Genesis
Chapters 1-11
The Book of Beginnings

INSTRUCTOR
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Live Webcast
Unlocking the Mysteries of Genesis
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Aristotle

Aristotle viewed nature as eternal and so there was no need for a Creator God. However, most of the secular world, lacking evidence to the contrary, retained a belief in a Creator God. Aristotle theorized that differing weights would fall at different speeds. Galileo (1564-1642) disproved this with experiments at the Tower of Pisa. Aristotle developed a theorem that white light is pure and has no color. Newton proved with a simple experiment that white light is made up of all the colors of the visible spectrum. Aristotle claimed the tides are caused by the rotation of the earth, sloshing water around. Newton proved the tides are caused by gravity.
Integrating Science and Scripture

Robert Boyle (1627-1691)
Theistic view of science. Invented the Scientific Method, Boyle’s Law, Royal Society.
1. “Scripture is the best expositor of itself. It is not oftentimes so much what the Scripture says, as what some men persuade others it says that makes it seem obscure.”
2. “The Bible would not appear so obscure in parts if the reader could read and understand the text in its original idiom.”
3. “Many ideas in the NT are based upon ideas established in the OT.”


The Scientific Method

Robert Boyle (1627-1691)
The essential elements of the Scientific Method are iterations of the following:
1. Observations (definitions and measurements of the subject of inquiry).
2. Hypotheses (theoretical, hypothetical explanations of observations and measurements of the subject).
3. Predictions (reasoning including logical deduction from the hypotheses).
4. Repeatable experiments to test all of the above.
5. Hypothesis can then become a theory.

Integrating Science and Scripture

Isaac Newton (1643-1727)
Inventor of modern physics, calculus, set theory, functions, and linear algebra, author of Principia Mathematica, Royal Society.
1. “The Bible is the word of God, written by men who were inspired.”
2. “The Lord of the Heavens governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord of all.”
3. “Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”
The Scientific Method

"To be termed 'scientific,' a method or inquiry must be based on empirical and measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning," Isaac Newton, "Rules for the Study of Natural Philosophy," *The System of the World.*

Newton’s Laws of Motion are widely used today.

As the Apollo spacecraft blasted away from earth’s orbit to head to the moon, Houston Control asked, "Who’s doing the driving?" to which the astronauts replied, "Isaac Newton."

Evolution

Author of *Origin of Species,* 1859.

Described a branching pattern of evolution of living creatures, resulting from a process he called natural selection which is based on a struggle for existence.

In spite of evidence, his assertions are commonly called a "theory."

In the 150 years since publication, no one has ever observed evolution taking place. No biologist, chemist, or physicist has ever been able to demonstrate the viability of evolution.

Evolution has impacted religion.

"The Darwinian revolution (from 1859 to 1900) has witnessed the replacement of one set of ideas for another. A science that once enthusiastically proclaimed the glories of the Creator was replaced by one that denied His existence. This great shift in ideas abandoned the place of natural theology or a design argument in any scientific discussion, and opposed the earlier theistic approach."

John C. Hutchison (Chairman of Bible Exposition, Talbot School of Theology, La Mirada, California), "Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory and 19th-century Natural Theology," *Bibliotheca Sacra,* July-September 1995.
Evolution

The virtual disappearance of natural theology from scientific discourse by the century's end signified more than the passing of a generation of scientists who had been born and educated in a more devout era. It indicated a change in the way scientists thought about nature and science, and in the practice of science. Not impiety but positivism had banished both theological explanations and concerns from the minds of working scientists.


Social Darwinism

Social theory in which the course of human progress is based on evolutionary worldview.

All societies pass through four stages:
- Hunting/gathering
- Nomadism
- Agriculture
- Commerce

Evolutionary concept extended to God

Became the basis for:
- Eugenics
- Compulsory sterilization

“W e do n o t s t a n d a l o n e”

Nazi poster from 1936 with flags of other countries with compulsory sterilization legislation.
Social Darwinianism

“If I try to gauge my work, I must consider, first of all, that I’ve contributed, in a world that had forgotten the notion, to the triumph of the idea of the primacy of race.”

Adolph Hitler, “Teaching of Religion and Science,” Table Talk, 82.