

*God reveals Himself in two books.*

God's Works	God's Words
General Revelation as seen in nature and history	Special Revelation as seen in the Bible and experience
Nature	Scripture
Science	Hermeneutics
<b>Christian Theology</b>	



## **Our core beliefs**

are accredited by their ability to make sense of empirical observations and experiences of our (inner and outer) worlds.



- Philosophical naturalism struggles to make sense of the spiritual dimension of humanity.
- Certain interpretations of Scripture struggle to make sense of modern scientific observations.
- We will resort to irrational means to remove any dissonance in our core beliefs.
- My purpose in this class is to relieve some of the dissonance.



## **Review**

### **Psalm 8**

- **Empirical Reason** is a common ground between Christianity and Science.
- The conflict between Scientists and Christians is between **two faith systems** (philosophical naturalism and Biblical theism).

### **Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1-2**

- The Biblical record addresses **primary causes** and attributes them to God.
- Science is limited to examining **secondary means** which may not be clear from the Biblical record.

**Overview - How are we to understand the Biblical account of the creation of man?**

1.

### **1 Corinthians 15:38-49**

- Humans share **common** characteristics with animals and yet are **distinct** in important ways.
- We should expect to see **corruption** in nature.
- Human **bodies** are **earthly** (formed from preexisting material).

2.

### **Genesis 1:24,26; 2:7**

- The human **body** and **spirit** can be treated separately.
- The **evolution** question is best settled by looking at the **science** rather than the Bible.

### *1 Corinthians 15*

“38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.”

### **1. Life forms are distinct by design.**

- a. Common biological materials are used.
- b. Stasis (natural resistance to change) is real.

**1 Corinthians 15**

“<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a **perishable** body, it is raised an imperishable body; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in glory; it is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a **natural** body, it is raised a spiritual body.”

**2. Life forms are corrupted (by the fall or before?).**

**Romans 8**

“<sup>20</sup> For **the creation was subjected to futility**, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its **slavery to corruption** into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.”

- a. God has ordered this as a part of His plan.
- b. Nature does not work perfectly as originally created - (junk DNA, death, mutations, deformity).
- c. God’s character is not revealed in every part part of the present workings of nature.
- d. Can God uses death, mutation, etc. in nature?

**1 Corinthians 15**

“<sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> **As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy**; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> And just as **we have borne the image of the earthy**, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.”

**3. Our bodies are made in the image of the earthy (common forms of life).**

- a. We bear the image of God but not in our body.
- b. Science can explore our earthiness more easily than our spiritual life.

**1 Corinthians 15:49**

“Just as we (our body) have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.”

**the body**

Genesis 1:24  
“Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind;’

**the spirit**

Genesis 1:26  
“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over . . .’



**the body**

Genesis 2:7a  
“Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground,

**the spirit**

Genesis 2:7b  
and breathed unto his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”

**Genesis 1:24**

“Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind;”

יצא **yatsa**  
“go fourth”,  
“come out”



- 1. “reproduce”
- 2. “develop”
- 3. “evolve”

**Genesis 1**

**creation narrative**

The Hebrew terms used in Genesis suggest that God formed the cosmos from preexisting material.

create

ברא **bara**

form

יצר **yatsar**

make

עשא **asah**

fashion

בנה **banah**

Genesis 2:7b  
"and man became a living being."

נֶפֶשׁ nepes  
"soul", "life"



1.  
"biological  
life"

2.  
"spiritual  
life"

## The creation of man

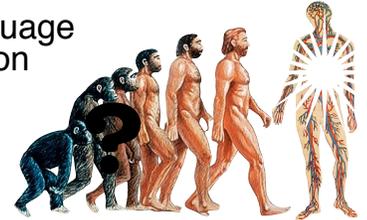
What is the image of God?

The ability to consciously  
commune with God

When did homo sapien  
become human?

some time after  
the body was formed  
from the earth

- sophisticated language
- creative imagination
- moral conscience
- autonomous will
- self awareness



Given what I am reading in Scripture  
what should I expect to see in science?

- ❑ **Common biology** - building material.
- ❑ **Distinct forms** - distinct kinds of life.
- ❑ **Stasis** - fossil record, cell chemistry.
- ❑ **Corruption** - affect of death and mutation.
- ❑ **Natural bodies** - Human bodies are formed within nature from the earth.

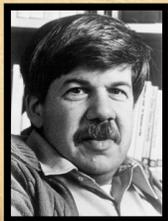
## Darwin's insightful acknowledgment.

"The number of intermediate varieties, which have formerly existed on the earth, (must) be truly enormous. Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory."

*Charles Darwin*

Steven J. Gould

(Harvard paleontologist)

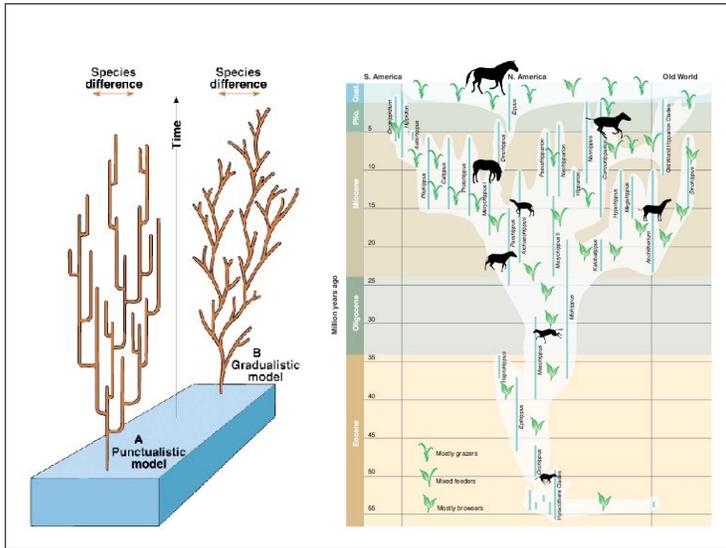


"We can tell tales of improvement for some groups, but in honest moments we must admit that the history of complex life is more a story of multifarious variation about a set of basic designs than a saga of accumulating excellence."

The history of most fossil species include two features inconsistent with gradualism:

1. **Stasis.** Most species exhibit no directional change. They appear in the fossil record looking much the same as when they disappear.
2. **Sudden Appearance.** In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady transformation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and 'fully formed'. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils.

Steven J. Gould "Evolution's Erratic Pace," Natural History, Vol.5, 1977



*Niles Eldredge*  
 (Palaeontologist & Curator of American Museum of Natural History)



“We palaeontologists have said that the history of life supports the story of gradual adaptive change knowing all the while it does not.”

*James Shapiro*  
 (bacterial geneticist, evolutionist)



“It has been a surprise to learn how thoroughly cells protect themselves against the kinds of accidental genetic change that, according to conventional theory, are the sources of evolutionary variability.”

**Lung Cancer is corruption at the cellular level**

*Richard Dawkins*



“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”

**The improbability of pure naturalism and blind chance producing -**

-  ➔ The origin of space, matter / energy, time.
-  ➔ The origin of life from non-living elements.
-  ➔ The origin of reproducible cells.
-  ➔ The origin of self consciousness.

