**Exodus 20:11a** “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day.”

**Genesis 9:11** “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

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1. **Review intelligent design (ID) arguments**
   1. 3 Arguments covered last week (*Information Problem, Beginning of universe, Fine-tuning*)
   2. Review the problem that biblical Christians must address pertaining to the ID Methodology of *“inference to the best explanation*” from the scientific data
      1. In saying that there is a problem with the ID approach what I mean is that for Bible believers (those who take what God has said He has done in earth history at face value), the ID methodology could lead someone away from Scriptural teaching. While we can utilize *some* of what ID is giving us to show people that scientific discoveries point to God, we can’t assume that our best scientific inferences are always right or that God did things that way. If God has revealed something in His word about something that has taken place in the history of the world – for example: (1) He spoke the world into existence; (2) He destroyed the earth with a Flood; (3) He confused the languages of the world at Babel. Those are non-negotiables. If mainstream science is saying that we have a body of scientific data or evidence that can be explained best by some *naturalistic process*, the scientific evidence is not to be understood as sufficient reason to turn away from what Scripture teaches. So, if the ID scientists want to argue from the scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning and therefore, it must have had a cause. And only an immaterial, timeless, powerful, volitional cause (such as the God of the Bible) is adequate to explain such an effect. That is all fine. We agree with them that far. But if they go further and start saying this is how God *actually* created everything – There was a Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago and space matter and time came into existence at that point and then all of the elements formed after several generations of stars undergoing supernova explosions and then there was a 4.5 billion year earth history and then modern man appeared on earth approximately 750 thousand years ago, etc. (all of this being the “*best inference”* from the currently known scientific data). Going along with this may line up with the naturalistic scientific explanation for how the universe formed, but the description in Scripture of how God actually did the creating runs counter to that. I gave the analogy of Jesus turning the water to wine as a parallel scenario. Just because you can come up with a description of that wine by doing a scientific study, that doesn’t mean you have deciphered how it *actually originated*. You would only know the truth if you got the testimony of the servants who fetched the water and knew what happened. Scientifically, the wine would look like it went through the normal process any good wine would have had to go through. So, the Bible takes priority over our inferences from scientific data.
2. **The Bible and Science - Distinctions need to be made between *operational/experimental science* and *historical/forensic* science**
   1. This difference is real and I cannot over-emphasize the importance of making this distinction. We rightly should be impressed with the enormous body of knowledge that legitimate experimental science has brought us. As Christians, we do subject ourselves to plane flights, we use computers and cell phones. We trust that medical science is onto something when they utilize sophisticated surgical laser tools and anesthesia. But that is all operational science – “here and now” science. These are the products of “applied science” that are based on observational, repeatable, testable, and falsifiable studies of various aspects of the physical world. None of this kind of observation-based science or applied science contradicts anything in the Bible. **Now consider historical science** *– how did the moon-earth system originate? How did the first life arise?* These questions are deemed part of modern science too. But the answers to those questions is going to largely be determined by what type of explanations are allowed (*naturalistic/materialistic answers only*), and by *consensus* of what naturalistic/materialistic scientists think is a good theory. ***Worldview assumptions and presuppositions are wildly important as are financial and political pressures.*** It simply is not the same kind of science and therefore, these kinds of questions being answered in the name of science do not need to intimidate Christians. There is a lot more than just facts in this situation. Testable and repeatable is not possible. And how do we know that the experts are really good at knowing what is required to make a moon-earth system that works like ours or how non-living chemicals could arrange themselves to produce life given that ***they haven’t seen even one occurrence*** of these to even know what it takes to get a moon like ours orbiting an earth like ours or to get a living cell from non-living chemicals. ID proponents are quite happy to embrace historical inferences to the best explanation without any biblical constraints. This is why they have no problem embracing many of the same reconstructions of earth and planetary and cosmological evolution with its billions of years etc., even though the Bible says things happened a different way. Biblical Christians need to be aware of this and only utilize ID arguments to the extent that they are consistent with revealed Scriptural truth. We rest confidently on the constraints of Scripture for how things have actually originated, even if naturalistic scientists believe that they can infer processes to explain the origin of something in the past.
3. **Our Apologetic Methodology**
4. What apologetic approach is the best when it comes to the issues of the Bible and Science? *Will any old approach be ok?*
   1. What does the Bible actually teach (**Review Scriptures – see Scripture list**)
   2. James Barr Quote

“…so far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1–11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that: (1) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience; (2) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story; (3) Noah’s flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguish all human and animal life except for those in the ark.”

[*This is what scholars know that the Bible teaches even though they don’t believe it.* But if a Christian comes along and tries to distort the meaning of the Biblical text to make it fit with current conventional scientific opinions, what does that do to your credibility? It is quite obvious what the text of Scripture is saying and teaching and your inconsistent and unbelieving drawing back from certain parts of what is claims is likely to make your hearers think that you don’t have much confidence in the Bible that you say they need to believe.]

* 1. Some people act like it’s no big deal what apologetics approach is taken when it comes to dealing with Bible and Science issues. They say it doesn’t really matter or that it’s a very unimportant issue. They make it sound like the Bible is not clear or that it doesn’t matter what position you take. **This is not true**. The Bible is clear, and we are not free to dismiss or disregard any part of Scripture, especially foundational parts that the rest of Scripture depend on. Jesus expects us to believe Him when He affirms the truthfulness of something in His word. To do otherwise is to not continue in His word, to be ashamed of His words, and to not believe Him. We are not allowed to be ashamed of Jesus words and we are not allowed to disregard His words. Genuine disciples continue in His words.
  2. Some approaches add to, take away from, or change what God’s word says. All such approaches should be avoided (see notes below)
  3. First and foremost, it needs to be clear that we are **Bible believers** (we won’t commend trust in the gospel if our hearers can see that we don’t really believe the Bible ourselves). As an analogy - If you own several and are driving a Mercedes Benz but you are trying to sell someone on a Lexus and you are telling them that the Lexus is superior to the Benz in every way (and yet you are driving the Benz). They are going to be raising their eyebrows at you. Similarly, if you are telling people that they need to believe the gospel as given in God’s Word, but at the same time you are embracing ideas that contradict the Bible because you believe “scientists” more than the Bible, then your unbelief is going to be a potential stumbling block for this person. Remember – it is not truly believing God’s Word if you have to ***change*** it’s meaning to something that suits you, and that it doesn’t really say, so that it is more in line with the current scientific consensus. There are a lot of people in our day who say they have a “high view of Scripture” or that they are Bible-believers and then you look at what they say the Bible means and it is obvious that their claim to Biblical fidelity is highly suspect. *We are only believing God if we believe what He has actually said.*
  4. We need **Abraham-like faith** when there are challenges from science with respect to something that the Bible claims. We believe what God says and wait patiently for Him to resolve any tensions.
  5. Our apologetic approach also needs to exhibit **consistency.** We do ourselves no favors when we accept some idea about earth history (for example that there were hundreds of millions of years of death and suffering, disease, and pain long before man appeared on earth and long before a man named Adam sinned and brought a curse upon the world with death and suffering. This is what happens whenever any Christian buys into the old earth or Darwinian scenarios. At that point your worldview becomes **inconsistent and contradictory**. The foundation for the entire Gospel message is undermined. **The best approach is to maintain a consistently Biblical foundation and explain all of the scientific data within the constraints of Scripture.** Where tensions remain, we exercise Abraham-like faith and wait for God to clear up the tension in His own time. We do not take away from, twist, or change Scripture to make it fit some claim of modern science.

**An example**: Well-known Christian apologist and philosopher, **William lane Craig**, has written a book in which he argues the first 11 chapters of Genesis are “mytho-history.” His approach is to try to say he accepts a “real Adam” but pushes him back 750,000 years and tries to fit him into conventional anthropological chronologies. ***Does anybody really think that that is what the Bible says about Adam?*** That’s the problem – whatever you say in your apologetic needs to comport with what the Bible says clearly and plainly. Unbelievers can see your unbelief too if that is what your explanations of things reveal. That is definitely not the proper way to give a “reason for the hope” we have.

* 1. **G. Richard Bozarth** quote:

**“Christianity has fought, still fights, and will continue to fight science to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus’ earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and the original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the Son of God. If Jesus was not the redeemer who died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing.”**

* Bozarth is an unbeliever who recognizes that a consistent Christian worldview must reject Darwinism. He sees that Darwinism (if true) would undermine the very need for a Savior and a gospel. Many Christians don’t seem to understand the importance of maintaining a consistently Christian worldview and maintaining a view of earth history that is consistent with the claims of Scripture. Unbelievers who are informed (like Bozarth quoted above) understand that if death, disease, and pain are just the way the world has always been and these things actually brought us into being through millions of years of evolutionary processes, then there really is no basis for Christ to come and die to remove the curse and defeat sin and death and pain. Those things are not the enemy, they are just the way things have always been. The gospel makes no sense if these kinds of things are embraced by a Christian. If death has always been in the world (old earth and evolution) then the Biblical worldview cannot be taken seriously.

So, if someone is going to say we need to *reread* *or reinterpret* Scripture to make it fit with some claimed scenario from science or whatever, we would need to be absolutely convinced after going back and looking long and hard at Scripture itself. ***If we genuinely made a mistake in the way we read a passage, or if we see from the text that we have misinterpreted Scripture, then by all means we can make a correction. But it will not be because of some scientific evidence someone claims to have found that is more authoritative than Scripture, but because we can see that an exegetical mistake, logical fallacy, or misapplication was made in the handling of the words of Scripture.***

I used the account of Jesus turning water to wine to make the point that a scientific analysis and our experience with well-understood wine-making processes do not ensure a correct explanation for the origin of *that* wine just because we analyze it scientifically. The Bible has something to say about how that wine originated, regardless of how well you might think you know the process of getting wine. Similarly, the Bible has some things to say about how the original creation originated out of nothing by the spoken Word of God. And it has something to say about how the surface of the earth was subjected to a year-long mountain covering deluge that “destroyed” the earth. This information cannot be ignored when we begin studying the earth scientifically. That would be taking away from and ignoring Scripture.

So, for example, **BioLogos** (another group that claims to have a good apologetics approach for science and Bible issues) - if someone from BioLogos (like Francis Collins) tells us that we can and should accept Darwinian evolution and fit it into the Bible, my response is going to be - no you can’t. There are a number of reasons. The biggest would be the Biblical account of the origin of man and woman. Multiple bible writers and Jesus Himself, clearly and repeatedly and in many locations tell us that God made the first man Adam from dust and that all people are derived from him. In fact, even the first woman (her name means it) was “taken out of the man.” So, in order to embrace Darwinian evolution, you would have to distort the meaning of numerous passages of Scripture and pretty much render their meaning unintelligible. And so, regardless of what the scientists and theologians associated with Biologos say (whether they argue for a Framework Hypothesis or some other figurative approach to the Genesis account; or perhaps they will just say that Paul and Moses and even Jesus were just a product of their Near Eastern culture and just got some things commonly believed in their day wrong). If you hear such arguments, recognize what is going on here. **They are putting their claims to some kind of knowledge above what Scripture says.** Doesn’t matter if it’s knowledge in the name of science or whatever. Doesn’t matter where they claim they got this knowledge. If it contradicts clear Scripture, it is to be dismissed or the data reinterpreted. We are not to try to squeeze this supposed “knowledge” into the Bible somehow. We are not to change or alter Scripture to make it fit some area of knowledge someone claims to know. We are not to add to or take away from Scripture. We are to trust the clear teaching of Scripture with Abraham-like faith. Every word of God will prove true. IF there appears to be counter evidence (say like I’m being told to sacrifice the son that God said he would make many nations through) I go with what God said and not what I can make sense of. I trust Him in spite of the apparent contrary evidence. For us, if someone says that the geological and hydrological evidence of the world indicates that the Flood in Noah’s day did not happen or if it did happen, it was a local event or tranquil event or got wildly exaggerated by way of legend - we must say: “I’m sorry but Jesus himself affirmed this event. And even if I can’t understand this or that aspect of how it could happen, I do know that this Scripture too will prove true ultimately.”

And even though it is not a popular position to take among conventional geologists, the world destroying Flood that the Scriptures describe is consistent with the world we observe. The fact that there are billions of dead things laid down by water all over the earth fits with a view of earth history that says God destroyed the earth and every living thing not on the ark by a flood in the days of Noah. This doesn’t scientifically prove that those things are the result of such a flood but they are absolutely consistent with that claim. That mountains observed in the present used to be ocean bottom and were shoved up after the Flood to take water off the land fits my presuppositions. That sedimentary layers thousands of feet thick and that extend across entire continents and some even across multiple continents fits with what I understand from Scripture to have happened on the earth. Does it remove all difficulties and answer every challenge. No - it does not. But is there any other area of Christianity that is able to answer every challenge without having to acknowledge that we don’t know all of the solutions to every problem or difficulty? (NO!) We must trust God in every area, not just science. But we have been shown by God many examples of how he does resolve difficulties and how things that seemed impossible, in due course become reasonably explained.

It used to be claimed that the fossil record supported Darwinian evolution because different kinds of creatures appear in the record as you go up through the geologic strata. In other words, it showed change through time. But we now know that, as a whole, the fossil record does not fit the expectations of Darwinism. So, if you were a Christian at the time of the Scopes trial in Dayton Tennessee (1925) you might be intimidated by some of the fossil evidence brought forward. But now, after many more decades we know that the fossil record is a billboard that **contradicts Darwin**. Intermediates are lacking everywhere. How do you become a fossil in the first place? – water catastrophe that would bury things rapidly and deeply so that they can be preserved from carnivores, scavengers and decay processes. The pattern everywhere from the Cambrian Explosion on up is **Abrupt appearance** (no evolutionary ancestors) **fully formed** (no intermediates) and then **stasis** (no change) until that kind of organism goes extinct or else continues to the present. Some of the Scopes evidence was even fraudulent and has been removed from evidence. Furthermore, if contemplating a Flood scenario, the patterns observed in the rock and fossil records are consistent with the rapid sequential burial of ecosystems as well as massive and extensive sediment erosion and transport. This is just an example of how a body of evidence believed to support one conclusion at a point in time, can be shown upon fuller exploration and investigation to not support what was originally hoped or claimed. And so, we trust God and wait for His word to be vindicated when tension arises or challenges to a particular claim of Scripture supposedly makes it untenable.

1. **Biblical Creation or Creation Science (YEC) Movement**
2. **Creationist methodology –** start with the Bible as the framework, ultimate presuppositions, and constraints on possible explanations or models in origins
3. Some prominent organizations that promote YEC (AIG, ICR, CMI)
   1. Ken Ham is the most well-known public figure representing YEC
   2. He is an advocate for presuppositional apologetics which aims to submit to the Scriptures starting with the very first verse (In the beginning God…)
   3. His debate with Bill Nye the Science Guy in 2014 continues to garner attention and cause unbelievers to take note of the creationist explanation of the world.
   4. Answers In Genesis (Ark Encounter – life sized Noah’s Ark showing how the Biblical account is feasible and criticisms can be answered); Creation Museum does a similar thing and shows how the evidence of the world fits within a Chistian worldview. Advances the Gospel powerfully by laying a consistently Biblical foundation and defending it in every exhibit against common scientific challenges.
   5. **An important question to ponder - If a Flood took place the way the Bible describes, what would we expect to see on the earth?** This is a central point in the creation-evolution debate. If the Flood actually took place, you couldn’t keep it from laying down mud and burying things (which is how fossils form). If you ask someone to point to the evidence for an old earth and evolution, they will inevitably point to the sedimentary rock layers and fossils of the earth. But the Flood laid down those rocks and fossils, then there is no evidence of evolution or an old earth. There is just evidence that God has judged the world catastrophically. So, herein lies the connection between the Flood and the Creation/Evolution/old earth debate.
4. The actual scientists behind the scenes developing creationist models of earth history are often not in the public eye. Many Christians do not know about their work. It is important to know about some of these scientists who are faithful Christian workers. The research that they are involved with is very critical to being able to provide Biblical and scientifically accurate answers when the early chapters of Genesis are challenged.

**3 scientists I want to commend to your attention**: Why? Because regardless of immense pressure to conform in order to be accepted and have success, they have been willing to “go outside the camp,” or be “kicked out of the synagogue” so-to-speak. They are ridiculed and spoken of as the “offscouring of the earth,” and yet, they take it with the territory and go on researching, teaching, and speaking and advocating for the truth, and clinging to Scripture. They have been tremendously successful and have known distinguished scientific careers even while defending Biblical Christianity. These are the kinds of heroes we need to put before the next generation.

1. **John Baumgardner** (career as Los Alamos National Laboratory/ TERRA program / significant scientific achievements – his story) from 1995-1997 (3 years) there was a running debate at Los Alamos on the subject of origins. If you read through the published debate (find this at **globalflood.org**) which went back and forth in their local news publication for about 3 years you can see how he defended Scripture against attack at one of the most prestigious national laboratories in our country. He put his entire career on the line to go for a goal of being able to contribute to understanding the physical mechanisms that may have been involved in the Flood in Noah’s day. He developed state-of-the-art numerical modeling software (TERRA) used by earth scientists around the world for sophisticated analysis of processes that take place in the interior and surface of the earth. He has been in the background but a foundational mind who has been working for decades on a scientific model for Biblical creation. He is helping creationists to improve our explanations for how the Flood account can be understood to have occurred as described. He is a humble Christian seeking to honor the Lord and make him known. He exemplifies Abraham-like faith.
2. **Kurt Wise** – This scientist has a very distinguished education (University of Chicago and PhD. from Harvard in paleontology), and has spent decades developing an all-encompassing creationist model of earth and biological history – and yet he has been put “outside the camp” by conventional geologists and paleontologists, He probably knows more about the geologic and paleontological record than anyone alive today, and yet he teaches and runs a research center at a small Christian College in Georgia. The goal of all that he does is to glorify God through the study of the creation. He is making enormous strides in improving the creation/flood model of earth history. He has been ridiculed and despised to the utmost by people like Richard Dawkins who can’t understand how such an accomplished scientist could still possibly believe the Bible. He is a brilliant scientist and who like David, has taken on Goliath so to speak. He has risked his neck and has shown us how to faithfully build your science by starting with Scripture.
3. **John Sanford** – former Cornell professor of Genetics At Cornell, Sanford and colleagues developed the "Biolistic Particle Delivery System" or so-called "[gene gun](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_gun)". He is the co-inventor of the Pathogen-derived Resistance (PDR) process and the co-inventor of the genetic vaccination process. In 1998 he retired on the proceeds from the sale of his biotech companies and continued at Cornell as a courtesy associate professor. Intelligent-design advocate [William Dembski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_A._Dembski) cites the accomplishments of Sanford as evidence of the scientific status of intelligent design, since Sanford is a specialist in genetic engineering and a Courtesy Associate Professor in Horticulture. However the mainstream scientific community rejects intelligent design and does not consider it science. He is a humble Christian man seeking to make the Lord known.

**Resources:**

Is Genesis History (documentary and lectures)

**globalflood.org** (website and resources maintained by John Baumgardner

Organizations like: Answers in Genesis (Creation Musuem and Ark Encounter); CMI, ICR

ICC Proceedings (Publications of papers from the International Conference on Creationism held every few years) – scholarly technical publications