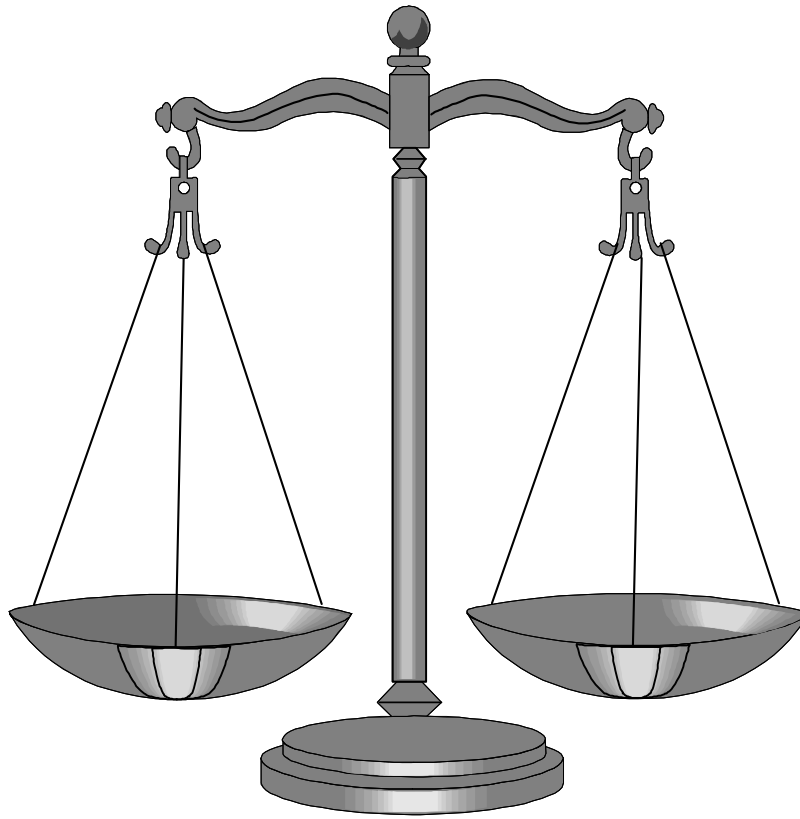


TRUTH IN THE BALANCE



A Teaching Manual on Bible Apologetics, Creation and Evolution

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

xiv

PART ONE

Creation or Evolution: Why Does It Matter?

Chapter One - How Do You Know What You Know?

I. Definition of Terms	1-1
A. Evolution: Initial Disorganization. Two Major Models	1-2
B. Creation: Initial Complexity. Three Major Models	
C. Intelligent design vs. Biblical Creation	1-3
II. Critical thinking skills	
A. What it means to “know” something - categories of knowledge	
B. Scientific knowledge vs. false logic	1-5
C. How to evaluate claims of knowledge	
II. Difference between Science, History, and Belief	1-6
A. Scientific Methods	
B. Demonstration: Science, History, and Belief	1-7
C. Eyewitness account required for certainty	1-9
III. Science and the existence of God	1-10
A. Characteristics of creationist’s God	
B. Characteristics of theistic evolutionist’s God	1-11
C. Characteristics of atheist’s Random Chance	
IV. The usefulness of an idea is independent of its origin.	1-12
A. Both creation and evolution originated as religious ideas.	
B. Unscientific origins of some useful ideas	
C. The religious roots of science	1-13
D. Scientific implications of creation and evolution.	
Chapter Review	1-14
Chapter Review Questions	1-15

Chapter Two - It Matters What You Believe.

V. All religions are not the same.	2-1
A. Necessity of Revelation in order to know God.	2-2
B. Contradictory “holy books” cannot all be true.	
C. Books and traditions different groups believe are divinely inspired	
1. Book of Mormon	
2. The Qur’an and Islam	2-11
3. “The Watchtower” and Jehovah's Witnesses	2-26
4. The Bible, Judaism, and Christianity	2-38
5. “Sacred Tradition” of Roman Catholicism	2-41
6. Bible commentaries and footnotes	2-42
D. Non-Revelation religions’ “holy books” and concepts of God	
1. Atheism	2-43
2. Hinduism	
3. Buddhism	2-45
4. The New Age Movement	2-46
5. Spiritism	
Chapter Review	2-48

Chapter Three - Origin and Supernatural Credentials of the Bible

VI. How Did We Get Our Bible?	3-1
A. Old Testament	
B. New Testament	3-2
VII. Reliability of the Bible	3-3
A. Manuscript reliability	3-4
1. New Testament	
a. Variant readings	3-5
b. Faithless Bible versions	3-6
c. Textual criticism	3-7
d. Conclusion about manuscript families	3-9
e. Bible Numerics	
<i>Implication for Variant Readings</i>	3-10
2. The Old Testament	3-11
a. The time before Moses	
b. Organization of the Hebrew Bible (the Tanakh)	3-12
c. Procedures for copying the Hebrew texts	3-13
d. The Greek Septuagint	3-14
e. Numeric discrepancies	3-15
B. Fulfilled prophecy	3-16
1. Prophecies about Jesus	
2. Prophecies about other individuals	3-18
3. Prophecies about foreign cities and nations	
4. Prophecies about the city of Jerusalem	3-19
5. Prophecies about the nation of Israel	
6. Prophecies of Daniel Chapter 11	
C. Internal evidence	
1. What the Bible says about itself.	3-20
2. Does the New Testament reflect a growing mythology in the early church?	
3. Internal consistency	3-21
Chapter Review	
Chapter Review Questions	3-23

Chapter Four - Alleged Contradictions and Errors in the Bible

I. Alleged contradictions in the Old Testament	4-1
A. Creation, Garden of Eden, Cain's wife, Cain's sacrifice, Predators, Numeric discrepancy of Benjamin's Family, Number of Israelites, Time of slavery in Egypt, The Exodus, Capital Punishment, Sabbath, Ruth the Moabite, Solomon's horses,	
II. Alleged New Testament Contradictions	4-7
Character of God, Deity of Christ, Genealogy of Jesus, Sermon on the Mount or Plain?, Varying numbers of healings, Purpose of Jesus' death, When He ate the Last Supper, After 3 days or On the 3 rd Day?, Post-Resurrection Appearances, Questions about Paul, Altar of Incense	
III. External evidence	4-15
Nature of matter, Earth hung on nothing, Shape of the earth, Motion of the sun, Rotation of the earth, Is the sky strong, Hydrologic cycle, Garden of Eden, Chemical composition of human bodies, Makes and Females in the Garden of Eden, All humans descended from one man, Location of the Garden of Eden, Diet before Adam's sin, Possible Dino-	

saurs in the Bible, Carrying capacity of the Ark, Worldwide flood, Human body turning to salt, Does the Bible confuse bats with birds, Number of legs on insects, Do Rabbits chew the cud, Parting of the Red Sea, Walls of Jericho, Joshua's long day, the value of Pi, Ezekiel 4:9 bread	
E. "Icing on the cake:" Equidistant Letter Sequences in the Hebrew Text	4-24
Chapter Review	4-26
Chapter Review Questions	
<i>Chapter Five - The Relevance of Creation and Evolution</i>	
VIII. Relevance of Creation/Evolution	5-2
A. Evolution and the Bible can't both be true Contradictions between evolution and Genesis	
B. Meaning of anything depends on its origin	5-5
C. The meaning of Christianity (What is the Gospel, Who is Jesus, Why do I need a Savior, How can I be reconciled with God, Does God judge sin?)	5-6
D. Creation and evangelism Comparison of Jewish, Greek, and American Culture	5-9
E. Issues affecting the individual and society	5-10
Who sets standards of right and wrong?	
Why am I here?	5-11
Meaning of life and death	5-12
How could a good God allow suffering?	5-13
Homosexuality and sexual promiscuity	5-14
Marriage and the traditional family	
Abortion	5-16
Biblical grounds for taking a life	5-17
Clothes and pornography	5-18
Drugs, alcohol, and suicide	
Crime and punishment - law and government	5-19
Racism	5-20
One-world government (New Age movement)	5-21
7-day week	
Medical and humanitarian aid)	
Chapter Review	5-23
Chapter Review Questions	5-24
<i>Chapter Six - Examining the Evidence Critically</i>	
IX. Presuppositions and Biases	6-1
A. Scientists biased in favor of creation	6-2
B. Scientists biased in favor of evolution	
C. Logic in the Origins Controversy	6-3
1. Deductive vs. Inductive logic	6-4
2. Correct structure of deductive logic	
3. Potential problems with deductive logic	6-5
D. Postulates (axioms) of each model	6-7
1. Ultimate source of universe	
2. Possible mechanisms for origin of universe	6-8
3. Age of universe	6-9
4. Source of the geologic record	
5. Source of similarities between living things	6-10
6. Source of ultimate authority	

X. Examining the evidence critically	6-11
A. Potential problems with evidence	
B. How to evaluate evidence	6-13
XI. Common misconceptions	6-16
A. Species vs. “kind”	
B. Gene Expression	6-18
C. Evolution - more than just change	
D. Evolution vs. descent with modification	
E. Evolution vs. Adaptation to the Environment	6-19
F. The mechanism of evolution (The Giraffe’s neck)	
G. Natural selection	6-21
H. Industrial melanism - the peppered moth	6-22
I. Selective breeding	6-23
J. Vestigial and nascent organs	6-24
K. Embryonic recapitulation	
L. Summary	6-25
Chapter Review	6-26
Chapter Review Questions	6-28

PART TWO

Origin and Development of the Universe

Chapter Seven - Origin of the Universe

I. Scientific Laws, Theories, and Models	7-1
A. Scientific hypotheses and theories	
B. Scientific laws	7-2
C. Use of Models in science	7-3
D. Using Occam’s Razor to evaluate models	7-4
II. Can Natural Law account for the origin of matter and energy?	7-5
A. Origin of matter and energy	
1. Predictions of Creation	
2. Predictions of Evolution	
3. Observation	
B. Evolutionary models for the origin of the universe	7-6
1. The eternal universe model	
2. The quantum universe model	7-7
3. The steady-state universe model	
4. The oscillating universe model	7-8
C. Unavoidability of the Supernatural	7-9
III. Origin of heavy elements	
A. Present understanding of the atom	
B. Spectroscopic analysis	7-10
<i>Periodic Table of the elements</i>	7-11
C. What are we looking for?	7-12
D. Problems with synthesizing heavy elements	7-13
1. Limitations of Big Bang synthesis	
2. Alternate evolutionary model: synthesis in stars	7-15
3. Summary	7-16
Chapter Review	7-18

Chapter Eight - Did The Universe Evolve?

IV. Organization or disorganization?	8-1
A. Predictions	
1. Creation: Tendency toward disorganization	
2. Evolution: Tendency toward organization	
B. Observation: Tendency toward disorganization	8-2
1. Entropy in isolated systems: The Second Law of Thermodynamics	
2. Entropy in open systems	8-5
3. Chaos Theory	8-8
V. The Big Bang	
A. Presuppositions of big bang theory	8-9
B. Critique of big bang arguments	8-10
1. Red shift of starlight	8-11
1a. Size of the universe	8-13
1b. Some Problems with size calculations	8-16
2. Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation	8-17
3. Summary of Big Bang Evidence	8-22
C. The big bang vs. the laws of physics	
1. Conservation of Momentum	
2. Second Law of Thermodynamics	8-23
3. Conservation of Angular Momentum	
D. Steady-state and “little big bang” models	8-24
1. Randomness vs. Consistency	
2. Need for 3-dimensional space	
3. 1st Law of Thermodynamics	8-25
E. The “evolution” of stars	
1. Rate of Star Formation	
2. Differing life spans of stars	
3. Behavior of gas clouds	8-26
4. Chemical composition of clouds in space	
F. Problems in the solar system	
1. Composition of the Planets	
2. Angular Momentum	8-27
3. Retrograde rotation of planets and moons	
VI. Summary of the universe’s origin and development	8-28
Chapter Review	8-30

Chapter Nine - Age of the Universe

VII. Biblical Reasons for Believing the Universe is Young	9-1
A. Hebrew Usage	
B. Ten Commandments	
C. Limits to possible gaps in Genesis Genealogies	
VIII. Characteristics of an Accurate Clock	9-2
A. Initial conditions known	
B. Known rate of change	
C. Closed System	
IX. Evolutionary Arguments for an Old Universe	
A. Time needed to reach present size	9-3
B. Time needed for light from distant stars to reach earth	
X. Creationist Response.	
A. Size of the universe	

1. Initial conditions unknown	9-3
2. Present size uncertain	
3. Globular clusters dated older than the universe itself	
B. Behavior and speed of light in deep space	9-4
1. "Light Paths"	
2. Riemannian geometry and curved space	
3. Possible decay in the speed of light	
4. Speed of light in deep space never measured	9-5
5. Gravitational time dilation	9-6
Big Bang vs. Humphreys "White Hole" Model	
6. Limitations of human knowledge	9-8
XI. Arguments for a Young Universe	
A. Breakup of galaxy clusters	9-9
B. Spiral galaxies	
C. Chemical similarity of stars of supposedly different ages	
D. Presence of Technetium in stars	
E. Lack of Supernova Remnants	9-10
F. Evidence in the solar system	
1. Short-Period Comets	
2. The Rings of Saturn	9-11
3. Volcanic Activity on Io	9-12
4. Excess Heat in Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune	
5. Poynting-Robertson Effect	
6. Recession of the Moon	
7. The Sun's Source of Power - <i>argument no longer used by creationists</i>	9-14
8. The Solar Temperature Dilemma	
9. Arguments for a young sun	
Chapter Review	9-15

PART THREE

Origin and Development of Life

Chapter Ten - The Origin of Life

I. Science and the Search for Design	10-1
A. Arguments against Design, and the Response	10-2
1. Rejection of the Supernatural	
2. Argument from Imperfection	
B. How to Recognize Design	10-3
1. Weak Argument: Matters of Opinion	
2. Stronger Argument: Specified Improbability	
3. Strongest Argument: Irreducible Complexity	10-4
II. "Life In The Lab"?	10-5
A. Predictions of Evolution	10-6
B. Predictions of Creation	
C. The Oparin-Haldane Hypothesis	
D. Actual Observations	10-7
1. Atmospheric Oxygen	
2. The Oxygen-Ultraviolet Dilemma	10-9
3. The Trapping Mechanism	
4. Nitrogen Fixation	10-10

5. Optical Isomers: Left-Handed Amino Acids	10-10
6. The Problem of Chemistry	10-11
7. The DNA/Enzyme Dilemma	10-13
8. The Cell Membrane	10-14
B. Directed Pan-Spermia	10-15
III. What is “Life”?	10-16
Summary of Origin-of-Life Evidence	
IV. Is There Life on Other Planets?	10-17
A. Misconceptions about Extrasolar Planets	
B. Method of Detecting Extrasolar Planets	10-18
C. Basic Requirements for Life	10-21
D. What the Bible says about Life in Space	
E. UFO’s	10-22
F. How about Life on Mars?	10-23
G. How about Water on Mars?	10-24
Summary	
Chapter Review	10-25

Chapter Eleven - Evolution: Biology Says No!

I. The Four Pillars of Evolution	11-1
II. The Genetic Code	11-2
A. What evolutionists are overlooking - origin of communication	
B. Cell Reproduction and Error-Checking	11-3
1. Operation of Enzymes	11-4
2. Nucleotide Selection	11-5
3. Preliminary Proofreading.	
4. Error Detection and Correction.	
C. Origin of new features in living organisms	11-6
1. Chemical composition of DNA and cells	
2. No mutations known to benefit a species	11-7
3. No mutations known to increase genetic information	11-10
4. “Mutations” in bacteria and insects	11-13
D. Pleiotropy	11-14
E. “Pseudogenes”	
1. Cell differentiation	11-15
2. Regulatory functions	
3. Three-dimensional structure of DNA	
4. Hidden information encoded in DNA	
F. Differences in Protein Sequences Between Different Kinds	
III. Homology - the 2nd pillar of evolution	11-16
IV Geographic Distribution - the 3rd pillar	11-18
A. Geographic distribution and natural selection	
B. Unusual Features of isolated groups.	11-20
1. Animals of the Galapagos Islands	
2. Australian Mammals	11-21
C. The origin of races	
V. The Case For Design in Nature	11-23
A. How evolutionists deal with the appearance of design	
B. Creationist arguments for design	11-24
1. Convergence of Probabilities	
2. Irreducible complexity	11-25

C. Examples of Design	11-25
1. DNA	
2. Irreducible complexity of cell reproduction	
3. Universal genetic code	11-26
4. Blood coagulation	
5. Antibody Production	11-27
6. Cell Structures	11-28
7. Specialized organs and structures	11-29
Chapter Review	11-36
 <i>Chapter Twelve - The Fossil Record, Part One: Geology and the Age of the Earth</i>	
I. Adequacy of the fossil record	12-1
II. Summary of Different Creation and Evolution Models	
A. Three Major Creation Models	12-2
1. Recent Rapid Creation	
2. The “Gap Theory”	
3. Progressive Creation or the “Day-Age” model	
B. Two Major Evolution Models	12-3
1. Neo-Darwinism	
2. Punctuated Equilibria	
III. Predictions of Creation and Evolution Models for the Fossil Record	12-4
A. Ecological Communities vs. Time Periods	
B. Catastrophism vs. Uniformitarianism	12-5
C. Initial Number of Higher Taxa	
D. Sudden Appearance vs. Gradual Development	12-6
E. Stasis vs. Unlimited Directional Change	
IV. Age of the Earth.	12-7
A. Arguments for an Old Earth	12-9
B. Response to Old-Earth Arguments	12-10
1. How fossils are formed	
2. Critique of Radiometric Dating	12-11
a. Uncertainties of Radiometric Dating	12-12
b. Potassium-argon dating	12-15
c. Problems with Carbon-14 Dating	
d. Other reasons fossils are not radioactively dated	12-17
e. Examples of Erroneous Radioactive Dates.	
f. Isochron Dating	12-18
3. How evolutionists date rocks	12-20
4. Radiometric and Geologic Tie-Points	12-21
C. Geologic Features	12-22
1. Strata identified by suites of fossils	12-23
2. Uniformitarian basis of the geologic column.	12-24
3. Origin of life and the stratigraphic level of the fossils considered oldest	12-25
D. Biblical Creation / Flood Model	
1. Mud flows / Landslides	
2. Effects of tectonics and tides	
3. Biome succession	12-26
4. Biblical Timeline of the Flood	12-27
E. Possible correlation of the Flood with sedimentary layers	12-28
1. Archaeozoic Era	
2. Paleozoic Era	

3. Mesozoic Era	12-29
4. Cenozoic Era	12-30
a. The K-Pg boundary	
b. Where did the water go? Vertical plate tectonics	
c. Proposed overall Flood model	12-31
d. Tertiary and Quaternary Periods	
e. Post-Flood separation of humans - the Tower of Babel and the Ice Age	12-33
F. Arguments for Catastrophism	12-34
1. Arguments against Uniformitarianism	
a. Origin of the Universe and Earth	
b. Separation of the initial supercontinent	12-35
c. Mountain-building	
d. Complete geologic column not found in nature	12-36
e. Clearly defined strata	
f. Out of order strata	
g. Misplaced fossils	12-37
h. Mass extinctions	
i. Extinction of dinosaurs	
j. Fossil graveyards	
k. Polystrate fossils	12-38
l. Deformation of sedimentary layers	
2. Rapid Formation of Geologic Features	
a. Mount St. Helens	
b. The Grand Canyon	12-40
c. Salt domes	12-42
d. Coral reefs	
G. Arguments for a young earth	12-43
1. Temperature and Thickness of the Earth's Crust	
2. Helium in the Atmosphere	12-44
3. Helium Diffusion in Rocks.	
4. Rate of Carbon-14 Production	
5. The Missing Meteorites	12-45
6. Oil Pressure	
7. Pleochroic Haloes	
Summary	12-48
Chapter Review	12-49

Chapter Thirteen - The Fossil Record, Part Two (One-Celled Organisms Through Birds)

Predictions: Initial Number of Higher Taxa, Sudden Appearance, and Stasis

I. The gap from Non-life to Life	13-2
II. Plants and Photosynthesis.	13-3
How did life get to the bottom of the sea?	
III. The Gap from One-celled to Multi-celled	13-4
IV. The Ediacaran Fauna - complex invertebrates	
V. Sudden appearance of many higher taxa - the Cambrian Explosion	13-5
Cladistics vs. Linnaean system of classification	
VI. Sudden appearance of plants.	13-7
VII. "Early" complex invertebrates (Insects, Crustaceans, etc.)	
A. Arthropods.	13-8
1. Trilobites	

2. Animals of the lower Paleozoic (Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian)	13-8
3. Insects, Spiders, and Crustaceans	13-9
B. Echinoderms, Crinoids, Brachiopods, etc.	
VIII. The First Vertebrates	13-10
A. Class Agnatha (jawless fish)	
B. Class Placodermi	
C. Class Chondrichthyes (sharks)	
D. Class Osteichthyes (bony fish)	13-11
IX. Fish to Amphibian	
A. Proposed transitions	
1. Coelacanths	
2. Lungfish	13-12
3. Major anatomical differences between fish and amphibians	
B. Unknown origin of eight other amphibian orders	13-15
1. Structural Differences between Fish and Amphibians	
2. Extinct amphibians	
3. Living amphibians	13-16
C. First appearance of Ichthyostegid amphibians	
D. Absence of Intermediates	
E. Supposed transition (<i>Tiktaalik</i>) out of sequence	
X. Amphibians to Reptiles	
A. Different egg types	
B. Fossils out of sequence	13-17
XI. Classification of Reptiles	
Chart - Members of Class Reptilia	
A. Fossils out of evolutionary sequence	
B. Difference between mammal-like reptiles and mammals	13-19
1. Types of "Mammal-like reptiles"	
a. Pelycosaur	
b. Therapsids	
c. Non-mammalian cynodonts	
2. Anatomical differences between mammal-like reptiles and mammals	13-20
a. Jaw structure	
b. Middle ear structure	
c. Breathing mechanism	
d. Eye placement	
e. Cold-bloodedness	
f. Scales vs. hair	13-21
g. Similarity to adults	
h. Continual growth	
i. Structures unique to mammal-like reptiles	
XII. Dinosaurs and Other Extinct Reptiles	
A. Things that were not dinosaurs	
1. Marine Reptiles: Ichthyosauria	
2. Marine reptiles: Sauropterygia	13-22
3. Marine reptiles: Squamata	
B. Flying reptiles of Order Pterosauria	
C. Other non-dinosaur orders in Subclass Archosauria	
1. Order Crocodilia	
2. Order Thecodontia	
XIII. True dinosaurs: Orders Saurischia and Ornithischia.	

A. What were dinosaurs?	13-23
1. Order Saurischia	
2. Order Ornithischia	
B. When did dinosaurs live?	13-24
C. How many types of dinosaurs were there?	
1. Triassic animals	13-25
2. Lower Jurassic	
3. Middle Jurassic	
4. Upper Jurassic	
5. Lower Cretaceous	
6. Upper Cretaceous	13-26
D. Where did dinosaurs come from ?	
E. What killed off the dinosaurs?	
F. Were dinosaurs ferocious predators?	
G. Were dinosaurs warm-blooded?	13-27
H. Have humans ever seen living dinosaurs?	
1. Possible Biblical references	13-28
2. Modern stories of large reptiles	
3. Physical artifacts	13-29
4. Legends and historical references to “dragons”	13-30
I. How could any dinosaurs have survived the Flood?	
XIV. Did birds evolve from dinosaurs?	13-31
A. Arguments for dino-to-bird evolution	
B. Arguments against dino-to-bird evolution	13-32
1. Birdlike vs. Lizard-like pelvis	
2. Internal structure of “bird-mimic” dinosaurs	
3. Why would anything evolve?	13-33
4. Fossil birds	
C. “Feathered dinosaurs”	13-34
Chapter Review	13-35
 <i>Chapter Fourteen - The Fossil Record, Part Three (Mammals and Humans)</i>	
II. Reptiles to Mammals	14-4
A. Fossils Out of Sequence	
B. Differences Between Mammal-like Reptiles and Mammals	14-5
III. Mammals	14-7
A. Order Chiroptera (Bats)	14-8
B. Order Monotremata (Platypus, spiny anteater)	14-9
C. Order Marsupialia (Kangaroos, etc.)	14-10
D. Order Cetacea (Whales, etc.)	
E. Order Lagomorpha (Rabbits and Hares)	14-11
F. Order Rodentia	
G. Order Proboscidea (Elephants)	14-12
H. Order Perissodactyla (Odd-Toed Hoofed Animals -the “Horse Series”)	
I. Other Mammalian Orders	14-20
Chapter Review	14-21
 <i>Chapter Fifteen - The Fossil Record, Part Four (Fossil Apes and Men)</i>	
Order Primates (Monkeys, Apes, Humans)	
I. Explanations for the Lack of Primate Fossils	15-1
Chart - Hypothetical Ancestry of Man	15-3

II. Origin of the First Primates	
A. Differences Between Tupaiids and Primates	
III. Prosimians	15-4
A. Common Ancestor of Primates	
B. Earliest Prosimians	15-5
IV. Anthropoids (Monkeys, Apes, Humans)	
A. Platyrrhines (New World Monkeys)	15-6
B. Catarrhines	
1. Old World Monkeys	
2. Apes	15-7
V. From Ape to Man	15-8
A. Contrasting Characteristics	
1. Alleged Similarities in DNA	
2. Physical Differences	15-9
B. The African/Asian Split	
C. Origin of Australopithecines	15-10
1. Dryopithecines	
2. Different Species of Australopithecus and Homo habilis	15-13
3. Anatomical Studies of Australopithecines	15-15
D. Homo erectus	15-18
1. “Java Man” (Pithecanthropus)	15-19
2. “Peking Man” (Sinanthropus)	15-20
3. Other Appearances of Homo erectus	15-22
E. Homo sapiens	15-23
1. Early Occurrences of Modern Man	
2. Neanderthal Man	15-25
3. Cro-Magnon Man	15-28
Summary	15-29
Chapter Review	

Appendix A - Biblical Questions and Comments

A. How old is the earth?	A-1
B. “Appearance of age.”	
C. The “Gap Theory”: Was there a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, and when did Lucifer rebel against God?	
D. How could a snake talk?	A-5
E. Why wasn’t Eve surprised when a snake talked to her?	
F. If animals were not meant to kill each other, why do snakes have poison?	A-6
G. How long were Adam and Eve in the garden before they sinned?	
H. What was the Mark of Cain?	
I. Why did God reject Cain’s sacrifice and accept Abel’s?	A-7
J. How could people live so long?	
K. Are there gaps in the genealogies of Genesis?	
L. Were Pre-Flood humans primitive and brutish?	A-8
M. Where did the races come from?	
N. How about plate tectonics / continental drift?	
O. What does it all mean to me?	A-10

Appendix B - Using the Book of Mormon to Witness to Mormons

	B-1
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PREFACE

Through the centuries millions of Christians have died for their belief that the Bible is the inspired, infallible Word of God and is the final authority in everything it addresses. Lately, though, many of us in America have adopted a much more casual attitude toward the Bible. Do we believe in it enough to die for what it says? The day is coming when we will once again have to make that choice.

Though Christians in the United States have not experienced persecution the way believers in other countries have, an alarming trend has developed in the last few decades as many former churchgoers have turned away from the Christian faith. Some, it seems, are not satisfied to abandon Christianity by themselves and have worked hard to turn others away also.

Surprisingly, many of those who fight hardest against Biblical Christianity grew up in religious homes. When asked why they attack it so strongly, a common thread emerges: they had questions about the Bible in their youth, but no one ever answered those questions. Later, when they were exposed to the concept of evolution in school, they recognized its incompatibility with the Bible and concluded that their parents had either deliberately or ignorantly deceived them. Many of these same people have now devoted their lives to discrediting it as the Word of God.

Any of our children could fall into the same trap. If we want to keep them in the Faith, we had best follow Peter's instructions about "always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you" (I Peter 3:15) when they ask us to explain why we believe the Bible. We'd better be prepared to give them some answers about evolution. Thus, I decided to write this book.

I have been studying the creation/evolution controversy for decades and have discovered a wealth of information on the subject. In fact, a novice who wants to teach others would be overwhelmed by the amount of literature. He or she would have a hard time deciding what to teach, and in what order. Despite the many excellent volumes which deal with specific areas of the controversy, there seem to be few if any teaching manuals covering Creation/Evolution "from A to Z." Thus, this book came to be. Its purpose is not to take the place of other information but to supplement it - to help teachers learn the subject and pass it on to others.

Many excellent books deal with the creation-evolution controversy from a purely scientific standpoint, and fill an important niche in Christian as well as scientific literature. However, this book is specifically written for Christian teachers who wish to teach not only the scientific but also the Scriptural and moral aspects of the controversy. After all, if creation/evolution is nothing but a mental exercise, why bother? Thus, this book is not limited to scientific evidence but also includes some pertinent nonscientific topics, most important of which are an in-depth discussion of the relevance of Creation and logical proof of the existence of God. Also included are a brief discussion of comparative religion and of the accuracy of Bible manuscripts, as well as a number of archaeological finds. Once this background has been firmly established, the scientific part of the controversy will be presented in an orderly, logical fashion. Along the way, many commonly asked Bible questions will be answered. (Where did Cain get his wife?)

A suggestion to teachers: To one such as myself, lectures consisting of nothing but talk can be very boring. I personally use a great many Powerpoint® slides to help hold the students' attention and enable them to better grasp the more technical subject matter. Throughout this book you will see references showing where the slides belong in the lessons. You can obtain the slide shows by downloading them from the "Bible College Material" section of www.creationorevolution.net, or by contacting me via email at the address below. Other recommended sources of visual materials

are listed throughout this book. All of these can be passed around to the class and many can be made into overhead transparencies.

This book is meant as an introduction to the study of God's creation. Since the field is changing so rapidly, you should stay current with other authors' works on Creation - men such as Henry Morris, Duane Gish, Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, Russell Humphreys, John Baumgardner, and others who have devoted their lives to the defense of God's Word. Many of these materials are available at Christian bookstores, and many are available online. For instance, the Institute for Creation Research offers a free monthly "Acts and Facts" newsletter at www.icr.org, and you can find a great deal of creation related material at such places as www.answersingenesis.org, www.christiananswers.net, www.creation.com, and others. Or you can do a search for the word "creationism," but be prepared to be overwhelmed by the number of sites both pro and con.

As you learn more about the agreement between science and the Bible, you will find yourself more and more "ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you." And what is that hope? That we are saved? Yes, but it is much more than that. Our hope depends upon the fact that God tells us the truth! Thus, this material is presented to help strengthen your own faith in the absolute accuracy and reliability of God's Word, and to help you strengthen the faith of others, especially your children.

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