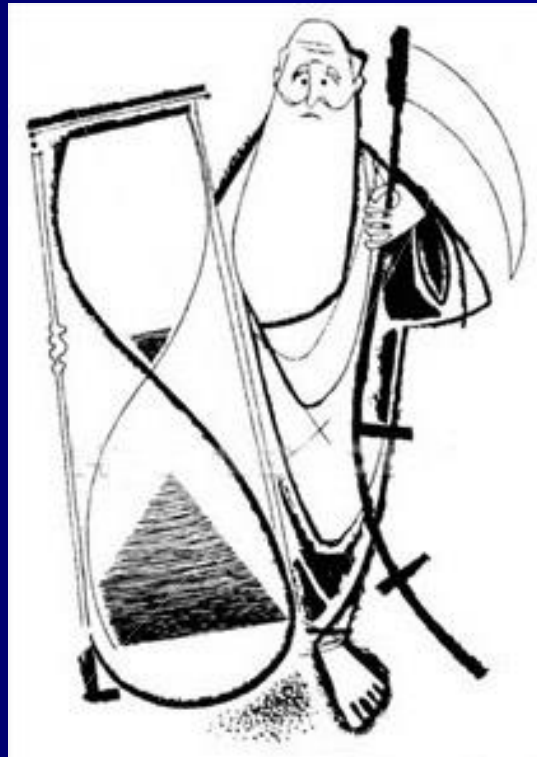


# *The Bible and geological time: Why does it matter?*

Leonard Brand  
Professor of Biology and Paleontology  
Loma Linda University



## **Goals of this talk - summarize:**

Bible claims about origins

Alternative explanations and their implications

Theistic evolution and its implications

# *The Bible claim about origins*

Seven day creation week

# *The Bible claim about origins*

Seven day creation week

Literal Adam and Eve created

# *The Bible claim about origins*

Seven day creation week  
Literal Adam and Eve created  
Fall into sin

# *The Bible claim about origins*

Seven day creation week

Literal Adam and Eve created

Fall into sin

Global flood

# *Alternatives*

Millions or billions  
of years for life  
on earth

Claim of secular science  
Genesis is false  
Life is from evolution  
Humans evolved

Thousands of years  
for life on earth

The Bible story  
No time for evolution  
God is creator  
Humans created

*What is the main theme of the Bible?*

# *What is the main theme of the Bible?*

Sinless creation

Fall into sin

Redemption

Final restoration



*Does time . . . . .  
(millions vs thousands of years)  
influence that theme?*

**Millions of years**

No Garden of Eden  
No Adam and Eve  
No Fall into sin  
No Satan  
No need for redemption

**Thousands of years**

Garden of Eden  
Adam and Eve  
Fall into sin  
Satan's influence  
Redemption

*Does time . . . . .  
(millions vs thousands of years)  
influence that theme?*

Millions of years

No Garden of Eden  
No Adam and Eve  
No Fall into sin  
No Satan  
No need for redemption



Thousands of years

Garden of Eden  
Adam and Eve  
Fall into sin  
Satan's influence  
Redemption



# *Why do many scientists believe in millions of years?*

1. Evidence - radiometric dating
2. The philosophy, or worldview:  
Methodological Naturalism  
They must have enough time for evolution

# *Why do many scientists believe in millions of years?*

1. Evidence - radiometric dating
2. The philosophy, or worldview:  
Methodological Naturalism  
They must have enough time for evolution

This worldview **REQUIRES** billions of years

# *Why do many scientists believe in millions of years?*

The alternatives:

1. There must be enough time to evolve life

-Or-

2. Accept the literal creation

# *Why accept the short time scale?*

1. **Worldview:** Bible history is factual
2. There is **evidence** that favors the short time scale

# *Why accept the short time scale?*

1. **Worldview:** Bible history is factual
2. There is **evidence** that favors the short time scale

Bottom line: Creation, fall, and redemption **are essential** for the biblical worldview

# *How do we deal with the evidence?*

## **Secular** worldview:

- Rely on radiometric time scale

- Interpret other evidence to match it

## **Biblical** worldview:

- Predicts new geological evidence will favor:

  - A **short time** since creation

  - Catastrophic** geological action (global flood)

# *The character of God*

# *A story of two dog owners*

## *A Parable*







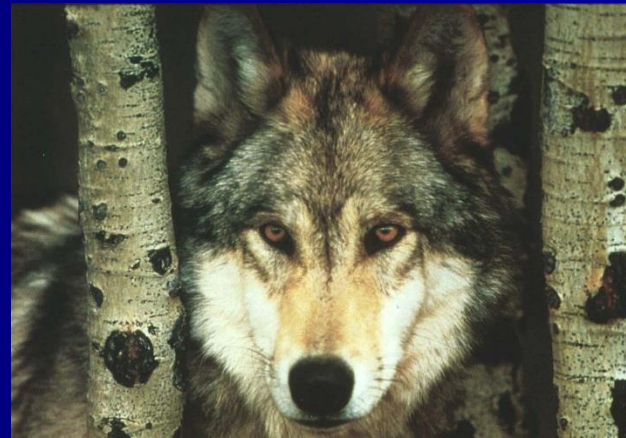




# *What does the parable mean?*

It's a parable of two stories about creation

Creates Adam and Eve – the earth is GOOD



Adam and Eve created – the earth is GOOD

Adam and Eve sin – then evil, pain and death



Creates Adam and Eve – the earth is GOOD  
Adam and Eve sin – then evil, pain and death  
Jesus was tortured and killed to save humans



Creates Adam and Eve – the earth is GOOD  
Adam and Eve sin – then evil, pain and death  
Jesus was tortured and killed to save humans  
**Literal creation as in Genesis**

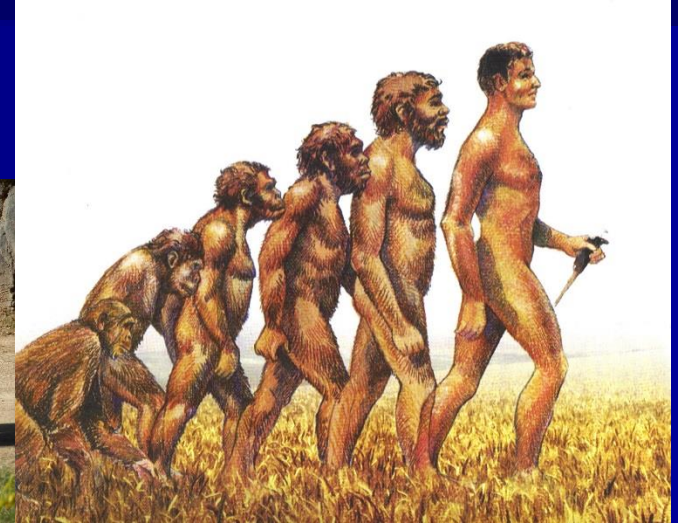


God “creates” by allowing life to evolve



God “creates” by allowing life to evolve

Evolution = survival of the strongest



God “creates” by allowing life to evolve

Evolution = survival of the strongest

Pain, suffering, and death – part of God’s plan

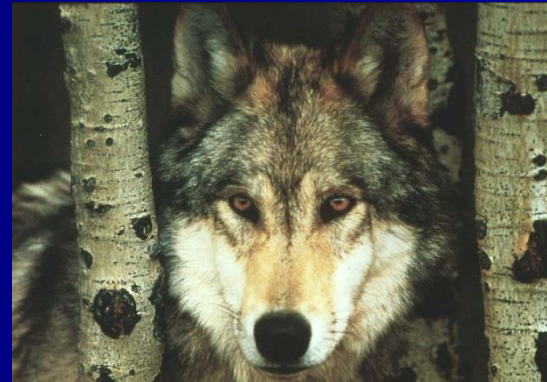


God “creates” by allowing life to evolve

Evolution = survival of the strongest

Pain, suffering, and death – part of God’s plan

**Theistic evolution**



# *The character of God*

Literal creation and Adam and Eve:  
Evil resulted from Satan and our sin  
*God's character is vindicated.*

# *The character of God*

Literal creation and Adam and Eve:  
Evil resulted from Satan and our sin  
*God's character is vindicated.*

Theistic evolution:  
Death and suffering (evil) was part of  
God's plan  
*God is responsible for evil*

# *Hypotheses and evidence*

Our worldview also makes predictions of what research will discover

## **General biblical prediction:**

Accumulating evidence will favor short time and/or catastrophic processes and biblical accuracy

# *Hypotheses and evidence*

Our worldview makes predictions of what research will discover

## **General biblical prediction:**

Accumulating evidence will favor short time and/or catastrophic processes and biblical accuracy

Does this work? **Yes**

# *Hypotheses and evidence*

## EXAMPLES:

**Archeology** - growing support for biblical accuracy

**Biology** – Darwinian theory (random mutations and natural selection) is collapsing

**Geology** – growing evidence that doesn't fit the long time scale

# *Conclusions*

Genesis claims a literal creation and Adam and Eve

Literal Adam and Eve and the Fall are the necessary foundation for the story of redemption

Literal creation and Fall preserve the character of God

Biblical worldview and growing evidence support this story