

BURNING QUESTIONS



CREATION, DINOSAURS, AND DATING!

Answers to Your Questions

OVERVIEW

The battles that are raging over things like creation, evolution, intelligent design, dinosaurs, the age of the earth, etc. are not about who has the best facts. No matter what a person claims or believes, we all have the same earth, same fossils, same animals, same facts, same evidence, and same science. The battle is really over how a person interprets the evidence. Battle lines are drawn based on a person's perspective or "worldview".

There is a huge distinction between the worldview represented in the bible and all the other worldviews that people hold. Here is summary of the contrasting perspectives:

Worldview Based On Man's Discoveries



Here, Now, Changing, Adding, Limited Knowledge
Man evolved and is no different from animals

Worldview Based On God's Revelation



There, Then, Never-Changing, Complete, Full Knowledge
Man is created uniquely in the image of God

Chapters 38-42 in the book of Job describe the vast chasm that exists between the knowledge of man and the understanding of God. Read these chapters and consider the Lord's power and wisdom and how you might imitate Job's response.

Job 38:1-4

1 Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: 2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Job 40:3-5

3 Then Job answered the LORD : 4 "I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. 5 I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more."

Job 42:1-6

1 Then Job replied to the LORD : 2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. 3 You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."



CREATION vs. EVOLUTION

What are the best arguments?

What are the best arguments about creation?

Advances in modern sciences have actually strengthened arguments for intelligent design and initiated a breakdown in Darwin's theory. There are many examples of this. Here's just one example:

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find out no such case."

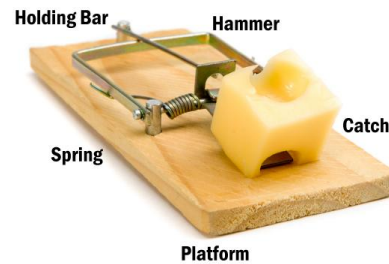
Charles Darwin *On the Origin of Species*

Since the publication of Darwin's theory in 1859, numerous scientific discoveries have unveiled a complexity of organisms which Darwin never dreamed of. Our world is filled with "irreducibly complex" systems. An irreducibly complex system is one that needs several well-matched parts, all working together, to perform its function. Anything less than the complete system would not work at all and would therefore never survive the process of natural selection. Many biochemical systems (such as the eye, the blood clotting cascade, intracellular transport system, and bacterial flagellum) are irreducibly complex and therefore impossible to gradually come together. These systems don't fit within a Darwinian framework. To his credit, Darwin was unaware of the complexity of such systems 150 years ago when he wrote his book. These systems are best explained as the products of deliberate intelligent design.

An Illustration:

A mousetrap is a good illustration of an "irreducibly complex" system. It consists of five interacting pieces—the platform, the catch, the spring, the hammer and the holding bar. All of these must be in place for the mousetrap to work. The removal of any one piece destroys the function of the mousetrap. Likewise, biological systems require multiple parts working together in order to function. Natural selection could not create from scratch those systems for which science is currently unable to find a viable evolutionary pathway of successive, slight modifications, because the selectable function is only present when all parts are assembled.

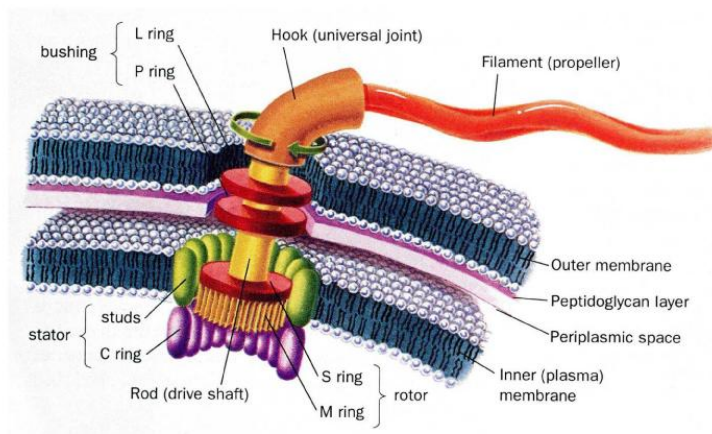
Mouse Trap



An Example:

A flagella is a microscopic tail on certain bacteria that function like a motor requiring the interaction of about 40 complex protein parts. The absence of any one of these proteins causes the flagella to fail to function. The flagellum "engine" is irreducibly complex...There can be no earlier and simpler stage of its evolutionary development. You would get an organism which functions improperly and would not survive natural selection.

Bacterial Flagellum



Side note: Speaking of proteins...There are 20 amino acids which are the building blocks for proteins. A modest protein contains 150 amino acids. Number of possible amino acid combinations is an unimaginably large number which vastly dwarfs the amount of time possible for those combinations to randomly take place. Even taking into account the age of the universe based on the Big Bang Theory, it is a statistical impossibility for proteins to form by chance in the amount of time from the big bang until now.

Logical Summary:

Design is the purposeful arrangement of parts. We infer design whenever parts appear arranged to accomplish a function. Design is easily observed in the physical structure of life's systems. You cannot explain the stupefying complexity of life without a designer. Living systems look designed because they were designed.

"When we come to inspect the watch, we perceive that its several parts are framed and put together for a purpose, e.g. that they are so formed and adjusted as to produce motion, and that motion so regulated as to point out the hour of the day. The inference we think is inevitable, that the watch must have had a maker."

William Paley *Natural Theology*

If intelligent design is so obvious, why do evolutionists persist to fight so viciously?

There is an atheist, intellectual party line that seems to be held up and defended by their own pride and vanity. Scientists want to be the ones to tell the story of the history of the universe. They don't want God or theologians (past or present) taking their power, position, or prestige. It's time we stop being bullied by absurd, theoretical science masquerading as truth. The scientific community talks a lot of rubbish. Don't be oppressed by condemnation that fools believe in a childish, narrow-minded myth of intelligent design. Don't let common sense become obscured by nonsense.

"We should reject, as a matter of principle, the substitution of intelligent design for the dialogue of chance and necessity; we must concede that there are presently no detailed Darwinian accounts of the evolution of any biochemical or cellular system, only a variety of wishful speculations."

Franklin M. Harold, Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry, Colorado State University
The Way of the Cell: Molecules, Organisms and the Order of Life

"Natural selection is the blind watchmaker, blind because it does not see ahead, does not plan consequences, has no purpose in view. Yet the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the illusion of design and planning."

Richard Dawkins, famous atheist speaker/author
The Blind Watchmaker

Where can I find out more about evidence supporting creation?

Many of these arguments have been covered thoroughly by experts at Watermark and in other articles. These resources are definitely worth checking out and will give you much more complete answers to your questions:

"Creation Conversation" Watermark – Dr. Stephen Meyer, Dr. Michael Behe, Dr. David Berlinski – 4/19/2009
<http://www.watermarkradio.com/index.php?id=153&channel=237&series=140>

"Science, Genesis, Creation and Faith: Friends, Not Foes" Watermark – Dr. Ken Ham – 10/5/2003
<http://www.watermarkradio.com/index.php?id=153&channel=237&series=11&message=1>

"Answers in Genesis" website

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab2/best-proof-of-creation>
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v22/n1/creation-proof>



DINOSAURS & AGE OF EARTH

When did Adam and Eve ride on a triceratops?

Did dinosaurs exist?

Yes! According to the Bible, God made the dinosaurs, along with the other land animals, on day 6 of the creation week (Genesis 1:20–25, 31). Adam and Eve were also made on day 6—so dinosaurs lived at the same time as people, not separated by millions of years. Dinosaurs could not have died out before people appeared because dinosaurs had not previously existed; and death, bloodshed, disease, and suffering are a result of Adam’s sin (Genesis 1:29–30; Romans 5:12, 14; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22). Death (and the possibility of extinction) only entered our world after the fall of man.

Representatives (most likely babies) of all the kinds of air-breathing land animals, including the dinosaur kinds, went aboard Noah’s Ark. All those left outside the ark died in the cataclysmic circumstances of the flood, and many of their remains became fossils. After the flood, around 4,300 years ago, the remnant of the land animals, including dinosaurs, came off the ark and lived in the present world, along with people. Because of sin, the judgments of the curse and the flood have greatly changed earth. Post-flood climatic change, lack of food, disease, and man’s activities caused many types of animals to become extinct. The dinosaurs, like many other creatures, died out.

How come “dinosaurs” weren’t mentioned in the bible if they actually existed?

The King James Version was first translated into the English language in 1611. It was not until 1841, however, that the word “dinosaur” was invented by Sir Richard Owen, a famous British anatomist and first superintendent of the British Museum. He coined the term “dinosaur” from Greek words meaning “terrible lizard.”

In Genesis 1:21, Psalm 74:13, Isaiah 27:1, and Job 41, the Bible mentions “great sea monsters” that could have included dinosaur-type animals such as the Mosasaurus, the mighty 40 ft. *Sarcosuchus imperator* (Super Croc), or the 82 ft. (25 m) *Liopleurodon*. In Isaiah 30:6, there is mention of a “flying serpent” which could be a reference to one of the pterodactyls, such as the *Pteranodon*, *Rhamphorhynchus*, or *Ornithocheirus*. In Job 40:15-19, God describes a “behemoth” which sounds very much like a *Brachiosaurus*.

Where can I find more information about dinosaurs?

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/1999/11/05/dinosaurs-and-the-bible>
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/what-happened-to-the-dinosaurs>
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v5/n2/dinosaurs-ark>

How long has the world been around?

The answer is *NOT* millions (or billions) of years. According to the Bible, the world is much, much younger...around 6,000 years old. There are great dangers in buying into the idea that the earth is millions of years old and that the Bible’s description of creation and its account of human history is just a myth or allegory. Here are nine things to consider:

1. **The Bible clearly teaches that God created in 6 days.** The Hebrew word for day in Genesis 1 is “*yom*.” In the vast majority of its uses in the Old Testament it means a literal day; and where it doesn’t, the context makes this clear.
2. **The context of Genesis 1 clearly shows that the days of creation were literal days.** In Genesis 1, the word “*yom*” is used with “evening” and “morning.” Everywhere these two words are used in the Old Testament, they are always describing a literal day.
3. **The genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11 make it clear that the creation days happened only about 6,000 years ago.** It is transparent from the genealogies of Genesis 5 and 11, which give very detailed chronological information, that the creation week took place only about 6,000 years ago.
4. **Exodus 20:9–11 supports the meaning of “*yom*” from Genesis 1.** This passage gives the reason for God’s command to Israel to work six days and then take a sabbath rest. “*Yom*” is used in both parts of the commandment. God meant that the Jews were to work six days because He created over six days. If he created over six “long periods of time”, He could have said that using a different Hebrew word meaning “long period of time” instead of using the word “*yom*.” He chose the only Hebrew word that means a literal day, and the Jews understood it and applied it literally...and we should too.

5. **Noah's Flood washes away millions of years.** The evidence in Genesis 6–9 for a global catastrophic flood is overwhelming. The flood was intended to destroy not only all sinful people but also all land animals and birds and the surface of the earth, which only a *global* flood could accomplish. The ark's purpose was to save two of every kind of land animal and bird to repopulate the earth after the flood. The ark was totally unnecessary if the flood was only local.

The catastrophic nature of the flood is seen in the nonstop rain for at least 40 days, which would have produced massive erosion, mud slides, hurricanes, etc. The Hebrew words translated “the fountains of the great deep burst open” (Genesis 7:11) clearly point to tectonic rupturing of the earth's surface in many places for 150 days, resulting in volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Noah's flood would produce exactly the kind of complex geological record we see worldwide today: thousands of feet of sediments clearly deposited by water and later hardened into rock and containing billions of fossils. If the year-long flood is responsible for most of the rock layers and fossils, then those rocks and fossils cannot represent the history of the earth over millions of years, as evolutionists claim.

6. **Jesus affirmed the Old Testament accounts of creation and history.** Jesus consistently treated the miracle accounts of the Old Testament as straightforward, truthful, historical accounts (e.g., creation of Adam, Noah and the Flood, Lot and his wife in Sodom, Moses and the manna, and Jonah in the fish). He continually affirmed the authority of Scripture over men's ideas and traditions (Matthew 15:1–9).
7. **Belief in millions of years undermines the Bible's teaching on sin, death, salvation, and the character of God.** Genesis 1 says six times that God called the creation “good,” and when He finished creation on Day 6, He called everything “very good.” But Adam and Eve sinned, resulting in the judgment of God on the whole creation. Instantly Adam and Eve died spiritually, and after God's curse they began to die physically. The serpent and Eve were changed physically and the ground itself was cursed (Genesis 3:14–19). The whole creation now groans in bondage to corruption, waiting for the final redemption of Christians (Romans 8:19–25) when we will see the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21, Colossians 1:20) to a state similar to the pre-fall world, when there will be no more disease, suffering, or death (Revelation 21:3–5) because there will be no more curse (Revelation 22:3).

To accept millions of years of animal death before the creation and fall of man contradicts and destroys the Bible's teaching on sin and death and the full redemptive work of Christ. It also makes God into a bumbling, cruel creator who uses (or can't prevent) disease, natural disasters, and extinctions to mar His creative work, without any moral cause, but still calls it all “very good.”

8. **The idea of millions of years did not come from the scientific facts.** This idea of long ages was developed by deistic and atheistic geologists in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. These men used anti-biblical philosophical and religious assumptions to interpret the geological observations in a way that plainly contradicted the biblical account of creation, the flood, and the age of the earth. Most church leaders and scholars quickly compromised creating the gap theory, day-age view, local flood view, etc. to try to fit “deep time” into the Bible. But they did not understand the geological arguments, and they did not defend their views by careful Bible study. The “deep time” idea flows out of naturalistic assumptions, not scientific observations.
9. **Radiometric dating methods do not prove millions of years.** Radiometric dating was not developed until the early twentieth century, by which time virtually the whole world had already accepted the millions of years. For many years creation scientists have cited numerous examples in the published scientific literature of these dating methods clearly giving erroneous dates (e.g., a date of millions of years for lava flows that occurred in the past few hundred years or even decades). In recent years creationists in the RATE project have done experimental, theoretical, and field research to uncover more such evidence (e.g., diamonds and coal, which the evolutionists say are millions of years old, were dated by carbon-14 to be only thousands of years old) and to show that decay rates were orders of magnitude faster in the past, which shrinks the millions of years to thousands of years, confirming the Bible.

Where can I find more information about the age of the earth?

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/get-answers/topic/young-age-evidence>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n2/key-age-of-earth>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/could-god-have-created-in-six-days>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v1/n1/world-born-4004-bc>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/why-christians-shouldnt-accept-millions>

<http://www.icr.org/rate/>



When should I start dating?

The answers to this question, were covered last year in Wake in a series called “Nobody Wants to Be Lonely: The Who, When, and How of Godly Romance.” Here is summary from that teaching:

Who will find godly romance?

1. The person who can talk to their parents about it
2. The person who has wise friends who give advice
3. The person who follows God above their own heart

Proverbs 1:8

Pay close attention, friend, to what your father tells you; never forget what you learned at your mother's knee.

Proverbs 13:1

Intelligent children listen to their parents; foolish children do their own thing.

Proverbs 19:27

If you quit listening, dear child, and strike off on your own, you'll soon be out of your depth..

Proverbs 12:15

Fools are headstrong and do what they like; wise people take advice.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success

Proverbs 19:20

Get all the advice you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

Matthew 6:33-34

33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.
34 “So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

When will I find godly romance?

1. When both parents approve of the relationship
2. When caring friends approve of the relationship
3. When God is the clear leader of the relationship
4. When you're ready to commit to the relationship

Genesis 24

The story of Isaac & Rebekah

What do I do while I wait for godly romance?

1. Work – Live a life of service and undivided devotion to the Lord.
2. Rest - Allow the Lord to bring you romance. No need to worry.
3. Receive - Romance is not like shopping for the right product. Romance is receiving the gift God gives.

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

32 I want you to be free from the concerns of this life. An unmarried man can spend his time doing the Lord's work and thinking how to please him. 33 But a married man has to think about his earthly responsibilities and how to please his wife. 34 His interests are divided. In the same way, a woman who is no longer married or has never been married can be devoted to the Lord and holy in body and in spirit. But a married woman has to think about her earthly responsibilities and how to please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your benefit, not to place restrictions on you. I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.

1 Corinthians 15:58

58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Psalms 127:1

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.

Psalms 37:7

Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.

James 1:16-17

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Is it bad to love someone in middle school?

You've got butterflies in your stomach. You can't think straight. The only thing you can think about is that special person. Your heart and your attention has been captured. Are you in love? Or are teens too young for love? Is it just infatuation? What is love anyways?

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.... Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 John 3:16

16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers

Biblically, the word "love" is an action word that describes a patient, kind, humble, self-sacrificing, unending commitment to another person. If we say the words "I love you" too loosely in romantic relationships, they can easily lose their power and meaning. For someone that follows Christ and understands God's word, feelings of extravagant, intense, romantic, unreasoning desire or attraction for another person are probably better categorized as "infatuation" or "affection." Be careful how you use your words and be sure you understand the meaning of what you're saying and your readiness and ability to back up your words with action.

Why does love suck?

We are sinners living in a broken world and we do many things in life, including love, imperfectly. Praise God for rescuing us from our flesh and showing us how to live!

Romans 7:18-24

And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.... Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.