

Genesis 1:1-19

Day 1

Creation of the Heavens and Earth. Read Genesis 1:1

1. What does Genesis 1:1 reveal about the origin of space (“*heaven*”), time (“*in the beginning*”) and matter (“*earth*”)?

FYI: created [used in 1:1, 21,27] *bara'* Strong's #1254, to create, make. "This verb is of profound theological significance, since it has only God as its subject. Only God can 'create' in the sense implied by *bara'*. The verb expresses creation out of nothing."
- Vine's Expository Dictionary

"Only God can create – that is, call into existence that which had no existence...God alone is infinite and eternal. He also is omnipotent, so that it was possible for Him to call the universes into being. Although it is impossible for us to comprehend fully this concept of an eternal, transcendent God, the only alternative is the concept of an eternal, self-existing universe; and this concept is also incomprehensible. Eternal God or eternal matter – that is the choice. The latter is an impossibility if the present scientific law of cause and effect is valid, since random particles of matter could not, by themselves, generate a complex, orderly, intelligible universe, not to mention living persons capable of applying intelligence to the understanding of the complex order of the universe."
- Henry Morris (GR 40)

"It is reasonable that Adam and his descendants all knew how to write and, therefore, kept records of their own times...These records...were possibly handed down from father to son in the line of the God-fearing patriarchs until they finally were acquired by Moses...Genesis is still properly considered as one of the books of Moses...Genesis is cited at least 200 times in the New Testament...We can be absolutely confident that the events described in Genesis are not merely ancient legends or religious allegories, but the actual eyewitness accounts of the places, events and people of those early days of earth history, written by men who were there, then transmitted down to Moses, who finally compiled and edited them into a permanent record of those ancient times."
- The Defender's Study Bible

2. What foundation do the words “*In the beginning, God created...*” give to the rest of the Bible? If that verse is not true, what would you say about the authority of the rest of the Bible?

- Who did (and didn't) observe the historical beginning/origins of heaven and earth? (See Job 38:4,7)

3. What is the first thing connected with faith in the “faith chapter” of Hebrews? Hebrews 11:3a

FYI: “Faith enters into the picture whenever we attempt to understand something **outside the realm of empirical observation**...Creationist faith is certainly reasonable faith, in stark contrast to evolutionist faith which believes in ordered complexity from disorder, without any ordering mechanism or outside intelligence.”

- John Morris <https://www.icr.org/article/21259>

4. From what were things made?

- Hebrews 11:3b
- Romans 4:17b

5. Underline the phrases that describe how or why God created things.

- Isaiah 48:13 My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together. NIV
- Jeremiah 10:12 But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. NIV
- Psalm 102:25 In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.
- Psalm 33:6,7,9 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap...For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. NIV
- Psalm 148:4,5 Praise Him, highest heavens, And the waters that are above the heavens! They are to praise the name of the Lord, For He commanded and they were created. NIV
- Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." NASU

6. In the following mark **who** created and **what** was created:

- Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. NIV
- Isaiah 44:24 "This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself, NIV
- John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. NIV
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is only one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him. NIV
- Hebrews 1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. NIV
- Colossians 1:15,16 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

7. What things will people deny as we near the last days? 2 Peter 3:4-6

- List the phrases that describe why they will "forget" these things? 2 Peter 3:3,5a (*How is that attitude/sentiment expressed in 2 Timothy 4:3*)

FYI: "There is no doubt the Bible is under a barrage of assaults today. And one of the primary areas where the enemy has focused his attack is against the Bible's history. Particularly the history revealed in Genesis 1-11... Bottom line: if the Bible cannot be trusted when it talks about history, why should anyone trust it when it speaks about salvation? If Genesis 1:1 is not true, neither is John 3:16. It's an issue of authority." - Osbourne & Hodge (TQ 13)

8. How does the origin of all things in Genesis 1:1 compare with an evolutionary picture of origins or naturalistic reasoning? (*naturalism* = “nature is all there is”; the belief that time chance, and the natural processes that we see going on today produced everything from nothing.)

FYI: “What we know about God, about creation, about ourselves, and about salvation begins in Genesis. It provides the theological pillars on which the rest of the Bible stands. Jesus, the Messiah, has His prophetic genesis in the opening chapter (cf. 3:15). The importance of Genesis for the believing heart can hardly be overstated.”
- R. Kent Hughes (15)

9. Why are both creationism and evolutionism belief systems?

Video: “Observational Science vs Historical Science” (3:53)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP9kejRIK2A>



FYI: “Scientific inquiry properly involves the investigation of processes that are observable, testable, and repeatable. The origin and development of life on earth cannot be observed, tested, or repeated because it happened in the past. So is evolution observable science? No, evolution falls under the realm of **historical science**; it is a **belief system** about the past...”

Since the physical world exists in the **present**, all the evidence a scientist has available to examine the physical world also exists in the **present**. The scientist has no method to examine directly the past; thus, he must make **assumptions** in order to come to conclusions. However, assumptions are unproven, and generally unprovable, beliefs.

- from The New Answers Book 2 Chapter 21 “Is Evolution a Religion?”

<https://answersingenesis.org/world-religions/is-evolution-a-religion/>

“What is the ultimate and supreme starting point? For those who start with the Bible, they use Biblical history – the eyewitness account of the Creator Himself – to understand what is observed in the present.

Those who trust man’s guesses over God’s word **assume** the way things happen in nature now is the way they have always happened. Before addressing the evidence, **they assume no divine intervention in the past**, no supernatural creation, no Fall of man, no global flood, no Tower of Babel, etc. They assume the Bible is wrong and believe by **faith** that natural processes can explain everything.

In the end, the battle over creation vs. evolution is a clash of worldviews. A struggle between the only two world religions: **man’s word vs. God’s word.**”
- Osbourne & Hodge (TQ 15)

Applying the Word: How powerful do you envision God to be? How does your concept of God fit with Genesis 1:1?

Day 2

Light. Read Genesis 1:2-5

10. What condition was the earth in at the beginning? 1:2a

FYI: Void/empty Strong’s OT:922 *bohu* (meaning to be empty); a vacuity
“The Hebrews of ‘without form and void’...served as a common expression for a place that is disordered and empty and therefore uninhabitable and uninhabited – the very opposite of what the earth would be after the six days of creation.”
- R. Kent Hughes (21)

11. What was the Spirit of God doing to the *face/presence* of the *deep* (water)? 1:2b (The same word is used in Deuteronomy 32:11.) *What kind of magnetic or gravitational forces may have been generated at this point? What might that have done to the shape and movement of the earth? See Proverbs 8:27b*

FYI: Moved Strong's OT:7363 *rahap* "to move, to hover, to tremble KJV: flutter, move, shake

"In modern scientific terminology, the best translation [of moved] would probably be 'vibrated.' If the universe is to be energized, there must be an Energizer...The transmission of energy in the operations of the cosmos is in the form of waves – light waves, heat waves, sounds waves, and so forth...Energy cannot create itself. It is most appropriate that the first impartation of energy to the universe is described as the 'vibrating' movement of the Spirit of God."
- Henry Morris (GR 52)

12. How did "light" come to be? 1:3 (See Paul's interesting comparison in 2 Corinthians 4:6.)

FYI: "His only tool was His word, the revelation of His will...The vast universe was shaped by His thought and will, as was each of the trillions of cells in our body. "
- R. Kent Hughes (27)

"So, if God spoke and the world was created what is he trying to tell us about himself? When God speaks his word must be...very powerful and therefore trustworthy... It seems that the fundamental and first lesson that God wants us to learn is that his Word is powerful and effective. In short, if his word causes the universe to explode into existence then we should be able to trust what he says. " - Chris Miller, Ph.D *Senior Professor of Biblical Studies, Cedarville University*

13. How do you think there could be "light"(1:3) before the sun and stars were created (1:16)?

- What is said about God in 1 John 1:5?
- What claim did Jesus make? John 8:12
- What kind of light is described in Revelation 21:23; 22:5?

Digging Deeper

See other instances of God's power over light.

Exodus 10:21-23

Exodus 13:21; 14:19.20

Exodus 34:29

Joshua 10:12-14

Matthew 17:1,2

Mark 15:33

Acts 9:3

Acts 12:6,7

FYI: "The presence of visible light waves necessarily involves the entire electromagnetic spectrum...All the types of forces and energy which interact in the universe involve only electromagnetic, gravitational, and nuclear forces; and all of these had now been activated...All of this was accomplished on the first day of creation."
- Henry Morris (GR 56,57)

"Moses' assertion that nothing existed before God spoke it into existence was an attack on the polytheism and pantheism from which his people had just escaped. Today it stands as the answer to philosophical materialism and naturalism, which hold that the only real things are material, physical things – or as the opening line of Carl Sagan's best-seller *Cosmos* puts it: 'The cosmos is all there is, or has been, or will be' – matter is God! ...absolute devotion to materialism has been the creed of Darwinian evolution and its dubious and increasingly discredited doctrine of natural selection."
- R. Kent Hughes (19)

14. Why do you think God called the light “good”? What did He do with light and darkness? 1:4 (See Isaiah 45:7a)

15. What phrases define the first day? 1:5

FYI: “The word “day” (Hebrew *yom*) can have several meanings: a solar day, daylight, an indefinite period of time (e.g. *era, age*)

- Occurring 2291 times in the Old Testament, it almost always means a literal day.
- When modified by numeral or ordinal in historical narrative (359 times in the Old Testament outside of Genesis 1), it ***always*** means a literal day.
- When modified by “evening and/or morning” (38 times outside of Genesis 1) it means a literal day.

- from *The Young Earth* by John Morris, Ph. D.

Video: “A Literal 24-Hour Day with Ken Ham” (11:26)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFjqW9UBG9E>

Article: “Six Literal Days”
<https://answersingenesis.org/days-of-creation/six-literal-days/>



Applying the Word: *What does Genesis 1 teach you about the power of God’s word? What implications does that have for anything that God says?*

Day 3

Water and Land. Read Genesis 1:6-10

16. What did God do with water on the second day? 1:6,7

- Why do you think God spent a whole day dealing with the firmament/expanse and water? How important are air and water to life?

Digging Deeper
 For other events that show God’s power over water, see:
 Exodus 9:22-26

 Exodus 14:21-22; 26-28

 Exodus 17:6; Numbers 10:11

 Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:36-41

 Matthew 14:22-32

 John 2:7-10

 James 5:17,18

Article: *What Were the Waters Above the Firmament?*
<https://www.icr.org/article/what-were-waters-above-firmament>

Video: “Fundamental Elements of Life - Light and Water. Professor Stuart Burgess. Is Genesis History?” (2:52)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XM7pLucAvLM>



17. What formula did God repeat? 1:5b,8b,13... *Why do you think God put such an emphasis on the exact timing of these events?*

18. What happened on the beginning of the third day? 1:9,10 How powerful would these forces have been? Describe what you think it would have been like to see and hear these events?

FYI: "1:10 *Seas*. As the solid materials precipitated and then moved down and around ...great basins opened up to receive and store the waters...Thus were established the primeval continents and primeval oceans. We do not now know the original geography, however, since all was cataclysmically changed at the time of the great Flood. We can infer that the topography was gently rolling and the waterways were relatively shallow and narrow, since all was 'very good' and was made for man's enjoyment and utilization (Genesis 1:26-28,31)."

- The Defender's Study Bible

"The earth was 'standing' (Greek *sunistemi*—that is, being 'sustained') in and by the waters. The earth is, in fact, uniquely the 'water planet'..."

- Henry Morris

"There was no new creation here, but a final ordering. The world as we know it had been given shape. The chaos had disappeared."

- R. Kent Hughes (29)

19. What do you think was the earth's surface looked like at this point in time? Proverbs 8:28-29; Isaiah 48:13

20. What types of forces and processes do you see going on during the creation week compared to scientific principles and natural processes we see operating today? *What does this say about using present processes/scientific laws to go back in time and explain beginnings or origins?*

FYI: "The whole account is written in the normal Hebrews narrative tense. There is no question that the Genesis account is written as history. 'Moses presents the creation story as what actually happened in the time space world we experience.' And that is the way that every Biblical author who looks back to it treats it (cf. Exodus 20:11; Isaiah 40:26; Jonah 1:9; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 4:11). Thus Francis Schaeffer wrote: 'The mentality of the whole Scripture...is that creation is as historically real as the history of the Jews and our present moment of time. Both the Old and the New Testaments deliberately root themselves back into the early chapters of Genesis, insisting that they are a record of historical events.'"

- R. Kent Hughes (25,26)

|| **Video:** "Who Made God? With Ken Ham" (3:22) ||
 || <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGZNNRmGGU8> ||



Applying the Word: *Most Christians accept the virgin birth, Jesus' miracles and His resurrection from the dead as true events. Why do you think so many struggle with the supernatural aspect of the creation account?*

Day 4

Plants and Lights. Read Genesis 1:11-19

21. How did God begin to fill the earth on the third day? 1:11-12

22. How long do you think it took for these things to appear mature/fully formed? (Which came first: The oak tree or the acorn?)

- What do the phrases “bearing/yielding seed or fruit after their kind” indicate about the meaning of kind?

Digging Deeper

What would you say about the “appearance of age” in Jesus’ first miracle? John 2:1-11

FYI: 1:11 bring forth grass “True creation necessarily involves the theory of a ‘creation of apparent age,’ or better, ‘creation of functioning maturity.’ That is, the soil did not gradually form over hundreds of years by rock weathering and other modern uniformitarian processes. It was readied instantaneously by divine fiat....the fruit trees were ‘yielding fruit,’ not requiring several years of preliminary growth as do modern fruit trees...

seed. The ‘seed’ was programmed for stable reproduction of each kind, through a remarkable system known today as the ‘genetic code,’ the complex information program in the DNA molecule. This system allows wide ‘horizontal’ variation within the kind, but no ‘vertical’ evolution from one kind into a more complex kind. It is significant that, despite widespread belief in evolution, no scientist has yet documented a single instance of true vertical evolution occurring today.”
 - The Defender’s Study Bible (5)

“Virtually anything God would create would have an appearance of age. Whatever He creates would not look like something brought into existence an instant ago...Does this make God deceptive? Not at all! God creates life fully functioning and ready to thrive...Adam and Eve did not look around the garden and see ‘new’ trees and freshly planted flowers. They saw a lush, established garden filled with a huge variety of plants and animals. Fruits and vegetables were ready to harvest on day six. There was no need to plant seeds, water, weed and wait for a fall harvest.”

- Jim Winebrener

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	Videos: “Day 3. Structural Efficiency of the Tree.	
	Professor Stuart Burgess. Is Genesis History?” (2:50)	
	<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXX-nHSnzIs>	
	“Day 3. Exquisite Design of Plants. Professor Stuart Burgess. Is Genesis	
	History?” (2:38) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZQXxwJ0qYs>	
	“God provided food for the earth on day three of the creation week. Yet	
	even a blade of grass is too complicated for man to make,	
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23. List the function of the “lights” (i.e. light generators) that God created.1:14-15 (How does this fit the evolutionary picture of the universe?)

FYI: “The Sun is like a giant nuclear engine. It gives off more energy in a single second than mankind has produced since the Creation. It converts 8 million tons of matter into energy every single second, and has an interior temperature of more than 20 million degrees Celsius.

<https://www.apologeticspress.org/APContent.aspx?category=9&article=1412>

24. What kinds of lights did God create? 1:16 (See Isaiah 40:25,26)

Digging Deeper
See Job 9:9; 38:31-33
for names of stars.

25. What other functions did these lights serve? 1:18 *If plants were created fully formed, what does this suggest about the creation of stars, planets, galaxies?*

26. How has man perverted the function of the sun, moon and stars?

- Isaiah 47:12-14

- Jeremiah 8:2a; 19:13

27. How often is **God** referred to in Genesis 1? Note the verbs describing God's activities in 1:1-18 (i.e. *created, said, separated, called, made...*) What does this convey to you about God's care and involvement in each step in the process of creating? Why do you think He took 6 days rather than creating everything in an instant?

- The phrase "God spoke or said" is repeated at least 9 times in Genesis 1:3-24. What do you think God was teaching about the power of His word?

FYI: "The first eleven chapters [of Genesis] contain foundational doctrines including the origin of marriage, sin, death, the beginning of God's plan of redemption, the flood which accounts for most of the fossil record, the origin of languages and ethnic groups, and the historical background of nations..." - [tps://answersingenesis.org/genesis/](https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/)

|| **Video:** "HOW DO THE EARTH AND STARS SHOWCASE GOD'S DESIGN?"
" Dr. Stuart Burgess (21:46) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwWrLk7V0b0>



|| **Video:** "HOW IS THE MOON'S DESIGN EVIDENCE FOR GOD'S CREATION?"
" Dr. Danny Faulkner (6:29)
|| https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blgbCIK_Cgw&list=PLEVsU6O-XMpGp3x9qnWu7Ndt4i9psZYMA&index=2



|| **Video:** "UNIQUENESS OF THE EARTH" (11:17) (from Design in Astronomy by Dr. Danny Faulkner) <https://answersingenesis.org/kids/videos/science/uniqueness-earth-excerpt-design-astronomy-dr-danny-faulkner/>

|| *"Our sense of the passage of time is based on our relationship with the sun, moon, and stars. God put these celestial bodies in place on the fourth day of creation as providers of energy, sources of light, and consistent timekeepers. They are also a source of wonder for everyone who studies them, from the unique nature of solar eclipses, to the beauty of galaxies and nebulae, to the sheer immensity of space."*



FYI: "Colossians makes it clear that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the one who created all things: 'For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist' (*Colossians 1:16-17*).

We are also told elsewhere in Scripture how Jesus created: 'By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast' (*Psalms 33:6-9*). We see the meaning of this when we consider the miracles of Jesus during His earthly ministry. All the miracles occurred instantly—at His Word. He instantly turned water into wine in His very first miracle, which 'revealed His glory' as the Creator (*John 2:1-11; John 1:1-3, 14, 18*). It was the instant calming of the wind and the waves that convinced His disciples that He was no mere man. So it was with all His miracles (*Mark 4:35-41*). He did not speak and wait for days, weeks, months, or years for things to happen. He spoke and it was done. So, when He said, 'Let there be . . .' in *Genesis 1*, it did not take long ages for things to come into existence."

— *The New Answers Book 1* Chapter 20

<https://answersingenesis.org/days-of-creation/did-jesus-say-he-created-in-six-literal-days/>

Applying the Word: *What has surprised or impressed you the most about the creation account so far? What would you have most liked to have witnessed in the first four days?*

For Further Study

★ “Is Genesis History” featuring Del Tackett (101 min.)

This video can be watched in segments throughout the study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM82qxxskZE>

“A fascinating new look at the biblical, historical, and scientific evidence for Creation and the Flood. Learn from more than a dozen scientists and scholars as they explore the world around us in light of Genesis. Dr. Del Tackett, creator of ‘The Truth Project,’ hikes through canyons, climbs up mountains, and dives below the sea in an exploration of two competing views ... one compelling truth.”



Video: “The Privileged Planet” (1:32:19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmlc42oRim8>



Video: “The Solar System Declares the Glory of God” - Dr. Jason Lisle (49:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaROq87mnWM>

(Amazing pictures by space probes of the planets of the solar system)



Video: “The Extraordinary Design of the Universe” (20:14)

Dr. Danny Faulkner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehKcabNt70Q>



Video: “What is the Light Travel-Time Problem? And what about the Big Bang?”

Dr. Danny Faulkner from “Beyond Is Genesis History? Vol 2 : Life & Design” (20:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8of30xqIU4w>



Video: “Secrets of the Cosmos that Confirm the Bible” (1:13:17)

Dr. Jason Lisle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afXQomQ7Ggo>



Doesn't Science Disprove the Bible

Get Answers by Ken Ham

In today's world we often hear statements like "science disproves creation" or "science proves evolution." Whenever we hear such claims, the first thing we should ask is "What do you mean by science?"

The word *science* comes from the Latin *scientia*, which means "knowledge." When most people think of the word *science*, they tend to equate it with technology, yet secularists also equate the word *science* with molecules-to-man evolution and millions of years.

To help sort out the confusion, there needs to be an understanding that we can divide science into two categories:

1. Operational (or Observational) Science. This refers to knowledge gained by direct observation (using the five senses) and based on repeatable testing. Such "science" (knowledge) has enabled scientists to build our modern technology like airplanes and rocket ships. Whether one is a creationist or evolutionist, we all use the same operational science. Thus, both evolutionists and creationists can be honored for their observational science.



2. Historical Science. This refers to knowledge about the past—in essence, history. This type of science cannot be observed directly or based on repeated testing, so we need other ways of finding knowledge. The Genesis account of origins gives us knowledge about the past, revealed by an infallible witness—God. Those who believe in Darwinian evolution claim to have knowledge concerning the past, too, but this knowledge is based upon the beliefs of fallible humans who did not witness the supposed evolutionary history. Genesis is the true account of historical science, whereas evolution is really a fictional historical science.

Thus, the battle between creation and evolution (the Genesis account versus man's account of origins) is really a battle over historical science...

- from <https://answersingenesis.org/what-is-science/doesnt-science-disprove-the-bible/>

Article: "Science or the Bible? By Ken Ham

<https://answersingenesis.org/what-is-science/science-or-the-bible/>



Food For Thought: "Scientific theories – even those developed upon biblical foundations – are not of the same level of certainty as Scripture itself. Scientific explanations are always incomplete and often our understanding is limited or unsatisfactory. We must remember that science is a dynamic process, and theories change as a result of new evidence and new ways of thinking." - Paul Garner (15)

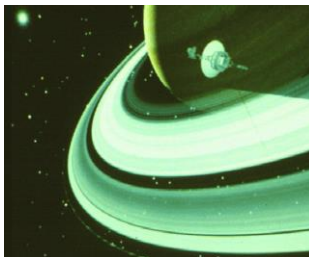
"The only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to 'interpret' it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say exactly what it says." (Morris)

We believe the Bible is not a book of **science**; yet where it touches science, it speaks the truth. After all, if the Bible is false in regard to science or other things that we can prove, then we cannot regard it as reliable in regard to spiritual matters that we cannot objectively prove...

If God gave us a truly scientific, detailed account of creation, written in scientific language, there would be no one who could understand it and no end to the length of such an account. Even if it were written in simple, 20th-century scientific language, it would have made no sense to all previous generations." - David Guzik

Can Scientists Study the Past?

by John D. Morris, Ph.D.



Recently I was called for jury duty. The one trial for which I was selected seems trivial enough (except for those involved), but it contained certain intricacies.

It involved a cab driver who picked up two late-night, stranded motorists. All three had been drinking. Before it was over, there had been a nasty fight and the motorists claimed the cabby stole their money. All involved—the fares, the cabby, the police, the dispatcher, etc., had a different story, and all were convincing. As the jury, we had the difficult job of sorting it all out, of reconstructing the past, unobserved by any of us, as best we could from partial and conflicting evidence. We didn't have direct access to the past, only the evidence which existed in the present and the stories of those who had witnessed portions of the past events. Not an easy task!

When attempting to answer the **origins'** question, scientists are in a similar situation. Science rightly deals with the present state of nature and the processes, which presently operate, in nature. Creationists and evolutionists agree precisely when dealing with these issues, (i.e., with science). All agree on the nature of the genetic code or the array of fossils, or the laws of physics, biology, and chemistry. How then can there be such disagreement about the past?

This present/past issue is the crux of the creation/evolution controversy. No scientist had direct access to the past—all are locked in the present, studying the evidence, which exists in the present, observing the processes, which operate in the present. Science is limited to the present. It is not illegitimate for a—scientist to attempt to reconstruct the past—to try to answer the question, "What happened in the past to make the present get to be this way?" But, clearly, that is not the same thing as empirical science. Both evolution and creation are historical reconstructions, not observations.



As creationists, we insist that we cannot scientifically prove creation or disprove evolution. Both are ways of thinking—schemes by which we can interpret present data. All we can do is study the evidence in the present and see which historical reconstruction is more likely correct.

Present data include the incredible design of living systems which, look for the entire world as if they were "manufactured" by an intelligent designer, and not the random by-product of chance processes. We have the universal Second Law of Thermodynamics, which shows that things become more disordered through time, not more complex, as evolution insists. We see no clue in the fossil record that any basic category of animal ever came from any other basic category. And on and on.

These scientific observations fit well with the creation model, but not at all well with the evolution model. We cannot scientifically prove or disprove either creation or evolution, mainly because we don't have direct access to the past, but we can assert that creation is better—the one most likely correct.

But creationists have another advantage. Even though we can't "study the past," we can study the record of One who was an active eyewitness throughout the past, who can accurately communicate His thoughts and deeds, and whose Word is true.

