

Lecture 4: Creation

As usual Professor Grimes arrived at his classroom twenty minutes before class was scheduled to start. However, the moment he stepped through the doorway he realized that today was not going to be an ordinary day. The night before there had been a terrible storm, and the Rutledge Building's damaged roof had apparently been unable to bear the strain. After years of neglect it had finally caved in and filled the room with shingles, broken support beams, and debris – not to mention crushing his desk and the chairs he had worked so hard to find. The room now offered a clear view of a very cloudy sky that was threatening to rain yet again.

Despite this devastation, the professor was pleased to see that his industrial shredder had survived the collapse. The falling roof had avoided it completely. Apparently even the roof knew not to mess with Professor Grimes. *And class was not in*

session when this calamity occurred, Grimes thought to himself. All in all, this disaster really could have been far worse.

“Oh there you are,” a voice said behind him. Grimes turned around and saw Harold the janitor calling out to him. “You’ve got a bit of a mess in there! It’s going to take a while to clean it up, I think. But I won’t be able to get to it right away. I’ve got four other rooms in the same condition.”

“You’re going to try to clean this up? By yourself?” Grimes asked, surprised. “But why? Is the school going to put on a new roof?”

“Probably not. But cleaning things up is my job, you know. If I don’t do it then who will?”

“But it’s a waste of time, Harold! If President Harris isn’t going to repair the roof then cleaning the room won’t make things any better. In fact, if the school continues to refuse to maintain this building it they’ll have to condemn it.”

“You really think they’re smart enough to condemn this fire trap?” Harold asked dubiously.

“I’ll call the inspector myself this

afternoon and force the issue. He'll come out, take one look at this facility, and be horrified out of his mind. After he condemns it the school will have no choice: they will have to repair this structure or tear it down."

Harold frowned. "President Harris is not going to like that. He'll blame you, you know."

"Yes, I know. It's clearly my fault that he refused to allocate even one dime to the maintenance of this facility. It's my fault he allowed this building to decay to the point where a single storm could destroy the roof. It's also my fault that the storm hit last night, because I control the weather with the power of my mind."

Harold looked surprised. "You really control the weather?"

"Of course not! Don't be ridiculous." Grimes sighed. "Well, I suppose I need to find a different classroom. Are there any that are still intact?"

"You can try the room across the hall. It doesn't have a roof anymore either, but I cleared out all the debris so it should be fine. As long as it doesn't rain again, that is. If it does you might get wet."

“Thanks,” the professor replied.

So Grimes waited just outside the classroom door. As his students approached he explained the situation and redirected them to the room across the hall. When it came time to begin his class he walked into the room, counted the number of students who had arrived, and began his lecture.

“Good morning, class. As you can see, last night’s storm did quite a bit of damage. I’m going to have to find another room for us to meet in. Until—”

“I’ll say,” Isaac interrupted. “This room doesn’t have any chairs.”

“Or a cell phone shredder,” Brad pointed out. “Does that mean we can use our electronic devices now?”

“Absolutely not,” the professor replied firmly. “My shredder is just across the hall. It would be no trouble at all to confiscate your device and walk over there to destroy it. In fact, it would positively brighten my day.”

“Aw man,” Brad muttered. “So what are we supposed to do? Just stand here while you lecture us?”

“It’s your choice, young man. You can

either stand there or sit on the floor – it makes no difference to me. As I was saying, sometime before our next class I will try to find another classroom. When I acquire one I will contact you and give you the details. For now, however, this room will have to do.”

“Unless it rains,” Isaac replied. “And it kinda looks like it might rain.”

“Then I suggest you start praying that it *doesn’t* rain,” the professor replied.

Grimes glanced down at his notes. “Today we are going to talk about the creation of the universe. This is undoubtedly going to be the most controversial topic that we will cover this semester. Yet, interestingly, the Bible itself is quite clear on this subject.”

“But there are lots of different opinions,” Wally said.

“The Bible only has *one* opinion,” Professor Grimes replied firmly. “The Bible was *not* written in order to give a debating society a bunch of different positions to argue about. Instead it presents the truth about reality. There is *one* correct interpretation of each Biblical doctrine and there are many incorrect interpretations. If people are

arguing over what the Bible says then that means somebody has got it wrong. It is possible that both people are wrong, but it is *not* possible that both opposing positions are correct.”

“But we just need to preach Jesus,” Wally insisted. “Spending time arguing over doctrine isn’t going to save anybody. It’s not like any of that stuff really matters.”

“It matters *tremendously*,” Professor Grimes said firmly. “*No one* in the Bible *ever* said that defending God’s revealed truth about reality is a waste of time. That is one of the dumbest things I have ever heard. The apostles spent a great deal of time defending doctrine. After all, doctrine is just another word for truth. You might as well say ‘Who cares about the truth?’ The truth *matters*. Every last one of God’s words *matters*. It is utter stupidity to say ‘I’m going to ignore 95% of what God told me to believe and just preach Jesus.’ The whole reason the Bible isn’t a 5-page pamphlet is because *all of it matters*.”

Wally opened his mouth, but Grimes cut him off. “On top of that, one of the very last

things Jesus said before His ascension was that we were to make disciples of nations. Do you know how you make disciples of nations? You *teach them doctrine*. But you can't do that if you don't know doctrine, now, can you? The Bible is *not* some kind of buffet where you can pick the parts you like and disregard the rest. All of it matters and all of it should be defended."

Brad spoke up. "But what difference does it make how the world came into existence? I mean, seriously. Who cares?"

"Well, let's take a look at it and see. I'll explain to you the Bible's account of our origins, and then we'll discuss society's account of our origins. At the end of the class we'll compare the two and see if it makes any difference.

"According to Genesis 1, God created the world in six normal-length days – days that consisted of one evening and one morning. On the first day God created the Earth, separated the light from the darkness, and created the angels. On the second day God created a firmament that divided the waters above the firmament from the waters

underneath it.”

“Hold on,” Iris interrupted. “What does that mean?”

Rob spoke up. “It means God created the sky.”

“Really?” Professor Grimes replied. “The Bible says that there are waters above the firmament. So where are the waters that are above the sky?”

“I don’t know. That’s just what everyone says. Maybe it’s poetic or something.”

Grimes sighed. “So when we don’t understand a passage we should just assume it’s poetic and move on? I guess that’s one way to make sure we never understand what the Bible teaches. The *right* way to figure out things like this is to search the rest of the Bible for more clues. If you continue reading the chapter you’ll find that in Genesis 1:14 we are told that God put the stars within the firmament. That means that the ‘ocean in the sky’ is actually above the stars.”

“But there is no ocean in the sky!” Brad objected. “That’s preposterous.”

“Is it? The Bible says in Psalm 148:4 that there are waters above the Heavens. How do

you know what is beyond the stars? Have you gone out there and looked?”

“But it’s a crazy idea,” Brad insisted.

“Only because you’ve already decided in advance that it doesn’t make sense. But Ezekiel 1:22 tells us that the firmament is like crystal, and Revelation 4:6 and 15:2 tells us that before the throne of God there is a crystal sea of glass. I believe that the firmament is a barrier God created to separate the home of mankind from the place where God dwells. It was built to act as a protective wall – an isolation chamber, if you will. Since God knew mankind was going to sin He created a barrier to isolate our realm from His. I find it interesting that of all the days of creation, this is the only one where God did *not* say that what He had done was good.”

“But why?” Iris asked. “Isn’t everything that God does good?”

“It’s because God was already having to take protective steps to guard against our sin. He knew what was coming and He was not happy about it. Our sin was *not* a good thing. Yet, thankfully, things will not always be this

way. One day God will put an end to all evil and death, and God and man will live together on the New Earth. When that happens there will no longer need to be a barrier between us. We will at last be able to live in harmony together.”

Wally spoke up. “A New Earth? I thought we went to Heaven when we died.”

“We’ll discuss that topic later this semester. But to get back to the lesson: on the first day God created the Earth and separated the light from the darkness. On the second day God created the firmament. On the third day God separated the dry land on Earth from the seas, and created plant life. On the fourth day God created the sun, moon, and stars.”

“Hold on,” Brad objected. “That’s impossible. Plant life didn’t arise until billions of years after the stars were formed.”

Professor Grimes shook his head. “That’s not what the Bible says. It tells us that plants came first and the stars came second. In fact, it says that the entire creation process took just six days, not billions and billions of years.”

“But—”

The professor cut him off. “We’ll get to

evolution in a minute. As I was saying, on the fifth day God created sea life and birds. On the sixth day God created land animals and insects.”

“But birds evolved from land animals!” Brad exclaimed. “The Bible has it backwards.”

“I’ll get to that in a minute,” the professor repeated. “As I was saying, on the sixth day God also created mankind. He then rested on the seventh day. When God was finished He had created a perfect world. In this world there was no sin, or suffering, or pain, or death. There was no cancer or disease. There were no wars or riots or crime. It was a place of perfect peace and harmony. God even walked with man in the garden in the cool of the day. There was no separation between God and man. It was, quite literally, utopia.

“But then something happened. Genesis 2:9 tells us that God placed a tree in the Garden of Eden – the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He—”

“An apple tree,” Wally said.

“It was *not* an apple tree,” Grimes said firmly. “That is a vicious slander upon apple tree farmers everywhere. Nowhere does the

Bible identify apples as the forbidden fruit. In fact, the Bible actually mentions apples and does not blame them for anything. That entire theory is ludicrous. But as I was saying, God told mankind *not* to eat of that Tree, because if they ate of it they would destroy utopia.”

Iris spoke up. “But that’s not what God said. He told them that the day they ate the fruit they would die.”

The professor hesitated. “It’s true that is how that passage is translated in most Bibles, but that’s not what the Hebrew actually means. A better translation would be that in the day they ate it they would *begin* to die. In other words, death would enter the world. They wouldn’t die that day but they would begin the process of dying, until death finally claimed their lives. In other words, Utopia would be no more.

“As we know – or as you would know if you had studied your Bibles – Genesis 3 tells us that Eve ate the forbidden fruit, then gave it to Adam and he ate it as well. Sin and death entered the world, and that one act changed everything. The reason we have crime,

disease, cancer, destruction, and death is because of that sin in the Garden. If mankind had not sinned we would all still be living in a perfect world. The reason suffering and pain exists is because mankind chose their own will over God's will. They chose to sin – and the consequences have been horrific. The death toll for that sin is now in the billions.”

“All because of that one sin?” Iris asked.

“That’s what the Bible says,” the professor replied. “Romans 5:12 tells us that sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin. That one sin opened the door to all the pain and suffering that we see today. It is where death came from. Death isn’t some natural part of existence; it is a direct consequence of that sin in the Garden of Eden.

“But let’s look at what evolution has to say. Evolution says that random chance created the world and there is no God. There’s a lot I could say about the evidence for God’s existence, but since all of you are attending a seminary I’m going to assume you already believe in God. Therefore I’m instead going to take a look at what many Christians

believe: that God used evolution to create the world.

“In that scenario the universe started with a Big Bang. Over billions of years stars and planets slowly formed. Life began on Earth in a primordial pond of some sort, and that single cell life form gradually evolved into more advanced life forms through the mechanism of natural selection and mutations. Now, mutations are an unpleasant business, and they take a long time. But God didn’t really care. He took two billion years to create the life forms we see today, using a process filled with death, suffering, cancer, and disease. God actually *invented* death – He used it to create the world, and designed a creation process that deliberately slaughtered uncountable trillions of creatures. An all-powerful God could have simply spoken them into existence, but God couldn’t be bothered to do that. He would rather use a process full of pain and death, because hey, why not?

“So over time simple forms of life gave rise to more complex forms, and eventually humanoids developed into modern man.

There was no Adam or Eve; there were just lots of creatures who gradually became more humanlike over time. Mankind never sinned in the Garden because there was no Tree of Knowledge and there was no Garden. Mankind wasn't responsible for death; God was. At the end of this process God had a world full of suffering and pain and evil – the world that God had made. The Lord then looked at it and said 'You know what? This is all very good. I like this world. This is how I want things to be.'"

Iris spoke up. "That's horrible! God's not like that. He hates death. He called death 'the enemy' and will defeat it one day."

"That is indeed what I Corinthians 15:26 says," the professor agreed. "But theistic evolution teaches that God loves death, that God used suffering and death to create the world, and that the world exists as it does today because that's how God made it. But it gets worse. If evolution is true then there never was an Adam or Eve or a sin in the Garden of Eden. Their sin didn't bring death into the world because they never existed at all – and because death existed for billions of

years before mankind ever appeared. That creates a serious problem. In fact, if evolution is true then *Christianity is false*. If evolution really happened then no one can be saved."

Brad laughed. "That's silly! Lots of people believe in evolution and are saved."

"That's *not* what I said," the professor replied. "I did *not* say that *believing* in evolution would send you to Hell. What I did say is that *if evolution is actually true* then salvation is impossible. You see, Romans 5 makes it very clear that Christ's death can only save us *if* sin and death entered the world through Adam. If death existed before Adam then Christ's death cannot save us. If Adam never existed then Christ's death cannot save us. If the story of original sin is a fairy tale then salvation is impossible. Salvation is *only* possible if God created the world the way He said He did – in six days."

Brad shook his head. "Evolution has been proven scientifically. It's more than just a theory – it's how it happened. The evidence is overwhelming."

"Evolution is a fairy tale for grown-ups," Professor Grimes said firmly. "So tell me, Brad.

What evidence convinces you that evolution is true?"

"The fossils," Brad said confidently.

"What fossils?"

"Well, you know, the fossil record. There are fossils there. They prove evolution."

"But what fossils prove evolution? What in the fossil record has convinced you to discard what God Himself said about how He created the world and replace it with something completely different?"

"Fossils prove evolution," Brad insisted. "They just do."

"Does it? But be honest. You don't actually believe in evolution because of the fossil evidence, do you? If you did then *you could tell me what that evidence actually was*. But like most people of your generation you believe in evolution because you've been told that it's true. You can't explain *why* it's true because you have no idea. I've met some students who can do more than mumble something vague about fossils, but the vast majority of you are not like that. You believe it simply because you've been told to believe

it.¹⁸

Isaac spoke up. “What about cave fish? They evolved.”

The professor nodded. “They did indeed. They started out with perfectly good eyes, but after being trapped in a cave for who knows how long they mutated and lost the ability to see. In other words, your evidence for evolution is a fish who lost its eyesight.”

“Well, that did give the fish a survival advantage,” Isaac pointed out. “Since eyes are a useless liability in the dark, fish without eyes would have a greater chance of survival.”

“Indeed,” Professor Grimes said. “But you seem to be overlooking the fact that the fish now has less genetic information than it had before. Natural selection led to a *decrease* in information. Incidentally, that is the same way diseases evolve resistance to

¹⁸ I did not make this up. If you go up to college students and ask them what evidence convinces them that evolution is true, most of them won’t have the faintest idea. A few will be able to say something, but they are the exception. Ray Comfort had a field day doing this in his video “Evolution vs God”, which he posted for free on YouTube.

drugs: the proteins that the drugs were targeting mutate, making the drugs ineffective. This gives the bacteria a greater chance of survival, but it represents a loss of genetic information. The altered protein is damaged and less efficient.¹⁹ No one denies that this sort of evolution happens – not even creationists.

“However, this is actually very bad news for evolution. If natural selection and mutations lead to a decrease in genetic information then that means that you cannot evolve a simple form of life into a more complicated one. After all, you can only evolve from a primordial life form into a turtle if you *increase* the amount of genetic information. You need to *gain* features, not lose them! That is where the theory of evolution falls part, because *that never happens*.

“J. Bergman once did a study of the mutations mentioned in Biological Abstracts

¹⁹ “Antibiotic Resistance of Bacteria: An Example of Evolution in Action?”, Dr. Georgia Purdom, answer-singenesi.org

and Medline. Out of 453,732 mentions of mutations, there were only 186 references to beneficial mutations. Every single one of those ‘beneficial’ mutations resulted in the *loss of genetic information*. There was not a single instance of an organism gaining new genetic information.²⁰ It simply *never happens*. Mutations *always* result in a loss of information. Even when the mutations help the organism survive, the organism has less information than it started out with. You simply cannot evolve an amoeba into an insurance salesman by removing genetic information.”

Brad spoke up. “But what about Haeckel’s embryos? The whole process of evolution is recapitulated by embryos. It’s a fact.”

“It’s actually a well-known forgery,” the professor replied. “He faked those embryos, and that has been known for a very long

²⁰ *Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome*, Dr. J. C. Sanford, p26-27

time.²¹ But textbooks keep teaching his tired lies because you will believe them without question. After all, it's in the textbook so it has to be true, right?"

Iris frowned. "But textbooks are checked, aren't they? Surely people wouldn't be able to print anything that wasn't true."

The professor sighed. "One of the biggest problems in the world today is that people just believe whatever they are told to believe without ever stopping to think about it. You don't think it through to see if it makes sense. You don't research it to see if the author is lying to you. You don't check the sources to see if they are sound. You don't check the original data to see if the conclusions even make sense. You just believe what you are told, like good little brainwashed zombies, and then go home and feel good about yourselves.

"Stop and think for a minute! Evolution teaches that mutations gave rise to all life we

²¹ "What Biology Textbooks Never Told You About Evolution", Royal Truman, answersingenesis.org

see today. Mutations! That's like saying if you go to a garage sale and find an old encyclopedia from 1939, you can bring it up to take by randomly changing letters throughout the volumes. Do you know what would actually happen if you did that? You would get garbage! Why on earth would you ever believe that you could improve *anything* by making billions of random changes to it? Does that seem remotely plausible to you? How could a process that *damages* the organism 99.9% of the time, and is neutral the other 0.1% of the time, possibly be so beneficial that it could evolve eyes, a liver, and a brain?"

Brad spoke up. "But natural selection can weed out the bad changes."

"Except it can't," Professor Grimes said. "The ability of natural select to filter out the damage that mutations do is vastly overstated. Removing 'unwanted' mutations is vastly harder and more costly than you imagine – especially when you stop to consider that the vast majority of mutations

have no outward signs.²² In fact, evidence indicates that the fitness of the human genome is actually *decreasing* by 1%-2% per generation thanks to mutations.²³ The process of natural selection and mutations is completely incapable of being the engine of evolution.”

Brad shook his head. “It’s all just a matter of time. Given enough time, monkeys could type the complete works of Shakespeare.”

“No they couldn’t,” Professor Grimes said firmly. “Let’s do some math, shall we? Suppose we wanted a monkey to type the 23rd Psalm, which has just 603 letters. Let’s say the monkey has a typewriter with 50 keys – 26 uppercase letters, 10 numbers, a spacebar, and 13 symbols for punctuation. A very standard layout, with no lowercase letters to worry about. The chance of typing the right 603 letters is 50^{603} . If that monkey typed one character per second and never stopped for a break, it would only take that

²² *Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome*, Dr. J. C. Sanford, p56-64

²³ *Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome*, Dr. J. C. Sanford, p65

monkey 9.552×10^{1016} years to get it right. By contrast, evolutionists claim that our universe is only 1.5×10^9 years old.²⁴ It doesn't matter if you filled the entire planet full of monkeys and had them type away for a billion years. They would be utterly incapable of typing *even one short Psalm*, let alone any of the works of Shakespeare.

"Billions of years may seem like a long time to you, but it's not nearly long enough. I assure you that the human genetic code – or even the genetic code of a fruit fly – is infinitely more complicated than Psalm 23. For example, suppose you took 100,000 billion billion billion billion billion blind people – which is enough people to fill our entire star system. Let's say that you gave them all a Rubik's cube and wanted them all to solve it at exactly the same time. How likely is that?"

"It's complete nonsense," Brad said.

"That happens to be the same chance of evolving just *one* of the biopolymers that life

²⁴ "Could monkeys type the 23rd Psalm?", answersingenesis.org

depends on.²⁵ Just one of them! Do you have any idea how preposterous evolution really is? If people really believed that mutations were good then they would stand in front of X-ray machines until they developed superpowers. Nobody does that because people realize the simple truth that *mutations are really bad*. Expecting mutations to evolve single-cell life forms into mammals is like expecting an F5 tornado to rip through a junkyard and assemble a 747.²⁶ It's completely preposterous. It could never happen. An entire universe of galaxies and 15 billion years isn't nearly enough time."

Brad shook his head. "But we're here, so it must have happened."

The professor sighed. "If I told you that my industrial shredder evolved over millions of years as natural forces shaped the metal into the form you see today, would you believe me?"

"Of course not! It was obviously built by

²⁵ Example from Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge

²⁶ This example is also from Sir Fred Hoyle

somebody. It even has the company's logo on the side."

Professor Grimes nodded. "Exactly. So how can you not see that the life on this planet is vastly more complicated than that shredder? Believing that life created itself by random chance is even *more* preposterous than believing that my shredder evolved from some sort of primordial shredder goo. On top of that, God already told us how He created the world – and Jesus reaffirmed that account. Considering that Colossians 1:13-16 tells us that Jesus is the one who created the world in the first place, I think it makes a great deal of sense to *believe Him*."

"But scientists—"

"Have an agenda," Grimes interrupted. "They are *not* disinterested scholars who are looking for the truth regardless of where it might lead. In John 3:19 Jesus said that men loved darkness and hated the light because their deeds were evil. Mankind does *not* want to find God, and they especially do not want to discover proof of God's existence and power. Men are no more interested in finding God than mice are interested in finding the

cat. But tell me something, Brad. If you don't believe what Jesus told you about how He created the world then why would you trust Him on any other subject?"

"I don't think it's like that at all," Brad replied. "I think God was trying to tell us all along that things evolved over time. People just misunderstood, that's all."

"Misunderstood? Maybe the reason they 'misunderstood' is because they interpreted Genesis 1 to mean *what it actually says*, instead of changing the definitions of words to mean things they have never meant. Maybe it's because when Exodus 20:11 said that God created the world 'in six days', they assumed that 'six days' meant 'six days' and not '14 billion years'. Get serious, Brad. No one who reads Genesis 1 ever comes away thinking 'Ah, so evolution created the world'. The text *cannot* be honestly interpreted to mean that. If people interpreted legal contracts the way that liberals interpret the first eleven chapters of the Bible, they would find themselves in prison for fraud. You don't get to redefine words and passages to fit your theories. The text says *exactly what it means*.

“God is either honest or a liar. He either knows how to communicate with mankind or He doesn’t. If God used evolution to create the world then God lied to us, because that’s not at all what He said. God was quite clear in Genesis 1 that each animal reproduced after its own kind; He never, *ever* said that one kind of animal evolved into other kinds over long passages of time.

“Now, if God *really was* trying to tell us that He evolved the world, that can only mean that He is a complete moron with an incredibly poor grasp of communication. In fact, He failed so hard at communicating that you might as well throw out your Bible, because you have no hope of understanding it. Its text could literally mean anything.

“However, we know that God is not a liar or a moron, and He is certainly not incompetent. Therefore, the most logical thing to do is to take Genesis 1 to mean exactly what it says: God created the world in six days. Evolution is therefore a lie.”

Wally spoke up. “I’m getting all wet here.”

“No, you’re getting lectured,” Grimes replied.

Wally pointed up. "I mean I think water is falling out of the sky."

Grimes nodded. "Brilliant observation. That is a phenomenon known as rain. You have probably seen it before, because it rains on a regular basis. Fortunately for you it is not raining very hard. In fact, it's barely sprinkling."

"I don't like it. Why are you letting it rain?"

"It's not going to do you any harm," the professor replied. "You didn't bring any books with you, or any paper to take notes. I've also forbidden all electronic devices, so if you followed my rules you don't have anything that might get ruined. Unless you are the Wicked Witch of the West and will melt when you come into contact with water, you should be safe."

Brad spoke up. "You can't expect us to pay attention when it's raining, do you?"

Grimes looked at him. "Can I *ever* expect you to pay attention? Have any of you learned anything today?"

"I learned that monkeys are bad typists," Wally said.

Professor Grimes sighed and looked at his watch. "Fantastic. Well, since we truly are

out of time I guess you are dismissed. I'll try to find a new location to hold our classes and will let you know where we will be meeting in the future. Class dismissed!"