

Valuing What God Values

Part 3: The Truth about Creation

PETER DEWITT
AGATHOS CHURCH
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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Developing a Strong Conscience about Controversial Topics

This series is about valuing what God values - on Christian philosophy. We need to have a strong (not weak) conscience about truths from the Word of God that can be controversial to the world or even the church. Grace is controversial to the church. Some folks talk about “hyper grace” but the bible just calls it grace! When Isaiah 54:9-10 says that God has sworn that He cannot be angry with us, it really means that He cannot be angry with us! He either put all His wrath on Jesus or He didn't! God put all the judgment for all sin for all men for all time on His Son so He cannot be angry with you!

We need to be solid enough in these truths to be transformative for others. If we are shaky with these truths, we will be fine with them in our closet but you will balk at speaking plainly in the streets. But God is saying “what I speak to you in secret, get ready to declare it from the rooftops!” As a point of habit, what He speaks to you in secret, you need to get it deeply enough that you can give it someone else.

Why Teach on Creation?

God is not so concerned with His word being destroyed. He is concerned about people being destroyed. This sermon series is not about trying to defend God's word. “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.*” (1 Pe. 1:24-25) God's word cannot be destroyed. He is not worried about us defending His word. Consider how many copies of the Bible were preserved from old - many more times than any other piece of ancient writing! God will protect His word. God is not willing that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9) God's will is that none would perish. This sermon series is coming out of a heart of not wanting people to perish.

Jesus' ministry was very clear. He quoted Isaiah 61 to describe His ministry: “*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me to: preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ...*” Many, many people have been bound in modern times and it is Jesus' ministry to set

them free! What have they been bound by? By a lie - by a lie that God's word is a lie! But God can never lie!

Titus 1:2 says *"God ... cannot lie."* 1 Samuel 15:29 says *"Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind."* Numbers 23:19 says *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* 2 Timothy 2:13 says *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."* Hebrews 6:18 says *"it is impossible for God to lie."*

God is not so concerned with defending His word because His word is going to endure forever. He is concerned with people perishing and many people are perishing because they are bound by a lie that His word is not true. But believers are called: *"And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations."* (Isa. 61:4) You shall know the truth and you will set others free with it - because many are bound by a lie that the Word of God is not true - that there are errors in it. But God is saying "Agathos, strengthen the weak knees and be ready to set them free!"

In John 5:46-47 Jesus says, *"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his (Moses') writings, how will you believe My words?"* What did Moses write? The first 5 books of the Bible - including the account of creation. Jesus said that if Moses' words were called into question then you would not be able to believe the words of Christ. Why talk about the truth of creation? For this reason.

Peter's History with Evolution

Peter has an honor's diploma with a bachelor's in science in Evolution and Ecology. He did research in Nevada for an evolutionary study on cutthroat trout! He taught evolution for 5 years as a science teacher. Peter struggled for 5 years to try to reconcile evolution and the word of God. He has since concluded that the Word of God and evolution are completely, totally, 100%, entirely irreconcilable as it relates to explanations of origins. You cannot mesh the two belief system. Even Peter's capstone professor at OSU told him that he had read the bible and found the two belief systems incompatible.

Micro evolution is different from macro evolution. Micro evolution is the change in the allelic frequency of a population over time. All organisms have genes and the frequency of different types of those genes (alleles) can get distributed towards one extreme or the other based on selective pressure in the ecosystem. For instance, scientists can observe how the beaks of birds can get bigger or smaller on an island if the availability of bigger or smaller seeds changes on that island over time. That's micro evolution. Yes, beaks of finches can get bigger over a period of decades and HIV needs treated with a drug cocktail because it experiences micro-evolution very quickly.

Micro evolution is observable science. A changing average beak size in a population of small birds does not provide any evidence for the idea of fish becoming reptiles (or changes in kinds as the bible calls them). That would be called macro evolution - or evolution trying explain origins. One time Peter was asked how he teaches evolution by some high-ranking math and science professors who were very glad to hear that he majored on micro evolution and minored on macro evolution. In their words, they did not see the strength of evidence for macro evolution. Recently a famous psychologist expressed a similar sentiment - that she doesn't really get into evolutionary psychology because it becomes "who's story is better than the other."

Evolution as it relates to origins is not science; it is a religion called naturalism. There is observational science - which is science. There is also historical science which is filtered through belief. The use of evolution to explain origins is an expression of a religion called naturalism hidden in the Trojan horse of science that is implied to be without bias and purely rational. It is OK for people to choose their religion - God has given all a free will, but don't label the religion of naturalism "science."

In short, Peter earned an honor's diploma in Evolution and ecology, helped gather data for an evolutionary research project in Nevada and is now teaching in accordance with the Bible about how the earth is roughly 6,000 years old. Let God be true and every man a liar!

Just a Few Pieces of Evidence that call into Question Historical Evolution

Mount St. Helen's erupted in 1986. Ten years later, in 1996, scientists measured some lava for Argon-40 content which clearly showed that 10 year old lava was actually 350,000 years old! Radioactive dating is flawed by assumptions. One time Peter spoke to an expert statistician who explained the cardinal sin of statistics: training a data set with the data set that you're going to test with. Peter said "sounds like radioactive dating." The statistician gave a knowing look saying he had seen the same thing. There is a major statistical assumption built into all the radioactive dating that produces examples like this where we have 10 year old lava that is apparently more than 1/3 of a million years old.

When we look at layers of rocks, we often notice that the layers of rock are perfectly parallel. This is surprising if the earth is as old as many scientists believe it to be. If each rock layer represents millions of year, there should be evidence of millions of years worth of erosion on the top of each layer prior to the next layer being deposited. Instead we often see perfectly parallel rock layers signifying little to no erosion of the rock layer - or in other words, rapid deposition of rock layers. This is explained well by the global flood and a young earth geological model - and not explained well by an old earth, evolutionary view.

There are hundred of books with scientific evidence of creation and the flood. This is just meant to be an introduction to some simple pieces of evidence that call into question what we've assumed

passed on what many of us have been taught in school - even though there is a lot of observational evidence that calls those assumptions into question.

What about the Grand Canyon? First of all, if the Grand Canyon formed by simple erosion over million of years, how is the canyon so many times wider than the actual river? Secondly, how are the canyon walls so vertical? Typical erosion produces sloping walls. Third, cliffs produce falling rocks over time (this is why rock climbers wear helmets). So, if the Grand Canyon was millions of years old, it's age should be evidenced by major talus slopes - which it does not have. Finally, in recent times the North Fork of the Toutle River rapidly formed a "little grand canyon" (1/40th scale) in only a 2 month period!

We also see evidence in the fossil record that does not support old earth theories. Have you ever seen a carcass of an animal over a period of time? Scavengers come, wind comes, rain comes, and the ground erodes slightly, etc. If dirt / rock is deposited over millions of years, how are all the bones for fossils going to still be in one location. Even archaeologists struggle at times to find the remains of entire houses that were built just hundreds of years ago. How then can we see fossils of fish in the middle of eating another fish? There are fossils of organisms in the middle of giving birth. That was frozen in a moment in time. Those fossils - especially the preponderance of highly preserved fossils - do not make sense in an evolutionary time scale, but the flood provides an easy explanation to those rapid fossilization events.

If each rock layer was deposited over millions of years, how is it that one vertical tree can travel through multiple rock layers that each represent millions of years? These are called polystrate fossils and they represent one organism that was living at one time during which many layers of rock were formed. What would cause many layers of rock to form at ONE time? A global flood!

Many scientists will also study the past using ice-core samples. It has often been assumed that each layer of ice in these core samples represents one year (perhaps similar to growth rings on a tree). Yet, a trip to a ski resort in February will show 20 or more layers of snow on the roof of the chalets ... all from one winter! The sun simply sublimates the top layer of the snow and then the next fresh snow falls on it - creating many new layers of snow in one season. It is simply not accurate to say that each layer equals one year.

This is not shared to try to "beat anyone up" it is just meant to highlight that there are pieces of evidence that cast substantial doubt on what many of us have been taught in school about evolutionary origins.

All things continue as they were from the beginning of creation?

2 Peter 3:1-7 says this *“Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

When Peter was getting ready to teach biology (including evolution), the Lord brought to remembrance a scientist named Charles Lyell who worked prominently in the budding field of geology in the 1820's and 1830's. Lyell was a lawyer who turned into a geologist who came up with a geological theory called “uniformitarianism.” Uniformitarianism was a pre-cursor to Darwin's work. About 4 years after Peter stopped teaching biology, he saw uniformitarianism prophesied 1800 years earlier in 2 Peter 3:4!

2 Peter 3:3 says that scoffers will come in the last day. The fear that you may have about talking with people about the age of the earth is because scoffers are calling people fools for believing the Bible. Are there people scoffing at the Word of God and a 6000 year old earth now? Yes! So we are in the last days.

Now, why do some people scoff about the Word of God? Because they want to walk “according to their own lusts.” They are scoffing the Word of God because they don't want to believe in God, and they don't want to believe in God because if they did they would be accountable to Him and His law! The first time Peter talked with Brad about evolution, Brad said “do you know why people believe in evolution?” Peter said “tell me.” “Because they don't want to be accountable to God.” Interestingly Kris Vallotton had a similar exchange with an evolutionary biologist in a plane. Upon hearing that Kris was a pastor the biologist responded something like “I don't believe in any off that.” Kris Vallotton responded something like “you don't believe in any of that because you don't want to be accountable to a God.” After a silent plane flight, the biologist ran Kris down in the airport to tell him “you know what you said in the plane before ... you're right.”

In the last days there will be scoffers walking according to their own lusts. They don't want to be accountable to a God. So they want to have a world-view that allows them to think that there is not a God. Verse 4 tells us what the scoffers will be saying *“Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”* Uniformitarianism is right there in 2 Peter 3:4! “all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”

Charles Lyell conceived of uniformitarianism in 1824-25 and then said if we can get this concept out there we can get rid of Moses from science! Lyell came up with uniformitarianism and then all of evolutionary thought was based on Lyell. Charles Darwin (the father of evolution), on his way to the Galapagos Islands on the HMS Beagle (the ship he traveled on when he came up with idea of evolution and got his source material for his famous evolutionary "bible" *On the Origin of Species*), was reading Lyell's book on geology *Principles of Geology*.

In Darwin's own words "I had brought with me the first volume of Lyell's *Principles of Geology*, which I studied attentively; and this book was of the highest service to me in many ways. The very first place which I examined, namely St. Jago in the Cape Verde islands, showed me clearly the wonderful superiority of Lyell's manner of treating geology, compared with that of any other author whose works I had with me or ever afterwards read." Darwin based the theory of evolution as it relates to the origin of man on Lyell's *Principles of Geology*.

Principles of Geology (published in 1830) was all about one point and one point only - the principle of uniformitarianism - which was prophesied around 65-68AD! "*For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*" Uniformitarianism says "look at any geological processes that you see right now and those are the same geological processes that have always happened and they have always happened at the same rate that we see them right now." So we see a stream in our back yard that erodes the bank a little more each year and if we extrapolate that current rate data back we come up with the idea that the Grand Canyon is evidence of an earth that must be millions of years old - because ALL geological processes must have happen at the same rate they happen now! Talk about an assumption! What do assumptions make us?

Uniformitarianism is saying "all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." All the geological processes must have always happened at the same rate. How would that theory compare to the Flood? Is the Flood happening consistently? No! God gave us rainbows to signify that the flood of water will never happen again. Uniformitarianism is by nature incompatible with scripture - and Lyell knew it: "I trust I shall make my sketch of the progress of geology popular. Old [Rev. John] Fleming is frightened and thinks the age will not stand my anti-Mosaical conclusions and at least that the subject will for a time become unpopular and awkward for the clergy, but I am not afraid. I shall out with the whole but in as conciliatory a manner as possible."

In the 1820's Lyell knew that rejecting the Biblical account of creation and the flood would be awkward for the clergy. Now, nearly 200 years later it is awkward for clergy to teach the Biblical account of creation and the flood! How sad! Knowing that it would be a tough pill for pastors of his day to swallow Lyell said he would slip the concept in with "*as conciliatory a manner as possible.*"

What was Lyell's goal? To "free the science from Moses!" This exact scientific theory is prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4 and then 1775 years later Lyell writes to another friend "I am sure you may get into Q.R. [Quarterly Review] what will **free the science from Moses ...** If we don't irritate, ... we shall carry all with us. If you ... compliment the liberality and candour of the present age, the bishops and enlightened saints will join us in despising both the ancient and modern physico-theologians. It is just the time to strike, so rejoice that, sinner as you are, the Q.R. is open to you P.S. ... I conceived the idea five or six years ago [1824–25], that if ever the Mosaic geology could be set down without giving offence, it would be in an historical sketch, and you must abstract mine, in order to have as little to say as possible yourself. Let them feel it, and point the moral."

Lyell was telling his friend that he had the idea 6 years ago that they could get rid of Moses (the Bible) out of all science if they painted a historical narrative (a story) and sold readers on it until they "felt it" and then they could point out the moral of the story ... that you cannot believe the Bible!

In the last days scoffers will come, walking according to their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." This was prophesied 1775 years before. God warned us about this exact theory (uniformitarianism) which all of the evolutionary thought came out of!

Interestingly, even scientists that espouse evolutionary theory have critique for the uniformitarian foundation of evolutionary theory. The late Stephen J. Gould (famous evolutionary biologist) said "Lyell's great treatise is not, as so often stated, a textbook summarizing all prevailing knowledge in a systematic way, but a passionate brief for a single, well-formed argument [for uniformitarianism], hammered home relentlessly. ... Truth is supposed to prevail by force of logical argument and wealth of documentation, not by strength of **rhetoric.**" In other words, even an evolutionary biologist was saying that Lyell's work was rhetoric! He was a lawyer turned geologist who had anti-God ideals that he sold to the masses! He was saying "the time is right. We can get this idea in. If we don't irritate people too much, we will take everyone with us."

From Science Magazine (1993): "Lyell also sold geology some snake oil. He convinced geologists that ... all past processes acted at essentially their current rates (that is, those observed in historical time). This extreme gradualism has led to numerous unfortunate consequences, including the rejection of sudden or catastrophic events in the face of positive evidence for them, for no reason other than that they were not gradual."

This is NOT about defending God's Word; it about people not perishing. Peter gave us his history. There is evidence that casts doubt on the evolutionary theories. And there is prophesied motive for what is behind evolutionary theory!

For this they willfully forget ...

“For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:5-7)

Do they forget this by accident? No they forget it on purpose - willfully! “Don’t bring that up!” What do they willfully forget? Three things:

- That God created the world *“that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water ...”*
- The Flood *“by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.”*
- The coming judgment *“But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”*

Scoffers do not want to believe in God because if they did they would have to be accountable to God - and they don’t want to be accountable to God, but instead walk according to their own lusts. So, they deliberately block the coming judgment from their mind, and in order to do that they must willfully ignore the evidence of God in creation and the evidence of the Global flood. This is not to be negative - it is just saying what is happening. Peter prophesied it. They would uphold the concept of uniformitarianism in order to willfully forget the creation, the flood, and the coming judgment.

In other words, they want to rid the science of Moses. It is interesting that Lyell phrased his aim like that. Obviously it referred to the fact that Moses recorded creation and the flood, but it is also (Peter believes) said that way because Moses wrote down the 10 Commandments which are a tutor to bring us to Christ. Do you remember what Jesus said? *“For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?**”*

Coming up Next!

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- Genesis: was it a literal 6 day creation?
- What did Jesus say about the age of the earth? He spoke about it at least twice - clear as day! Jesus believed the earth was about 4000 years old as He walked on the earth.
- Some staggering statistics that are existing in the American church right now ... and why it is so important that we are solid in these truths for the sake of us AND our children!

Text Summary (for reading as a group)

We need to be solid enough in these truths to be transformative for others. If we are shaky with these truths, we will be fine with them in our closet but you will balk at speaking plainly in the streets. But God is saying “what I speak to you in secret, get ready to declare it from the rooftops!”

God is not so concerned with His word being destroyed. He is concerned about people being destroyed. This sermon series is not about trying to defend God’s word. *“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever.”* (1 Pe. 1:24-25) God’s word cannot be destroyed. He is not worried about us defending His word. Jesus came to: *preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound ...*” Many, many people have been bound in modern times and it is Jesus’ ministry to set them free! What have they been bound by? By a lie that God’s word is a lie!

But God can never lie! Hebrews 6:18 says *“it is impossible for God to lie.”* God does not want people perishing and many people are perishing because they are bound by a lie that His word is not true. But believers are called to know the truth and set others free with it! In John 5:46-47 Jesus says, *“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his (Moses’) writings, how will you believe My words?”* What did Moses write? The first 5 books of the Bible - including the account of creation. Jesus said that if Moses’ words were called into question then you would not be able to believe the words of Christ. This is why we talk about the truth of creation!

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Micro evolution is different from macro evolution. Micro evolution is the change in the allelic frequency of a population over time. Micro evolution is observable science. Evolution as it relates to origins, however, is not science; it is a religion called naturalism.

There are many pieces of evidence that call into question the veracity of an evolutionary explanations of origins. For instance, Mount St. Helen’s erupted in 1986 and ten years later, scientists measured some lava for Argon-40 content which clearly showed that 10 year old lava was actually 350,000 years old! Radioactive dating is flawed by assumptions.

Similarly when we look at layers of rocks, we often notice that the layers of rock are perfectly parallel. This is surprising if the earth is as old as many scientists believe it to be because there should be millions of years worth of erosion on the top of each layer prior to the next layer being deposited.

What about the Grand Canyon? First of all, if the Grand Canyon formed by simple erosion over million of years, how is the canyon so many times wider than the actual river? Secondly, how are the canyon walls so vertical? Typical erosion produces sloping - not vertical - walls. Third, cliffs produce falling rocks over time (this is why rock climbers wear helmets). So, if the Grand Canyon was millions of years old, it's age should be evidenced by major talus slopes - which it does not have. Finally, in recent times the North Fork of the Toutle River rapidly formed a "little grand canyon" (1/40th scale) in only a 2 month period!

We also see evidence in the fossil record that does not support old earth theories. We see fossils of fish in the middle of eating another fish and fossils of other organisms in the middle of giving birth! The flood provides an easy explanation to those rapid fossilization events. Similarly, we observe how one vertical tree can travel through multiple rock layers. What would cause many layers of rock to form at ONE time? A global flood!

2 Peter 3:3-4 says *"that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"*

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In the 1820's Lyell knew that rejecting the Biblical account of creation and the flood would be awkward for the clergy. Now, nearly 200 years later it is awkward for clergy to teach the Biblical account of creation and the flood! How sad! Lyell's goal was to "free the science from Moses!" This exact scientific theory is prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4 - 1775 years before Lyell wrote it!

Interestingly, even scientists that espouse evolutionary theory have critique for the uniformitarian foundation of evolutionary theory - saying it was propagated primarily “by strength of rhetoric” and that it has led to “the rejection of sudden or catastrophic events in the face of positive evidence for them, for no reason other than that they were not gradual.”

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Points to Ponder . . .

- Why is it important talk about the truth of creation?
- How is micro evolution different than macro evolution (or evolution about origins)?
- What are some pieces of evidence that are not well explained by an evolutionary view of origins?
- What scientific principle was prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4 and why does it matter?
- What is the major assumption built into that scoffer-proposed theory prophesied in 2 Peter 3:4?
- What are scoffers willfully forgetting? Why are they forgetting it?