

LESSON 10: November 19: The Reliability of Scripture? Engaging our culture. Part 4

What have you seen or read this week on worldviews? Tom Ellis & Brad Hurte sent me emails.

A. The stronghold of attacking the Bible.

1. How do we interpret scripture, especially the passages on our origin and destiny?

TIME: The Book of Genesis has led many conservative Protestants to oppose evolution and some to insist that the earth is only 6,000 years old.

DR. COLLINS: There are sincere believers who interpret Genesis 1 and 2 in a very literal way that is inconsistent, frankly, with our knowledge of the universe's age or of how living organisms are related to each other. St. Augustine wrote that basically it is not possible to understand what was being described in Genesis. It was not intended as a science textbook. It was intended as a description of who God was, who we are and what our relationship is supposed to be with God. Augustine explicitly warns against a very narrow perspective that will put our faith at risk of looking ridiculous. If you step back from that one narrow interpretation, what the Bible describes is very consistent with the Big Bang.

2. Is Genesis 1&2 a myth, as held by liberal theologians?

- a. Two stories of creation? Gen 1-2:3 and 2:3-25?

- b. The Babylonian Epic of Creation, Egyptian and Phoenician myths were used by the author of Genesis?

3. How is Genesis written? There are 3 choices.

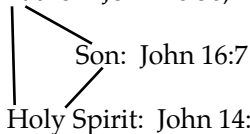
- a.
- b.
- c.

4. Let the scriptures speak for themselves: Berasheth Elohim bara shamayim ha arets"

B. Attacking the social spheres, ordered according to the nature of the Godhead.

1. The Triune God: Perfect unity, relationships, equality, roles, authority and submission. (Matthew 28:19)

Father: John 10:30; 20:21; 14:26



2. Family: exodus 20:12,14,17

Husband: Gen 1:26-28,2:18-24; Matt19:4-8; Malachi 2:13-16; Eph 5:22-23; 1 Peter 3:1-7;

Col. 3:18-21; Titus 2:4-5; Heb 13:4

Wife

Children: Eph 6:1-3; Col 3:20; Prov 1:8; Deut 6:6-7; Eph 6:4

3. Church:

Christ: Eph 4:11

Leaders: Eph 4:12

Flock: Heb 13:17; Eph 5:23

4. State

God: Pro 16:9-10; 21:1; Dan 2:21; Rom 9:17; Deut 17:16-20

King: Ex 22:28; Rom 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet 2:13-17

Citizens: Psa 22:28; 2 Chron 20:6; Job 12:23; Isa. 14:26-27; Luke 20:25; Acts 17:24-26; Isa. 14:24-25

5. General Economic Model

God: Gen 1:26-30; 1 Chron 29:10-14

Steward: Ex 20:8-11, 15, 17; Prov 10:4, 14:23; Matt 6:20,25:14-30

Material Things: Lev 25:23; Psa 50:7-12

6. Labor

Owner: Deut 8:17-18, 24:15; Luke 12:48; Eph 6:9; Co 14:1; Jas 5:4

Worker: Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22-25; 1 Tim 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Pet 2:18-22

Material Things/community/poor: Lev 19:9-10; Ex 23:11; 1 Jn 3:17; Eph 4:28; 2 Co 8:13-15

3. Attacks on the Bible:

- Voltaire in 1776 “100 years from my day there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker.” And... “It took 12 men to start Christianity; one will destroy it.”

- Robert Ingersoll: “In 15 years I will have this book in the morgue.”

- Julius Wellhausen (1844-1918):

- The Jesus Seminar

4. The credibility of the word.

Why is it important to establish that a “spiritual” book like the Bible is also historically accurate?

Christians say that the Bible is the inspired word of God and prove it by quoting 2 tim. 3: 16 “All scripture is inspired by God....” This is circular reasoning. Do we need to do this? Can we argue logically that the Bible is God’s Word?

- IN “A READY DEFENSE” p. 174 Josh McDowell

5. The Ultimate Source of Truth –

1 Peter 1: 24 For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord stands for ever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

Colossians 2:2-3 “Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2 Tim. 3:13 But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, 15 and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. 4:1 ¶ In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: 2 proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. 3 For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths.

- Boice, James M. (ed). 1974. God’s Inerrant Word: An International Symposium on the Trustworthiness of Scripture. Minneapolis, MI: Bethany Fellowship.

- Boice, James M. (ed). 1978. The Foundation of Biblical Authority. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

A. Another look at SCIENCE and Genesis 1 & 2

SCIENCE: First there was the Steady State theory; then, the Big Bang Theory.

The Steady State Theory is that the universe has always been and will always be. It is ungenerated and indestructible. Such a view was materialistic and atheistic.

The Big Bang Theory is that the universe actually came into existence 15 to 20 billion years ago in a gigantic fireball explosion that sent suns and planets tumbling outward from the center into the form we observe them now (an instant of creation). In 1913 astronomer Slipher discovered through his study of the shifting light spectrum of very distant stars that the galaxies in which these stars were found appeared to be receding from the earth at speeds of up to 2 million miles per hour. 6 years later Hubble, using Slipher's findings formulated the law of an expanding universe, which pointed to a moment of creation. Meanwhile Einstein's theories of relativity were shaking Newtonian physics and two Bell Telephone scientists were using new sophisticated electronic equipment to pick up background radiation from all parts of the universe which they identified as the leftover noise of the first great explosion.

Boice writes: "If the big bang theory is true, it tells us nothing about the One who caused it or why the universe has such an astonishing complexity and order or how life originated."

1. Do you remember when I spent a year of sermons on Genesis 1 to 11 and we held classes after worship where Michael Parks and I talked about the 5 views on creation? THAT SERIES STARTED IN JANUARY OF 2000. Look at the first sheet from that series of teachings. Quick overview on Atheistic Evolution; Theistic Evolution; The Gap theory; Six Day Creationism and Progressive Creationism.

2. Look at Atheistic Evolution's 4 problems on the sheet.

a. Even if they are right, in order for something to evolve there must be something there in the first place to evolve and that first something can not evolve but must be either eternally present or created.

> >>>>>>>> (i.e. where did the first cell come from? - A miracle?)

b. There is no simple "matter." Example, the atom. Everything we know as matter has a form, a highly complex form! Where did the fixed form and laws come from for hydrogen, the basic building block of everything according to astrophysics? They did not evolve. They are "matter" to start with.

> >>>>>>>> The notion of a simple cell is an oxymoron. Even the most simple cell is a fascinating and complex machine. If you blow up each atom in a cell to the size of a basketball the result would be roughly the size of the earth. The cell has various proteins, a cell wall and some DNA (which if stretched out on the same scale as the atom the size of a basketball it would reach the moon and back several times).

CLIP ON DNA

Estimates of the probability for the random creation of a cell are around 10 to the power 40,000. This is more than the number of sub-atom particles in the known universe multiplied by the number of milli-seconds in 40 billion years (the supposed age of the universe) with a thousand digits to spare.

c. The emergence of life is a complex problem. Laboratory models. (3 stage process: bio-organics from inorganic compounds, origin of biopolymers from bio-organics, origin of primordial slime form the biopolymers. Can't do the third stage! Even 2nd stage deteriorates faster. A long series of events each with a low probability = zero!

d. The emergence of soul, spirit, & God-consciousness. Why are the highest animals unable to pray? unable to do what we can do? Why a quantum leap between the lowest type of man and the highest type of animal?

(DO YOU REMEMBER DR DAWKINS comment about the brain and trees last week? He was discrediting intelligent design with the idea that in evolution over millions of years, the simple becomes complex and so the improbable becomes probable. He said: "Each step is not too improbable for us to countenance, but when you add them up cumulatively over millions of years, you get these monsters of improbability, like the human brain and the rain forest.")

> >>>>>>>> Here is something Michael Parks cited in one of our classes after worship in Jan. of 2000: "A human brain contains neurons. How many? Well if you planted 50% of North America with trees (1,000 trees per acre) the number of neurons in the human brain is roughly the number of leaves that would drop off in fall. Now all these neurons are carefully ordered to as to allow the brain to work!

Conclusion: What is the appeal of evolution today? Michael's conclusion was: To me the reason is clear, believing in God means accountability and authority. Some people don't like this. My conclusion was: Is it not possible that the appeal of evolution is the elimination of God and the exaltation of man? Is man the master of all things?