killing one hundred million people. Many atheists put forth questions such as ‘why would God?’ or ‘If God was...’ with their own presupposed attributes of God. Another favourite question is, ‘who made God?’ They simply do not accept that since God is outside of time, He is uncaused and uncausable and in God’s timeless realm there is no such question as ‘Who made God?’ since this is a time space domain based question which simply does not apply. Atheists have even used science to make their arguments appear sounder. They even use science as a way to get atheistic thinking into the classroom. This argument encapsulates the denial of God from the standpoint that it’s not natural because it doesn’t have a physical nature. They say that the supernatural can not exist nor occur because this goes against the laws of nature. But from a Christian view, God created the laws and He holds the patent on them. He put them into place and can manipulate them as He sees fit.

In terms of beginnings, many scientists have a hard time agreeing on when, where and – most important – how life first emerged on the earth. “Julius Rebek, Jr. ... created a synthetic organic molecule that could replicate itself.” Gerald F. Joyce stated that these created molecules, “only replicate in highly artificial, unnatural conditions.” “Even if scientists do create something with lifelike properties in the laboratory, they must still wonder:

All, too often, you will hear about incredible claims in regards to findings in secular and scientific realms that seemingly go against Christianity. However, nothing goes against God but know that God is in control regardless of those who believe differently.” Yet, we have also heard that the simplest bacterium is so complicated from the point of view of a chemist that it is almost impossible to imagine how it happened. But atheists continue to use science and evolution collectively to re-direct attention from Biblical answers of life recomposing these questions as if there has never been an answer to them and then turning it all into a world view. Questions like what our life means; why we are here and where we came from! Richard Dawkins even says that Darwin made it possible to become an intellectually fulfilled atheist by theorizing evolution into a story. This story replaces the story of Christ and redemptive plan for us. Dawkins goes on to indicate, even though the story of evolution is not real, it’s a believable substitute.

Yet, in spite of this, it is seen that conservative religious people are much better off physically, mentally, and emotionally. They give more of their time to others for help than non-religious people. They give 54% more money to help out people than less religious people to charities. There is less suicide associated with conservative religious people than atheists. Those who even go to church have 1.87 times less chance of death than those of non-religious people. Christians are happier than those who do not have religion in their lives. They have much greater purpose in life than those who are not Christians. They are less affected with the idea of superstition. And this goes in the face of the atheists and agnostic. Interestingly, church attendance and membership in a conservative denomination has a powerful negative effect on paranormal beliefs, higher education does not. One such study concluded that self-described atheists were indeed susceptible and demonstrated irrational behaviour to those things. Yet Atheists claim that secularist societies are superior in every way. But what about the communist societies of the world of which there is really only North Korea left. These societies took away the freedoms of the people and all of them were cash strapped and poor. It took

away all the incentives of the people to work. Basically communism didn't work. These were the height of atheistic societies. In addition, of those countries, fifty-two atheist leaders had over 148 million people killed from 1917 to 2007. This is three times more than all the human beings killed by war, civil war and individual crime in the whole of the 20th century combined.

To conclude, we have a complete breakdown of what Atheism is and how it has affected humanity. We see how they are making inroads into western society at great lengths pushing their ideology in science, politics and all levels of schools. As they grow in strength and finance, they push further and further using politics, science and education to proclaim their religion. Even though the facts are easily seen by all, people will believe anything but the truth. This reminds me of the ideology of Marx and communism. People were told lies upon lies which were obvious in everybody's eyes but never the less, they believed and accepted it. The Atheistic societies of communism have fallen, yet Atheists are still declaring that Atheistic societies are better when compared with Christian belief.

But none of this is new; we can trace these ideas back to Plato and others throughout thousands of years. For example, Claude Henri de Rouvroy, Comte de Saint-Simon in 1760 wanted to establish a new Christianity based on humanism and scientific socialism with a priesthood consisting of scientists, philosophers and engineers. And this is what we have today. Christians are saying this in the courts all over the world but these priests are in positions that block anything. As a Christian, the Bible teaches us that we already have the victory in Christ! But we learn from this ... we have a hope in Christ that out does Atheism ten times over. Thankyou!

IV. Gnosticism

Gnosticism is a set of religious beliefs and spiritual practices teaching that intuitive knowledge is the way to salvation of the soul from the material world. It was an early religious following from people that didn't agree with Christianity. It taught an unacceptable heresy that was at odds with

Christianity near the time of the 2nd century church. The church did not accept them as part of the Christian Church.

You can easily see many related heresies that are akin to Gnosticism even today. As the anti-Christian voice increases, there are more calls to acknowledge heresies as being as acceptable as Christianity. So, the main reference here on Gnosticism is an article by Douglas Groothuis, copyrighted 1994 by the Christian Research Institute in North Carolina.

Gnosticism is a set of religious beliefs and spiritual practices teaching that intuitive knowledge is the way to salvation of the soul from the material world. It was an early sect that taught an unacceptable heresy near the time of the 2nd century church. With the advance of Islam, those who were left of the Gnostics in the Middle East converted to Islam.

Like the New Age movement, Gnosticism appeals to those wanting a less ordinary spiritual experience. The Gnostic heresy was rejected early in the church and was eventually forced out of mainstream Christianity by the end of the third century. But it was rife in the early days of Christianity. However; then this heresy was encouraged by what became known as the Gnostic gospels written in the second century AD. Many of these so-called gospels are available today through the find near Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt in 1945. These documents were dated back to AD 350. Altogether, around 52 of these documents were eventually recovered. These were indeed an exciting find from the viewpoint of ancient literature alone. They were eventually published in English in 1977. As mentioned, these manuscripts were discovered in upper Egypt. The mountain where they were found was honeycombed with more than 150 caves. Some of these caves were actually graves dating back to over 4,000 years. Many were mistakenly burned. Later, many of the manuscripts were being sold on the Egyptian black-market. In Elaine Pagels popularization of these books; she said that Gnosticism should be considered at least as legitimate as orthodox Christianity because the 'heresy' was simply a competing strain of early Christianity. Of these documents, The Gospel of Thomas has a reputation of being the fifth Gospel. It consists of 114 alleged

sayings of Jesus having a cryptic, epigrammatic bite to them in a non-thematically arrangement. The book is presented as ‘secret knowledge’ and that in itself shows the Gnostic redemptive nature of the writings. In general it represents unorthodox material about Jesus. Whatever authentic material Thomas may have had about Jesus, the book shows signs of Gnostic alterations and tampering. But for the sake of clarification, the Gnostic Gospels including Thomas are nothing more than a group of religious texts surrounding a heresy to the Christian Faith in the early 2nd century AD. They are not lost books of the Bible. Any arguments associated with this must deal with the historical accuracy of the New Testament Gospels which centres on Jesus, the Christ, and the promised Messiah who inaugurates the kingdom of God with power. In addition, the Gnostic Gospels are an entirely different genre of material. These documents are simply not New Testament materials. The actual integrity, authenticity and veracity of these documents are all in question. They just do not match to the integrity and authenticity and of the New Testament documents.

With the introduction of the New Age movement, interest in Gnosticism re-surfaced. And so to the Gnostics, Jesus was an illumined Illuminator. The basic Gnostic and also Buddhist idea is that like Jesus, we can have the Christ nature in us. This is an awakening of the power or enter-knowledge in us being mystical in nature. In other words, we can become, not like God, but God. This knowledge is limited to the gnostic few who break through to the surface of the esoteric spiritual knowledge of God. Gnosticism was further supported by recent publications such as the ‘Journal of Western Inner Traditions,’ a Gnostic publication that began in 1985 and by 1990 reported a circulation of 11,000 copies. In Palo Alto, the Church of Gnostic Mysteries is associated with a group of 40 to 60 people. Each Sunday, readings are held from the Gnostic ancient books mentioned above. As already mentioned, Gnosticism just presents another avenue to those attracted to the New Age Movement. Yet, the Gnostic documents present themselves as an explanation of the origin and operation of the universe. Some 52 texts were

what was left. There was the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Philip plus the Gospel of Truth and the Gospel to the Egyptians. Many of these manuscripts were actually Coptic translations. They were dated anywhere between 120 to 400 AD.

And with Gnosticism, there is the rejection of matter as illusory, evil, or, at most, second-best. New Agers should realize that this is at odds with their own philosophy regarding the value of nature and the need for an ecological awareness and ethic. The texts of some of the manuscripts tells a different story of creation where Adam and Eve were threatened by death. The following are two pages from the Gospel of Thomas.

It seems that a variety of esoteric groups have roots in Gnosticism. To the Gnostics, the universe was created by a lesser god through ignorance. The ‘Gospel of Philip’ says that the world came about through a mistake. This was caused by a ‘fall out’ between the Father-God and substandard deity who demands worship and even proclaims supremacy as the one true God. The being is not the Ultimate Reality. This entity accidentally infused into humanity the ability to become one with God. This is done through the liberation of humans from the so-called matrix of matter. Gnostic literature presents a redeemer figure, like

Christ, who descended from the spiritual realm with a message of ‘self-redemption.’ Christ did not come as a sacrifice for sin but as a Revealer, nor is Christ the creator-god revealed in the Old Testament. Jesus speaks of the kingdom being inside you and outside of you. Other cryptic statements like, ‘When you come to know yourself, then you will become known,’ are common. Most of these statements focus the person on self and the divine spark within you. The heart of the human problem is



ignorance (see how this relates to Hinduism?) but Jesus redeems a person from such ignorance. One such document, the teaching of Valentinus says, ‘his death is life for many,’ but Gnostics say this is Jesus imparting the ‘gnosis’ not removing sin. The Gospel of Truth sees the crucifixion as discovering the divine self within. In the Treatise on the Resurrection, the resurrection of Jesus is affirmed, ‘do not think the resurrection is an illusion. It is no illusion, but it is truth! Indeed, it is more fitting to say that the world is an illusion rather than the resurrection.’ In the resurrection of Jesus, secret wisdom was imparted to a selected few. After his suffering, he showed himself to these people and presented proof that he was alive. Interestingly there seems to be a division of Jesus from the Christ. In Valentinus, Christ descended on Jesus at his baptism and left before his death. In the gospel of the Egyptians, the ultimate reality is said to be the, ‘unrevealable, unmarked, ageless, unproclaim-able Father.’ But the early Christian theologian Irenaeus (disciple of Polycarp, who himself was a disciple of the apostle John) affirms that Jesus was, is and always will be, the Christ. He says: ‘The Gospel ... knew no other son of man but Him who was of Mary, who also suffered; and no Christ who flew away from Jesus before the passion; but Jesus Christ the Son of God, and that this same suffered and rose again. One such manuscript read:

For I am the first and the last. I am the honoured one and the scorned one.

I am the whore and the holy one.

I am the wife and the virgin....

I am the barren one, and many are her sons....

I am the silence that is incomprehensible....

I am the utterance of my name.

So we have seen that Gnosticism is an ancient philosophy and heresy that contended in some ways with the early Christian Church over aspects of

the doctrine of Christ. They taught the doctrine of self-having the potential to become like God. Some of them mention Jesus but their Jesus is not the Gospel's Jesus. The ancient manuscript found in Egypt called the Gnostic Gospels provides us with the information we have today. Interest in the New Age has re-awakened the interest in Gnosticism. I have never studied anything like this on Gnosticism and found it to be extremely interesting and informative to say the least. The Author did a marvellous job in its presentation to the reader. For recommendations, I think it would have been good to include one of the Gnostic Gospels as a required study text. In addition, there has been a lot said on the news about the Gospel of Thomas. With this knowledge I can easily present evidence against any idea that the Gospel of Thomas is the fifth Gospel of the New Testament.

As far as critiques, 'it is said that a variety of esoteric groups have roots in Gnostic soil.' It seems that down through the years the ideas behind Gnosticism have lingered on behind closed doors. It would not surprise me if these roots extended into various sects of Christianity today. These documents that were found at Nag Hammadi were an impressive find from the viewpoint of ancient literature and an impressive archaeological find, but they are not Gospels. I am continually amazed at the nonsensical comments and ideas that come from non-Christians and nominal Christians alike. Words like orthodox Christianity are words developed to show the inherent nature of those who follow the main doctrines of Christianity. And legitimate, by whom? Main stream doctrines are not books or literature; they are beliefs for those who have experienced Jesus Christ personally. Why would we care about such ancient heretical writings in relation to Jesus Christ, the Son of God? Why would committed Christians be interested in any such legitimatization?

These gospels are often referred to by Muslim theologians in arguing their cause. For example, in the *Second Treatise of the Great Seth*, where they have Jesus saying, "I did not die in reality, but in appearance." Those "in error and blindness....saw me; they punished me. It was another, their father, who drank the gall and vinegar; it was not I. They struck me with the reed; it was

another, Simon, who bore the cross on his shoulder. I was rejoicing in the height over all....And I was laughing at their ignorance." Of course non-Christians use these statements to argue against Christians along with Muslims who use these statements to support their ideas on Jesus.

V. Biblical Creation

Here, I will argue against Macroevolution, a controversial metaphysical belief that involves unnatural, speculative processes, outside physics and chemistry. The following laws will briefly be discussed: cause and effect, thermodynamics, biogenesis, mass action, inertia, angular momentum, and probability. The idea of order to disorder or entropy will be put up as an argument against evolution especially in light of understanding the complexity of life. The lies and false evidence as presented by evolutionary non-Christian scientists will be brought to light with examples. Various types of clocks will be presented to show the evidence of a young earth versus the evolutionists stand on an old earth. Along with the above the essay will consider the makeup of matter because it's shown as the basic building blocks of elements.

Additional readings have been done on a book by Laurence D Smart by the title of, 'Evolution Unmasked.' I have quoted from this book a few times.

Part I

The evolution controversy involves several groups: atheists or humanists as they classify themselves which include various groups such as scientists, the man on the street, anti-Christians etc., theistic evolutionists who are mainly Christians that believe God used evolution to create the earth, progressive creationists who because in the gap theory; a separation of time between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 where a world was created but destroyed and a new world was created. Plus, there are two kinds of evolution: micro and macro. Microevolution is actually observed as variations within a species such as the many kinds of dogs. Macroevolution involves unnatural, speculative processes, outside the domain of physic and chemistry. This is a

highly controversial metaphysical belief. Here, it must be said as a comparison that religious belief is a metaphysical system. Both systems are equally metaphysical and religious. Most evolutionists including some religions except for Christianity believe the universe is eternal without beginning or end.

It's important to look at various laws that play a part in regards to the world and the universe we live in. There is the law of cause and effect, thermodynamics, biogenesis, mass action, inertia, angular momentum, and probability. Cause and Effect says that every effect requires a competent cause and the effect cannot be greater than its cause. The 1st Law of Thermodynamics clearly shows that matter and energy of the universe is constant, even biology. In other words, in any action, energy is used. This means that the science of physics and chemistry, for example, are non-creative and non-destructive. Matter cannot be destroyed, increased or decreased. The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics disputes the point that the universe may be eternal or self-existent or that order and complexity of natural systems increase by way of macro-evolution. This means that energy that is used will be lost in the form of heat. According to Einstein, matter and energy are inter-convertible as stressed in his formula $E=mc^2$. However, we do not readily observe energy changing into matter. The by-product of used energy, light and heat radiate into space. This left over by product is called 'entropy.' For example, suns will eventual burn up and the universe will come to an end. Biogenesis teaches that life comes only from life, not spontaneous chemicals. An atom does not have an attribute of life. A lifeless chemical cannot cause life. The Law of Mass Action show that chemical reactions always tend to move toward equilibrium. The chemical reactions that combine amino acids to form proteins are reversible as the energy source that builds them up will also tear them down. An ordering energy that helps maintain stability will eventually succumb to the 2nd Law, equilibrium and death. Inertia shows that an object at rest or in motion will remain at rest or in motion unless acted upon by an outside force. The Law of Angular Momentum declares that radial motion cannot change in direction such as an orbit or condense into lumps

without outside force. Probability denies that time, chance and environment can explain origins. The chance of this happening is something like 10^{520} . Not necessarily a law but a point to consider, the fossil record has never shown an undisputed transition of one kind of organism evolving into a more complex one.

The idea of progressive creation claims that God first created everything in genesis 1:1 and then destroyed it and started over after Genesis 1:2. Those who support this do not support a worldwide global flood as shown in Genesis. Biblical words have been stressed to support progressive creation. For example, Genesis 1:2 where 'was' is used but replaced by 'became'. Another example, Genesis 1:28 where God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it. The Hebrew dictionary lists the word, 'fill' instead of replenish. However, there are references all through the Bible that support the six day creation and nothing that suggests any idea of a second creation of earth. These are attempts to satisfy years of influential pressure of evolutionary scientists. But some of these influences have been caught out. For example, there's the case of the Piltdown Man. In a place called Piltdown Common in Sussex, England, a man by the name of Charles Dawson found some bones between 1910 and 1913 and declared them to be a prehistoric man, the link between man and ape. But, it turned out that the jaw was that of an ordinary and recent ape which had not seasoned. The two molars had been filed flat so as to appear worn by the free swinging jaw of a human. The teeth had been stained dark. It was a hoax which took scientists forty years to discover. It was a fraud and what was worse, everybody accepted it because they wanted to believe it. The same happened with Eugene Dubois who claimed to have found Java Man, another so called missing link. It was a human femur with a skull of an ape. There were human skulls found in the same area and before Mr. Dubois death, he called his find a giant gibbon! Evolutionist have their 'showcase examples' as one might say. There was the Peppered Moth, along with the Archaeopteryx and a few others but these can easily be seen for what they are. Then there's the geological column that is

shown in all textbooks but is total irrelevant as the fossil remains in the various layers do not conform to it. In fact fossil remains represent a 'free for all' covering just about every layer of the geological column.

Evolutionists contradict themselves by saying that evolution is documented by geology and then saying that geology is documented by evolution. The possibility of macroevolution is even less than finding humans with the same fingerprints or finding two identical snowflakes having the same matrix! Creationists assume that God created a mature universe during Creation. Often evolutionary scientists throw the property of light travel to the creationist and ask them to explain that. Light travel is measured by light years. If a star is ten million light years from earth, then they say it took ten million years for it to travel here. But we have learned that the universe was created in perfect order and that it is slowly moving to disorder or chaos. It's dying. The speed of light had to be infinite. An Australian physicist did an experiment with light and determined that it was slowing down. According to his findings, he believes that light was, in fact, infinite just 6,000 years ago. It also seems that the earth's magnetic field is decreasing in strength. The rate of decrease measured backward shows the earth to be less than 10,000 years old. According to Robert Whitelaw, Professor at Virginia Polytechnic, the carbon-14 clock began about 8,000 years ago. The United States has millions of litres of oil gushing out of the bottom of the ocean floor in the Caribbean Sea. This oil is under extreme pressure that should have resolved itself millions of years ago. It's already been proven that oil can easily be produced from garbage in a matter of hours! Even population growth indicates a young earth. It was about five thousand years ago that the earth saw the beginning of organized cities and population centres. This was immediate and it all happened in the Middle East.

We see that matter is made up of protons, neutrons and electrons. These are like bricks that fit together in various combinations producing elements with certain structures and properties. For example, one proton plus one electron is the formula for hydrogen. Another example has eight protons,

eight neutrons and eight electrons for oxygen. All elements have unique properties and behaviour patterns. We also know that gravity is a property of matter. Two bodies of matters attract each other. Scientists understand how all this works but they do not understand why. This is the same with amino and nucleic acids which form proteins and DNA in the cells of an animal. These proteins join together to form multiple thousands of individual chemical machines. In order for them to function as a cell they must be organized by other external agencies to work together. Even though these cells are highly complex in nature they are not yet alive as such as life still doesn't just appear when physical conditions are right. There must be an outside agency or external cause in order for these cells to have the presence of life.

The focus of this article has been on microevolution, a controversial metaphysical belief. This belief goes beyond established laws of cause and effect, thermodynamics, biogenesis, mass action and others. Microevolution teaches that out of chaos comes order but this goes against what's happening in the universe. We have order and it's developing into chaos or another way of putting it: everything is dying. There are a number of clocks that provide evidence of this. We have also seen that lifeless chemical reactions cannot cause life. In order to have life, there must be an external agency involved to bring life about.

The most disappointing aspect about the research into this article is how Christians have accepted the tenets of evolution through having a weaker creation in order to agree with evolution. This clearly shows how the ways of the world have influenced the church. This causes non-Christians to question the credibility of the Bible. Another point, there are organizations that are pushing evolution knowing the flaws associated with it in order to counter act the affects of Christianity.

Part II

Smart has taken points which evolutionists state as facts and provide his view and other scientists' views on them. Along with the Big Bang theory, there are others like the Steady State and Plasma Theories. The Big Bang

theory requires a ‘tremendous’ amount of energy at the very beginning and no explanation of this source has been suggested. It also needs to be said that an explosion only produces radiation and high speed particles, not order state such as the universe. The expanding universe is not a result of any ‘big bang’ theory. Images captured by the Cosmic Background Explorer space probe did not provide any additional proof of this as the readings had no bearing on what the structure of the universe was like billions of years ago. The age of the universe is unknown. Various dates given are 15, 12, 19 8 20 and 11 billion years over the last seven years. In an experiment with the decay of the speed of light by Barry Setterfield, it shows that the universe is about 10,000 years old as has already been mentioned. Astronomers say that the universe is too vast to have been formed by a big bang. Many scientists say that these galaxies are so problematic; they just should not be there. In fact, because of the rapidly revolving spiral galaxies, it shows show a young universe.

The sun is shrinking 1.5 metres per year according to Professor Wan Lai of the Shanghai Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Science. Tests show there are a considerable less number of neutrino particles being emitted, about two thirds less than expected. It was thought at one time that the sun produced radiation from gravitational collapse but this was replaced by the nuclear-fusion theory in 1930. But, because of the lack of neutrinos, the theory goes back and forward from gravitational collapse to nuclear-fusion. Stars also have been known in the last several thousand years to change from blue to yellow or from yellow to red to white. There is much disagreement between observation and established theory of how the sun produces its radiant energy. It would not be a problem if we could accept a young sun and earth. From an evolutionary perspective, based on the big bang, the sun gave off less radiation in the past than it does now but if that’s so, the earth would have been covered with ice today. Geologists say that there’s no proof of this. Even in meteors, there’s no sign of required sorting if the solar system is old. Lighter particles should have slowed down more quickly than heavier ones. The famous astronomer Fred Whipple from Harvard University shows no sorting

whatsoever. The probing of Venus revealed to scientist a landscape with a lack of crater degradation and eroded terrain. Io in the Jupiter system is a highly geological moon. In addition, the probing of Saturn's ring shows dust like ice. All of this reveals evidence of a young solar system. It was also found that Neptune's atmosphere contains heavier material like that of Jupiter and Saturn which shouldn't be, being so far from the sun. Comets are also very problematic for evolutionist as they are not supposed to be around because the earth is so old. A theory has been established to support the presence of comets by having a large cloud of comets outside the solar system. This theory is not based on any observed facts. The motions of comets do not even match up well with this theory. Some scientists postulate that instead of the Oort Cloud, there is a belts of debris and junk beyond the outer planets. Some think they are 'belched' out of volcanoes from Jupiter perhaps.

So the age of the earth isn't known. Methods to determine its age provides a range from 8,000 years, to 40,000 years, to 100,000 years, to one million years and beyond. Models that show wind and water removal of soil and rock indicate there would be no land above sea level if the earth was millions of years old. In addition, the earth receives an estimated 14 million tonnes of cosmic dust each year. If the earth was five billion years old, there should be a sixty metre layer of this dust on the surface of the earth. The earth is also slowing down due to gravitational pull of the sun and moon but if the earth is as old as evolutionist say, the continents would have long been forced to the equator. There should have been a six foot layer of dust on the moon if the moon were that old. Nor does the viscosity or flow rate of the craters of the moon indicate a 4 billion year history. The idea of tens of thousands of planets in the universe like the earth is pure supposition, not facts. Evolutionists say that the Earth's Magnetic field is constant and this confirms the age of the earth, but there are two calculations of data, one showing a young earth between 8 to 10 thousand years old and the other showing over 600 million years. At the same time, the energy stored in the earth's magnetic field has decreased by a factor of 2.7 showing the earth is no more than 10,000 years

old. In addition, NASA's MagSat satellite produced data in 1979 showing the field has a half-life of 830 years only which contradicts the uniformitarianism idea that the magnetic field has remained unchanged during geological time. Magnetic polarity reversals can take place in weeks, the time it takes for lava to cool. Meteor impacts can easily explain every geological feature on earth. According to one theory, geological phenomena are created immediately as a result of meteor collision. Australian astronomer George Dodwell suggests that the earth experienced a dramatic tilt of its axis in 2345 BC. This resulting wobble produced a curve that fit with the solar calendars of Eudoxus, Stonehenge, and the Solar Temple of Amen-Ra. This was believed to have been caused by an asteroid impact in the Pacific Ocean. The Ice Age has shown to involve North America and Northern part of Russia along with a large expansion from the Antarctic immediately after the flood which could also relate to the above mentioned dramatic tilt of the earth. In addition, there is living proof of extreme geological processes which happened on an island off Iceland, the island of Surtsey. The island rose out of the sea as lava poured from the volcano. Within two years it had fully formed sandy beaches, precipitous crags, and boulders worn round by the surf, gravel banks, lagoons, cliffs, hollows, glens and soft undulating land. Evolutionists and Geologists have said that such changes should have taken millions of years. Again, as a result of the eruption of Mount St Helens, a canyon system was created, a plain of pumice was deposited, and 183 metre stratum with various layers was formed in one day. This shows the erroneousness of age-dating methods and fallacies of long geologic periods being provided as evidence for an old earth today. Even continental drift which is an accepted fact is only a theory and very little proof, if any, is available, but it has been shown that any such collected data has such random fluctuation as big as the stated rates of movement that little confidence should be given to this data. Sedimentary rocks is shown to take millions of years to form but there are many examples of things like hammers, clothes, tools and even bodies have been found in sandstone that is supposed to be 400 million years old. Stalagmites have been

seen to form within fifty years. Decomposed garbage and materials has seen oil to form within years instead of ages. Educators teach that coal comes from peat. This peat has been seen to turn to coal within a few years under the right conditions.

These idiosyncrasies show up in so many aspects of so called evolutionary facts. There are fossil pollen grains in Precambrian shale deposits where there shouldn't be. Extinct Coelacanth and Rhipidistian where fish was supposed to have evolved into the amphibians but now scientist see that there is too great a difference between them for this to have happened. Any supposedly hypothetical fish that gave rise to a four legged creature is still unknown. Evolution says that reptiles evolved from amphibians, but dinosaurs like all other fossil animals appear in the fossil record intact, without predecessors. There are no specimens of an appropriate reptilian ancestor known before the appearance of true reptiles. Palaeontologists admit themselves to the lack of evidence of the evolution of reptiles. There was no age of the dinosaur as dinosaur bones have been discovered along with the bones of hoofed animals in all the different column layers. And there are over 60 different theories concerning the extinction of dinosaurs; anywhere between meteor collisions, magnesium deficiency, volcanic sulphur activity eroded the ozone layer and the list goes on. Even horses; fossils of three toed and one toed animals which are said to be ancestors have been found preserved in the same rock formation showing they lived together. Two modern day horses, *Equus nevadensis* & *Equus occidentalis*, both have been found in the same fossil strata as the so-called 'down horse, *Eohippus*.

This is supposed to be connected to the early part ape and part human; but this was only a collection of

bones unearthed in Kenya and according to later finds, the animal actually walked on four legs with it palms down like monkeys. It was tailless and lived in trees and is not accepted today as proof that humans and apes came from a



common ancestor. The same goes for the Australopithecine theories which have been based on the meagre evidence of a single front face; several lower jaws and numerous teeth, portions of a pelvis all which have been lumped together to produce hypothetical features of fully grown animals. Lucy was formed by such a collection of bones and imagination. Australopithecus was supposed to have evolved into Homo erectus and then Homo erectus evolved into Homo habilis which in turn evolved into Sinanthropus. But fossilised human remains found in Tanzania were dated to be six million years old, older than any of the above. Mass graves show Homo erectus skeletons and human skeletons buried alongside each other. Homo habilis was invented out of a group of scattered bones with the hands being of a chimpanzee or female gorilla. Again, human bones have been found in the same area as those designated as Homo habilis but evolutionist assigned them a different age grouping! The Neanderthal man was constructed by Boule in 1908 after 40 years, scientist corrected this error. In 1924 two human skulls were found lower than the tools of the Neanderthals which make humans older than Neanderthals. This has happened elsewhere also. Anthropological Association in Washington DC say that Neanderthals were human. The Cro-Magnon humans are portrayed as club-swinging brutes who lived in caves but all the evidence indicate a primitive race of humans. It should be stated that brain size doesn't indicate things like morality, behaviour, or culture. The fossils that make up our family tree are so scarce that they could fit inside a single coffin. The fossil record is incomplete as far as the hominids are concerned and all but blank for the apes. There are two camps that consider human origins: the out of Africa group and the paleoanthropologist group. The first are geneticists who use data from mitochondria DNA and the second who interpret fossil data. There is no 'absolute' theory of human evolution, as it depends on which data is being analysed, what premises are being used and the evolutionary framework being viewed. One hundred years after Darwin said that there were no transitional forms in the fossil records, there are still none today.

Evolutionists say that we have many left over body organs from evolving; for example, the appendix. But this is totally inaccurate as the appendix helps with the immune system. This goes along with the tonsils, also helps with the immunity system. The thymus gland tells our body what is self and what isn't. Vestigial organs as such provide no evidence for evolution; in fact, there is no such thing as a vestigial organ which is no longer needed. And also Biogenetic Law, if true, needs to show certain characteristics within the human embryo as it develops but this has been demonstrated to be wrong by numerous scholars. The idea of any parallelism with different species cannot be interpreted to mean that both species came from the same ancestor. It is no longer regarded as evidence for evolution. Mutations are no signs of evolution providing the individual with better characteristics. The vast majority of any mutations proved to be detrimental to the organism in its job of surviving and reproducing; good ones are so rare that we consider them all bad. Natural selection does not work to create new species. This remains unsupported by empirical evidence. It only enables a species to keep up with a changing environment. To conclude, evolution has been said to have been successfully passed testing by scientific methods, however, these evolutionary happenings are unique, unrepeatable and irreversible. Any testing is very restricted because of time intervals which exceed our own lifetimes. It is easy to make up stories but such stories are not part of science. Evolution is outside empirical science. There are no ways to test it. Biologists are simply naïve when they talk about experiments designed to test the theory of evolution because it is simply not testable. All these evolutionary theories of living origins have simply been postulated. They have created an evolutionary mythology of their own.

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Profile

Dr Phil Smith has written a number of related articles and books. He has been a Christian for more than fifty years and continues to faithfully serve God in whatever capacity he can. He is presently associated with Biblical Training.org in Washington State and also with the Missionary Training Institute in Yeosu, South Korea. He and his wife were missionaries in the Middle East for many years. They attend City Bible Church in Hamilton, New Zealand. Phil has the most experience in Linguistics, Old Testament history and Islamics, His educational profile is shown below. Phil's sole purpose is to further the kingdom of God in the world. His website and blog is *philsblog.online*.

His qualifications include a Dr of Religious Education, and a PhD in Biblical Archaeology, MA in Applied Linguistics, MA in Biblical Archaeology, Post Grad Diploma in TESOL, Graduate Diploma in Teaching, BA, Dip Writing, Dip Business Admin, Cert TESOL, Cert Applied Linguistics, His educational accomplishments grew out of his interest in tertiary teaching, biblical studies and biblical archaeology. His research and study has been an ongoing life process. (Many of the above diplomas and degrees are NZQA, with some having other educational standards)