

TRUTH IN THE BALANCE



A Teaching Manual on Bible Apologetics, Creation and Evolution

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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.originsresource.org, 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.

- *David A. Prentice, M.Ed., M.A.S.T.*

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