

Questions Asked By Mid-Schoolers – Part 2

Michael R. Daily, April 2012

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The following are questions submitted anonymously by a group of about 30 mid-schoolers who regularly attend church and AWANA club. They were asked to submit at least one question per person.

Was the Bible ever written in hieroglyphics?

No. The word hieroglyph comes from two Greek words: 'hieros' which means sacred or holy; and 'glyph' which translates as "carving". Hieroglyphs were commonly used for administrative purposes in Sumer. They went on to become a complex language in Ancient Egypt. Hieroglyphs were an early form of writing that consisted of depictions of animals and other symbols that stood for sounds and actions. The Bible was written in the more advanced languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The Old Testament is mostly Hebrew, the language of ancient Israel. Some parts of the Old Testament are Aramaic, a language closely related to Hebrew and used by the Assyrians. Some New Testament passages indicate that Jesus most likely spoke Aramaic. Greek was the common language of the New Testament writers due to the world empire established by Alexander the Great before the Roman Empire replaced it.

How long did it take Noah to build the Ark?

Genesis 5:32 notes that Noah was 500 years old when he had three sons. This was before God commanded him to build the Ark in Genesis 6. Genesis 7:6 notes that Noah was 600 years old when the flood came. So, it took Noah something less than 100 years to build the Ark. **(Genesis chapters 5, 6, & 7)**

Can we travel the universe of the new heaven and the new earth?

It looks that way. The book of Revelation describes a New Heaven, a New Earth, and a New Jerusalem. The city of the New Jerusalem is what we commonly think of as heaven but the eternal creation also includes a new universe (New Heaven) and a New Earth along with the heavenly city. Revelation 21:25 says that the 12 gates of the city are never closed so you can come and go as you wish and although the Bible says little about the new earth and the rest of the new universe, you can probably visit other places outside the New Jerusalem. Kind of like today – if you want to go visit the Moon go ahead, God doesn't mind – but the Earth was designed to be your home. That is where you will be most comfortable. That is where you will enjoy yourself the most. In the same way you can visit other parts of the new heavens (universe) but the New Jerusalem is designed to be your home – that is where you will be the most comfortable and will enjoy yourself the most. However, Luke 16 mentions one place in the New Heaven that is prohibited from being visited – the Lake of Fire. **(Revelation 21, II Peter 3:10-13, Luke 16:24-26, I Corinthians 2:9)**

Did Adam and Eve have bellybuttons?

The Bible does not say. They did not have to have them since they were not born of a woman but God may have created them with bellybuttons anyway.

Why are boys bad at making their outfit match (from a girl with seven brothers!)

God designed boys to be focused on Building, Conquering, Providing, and Protecting. If a boy perceives that "making his outfit match" is critical to success in one of these areas he will become good at it (example: a well dressed businessman or soldier). But if a boy does not perceive that "making his outfit match" makes any difference in these four areas he will decide that it is not important and he won't waste time & money on it. Girls are designed to be a complement to boys so that when men and women get married their strengths can be a help to each other.

(I Corinthians 16:13-14, Deuteronomy 22:5, I Corinthians 11:14-15, Hebrews 11:32-34, I Timothy 5:8, Psalm 146:9)

Why did God make sickness?

He didn't. He created the Earth as a perfect creation and gave it to Adam to take care of. When Adam sinned against God it caused not only the death of man's relationship with God but it also caused the entire creation to begin to decay and move away from its original perfection. One aspect of this is the shortening of lifespans from around 900 years in Adam's direct descendants to today's lifespans of 70 years or so. In addition Man's choice to rebel against God handed the ownership of Earth over to Satan. As a result we are living in enemy territory. Here's another way to think about it. For Christians, life on the Earth is the closest thing to Hell we will ever experience. For nonchristians, life on Earth is the closest thing to heaven they will ever experience. **(Romans 8:19-23, I John 5:19, Genesis 2 & 3, Matthew 4:8-11)**

If the Pharisees said that breaking the Sabbath is a sin then why did Jesus break the Sabbath?

In Exodus 20 God created the Sabbath as a day of rest each week. In other words God commanded that people need to have a weekend. Before that there was no weekend. People worked 7 days a week with no day off. Unfortunately the Pharisees had added their own requirements to the Sabbath that God never intended. Jesus was breaking the rules that they had created, not God's rules. The Sabbath was intended to be a help to man, not another burden, and Jesus was trying to show them that. **(Exodus 20:8-11, Exodus 31:16-18, Matthew 12:1-14)**

If the Law applied to the priests why did they untie their donkey (do work) on the Sabbath?

As previously mentioned the Pharisees had added their own requirements to the Sabbath that God never intended. The purpose of the Sabbath was not to prohibit helping others, doing good, or taking care of your animals. It was to protect people from being overworked by their bosses or society. Because the Pharisees were hypocrites they would make up severe rules for people to follow, rules that God never intended, and then they themselves would not follow their own rules when the rules were inconvenient for them. **(Exodus 20:8-11, Luke 13:10-17)**

Why did God visibly perform miracles back then and not now?

This question is based on a faulty premise. God continues to perform miracles today just as He did during Biblical times. There are two primary reasons God performs miracles: 1) To save His people from destruction, 2) To demonstrate the legitimacy of His Covenant and His people.

Many of the miracles of the Old Testament were intended to show the nations of the Earth that the God of Israel was the one true God. Every nation had many different gods but it was clear Israel's God was different. He performed miracles for them and told them what to do. The gods of the other nations did not. For example, the news about the parting of the Red Sea and the fall of the walls of Jericho struck terror in the hearts of all the nations of the Earth because no other god could do these kinds of things. These miracles demonstrated who the real God was. In addition, many of the Old Testament miracles were needed to prevent Satan's attempts to destroy Israel. God worked miracles to use Joseph to save Israel from famine. He saved Daniel's three friends from the furnace in order to save Israel from extermination for not bowing down to the king's statue. He used Esther to save Israel from extermination by the Persian empire.

When Jesus came the covenant changed. Now God would be working through the Church. In a few years Israel would be dispersed by the Roman Empire until the end times. Since Israel had experienced many centuries of seeing God perform miracles on their behalf, why should they believe the rules had changed? God used miracles in the early Church to demonstrate the legitimate beginning of a New Covenant and that under this covenant His people would be Christians, regardless of their nationality. If you study the Book of Acts you will notice that there is a high frequency of miracles being performed by the disciples in the early chapters but the frequency of miracles slowly decreases as you continue through Acts until, at the end, few miracles seem to be occurring. God has always used just enough miracles to achieve the two previously mentioned objectives but no more than is needed. Why is that? Because God is not a big fan of miracles.

Miracles create a number of problems. For one thing they can be simulated by deceptive men and reproduced by deceptive angels. Also, miracles do not increase Faith, change lives, or help our relationship with God to grow. Instead, people tend to focus on the miracle and not on a relationship with God. As a result God uses miracles sparingly.

It should be noted that on May 14, 1948 Israel miraculously became a nation again after not existing for 1,875 years in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Same people, same land, same name. Since 1948 God continues to miraculously protect Israel, a nation only 15 miles wide at its most populated area. Here are a few examples:

1948-49 War of Independence: The day after declaring independence, Israel was simultaneously invaded by Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon. Israel miraculously repelled the invaders and increased their territory by 50%.

1956 Suez War: Egypt blockades the Gulf of Aquaba and Suez Canal. Israel wins the war and gains the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. Gives Sinai back a year later under pressure from the United States.

Six Day War: June 5, 1967: Arab military command masses troops on Israel's borders, less than 10 miles from Israel's major cities. Israel destroys the air forces of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in a single day. In less than a week Israel defeats all three nations and forces them to accept a UN cease fire. Israel gains control of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and West Bank.

Yom Kipper War: Oct. 6, 1973: Syria & Egypt attack Israel on Jewish Day of Atonement (a major holiday) catching Israel off-guard. Within 3 weeks Israel wins the war, recapturing all lands lost in the initial invasions.

If God told us the details of how he has been saving Israel since 1948 I imagine the stories would sound similar to those in the Bible. Bottom line: God performs miracles today but he uses them sparingly and for specific purposes.

(Matthew 12:38-41, Matthew 16:1-4, Matthew 24:23-25, Mark 8:11-12, John 4:48, Revelation 13:11-14, Revelation 16:13-14, Luke 16:19-31)

Where was the Garden of Eden?

We don't really know although most scholars would agree that it was somewhere in the Middle East. The description of Eden's location given in Genesis 2 indicates that Eden was located relatively close to Assyria and Saudi Arabia (Havilah). Some people believe it was in Iraq based on the mention of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Others believe Eden was located about where Jerusalem is today. Here's the problem: the flood of Noah's time. During the year that the worldwide flood occurred there was a major reconfiguration of the Earth's surface. Pangea, the Earth's single land mass, broke apart and the continents of today moved into their current positions. The flood waters wiped out most of the existing land features of that time and formed new ones, including new rivers. Because Eden was shut down before the flood and the flood destroyed or obscured most of the evidence of the pre-flood world, it is unlikely we will ever know the real location of Eden in this life. **(Genesis 2:10-15)**

The Bible says not to eat pork (pig products) but we do it anyway. Why?

The command to not eat pork was part of the Old Covenant. When Jesus came He brought a New Covenant. The Old Covenant was intended to be a tutor to prepare us for the New Covenant. Through Jesus' teachings he clarified which parts of the Old Covenant were to be: 1) continued into the New Covenant, 2) modified in the New Covenant, 3) not continued into the New Covenant. The 10 commandments were carried through into the New Covenant except that some of them were modified by Jesus to a higher standard. For example, in Matthew 5 the command to not commit adultery was modified to also include not lusting after a woman. The command to not commit murder was also modified to a higher standard. In Matthew 15 the commands related to what to eat were not carried into the New Covenant by Jesus. As a result we are no longer under a direct command as to what we should or should not eat. Instead we are to eat in such a way that we do not harm the health of our body, the temple of the Holy Spirit. In addition the commands against the sin of gluttony (eating too much) were also carried into the New Covenant.

(Galatians 3:22-25, Matthew 5:21-48, Matthew 15:10-20, I Corinthians 3:16-17, Proverbs 23:21, Titus 1:12-13)

I know a kid who watches pornography and I said its wrong. Where does it say in the Bible that its wrong?

The technologies that enable pornography did not exist when the Bible was written so the Bible does not speak directly about it. Instead the Bible talks about the issue of "lust". The definition of the word lust is "intense sexual desire" and it is clearly stated to be a sin in any context outside of marriage. Perhaps the most direct command related to pornography comes from Jesus in Matthew 5:27-28, *"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."* In bringing the commandment to not commit adultery into the New Covenant Jesus modifies the command to also include not lusting after a woman. Does this include pornography? Yes. Pornography is a picture of a woman on a piece of paper or a computer screen. Your friend is not lusting after the piece of paper or the computer screen – he is lusting after the woman. Therefore, Jesus' command of Matthew 5 includes pornography. In addition, God commands us to not covet our neighbor's wife. The definition of the word covet is "earnestly desire something that belongs to another". If the pornography is of a married woman then this command is violated as well. Also, Job said that he had committed himself to not gazing at virgins (unmarried women who are sexually pure) because he wanted to be pleasing to God. Proverbs makes it clear that fooling around with harlots (unmarried women who are not sexually pure) and adulterous women (married women who violate their marriage vows) can destroy a man's life. King David said that he would "set no worthless thing before my eyes". So, that pretty much covers all the bases. Some of the reasons for avoiding pornography given in the scriptures includes: causes faith to decrease, inhibits the pursuit of righteousness, faith, love, and peace, causes our minds to become hostile to God, and leads to dishonor.

(Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 13:12-14, Deuteronomy 5:21, Job 31:1-10, Proverbs 23:27-28, Romans 8:5-8, I Thessalonians 4:1-5, II Timothy 2:22, Psalm 101:3, Philippians 4:8, James 4:1-10, Proverbs 3:7-8)

Will our spiritual bodies in heaven be like children or will we have adult bodies?

Adult bodies. Since there is no time outside the physical universe the idea of aging is non-existent in eternity. We also know that there is no reproduction in heaven. As a result we can expect to have physical bodies in eternity that will be not be childlike and will not be aged. Think of Adam and Eve. They were created as fully adult beings in the prime of life. In Matthew 22 Jesus states that people in heaven will be like angels in some respects and we have no record of any angels except adult angels. We also know from I John 3 and Philippians 3 that our new bodies will be like His and we will be transformed to conform with the body of His glory. In addition passages in I Corinthians 13 and Ephesians 4 remind us that the end goal is that we conform to the fullness of Christ in all respects. Although this process has begun on Earth it will be completed at the resurrection. These passages compare this end state with that of "a mature man" vs that of a child. Although not intended to be literal its hard to imagine that God would bring us from that of a spiritual child who sees things in a mirror dimly to one of a mature man in Christ but then leave us in a child's body. That would be inconsistent.

(I Corinthians 15:35-58, II Corinthians 5:1-8, Philippians 3:20-21, I John 3:2-3, I Corinthians 13:9-12, Ephesians 4:11-15, Matthew 22:29-30)

Why is it important to memorize verses?

There are many reasons but I think the most compelling reason is to protect us from deception. Notice in **Genesis 3** that when satan quotes God he leaves out a few words. Just enough to significantly change the meaning. God said they could eat from all of the trees except one. Satan said that God said that they should not eat from any of the trees. He is trying to make God seem unreasonable. Eve then corrected satan but she also misquoted God. Eve added the phrase, "or touch it". This also has the effect of making God seem more restrictive than He is.

This is a common scheme that satan uses to deceive people. Change just enough of the wording of scripture in the mind of the person that it makes God seem unreasonable or it leads people to believe the wrong thing – even if its just a tiny thing. Remember, satan does not need to hurry. Getting us to slowly accept and believe many tiny deceptions over time can easily lead to disastrous results down the line. The only way to prevent this is to be able to recognize these tiny deceptions and correct them immediately. How can you do this? By memorizing scripture.

When satan challenges you or someone else with a false remembrance of what God has said you can bring the verse to mind and double check exactly what it says. In this way you can immediately identify tiny deceptions that you would otherwise miss and you can correct your thinking or someone else's before things get any worse. If you don't have the scripture memorized all you will recall is a vague or general sense of what the verse means. This leaves you open to satan's deceptions. But with scripture memorized you can thwart satan's attempts to deceive you or tempt you to sin (**Matt 4**), you can correct others misconceptions with God's Word instead of just your personal opinions (**Col 3**), you can encourage other Christians with the power of God's word instead of human words (**II Tim 2**), and you can meditate on His words and learn from Him even if you don't have a Bible with you (**Ps 16**). Having God' Word memorized also helps us reorient our thinking to be more like God's and less like the world system's (**Rom 12**).

(Genesis 3, Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 37:28-31, Psalm 119:9-11, Ephesians 6:13-18, Colossians 3:16, I Peter 3:15, II Timothy 2:14-17, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Deuteronomy 11:18-21, Psalm 16:7, Psalm 119:97-99, Psalm 19:14, Deuteronomy 30:14, Joshua 1:6-9, Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 4:23, Philippians 4:4-9)

If one thousand years is one day to God, did it take Him 6 thousand years to make the Earth?

No. It took six, 24 hour days. There are different Hebrew words that can be translated into English as "day". Some of them mean "time period" or "era" and are used in other parts of the Bible. However, the Hebrew word for "day" used in Genesis chapter 1 literally means "a 24 hour day". So, God has gone out of His way to make it clear that the universe, including the Earth was created in six, 24 hour days. At this point you will probably notice that there is a huge difference in the Biblical account of creation and what is taught by the prevailing scientific community.

Biblical account of creation	Evolutionary/long-age speculation
Earth before the sun and stars	Stars and sun before earth
Earth covered in water initially	Earth a molten blob initially
Oceans first, then dry land	Dry land, then the oceans
Life first created on the land	Life started in the oceans
Plants created before the sun	Plants came long after the sun
Land animals created after birds	Land animals existed before birds
Whales before land animals	Land animals before whales

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/could-god-have-created-in-six-days>

The Bible records that the entire universe was created in 6 days and it implies that it is about 6,000 years old. The scientific community teaches that the universe started over 15 billion years ago and that the Earth is about 4.5 billion years old. Big disconnect! But wait – there's more! The sequence of events recorded in the Bible is in a different order than what science claims to be true (see table above for a comparison).

In addition the Bible teaches that all of creation was perfect when He made it and there was no death but it degenerated after Adam's sin which resulted in death and suffering entering the world. Evolution teaches that creation was imperfect and for humans to come about enormous amounts of death and suffering had to occur for millions of years to enable the processes of genetic mutation and natural selection to achieve the complexities of the human being. In other words evolution teaches that the more death and suffering there is the better things get if you allow it to happen for vast amounts of time.

The bottom line is this. The current scientific dogma (strongly held belief system) is in direct contradiction to the Biblical record on each and every point! You can't believe both. They are fundamentally incompatible. See the next two questions for more information about this topic.

(Genesis chapters 1 & 2, Exodus 20:8-11, Exodus 31:12-17)

How do I answer the question from nonchristians that the Earth is millions of years old?

It is important that you understand a few things about science. When we say, “science says the universe is 15 billion years old, science says man evolved in the following way”, what does that mean, “science”? That type of science is really made up of two things: 1) Real science – observations, experimental data, repeatable experiments. We Christians love this stuff and we have no problem with it – we like it. But there is another part of science. 2) Philosophy – This includes dogma or ideology (strongly held beliefs) and in science it usually is presented in the form of assertions. The word “assertion” is a scientific word which means “to strongly insist” that something is true. When a scientist makes an assertion he is saying, “I have no data, I have no observational evidence, there are no experimental results that support what I am about to say, nevertheless I strongly insist that the following statement must be true”. This is philosophy. We Christians reject philosophy in all its forms based on **Colossians 2**. Accept the real science but reject assertions.

Current scientific philosophy is based on two fundamental assertions (for which there is no evidence):

1) Everything that exists came into being by “random chance” and changes over time based on “random processes”. These are scientific terms that mean “dumb luck”. The scientific community believes in this idea based on faith. Like most people in the general population they don’t want to have to believe in a God that will hold them accountable for their actions so they assert that everything in existence must be here by dumb luck. 2) The rate at which we see things changing in today’s world must be the rate at which things have always changed from the beginning until now (**II Peter 3**).

Once you accept these two assertions you have no choice but to believe in an extremely old Earth. Why? Because if everything that exists today came about by random processes and somehow achieved the extreme level of complexity we see today in the human body, animals, ecosystems, etc. then it must have taken an extremely long time. Notice that nothing we have said so far is based on any observational evidence – just assertions. Once people have committed themselves to these beliefs it drives their interpretation of the evidence we do have, to match these beliefs.

Let me use an analogy. Let’s say you walk into the bathroom and look at the sink. It is filled with water but you don’t know how it happened since you were not there to see it being filled with water. You also notice that the faucet has a slow drip to it – about one drop per minute. You decide that it is important for you to figure out when the sink started to fill with water. Based on your belief that the sink must have filled itself and that the rate of filling has been the same in the past as it is today (one drop per minute) you set about to scientifically determine the “age of the filled sink”. If I divide the volume of water in the sink by the volume of water in a single drop that should tell me the number of minutes since the first drop fell into the sink thus providing me an estimate of the “age of the filled sink”. Using your most sophisticated technology you attempt to determine the volume of water in the sink. You use laser scanning to measure the exact contours of the shape of the sink and the levels of the water. High powered 3-D supercomputer models are used showing the measured shape of the sink. Scientific conferences are held where hundreds of people debate the goodness of the measurements and whether the modeled shape of the sink is really accurate or not. Other scientists earn their PhDs by trying to determine the statistical variations of water volume in the drops coming out of the faucet. Other scientists argue about how much evaporation has been occurring from the water and how that would affect the “age” model. As the research and arguments continue, new scientific words are created by the scientists to describe the complex technologies, theories, and arguments they are devising to solve this “age of the filled sink” problem. Nevertheless, they all agree that even a crude calculation shows that the “age of the filled sink” is somewhere between 3 to 12 months old.

Now let’s change the story a little bit. You walk into the bathroom and look at the sink. It is filled with water but you don’t know how it happened since you were not there to see it being filled with water. You also notice that the faucet has a slow drip to it – about one drop per minute. You decide that it is important for you to figure out when the sink started to fill with water. Just then you notice a piece of paper stuck to the mirror above the sink. The paper has writing on it and it says, “Hi there! Just wanted you to know that this morning at 5:07am I turned the water on full power for a few minutes and filled the sink up and then turned it off. Had to leave for the airport. See you next year, Love Grandpa”. Based on this additional evidence how would your estimate of the “age of the filled sink” change? Now you would say that the age of the filled sink is only a few hours old, not 3 to 12 months old!

Which of these approaches is scientific? They both are. Which approach is based on the evidence? They both are. Which model seems to explain the data? They both do. So, what is the issue? The issue is the foundational assumptions used to interpret the data. In both cases faith was exercised. In the first story the scientists put their faith in a belief that there was no person who filled the sink and the rate of dripping has always been the same. In the second story the scientist had faith that the note they found was written by the person who filled the sink and who also told us when and how He did it. Here’s the bottom line: since no one was there to observe the filling of the sink the question of the “age of the filled sink” is outside the capabilities of science to answer.

If you are interested in understanding this topic better and in more detail there are websites, books, articles, and other resources written by PhD scientists that are available from organizations such as: Answers In Genesis, Institute for Creation Research, Creation Research Society, Creation Ministries International, and many others.

(Colossians 2:8-9, II Peter 3:3-13, Romans 1:18-23, Psalm 104:5-8, Psalm 148:1-6, Psalm 33:4-9, Genesis ch 1)

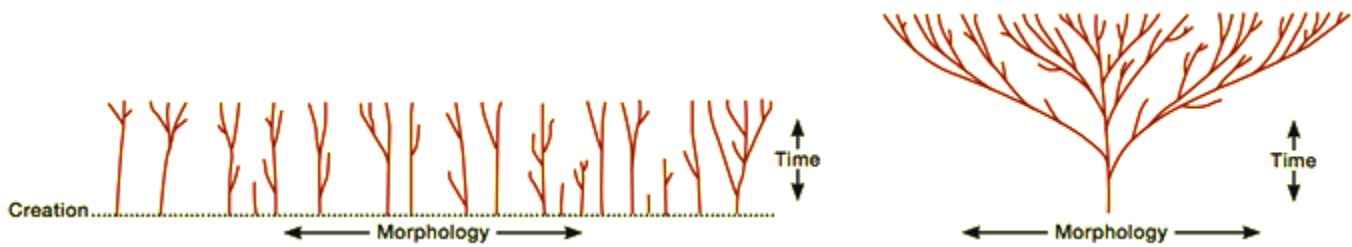
Why do most people believe in evolution when there are so many facts to prove it wrong?

(Please review the answer to the previous question above before continuing). There are two main reasons. 1) If evolution is true then there is no need for God to exist. If God does not exist then people can do whatever they want. Most people want to do whatever they want and so they would prefer for God to not exist. Believing in evolution makes that possible. 2) The scientific community has intermixed observational evidence and philosophy together in such a way that it is very confusing to most people. They believe it is too difficult for them to understand so they accept whatever the majority of scientists say is true. The problem is scientists are the same as other people when it comes to reason #1!

In addition the prevailing scientific community has bought into the idea of Evolution for many years now. Long enough that most scientists have believed in it for pretty much their entire career. What are the chances they are going to change their minds now? What are the chances that they are going to publicly admit that not only have they been wrong about something their entire careers but that they were so stupid they missed it by a mile? Its not likely (apart from the grace of God). Think about it. The Earth is not billions of years old, it is only thousands of years old and you missed it, Mr. PhD. Sediments were laid down and fossils buried by a rapid worldwide flood - not over millions of years - and you missed that too. Life on the Earth was created and stays within boundaries called "kinds", it was not caused by a random initiating event that created the first living cell from which all living things descended and yet, once again, you missed it by a million miles! That's a pretty tall order. As a result you can expect strong emotional reactions against anything that fundamentally disagrees with the idea of Evolution and nothing disagrees more completely with Evolution than the Bible. (see link for a comparison of the two: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/lie/genesis-evolution-not-mix>)

In the world of science, Evolution and Creationism are called "models". Models are proposed ideas for how the mechanics of something happened that led to the end results that we can see. Any scientist who wants to can create a model to explain how they think something happened. These models cannot violate the known laws of physics, chemistry, or mathematics. You can have as many different models as there are scientists. The next step is all of the other scientists try to show evidence that their model seems to work or evidence that other models sometimes don't work. As people do experiments over time more and more of the models are shown to be less accurate than others and are either discarded or refined to fix whatever problem was found with it. So, the question for models is, "How well does this model explain the data (facts) that we can see compared to other models?"

Creationist and Evolutionary Models



<http://creation.com/is-the-evolutionary-tree-changing-into-a-creationist-orchard>

The **Creationist Model** (left) is like an "Orchard of Life" (term coined by Dr. Kurt P. Wise, Truett-McConnell College) showing that God created animals and plants in "kinds". These original kinds were rich in genetic information containing all the future variations that would be needed for local adaptation. Over time these kinds separated into unique species as genetic information was lost or "turned off". Because this process of speciation is a result of the loss of genetic information, selected out by natural selection, less complex life forms cannot produce more complex life forms, only adaptations. For example, wolves, coyotes, dingoes, jackals, foxes, and the hundreds of different dog breeds all came from an original pair of dog-like animals. This variation within a kind is always constrained by the original genetic code of that "kind".

The **Evolutionary Model** (right) is described as a "Tree of Life" (term coined by Charles Darwin) where all life forms evolved from a single ancestor which was of the simplest form of single cell life. Random noise (genetic mutations) over millions or billions of years created vast amounts of incredibly complex information (a blob of DNA the size of a head of a pin contains about 40 Gigabytes of information) which enabled the diversity of life on the Earth, including human beings.

Unfortunately, the observable data, the science, only covers the top of each model. In other words when Creationists and Evolutionists look at the observable evidence it appears to fit the "tops" of both the Tree of Life and the Orchard of Life. The Creationist fills in the bottom part of the Orchard based on ideology (belief in the Biblical account of created kinds) and the Evolutionist fills in the bottom part of the Tree of life based on ideology (belief in undirected evolution). In both cases this "filling in" is not science. Real science is limited to that which is observable.

So, what are the facts?

Charles Darwin lived during a time when the prevailing view was that God created life in all its forms and those forms were fixed – they did not change. Darwin's observations and the analysis by others of his collections from his trips led to the conclusion that life forms were not fixed – they changed or adapted to their environment to some degree. The observational data appeared to indicate that, over time, species appeared to change.

Confusion Point: Species vs Kinds

The word, "species" is a human invention that is not well defined. In general, a species is a group of related organisms capable of interbreeding - although this definition is not universally agreed upon. For example, some animals are capable of interbreeding but choose not to – are they the same species or a different species? To illustrate the difficulty of the idea of species consider that commonly used names for plants and animals sometimes correspond to species: for example, "lion", "walrus", and "camphor tree" – each refers to a species. In other cases common names do not correspond to species: for example, "deer" refers to a family of 34 species, including Eld's Deer, Red Deer and Elk.

The Bible does not talk about species but it does talk about "kinds". In the example above, the word "deer" would be similar to what the Bible means by "kind". So, a "kind" can be made up of multiple "species". We also know that 2 million species would not have fit on Noah's Ark so we know that "kind" is not the same thing as species. A way to think of it is the pairs of animals on Noah's Ark each represented a single "kind". Although we don't know exactly what those "kinds" were we could continue our deer analogy by saying that one of the pairs of animals was the deer kind. If you were on Noah's Ark and saw the animals they may not look exactly like any of the deer of today but you would recognize them as being a "deer-like" animal. More importantly, this pair of animals' DNA contained all the information from which a wide variety of deer species could develop - but nothing more than deer species. The changes are limited to stay within this type or kind of animal. We'll discuss why a little later. It is interesting to note that these changes happen rather rapidly – in just a few generations – which is why they are observable. This is also why artificial selection (breeding) can be used by people to develop animals and plants to have desirable characteristics.

Confusion Point: Natural Selection vs Evolution

Charles Darwin's basic concept of "Natural Selection" has been experimentally demonstrated many times over the last 150 years - so has Artificial Selection (Gregor Mendel's work). In Artificial Selection (breeding) a human selects out individuals from a population with desirable characteristics and isolates and controls what other individuals they reproduce with. In this way the characteristics of a descendant population over time can be changed. However, "Evolution" as it is commonly referred to, has not been proven or observed. One of the points of confusion is that Darwin got a little too excited and went too far in his conclusions. He observed natural selection causing changes in a species over short time periods and tried to extend the same idea to drastic changes over long periods of time which are not observable.

Confusion Point: MicroEvolution vs MacroEvolution

Evolution is sometimes defined as "descent with modification". This definition of Evolution includes small-scale evolution (changes in gene frequency in a population from one generation to the next) and large-scale evolution (the descent of different species from a common ancestor over many generations). This is another point of confusion. What some refer to as microevolution or small-scale evolution (changes in gene frequency in a population from one generation to the next) has been shown to be true through observation and experimentation. Large scale or macroevolution (the descent of different species from a common ancestor over many generations) has been observed to be limited to within "kinds". Unfortunately, the scientific community does not use the idea of "kinds" but continues to use the term "species". Evolution (macroevolution) imagines that small changes (like those that have been observed) left to occur over large periods of time (assertion, not a fact) will cause radical changes in species (assertion, not a fact) far beyond the limits of "kinds" (assertion, not a fact). As Christians we accept natural selection but reject macroevolution as philosophy.

Natural Selection

Natural Selection is the mechanism by which populations of living things seem to change over the generations. From a Christian viewpoint God has built in an excellent way for living things to automatically adjust to fit together with each other and with their local environment on Earth. You can think of it as "trimming around the edges" to fit things together better rather than radically changing the nature of something. The basic idea is that in any population of living things there is genetic variation. Some of this variation is for things that don't have any real impact on improving the organism's chances of reproducing. For example, variations in eye color are interesting but have no bearing on improving chances of reproducing. Other variations are damaging such as susceptibility to a particular disease – but this will also have no effect on future generations if the disease shows up mostly in old age, after offspring have already been produced. Variations also have to be genetic in nature or they also have no effect on offspring. No matter how many members of a population have a finger cut off their offspring will continue to have all their fingers because the change was mechanical, not genetic.

Natural Selection has an effect when the characteristics that vary make a difference in the organism's ability to reproduce. If the genetic variation has no impact on improving or reducing reproduction, there is no natural selection. The characteristic could be anything – the ability to survive long enough to reproduce, the ability to survive a particular environment, a tolerance for certain types of food, a behavior of some type, etc. Offspring who have advantageous

variations tend to survive and reproduce while those without that variation tend to die before they can reproduce. As a result in just a few generations most of the population is made up of the descendants of those with the advantageous variation which tends to get concentrated more and more in the genes of the population. There are four causes of genetic variation (Migration, Mutation, Genetic Drift, and Genetic Shuffling) but only one of those is controversial (Mutation).

Genetic Mutation

Mutation means that something in the genetic code (DNA) of an individual was changed. The only mutations that cause changes in future generations are mutations that occur in egg or sperm cells. Mutations in skin, muscle, or other tissue will affect the individual but cannot be genetically passed on to offspring. The most commonly recognized type of mutation is cancer. Mutations occur when DNA fails to copy accurately during cell division or to be repaired accurately after exposure to certain chemicals or radiation. In these situations the cell would end up with DNA slightly different than the original DNA and, therefore, a mutation.

The Evolutionist believes that mutations play a very significant role in macroevolution. In order to get enough changes over time to bring completely new life forms into existence something has to create vast amounts of new information not in the current species' DNA. The Evolutionist asserts that mutations are the way this must be happening. In reality, the vast majority of mutations are harmful or lethal to the organism or make no difference. There are some mutations that appear to be helpful. Even in these rarely observed cases there are usually negative side effects. For example, people with a genetic tendency toward sickle cell anemia have a strong resistance to malaria but they also experience the severe negative effects of sickle cell anemia if it develops. However, the real issue is what has happened to the DNA.

The Evolutionist believes that a process of random noise (mutation) occurring over millions of years is able to generate vast amounts of complex, new information that has never existed before. In no other branch of science or engineering is it believed that random noise creates new information. As an example, if you came across Mount Rushmore and had never heard of it before, would you assume that wind, erosion, and other random processes, given vast amounts of time to work, would result in the mountain's unusual shape? The information encoded into the mountain (likenesses of American presidents) can only have been put there by an intelligent being of some type (in this case a team of sculptors).

The Creationist believes that mutations destroy information already placed in the DNA by God. In other words when God created a "kind", that animal's DNA had all the information in it for all the future variations that would be needed for local adaptation. The genetic shuffling that occurs from sex provides the opportunities for the variations to be realized. The idea that random mutations provide the genetic information for macroevolution has never been demonstrated. Although usually presented as fact, it is nothing more than a widely accepted assertion. Experiments done using radiation to cause mutations in rapidly reproducing fruit flies have never produced a positive mutation much less the evolution of a fruit fly into some type of "higher" life form. (http://www.pathlights.com/ce_encyclopedia/Encyclopedia/10mut10.htm) Mutations have been observed to weaken, cripple, or kill organisms but not improve them. This is consistent with a loss of genetic information. (<http://www.darwinismrefuted.com/mechanisms06.html>)

The biggest problem with mutations leading to new life forms is that it violates basic rules of mathematics and information theory. Information theory shows that noise (random mutation) destroys information very rapidly and, in the best case, degrades information faster than any benefit it might bestow. The human genome has 3 billion letters arranged in a specific syntax. (It would take 31 years just to read 3 billion letters out loud!). Even the simplest known microorganism, Nanoarchaeum, has about 500,000 characters in its DNA. Any change to these 500,000 characters must provide an advantage to the organism and must fit within the existing syntax of the DNA code without destroying existing encoded information. This is mathematically impossible. Set aside the 3,000,000,000 letters in the human genome for a moment and let's just look at a 60 character string. The probability that a 60 character DNA sequence could be enhanced by random mutation into a more meaningful sequence is less than 1 chance out of 10^{80} . (permutations of 60). 10^{80} is the current estimate of the number of atoms in the entire universe! (<http://www.randommutation.com/darwinianeolution.htm>).

Macroevolution Cannot Be Science

In fairness to the Evolutionist the long time spans imagined for macroevolution to occur mean that it is not possible to observe the asserted changes. Unfortunately, this also means that macroevolution falls outside the realm of real science (not observable) and is in the realm of philosophy. The problem is that the scientist who has built their career around macroevolution got their PhD in order to be a respected scientist, not a philosopher. As a result the scientific community is strongly committed to mixing the observational science part of Darwin's work (the real science) with the ideology part (philosophical assertions) and trying to convince everyone that all of it is real science. As Christians we need to make clear what part of our beliefs are based on observational science and what parts are our ideology (our ideology is that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is to be taken as literally true unless the Bible makes it clear that it is using figurative or symbolic language). But we also need to point out when the Evolutionist has left the realm of science and is speaking from a platform of their ideology (belief in macroevolution and a universe that is billions of years old).

(Genesis chapters 6, 7, & 8)

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How long did it take Noah to build the ark?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis chapter 5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis chapter 6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis chapter 7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Can we travel the universe of the New Heaven and the New Earth?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation Chapter 21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Peter 3:10-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 16:24-26, I Corinthians 2:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why are boys bad at making their outfit match?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 16:13-14, Hebrews 11:32-34*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 22:5, I Corinthians 11:14-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Timothy 5:8, Psalm 146:9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why did God make sickness?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapters 2 and 3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 8:19-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I John 5:19, Matthew 4:8-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why did Jesus break the Sabbath? Why did the priests untie their donkey (do work) on the Sabbath? Where was the Garden of Eden?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 31:16-18, Matthew 12:1-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 20:8-11, Luke 13:10-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis 2:10-15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why did God visibly perform miracles back then and not now?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 12:38-41, Matthew 16:1-4, Mark 8:11-12, John 4:48*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 24:23-25, Revelation 13:11-14, Revelation 16:13-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Luke 16:19-31*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *The Bible says not to eat pork but we do it anyway. Why?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Galatians 3:22-25, Matthew 5:21-48*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 15:10-20*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 3:16-17, Proverbs 23:21, Titus 1:12-13*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Where does it say in the Bible that pornography is wrong?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 13:12-14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Thessalonians 4:1-5*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 5:21, Job 31:1-10, Proverbs 23:27-28*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Where does it say in the Bible that pornography is wrong? (continued)*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 101:3, Philippians 4:8, Romans 8:5-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:22, Proverbs 3:7-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *James 4:1-10*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Will our bodies in heaven be like children or will we have adult bodies?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 15:35-58*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Corinthians 5:1-8, Philippians 3:20-21, I John 3:2-3*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *I Corinthians 13:9-12, Ephesians 4:11-15, Matthew 22:29-30*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is it important to memorize verses?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Matthew 4:1-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalms 37:28-31, Psalm 119:9-11*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 6:13-18*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is it important to memorize verses?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 3:16, I Peter 3:15*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *II Timothy 2:14-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Deuteronomy 11:18-21*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why is it important to memorize verses?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 16:7, Psalm 119:97-99, Psalm 19:14*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Deuteronomy 30:14, Joshua 1:6-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 4:23, Philippians 4:4-9*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *If 1,000 years is one day to God, did it take Him 6,000 years to make the Earth?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 2*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Exodus 20:8-11, Exodus 31:12-17*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *How do I answer the question from nonchristians that the Earth is millions of years old?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 1*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Colossians 2:8-9, Romans 1:18-23*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Psalm 148:1-6, Psalm 33:4-9, Psalm 104:5-8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME: *Why do most people believe in evolution when there are so many facts to prove it wrong?*

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 6*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 7*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Genesis Chapter 8*

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?