

Dr. Terry Mortenson

Millions of Years: the Idea's origin and Devastating impact

Taught by Dr. Terry Mortenson, AnswersinGenesis.org
Uploaded by Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College
All files in many languages for free download at BibleStudyDownloads.org



Answers

IN GENESIS®

Dr. Terry Mortenson

Millions of Years:

Where Did the Idea Come From?

Dr. Terry Mortenson

Millions of Years:

the Idea's origin and
Devastating impact

2 Corinthians 10:4–5

⁴ For the weapons of **our warfare** are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

⁵ We are destroying **speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God**, and we are taking **every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**.

Colossians 2:8

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through **philosophy** and **empty deception**, according to the **tradition of men**, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.



Operation Science

VS

Origin Science

OPERATION SCIENCE

“Scientific Method”



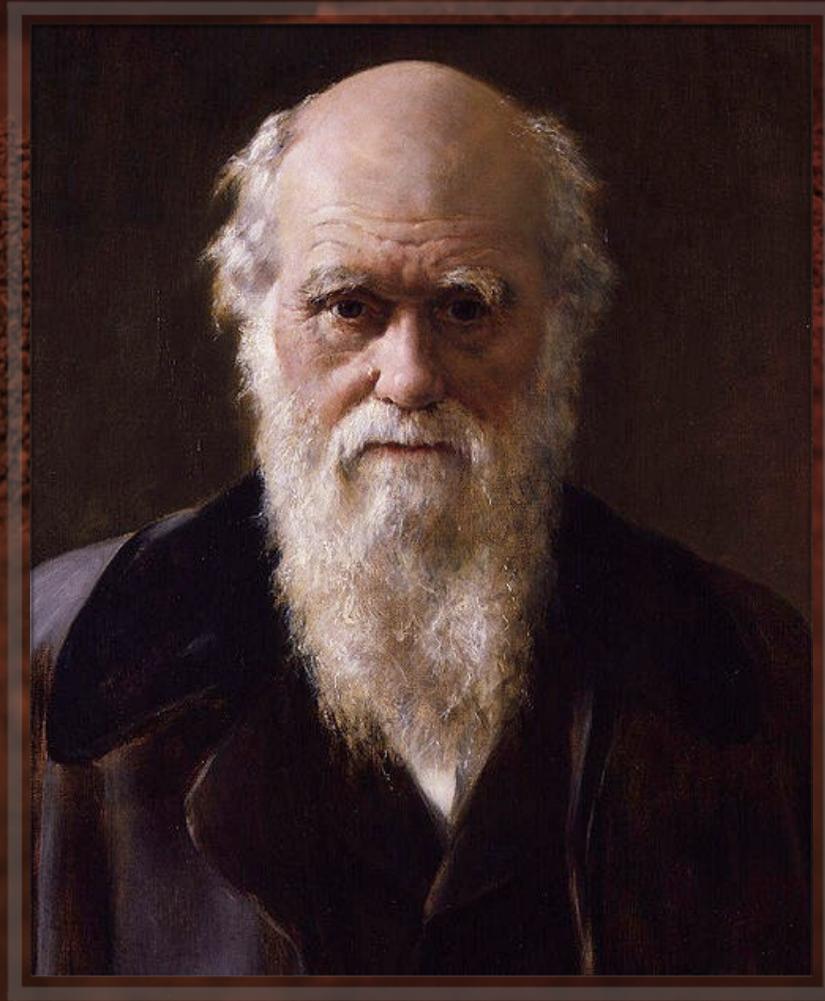
The use of **observable, repeatable experiments**
in a **controlled environment** (e.g., a lab)
to understand how things **operate or function**
in the **present** physical universe
in order to find **cures for disease**, produce
new technology or put a man on the

OBSERVATIONAL SCIENCE

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Engineering
Medical Research

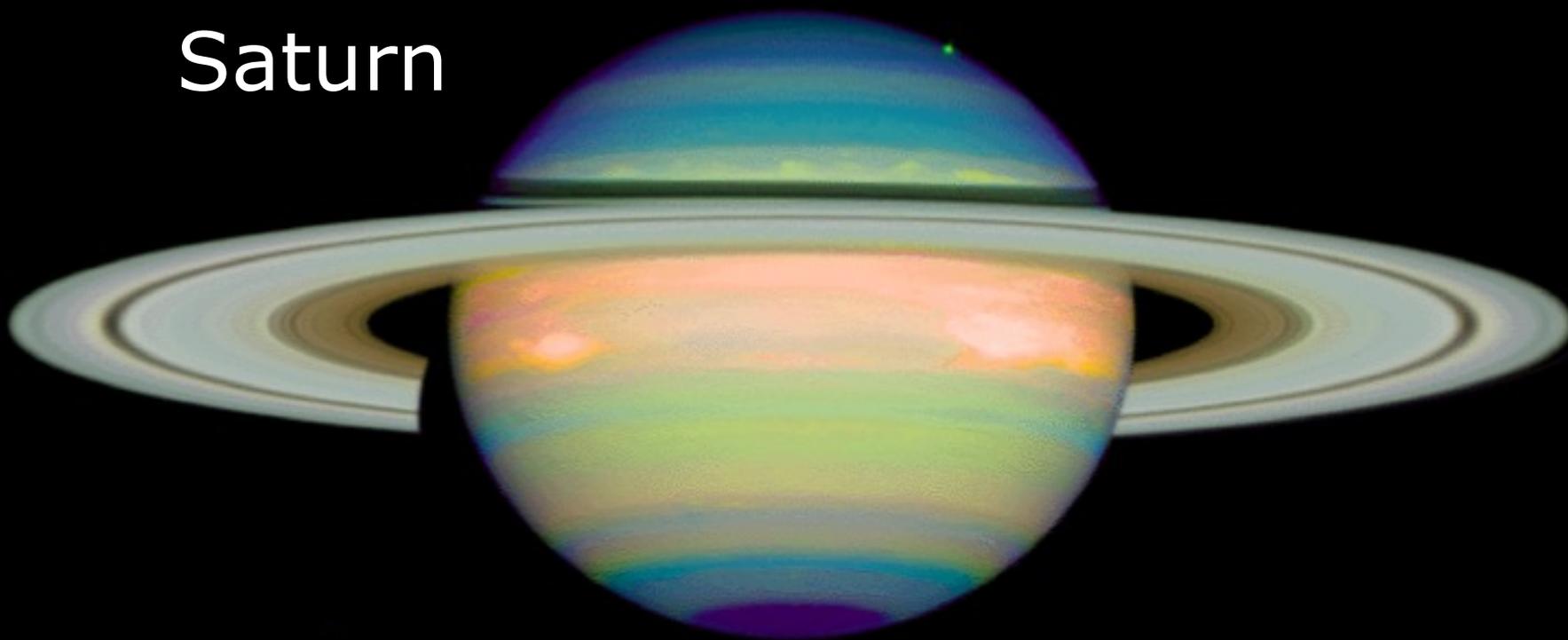


Grand Canyon, USA



Charles Darwin

Saturn



Origin SCIENCE

“Legal-Historical Method”

The use of **reliable, eyewitness testimony** (if any is available) and **observable evidence** to determine the **past, unobservable, unrepeatable event(s)**, which produced the observable evidence we see **in the present.**

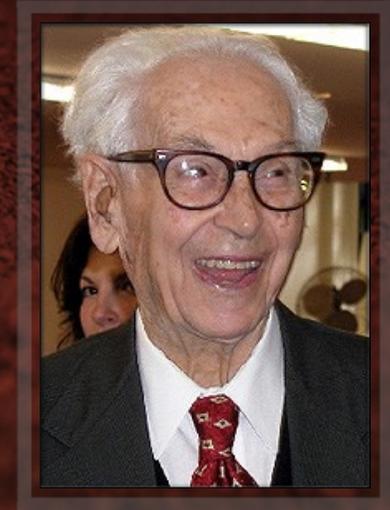


HISTORIGAN SCIENCE

Historical Geology
Paleontology
Archaeology
Cosmology
Forensics



“Evolution is a **historical** process that cannot be proven by the same arguments and methods by which purely physical or **functional** phenomena can be documented.”



Ernst Mayr, *What Evolution Is* (New York: Basic Books, 2001), p. 13.



1770–1830

New Theories of
Earth History



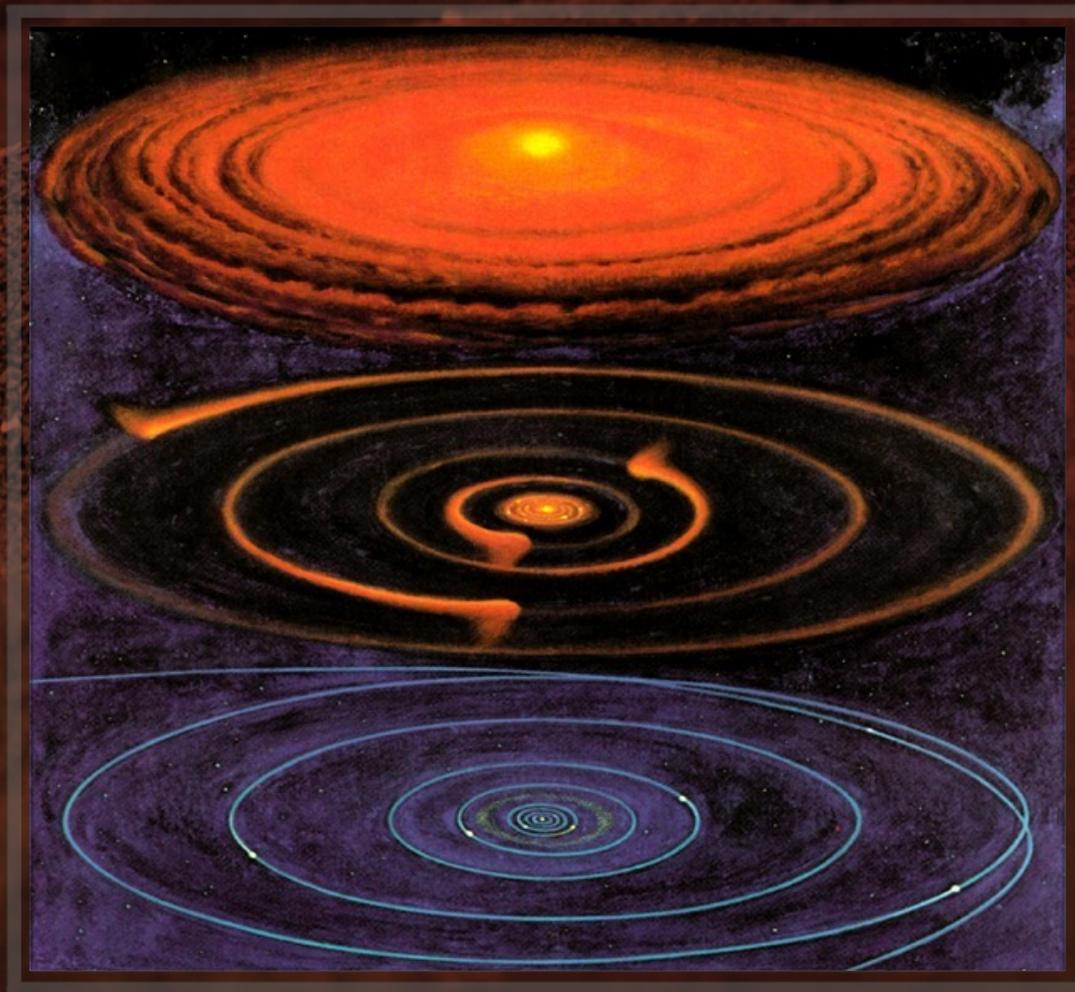
Comte de Buffon
(1707–1788)
Naturalist

Epochs of Nature
(1778)

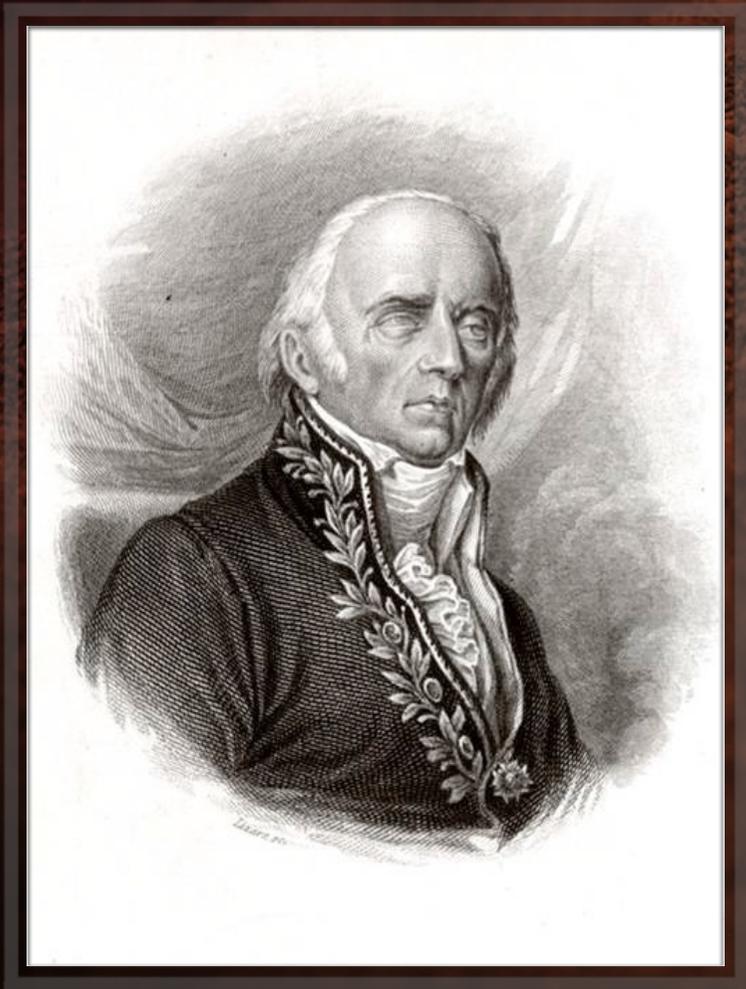
Pierre Laplace
(1749–1827)
Astronomer

Exposition of the
System of the
Universe (1796)





Nebular Hypothesis

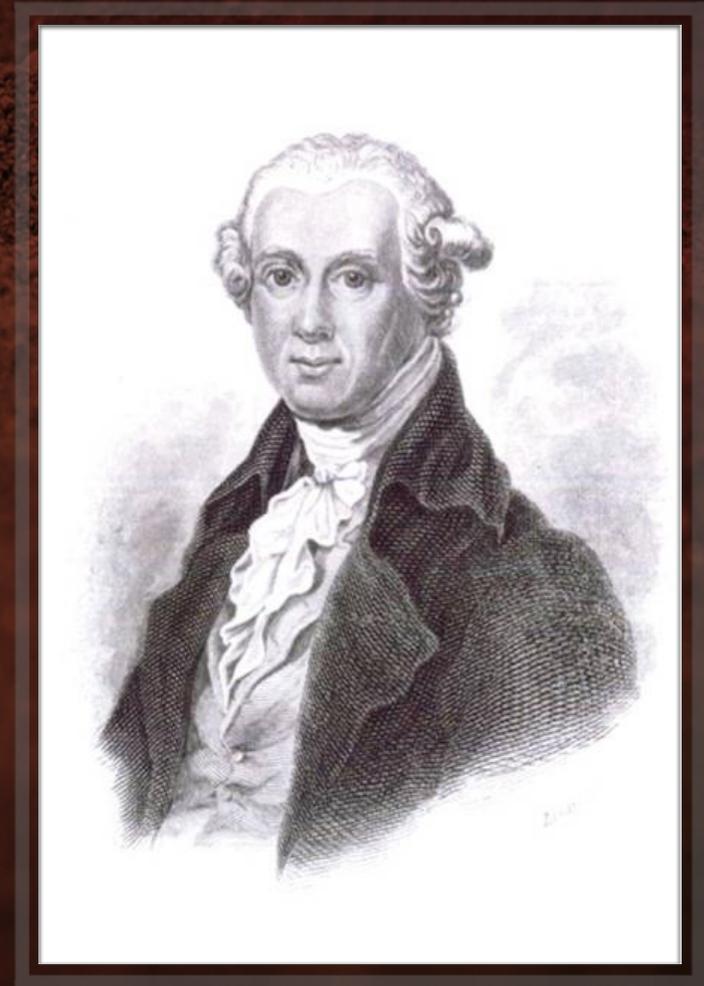


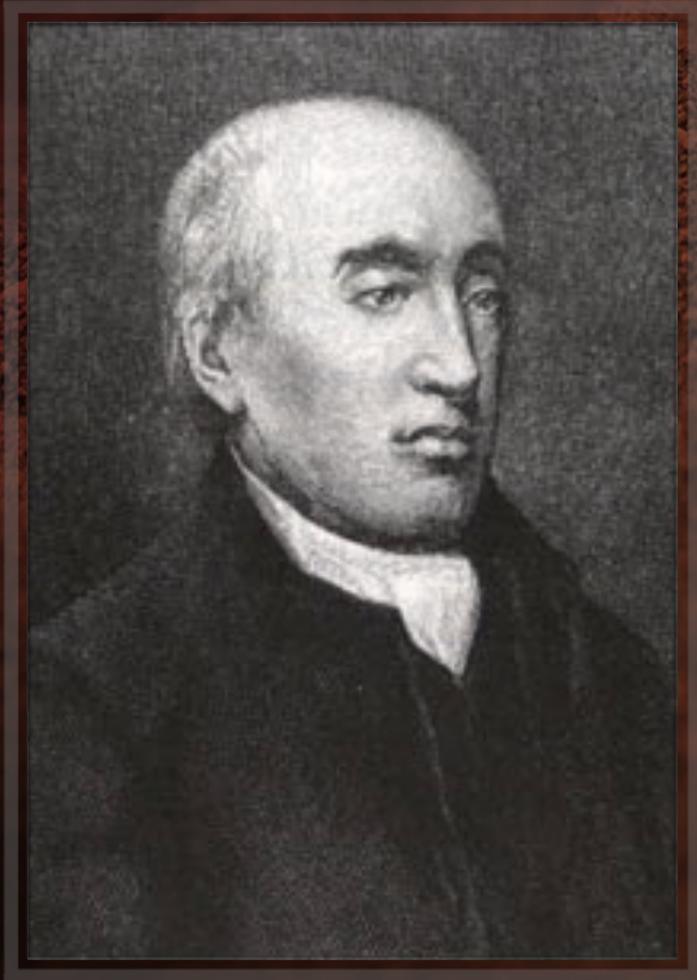
Jean Lamarck
(1744–1829)
Naturalist

Philosophy of Zoology
(1809)

Abraham Werner
(1749–1817)
Mineralogy Professor

Short Classification &
Description of the Various
Rocks (1786)





James Hutton
(1726–1797)

Doctor, Farmer, Geologist

Theory of the Earth (1788,
1795)

Georges Cuvier
(1769–1832)
Comparative Anatomist,
Paleontologist

Theory of the Earth
(1812)



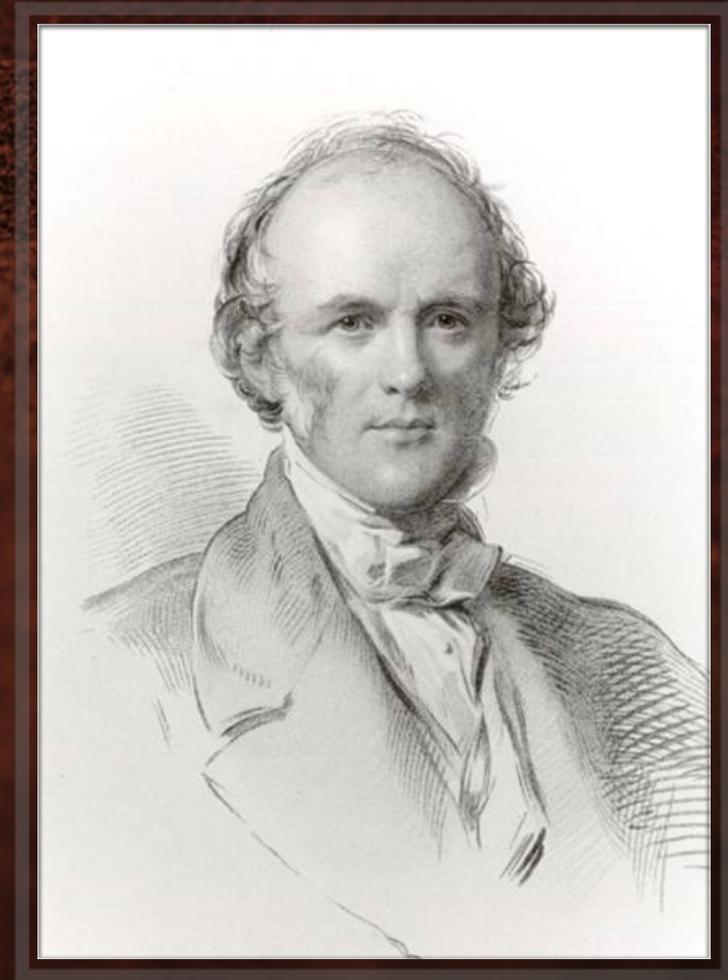


William Smith
(1769–1839)
Drainage Engineer,
Surveyor, Geologist

“Father of English
Stratigraphy”

Charles Lyell
(1797–1875)
Lawyer, Geologist

Principles of Geology
(3 vol., 1830-33)



Old–Earth Theories (1778–1833)

Buffon: Cooling earth, 75,000 years

Laplace: Nebular hypothesis, long ages

Lamarck: Biological evolution, long ages

Werner: Receding ocean, 1 million years

Hutton: Uniformitarianism, no beginning?

Cuvier: Catastrophism, millions of years

Smith: Fossils date rocks, millions of

Lyell: Uniformitarianism, millions of
years

Early 19th Century Views of Earth History

Catastrophist view (e.g., Cuvier, Smith)

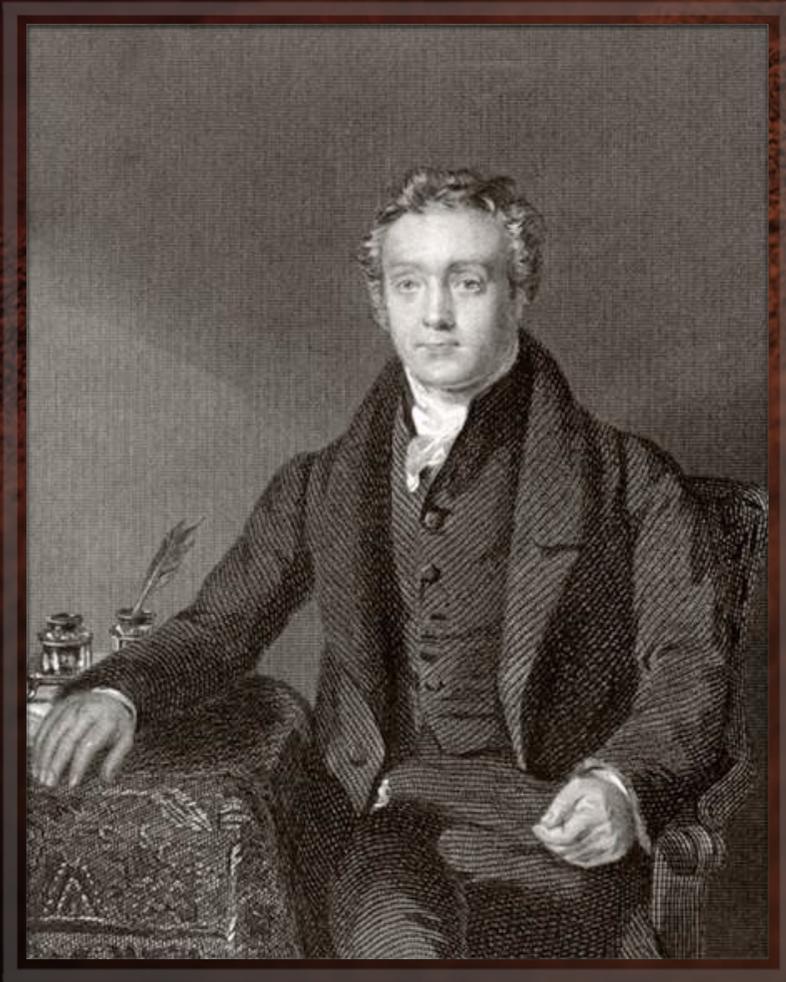


Uniformitarian view (e.g., Hutton,



Biblical/Traditional view (Scriptural





Thomas Chalmers (1780–
1847)

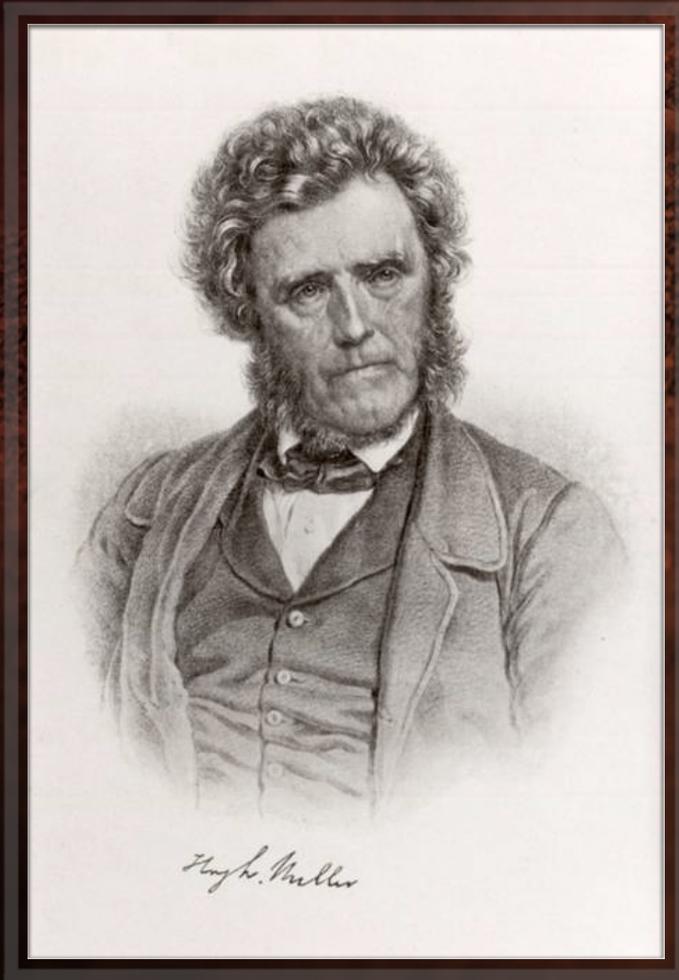
Presbyterian Minister
& Naturalist

gap theory

George Stanley Faber
(1773–1854)

Anglican Theologian
day-age theory



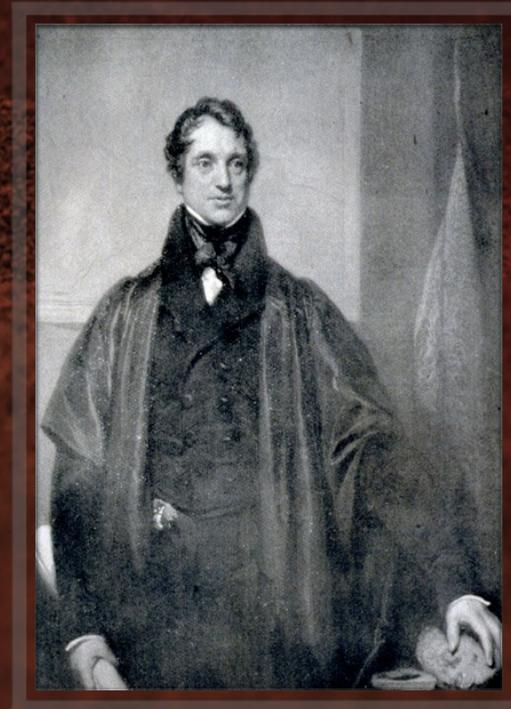


Hugh Miller
(1802–1856)
Geologist

gap theory
later, day-age
theory



William Buckland
(1784–1856)



Adam Sedgwick
(1785–1873)

**global, geologically limited
flood**

John Fleming

(1785–1857)

Presbyterian
Minister &
Zoologist

**global, peaceful
flood**

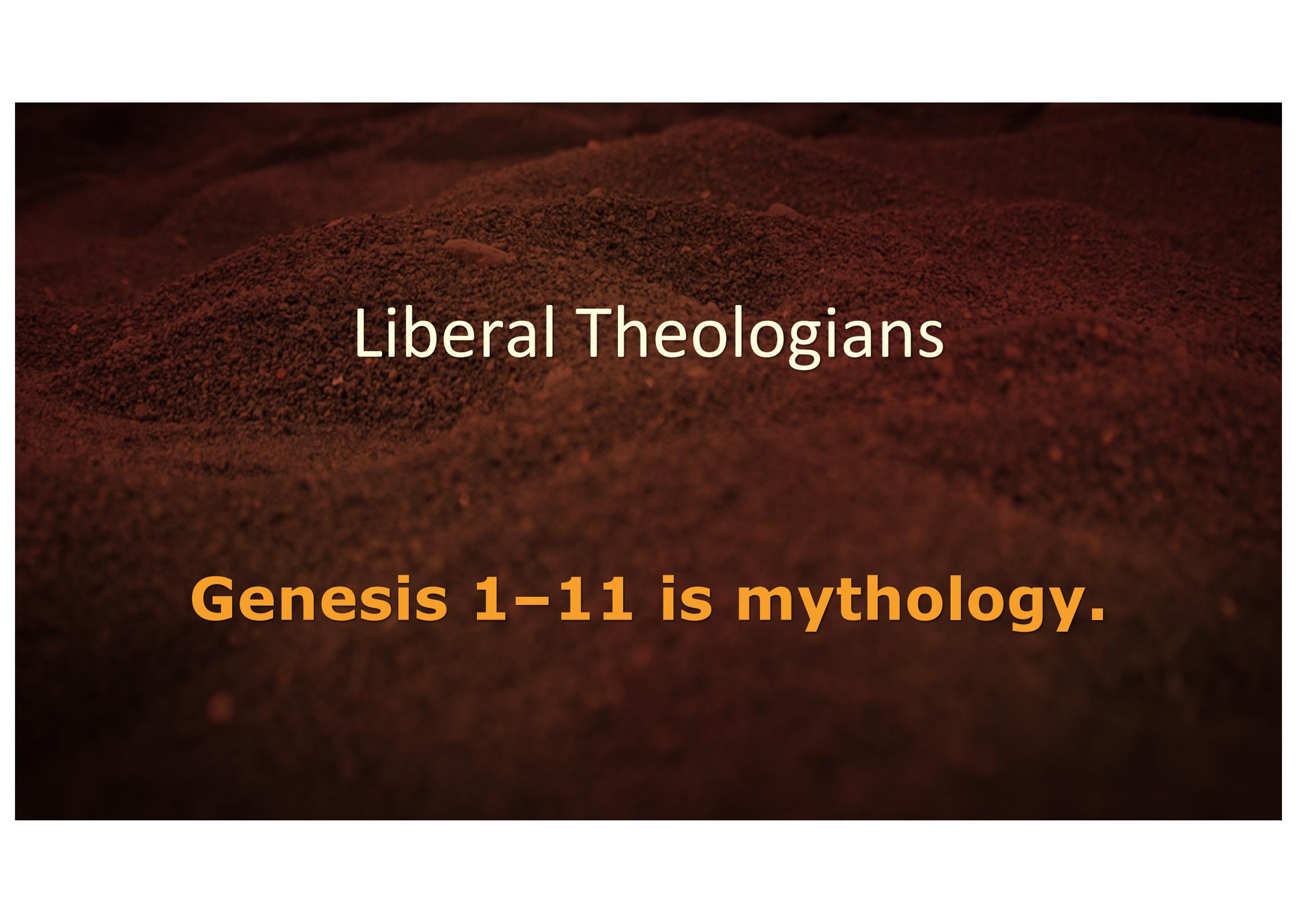




John Pye Smith
(1774–1851)

Congregational Theologian

local flood



Liberal Theologians

Genesis 1–11 is mythology.

Early 1800s: Compromises with Old-Earth Geology

-●
- 1810s gap theory (Chalmers)
- 1820s day-age theory (Faber)
global peaceful flood (Fleming)
- 1830s Local flood theory (Pye Smith)
Genesis is myth (liberals)

Early 1800s: Faithfulness to Scripture



1820–50 young-earth creationism
("Scriptural geologists")



The Real Nature of the Debate

**Philosophical and
Religious
Worldview Conflict**



Deism



Atheism



Christianity

Old–Earth Theology

●●
Buffon: deist or vague theist

Laplace: open atheist

Lamarck: deist or atheist

Werner: deist or atheist

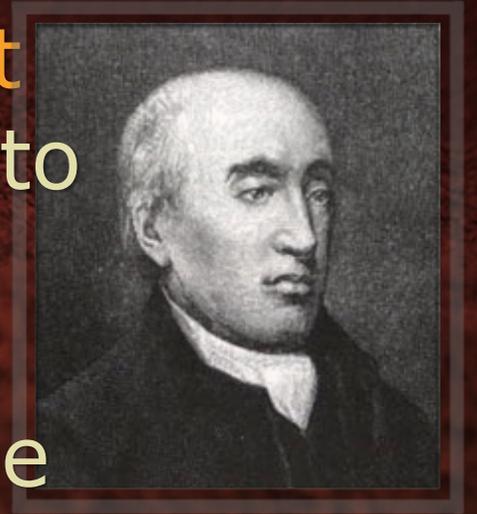
Hutton: deist or atheist

Cuvier: deist or vague theist

Smith: deist or vague theist

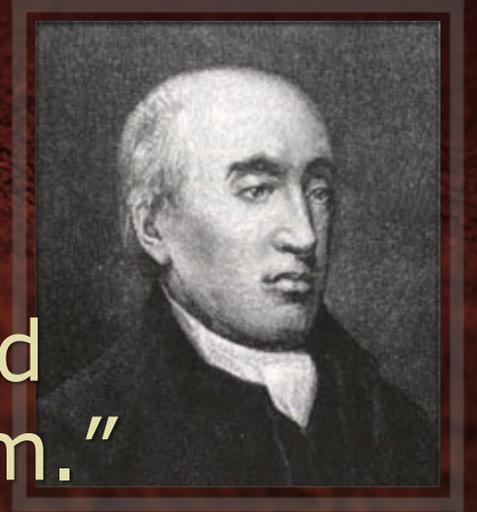
Lyell: deist or unitarian

“The past history of our globe **must** be explained by what can be seen to be happening **now**. ... No powers are to be employed that are not **natural** to the globe, no action to be admitted except those of which we know the principle.”



James Hutton, quoted in Arthur Holmes, *Principles of Physical Geology*, 2nd ed. (Edinburgh, Scotland: Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., 1965), pp. 43–44.

“But, surely, general deluges form **no part** of the theory of the earth; for, the purpose of this earth is evidently to maintain vegetable and animal life, and not to destroy them.”



The Present is the key to the past

James Hutton, *Theory of the Earth* (Edinburgh: William Creech, 1795), vol. 1, p. 273.



PAST
WORLD

The PRESENT is **NOT**
the key to the PAST.

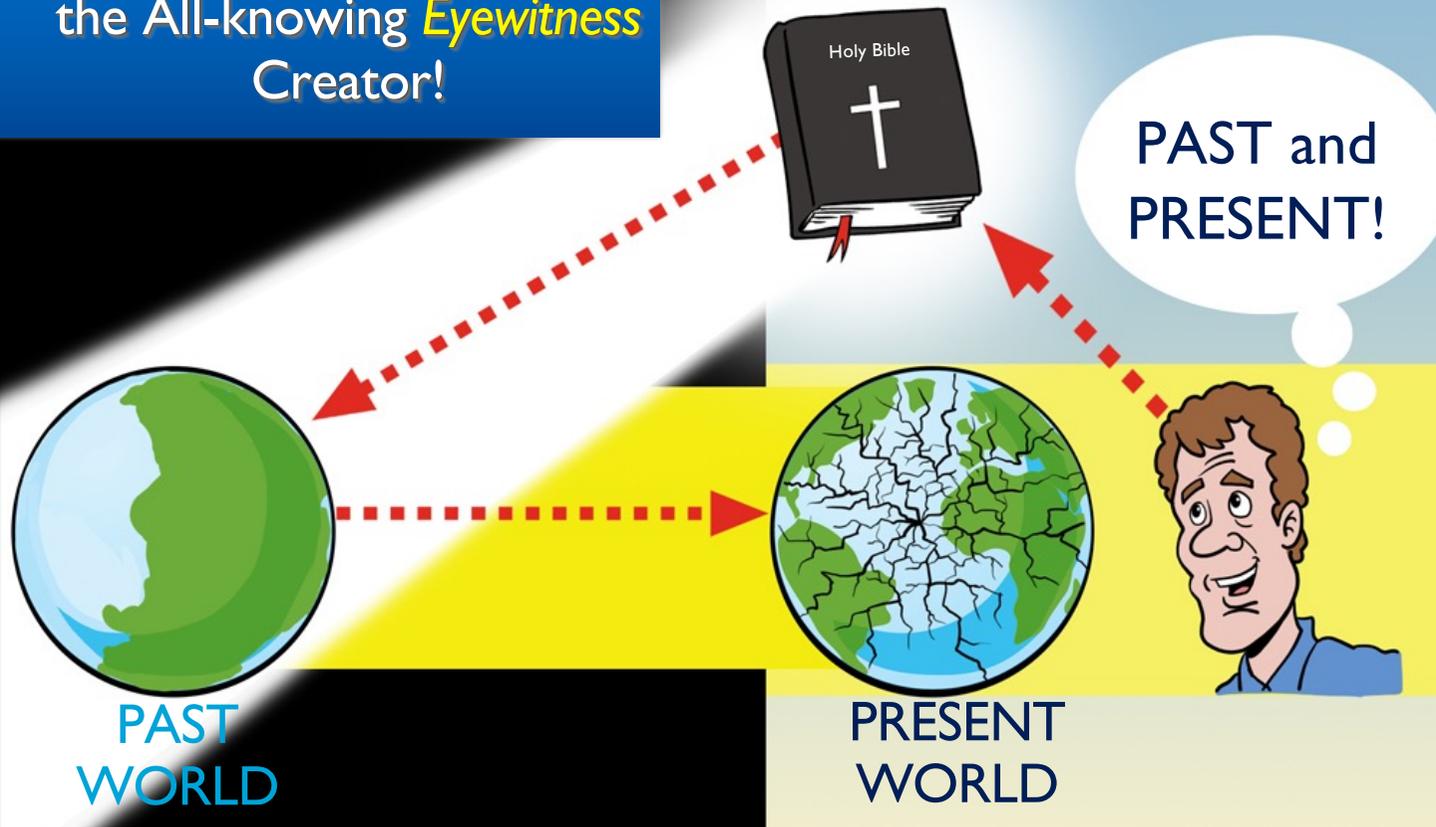
PAST?



PRESENT
WORLD



100% Infallible Account of
the All-knowing *Eyewitness*
Creator!



PAST and
PRESENT!

PAST
WORLD

PRESENT
WORLD

REVELATION is the key to the **PAST**
and the **PRESENT!**

Early 19th Century Views of Earth History

Catastrophist view (e.g., Cuvier, Smith)

SB—C—C—C—C—P

(millions of years)

**The Present is the Key to the
Past**

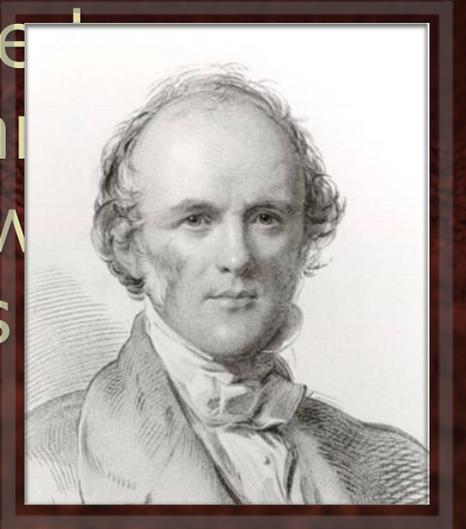
Uniformitarian view (e.g., Hutton,

SB?—P

Lyell)
(millions of years)

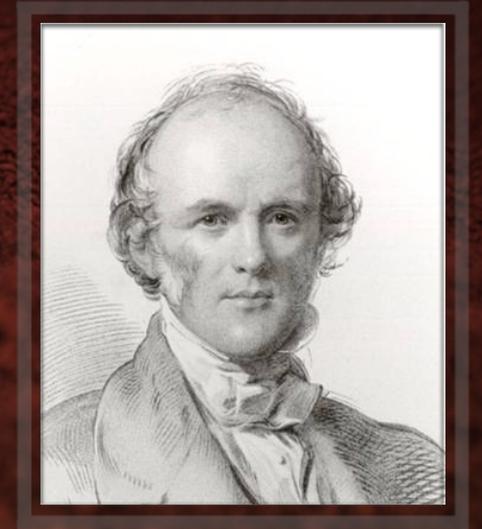
**Revelation is the Key to the
Past and the Present**

“I have always been strongly impressed with the weight of an observation of an excellent writer and skillful geologist who said that ‘for the sake of revelation as well as of science—of truth in every form—the physical part of Geological inquiry ought to be conducted **as if the Scriptures were not in existence.**”



Charles Lyell, quoted in M.J.S. Rudwick, “Charles Lyell Speaks in the Lecture Theatre,” *Brit. J. Hist. Sci.*, IX:2:32 (July 1976): 150.

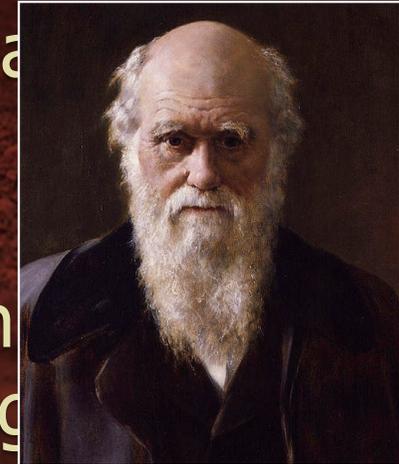
In his words, Lyell wanted to
“free the science [of geology]
from Moses.”



Silence God's eye-witness testimony

Charles Lyell, quoted in Katherine Lyell, *Life, Letters and Journals of Sir Charles Lyell, Bart.* (London: John Murray, 1881), vol. 1, p. 268.

“I always feel as if my books came ha
out of Lyell's brains and that I never
acknowledge this sufficiently, nor do
know how I can, without saying so in
many words—for I have always thoug
that the great merit of the Principles [of
Geology], was that it altered the whole tone of
one's mind & therefore that when seeing a thing
never seen by Lyell, one yet saw it partially
through his eyes.”



Charles Darwin, *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin*, Vol. 3 (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1987), p. 55.

Uniformitarian Naturalism



1. Nature is all that exists.
2. Everything can, and indeed must, be explained by **time** plus **chance** plus the **laws of nature** working on matter.
3. Processes of geological change have always been operating in the past at **the same rate, frequency and power** as today.

Old-earth geologist

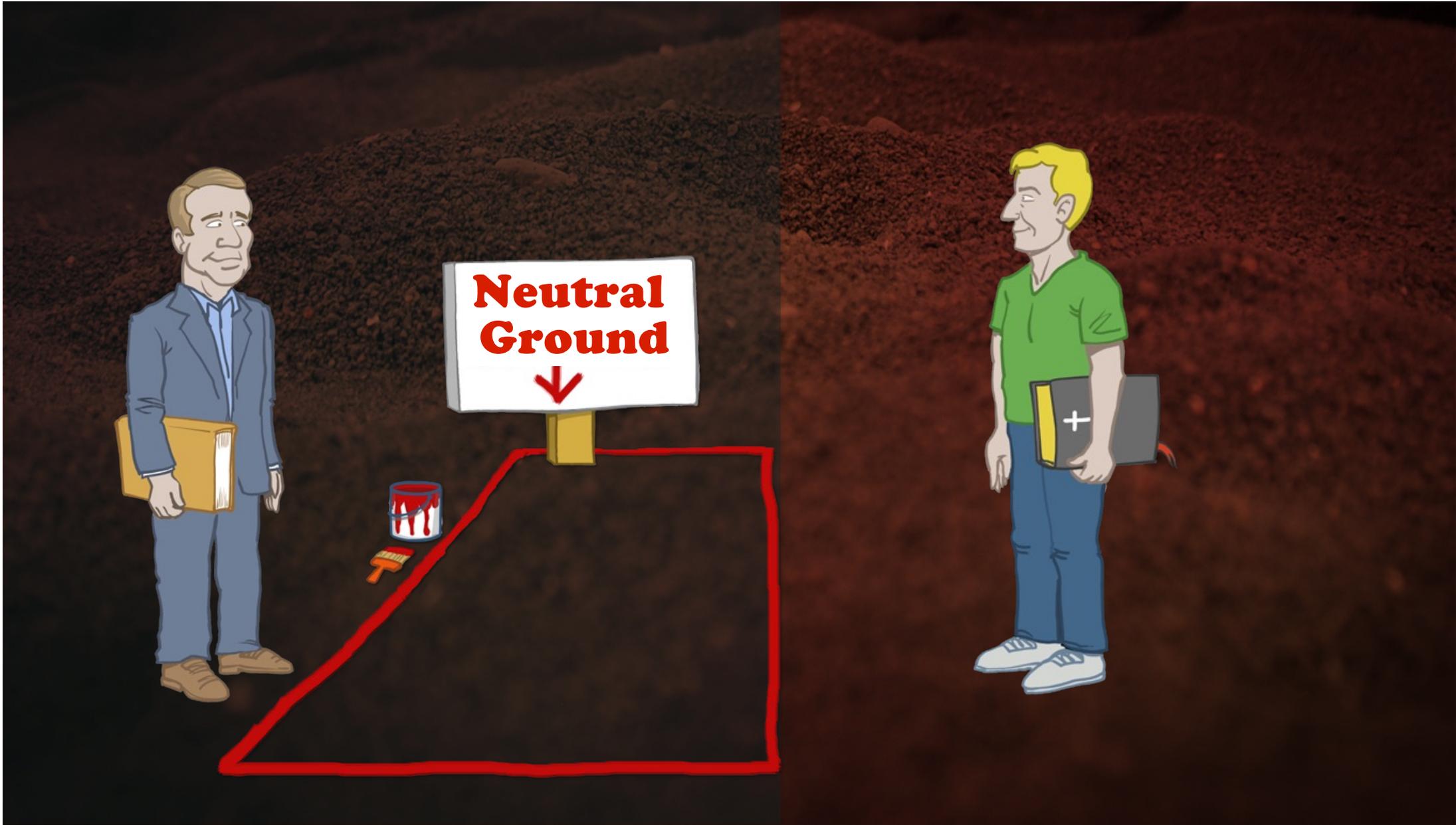


Naturalistic Assumptions

Christian



Biblical Assumptions

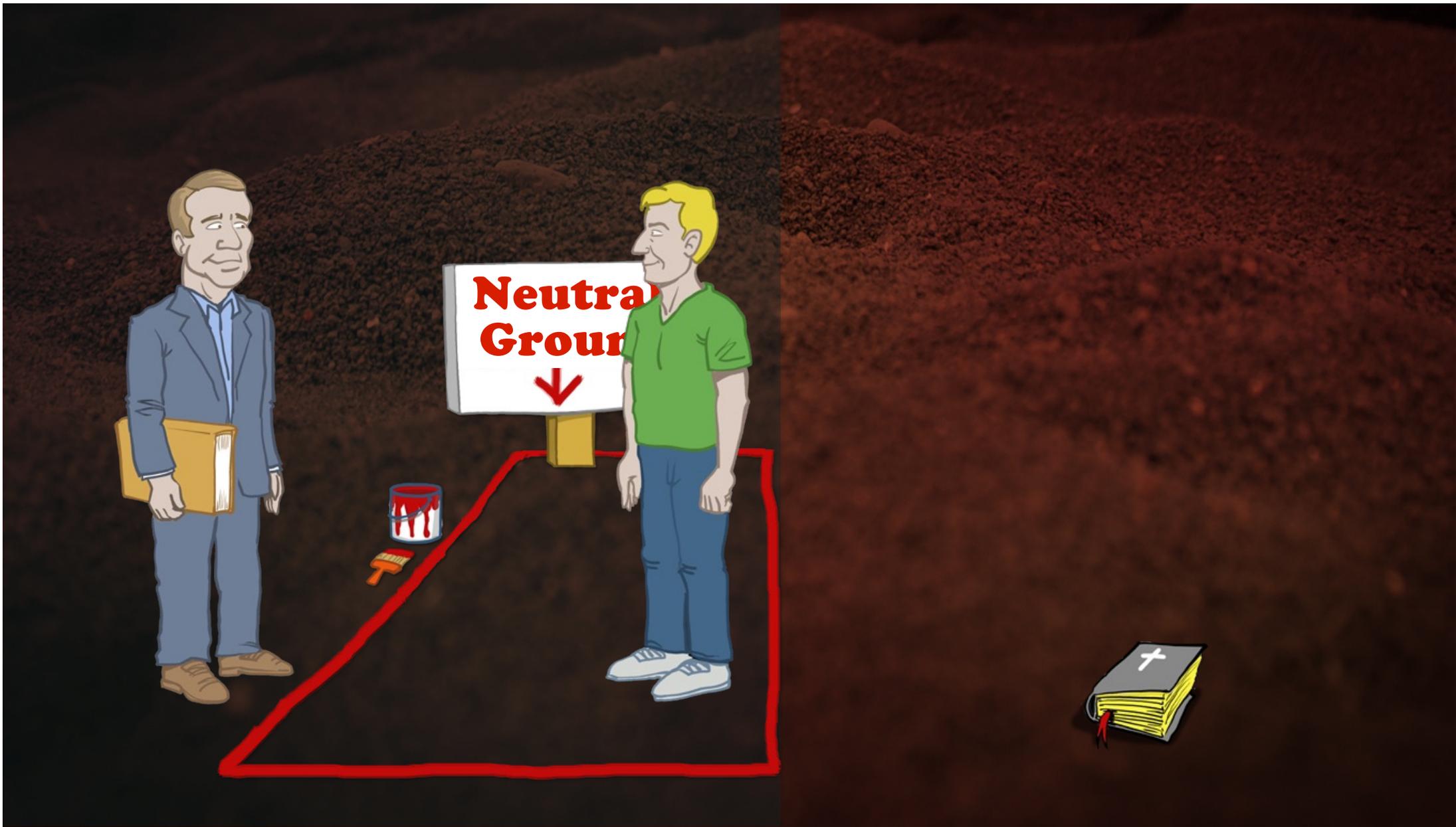


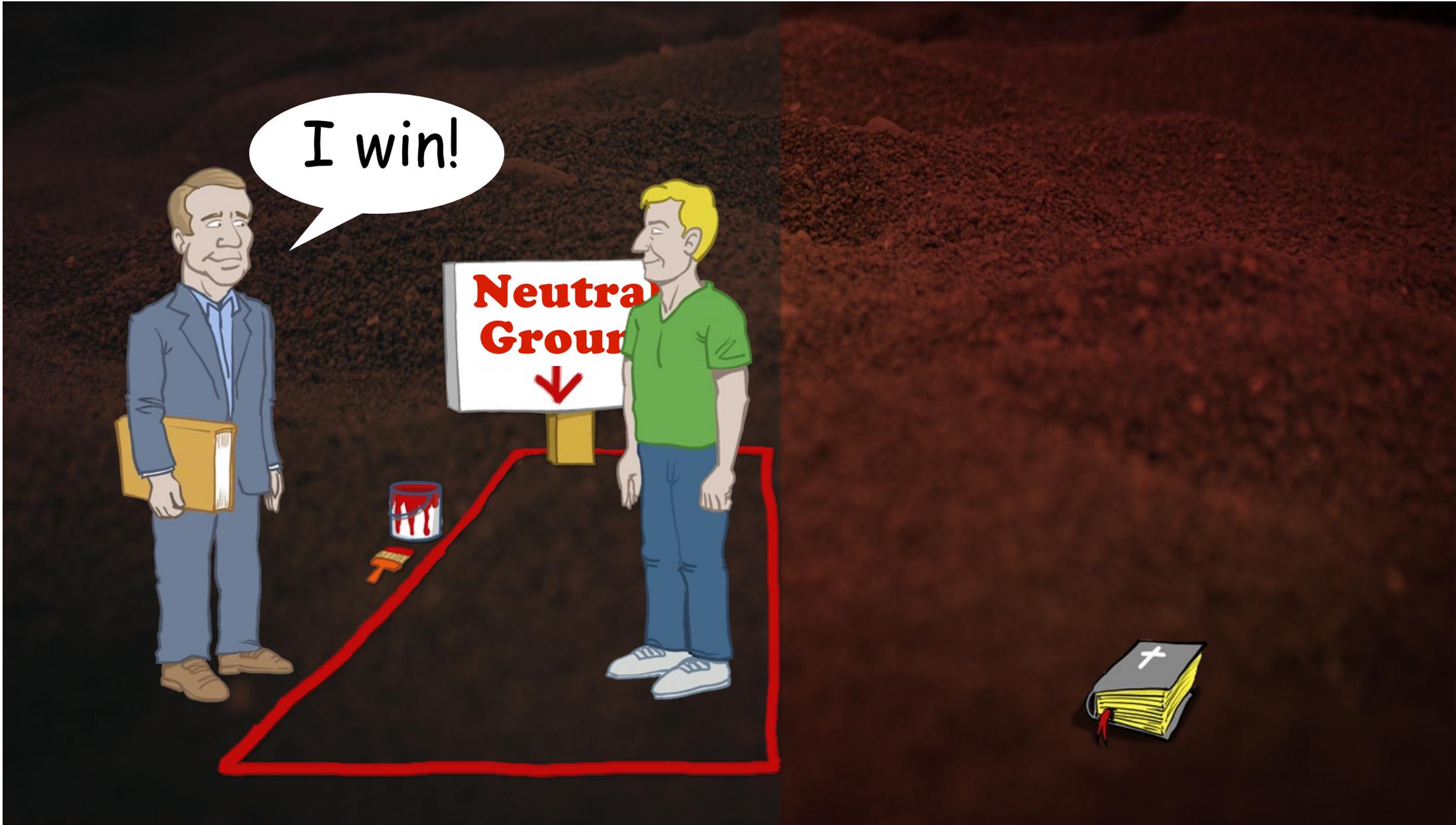
But he's still using his naturalistic assumptions!



**Neutral
Ground**







Operation Science

VS

Origin Science

Worldview is critical!

Naturalistic
Assumptions



Biblical
Assumptions

It's a battle of
worldviews.

Old Earth
No Global
Flood



Young Earth
Global Flood

1 Timothy 6:20–21

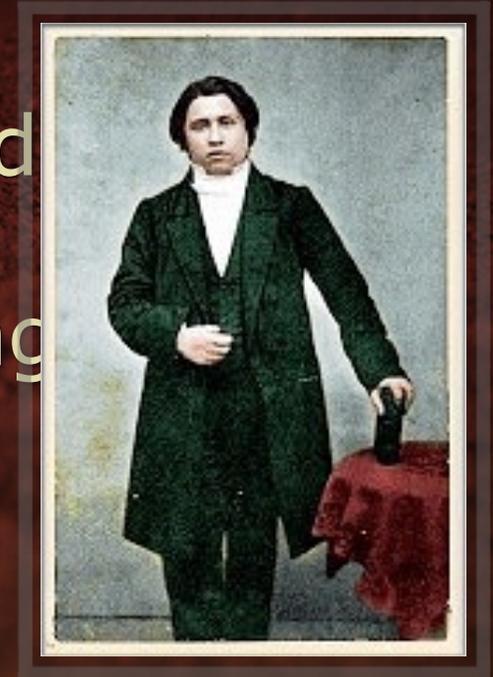
²⁰ O Timothy, guard what was entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is **falsely called “knowledge”**— ²¹ which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

“Can any man tell me **when the beginning was**? Years ago we thought the beginning of this world was when Adam came upon it;”

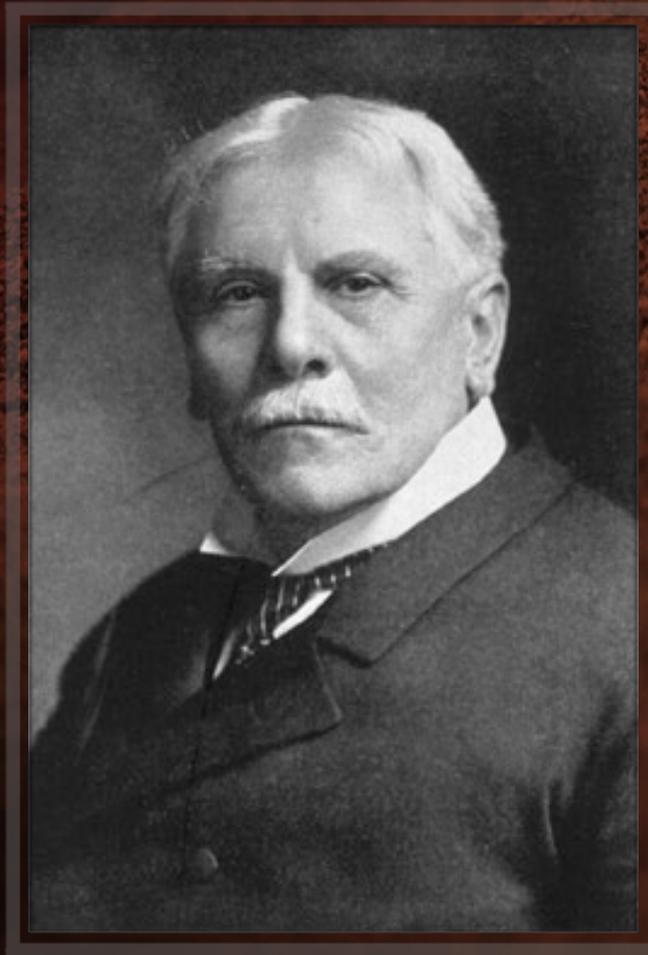


C.H. Spurgeon, “Election” (1855), *The New Park Street Pulpit* (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publ. 1990), vol. 1, p. 318.

“but we have discovered that thousands of years before that God was preparing chaotic matter to make it a fit abode for man, putting races of creatures upon it, who might die and leave behind the marks of his handiwork and marvelous skill, before he tried his hand on man.”



C.H. Spurgeon, “Election” (1855), *The New Park Street Pulpit* (Pasadena, TX: Pilgrim Publ. 1990), vol. 1, p. 318.



C.I. Scofield
(1843–1921)

Scofield Reference Bible
(1909)

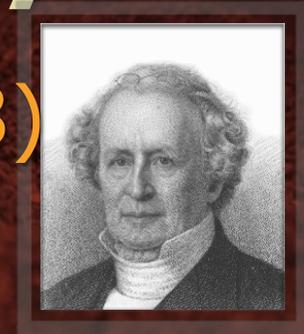
Gap Theory

“The first creative act refers to the dateless past, and gives scope for all the geologic ages.”

Princeton Seminary

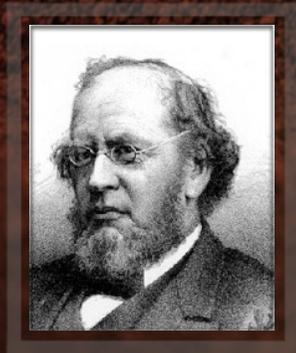
Charles Hodge (1779–1878)

Old-Earth



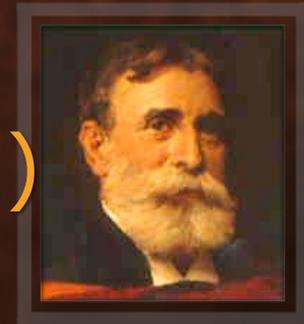
A.A. Hodge (1823–1886)

Theistic Evolution??



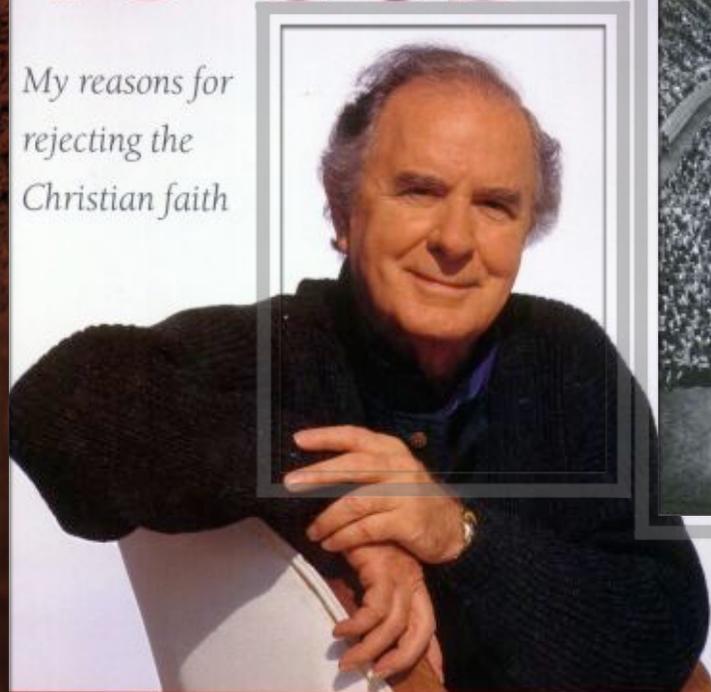
B.B. Warfield (1851–1921)

Theistic Evolution?



FAREWELL TO GOD

*My reasons for
rejecting the
Christian faith*

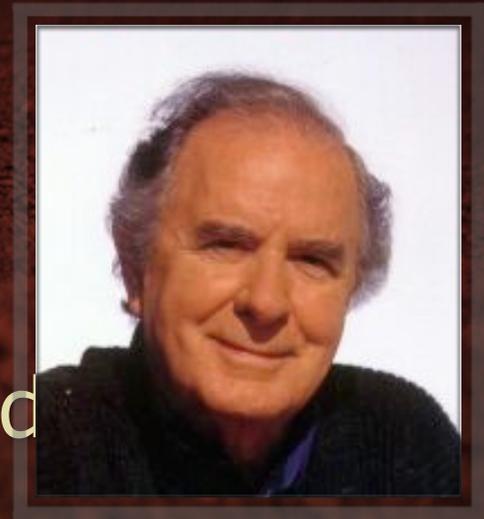


Charles Templeton



1915—
2001

I believe that there is no supreme being with human attributes—no God in the biblical sense—but that life is the result of timeless evolutionary forces, having reached its present transient state over millions of years.



Charles Templeton, *Farewell to God* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1996), p. 232.

Princeton Seminary

Charles Hodge (1779–1878)

Old-Earth



A.A. Hodge (1823–1886)

Theistic Evolution??



B.B. Warfield (1851–1921)

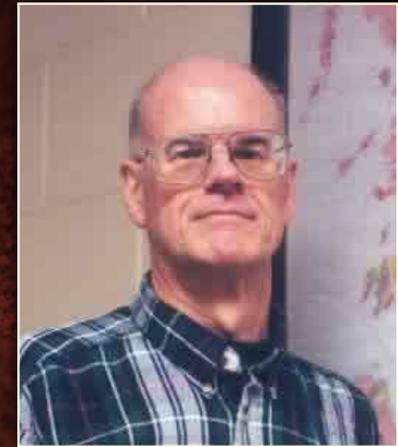
Theistic Evolution?



Charles Templeton (1915–2001)

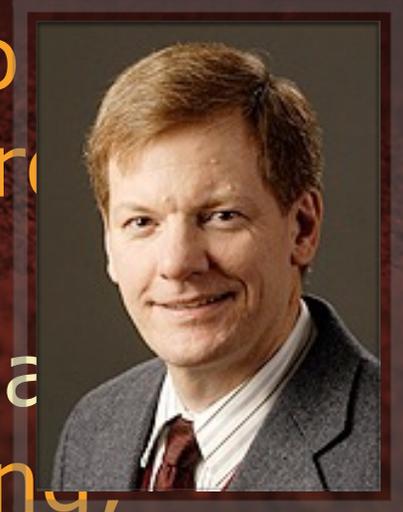
Apostate

“The Christian who believes that the idea of an ancient earth is unbiblical would do better to deny the validity of any kind of historical geology and insist that the rocks must be the product of pure miracle rather than try to explain them in terms of the [Noahic] flood. An examination of the earth **apart from ideological presuppositions** is bound to lead to the conclusion that it is ancient.”



Davis Young, “The Discovery of Terrestrial History,” in Howard J. Van Till, Robert E. Snow, John H. Stek and Davis A. Young, *Portraits of Creation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990), p. 81.

“I conclude, then that I have no reason to disbelieve the standard theories of the geologists, including their estimate for the age of the earth. They may be wrong, for all I know; but if they are wrong, it’s not



because they have improperly smuggled philosophical assumptions into their work.”

S. M. M. (1999), *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* (Wheaton: Crossways, 2003), p. 250.

“Although our conclusions are tentative, at this point in our understanding, Scripture seems to be more easily understood to suggest (but not to require) a young-earth view, while the **observable facts** of creation seem increasingly to **favor an old-earth view.**”



Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), p. 307.



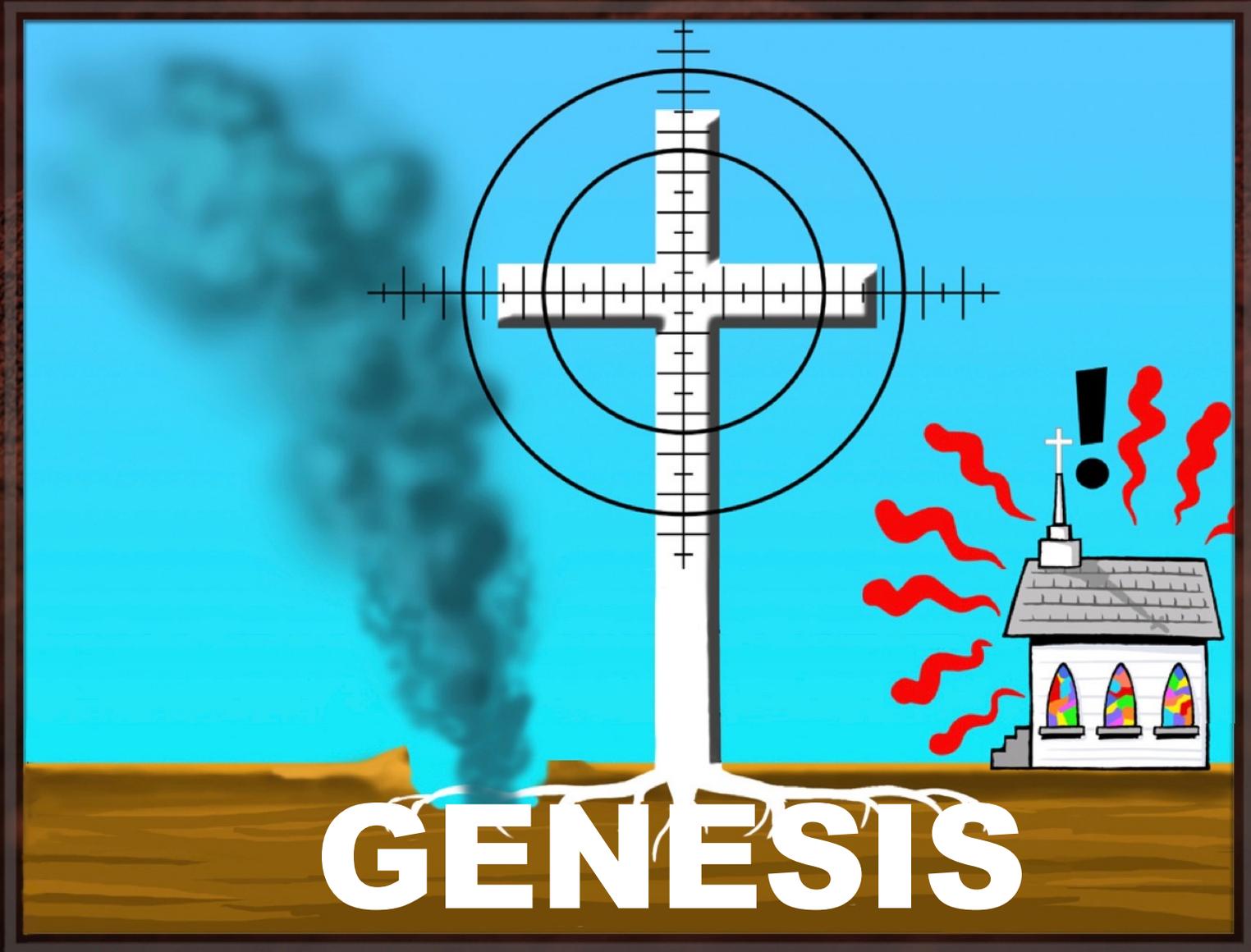
COME TO
JESUS! COME TO
THE CROSS AND BE
SAVED!





IT DIDN'T
HIT THE
CROSS!

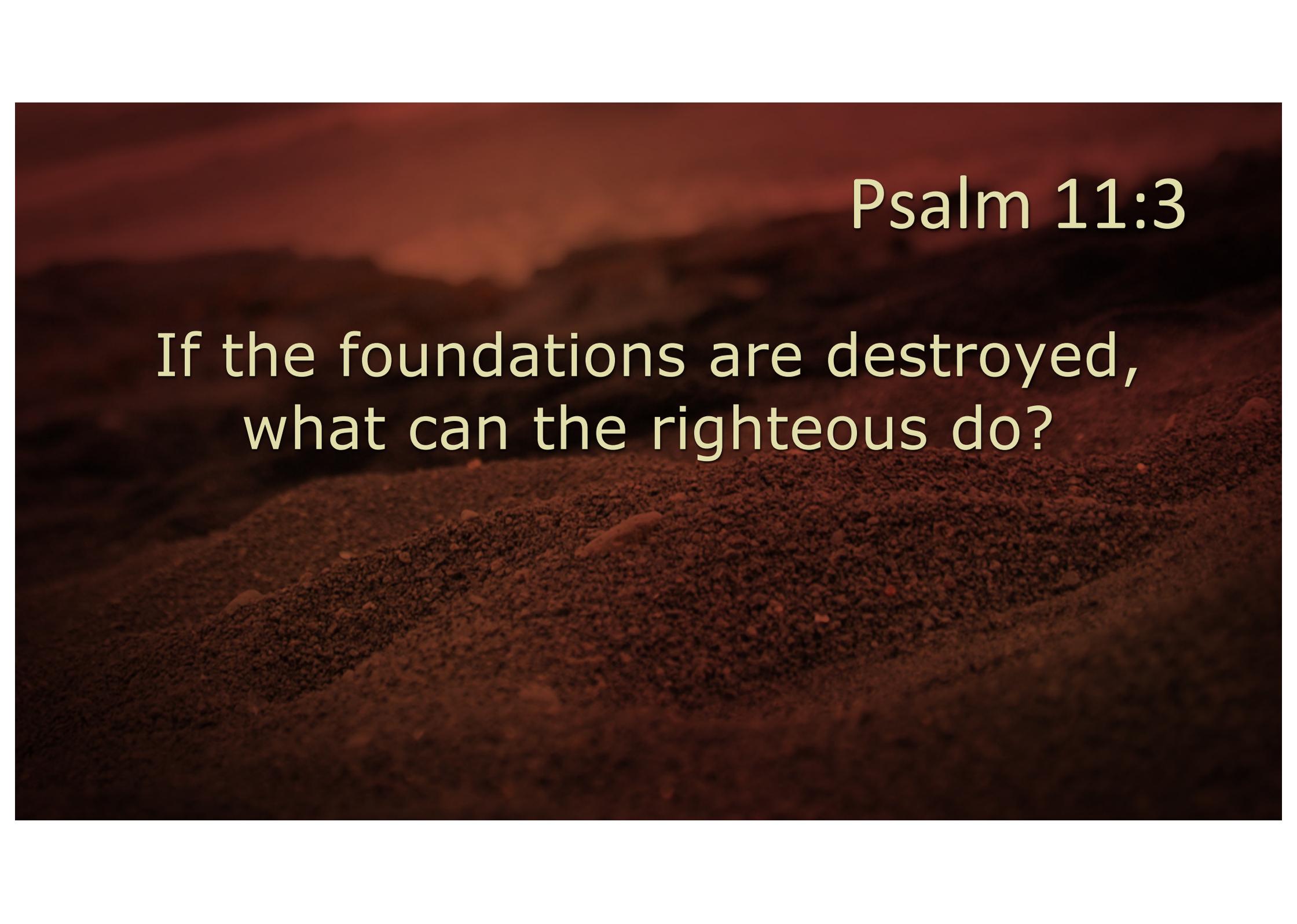
GENESIS





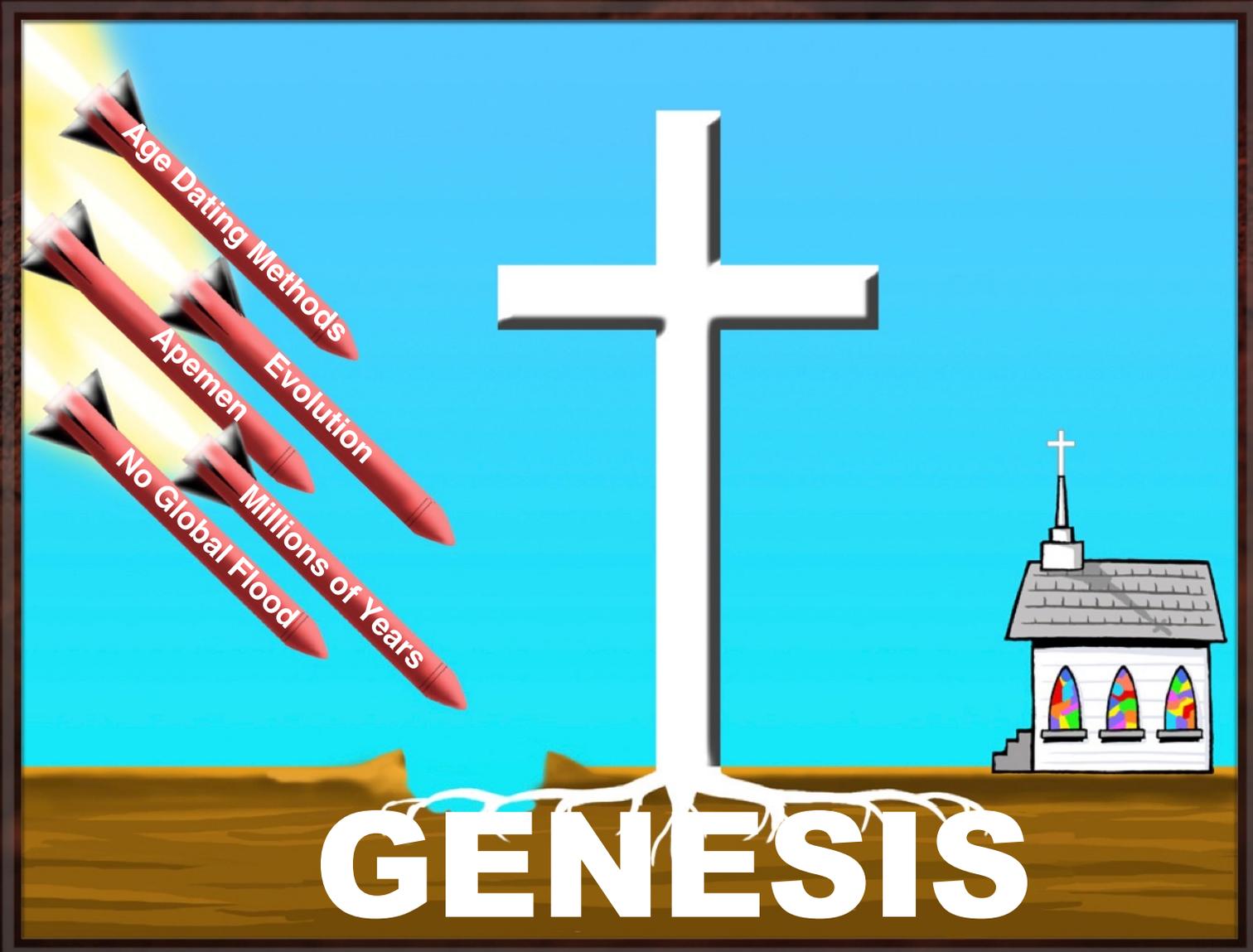
IT'S JUST
A
SIDE ISSUE!

GENESIS



Psalm 11:3

If the foundations are destroyed,
what can the righteous do?



Age Dating Methods

Apemen Evolution

No Global Flood Millions of Years

GENESIS



Evolution

**Age
Dating
Methods**

Apemen

**Millions
of Years**

**NO
Global
Flood**

SIS

DIRECT
HIT!

IT DIDN'T
HIT THE
CROSS!

GENESIS



Ydasv@b d o s a i d i e .



2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

UNBELIEF

GENESIS





**Progressive
Creation**

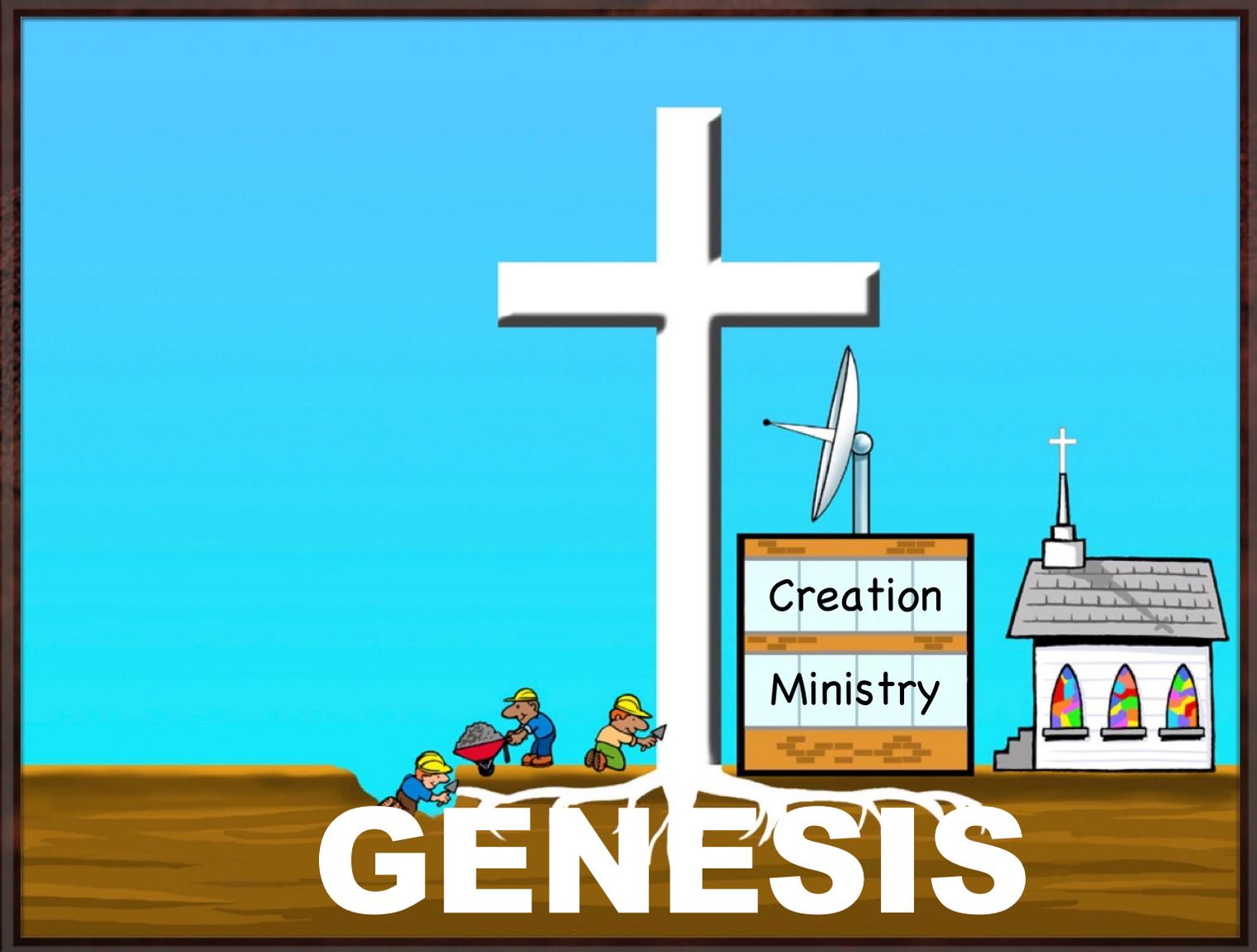
**Theistic
Evolution**

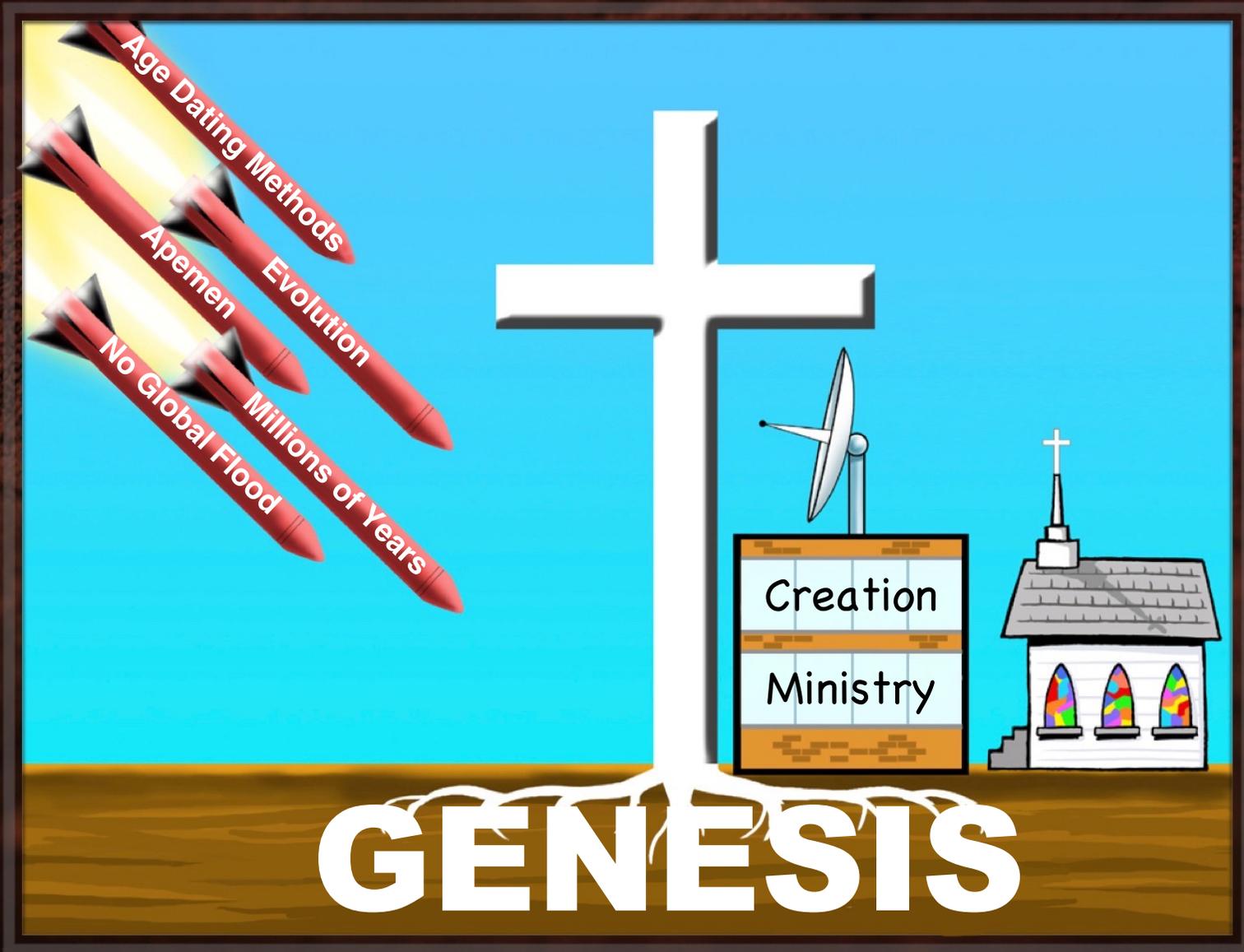
**Gap
Theory**

**Day Age
Theory**

**Framework
Hypothesis**

ks





Age Dating Methods

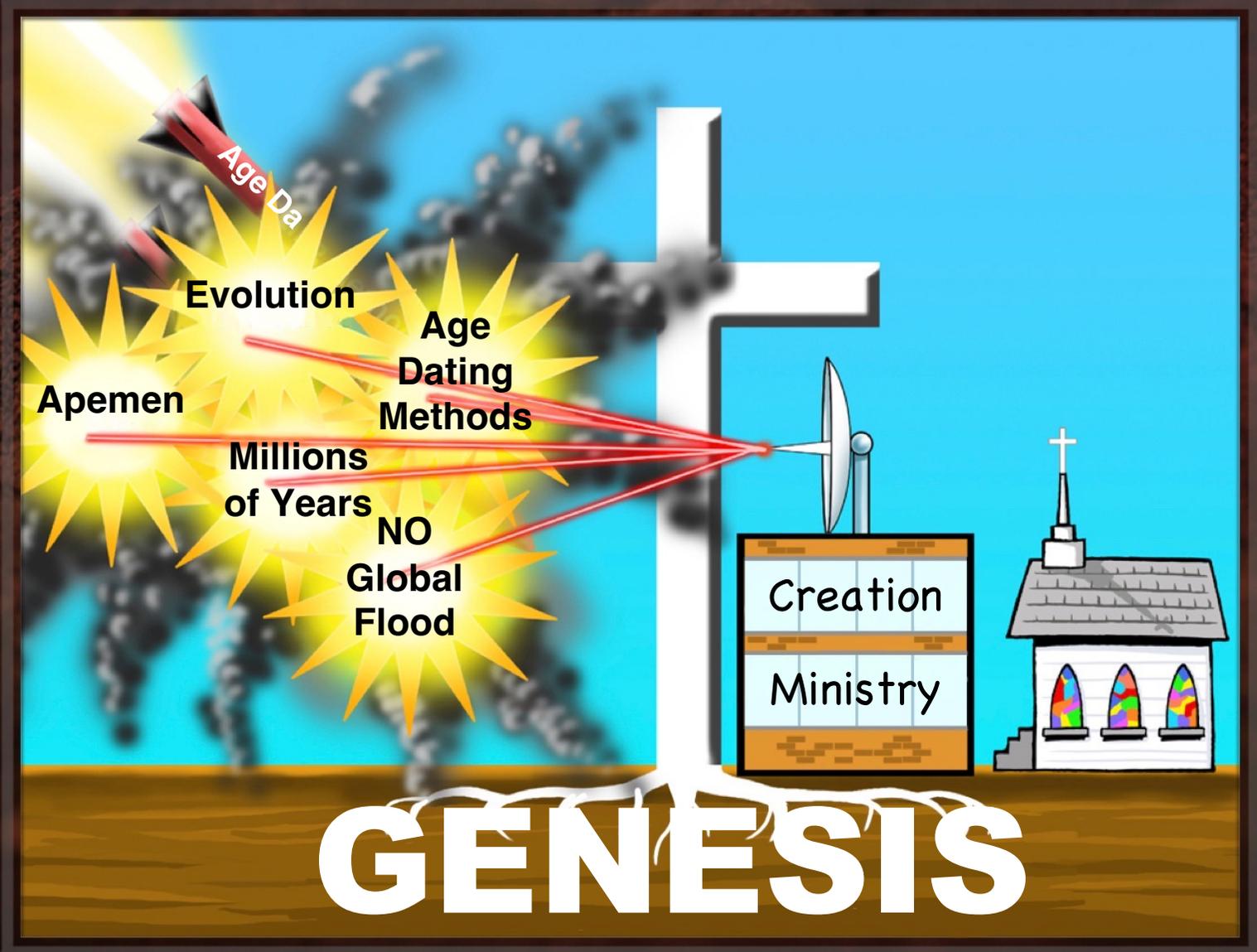
Apemen Evolution

No Global Flood Millions of Years

Creation

Ministry

GENESIS



Age Da

Evolution

Age

Dating
Methods

Apemen

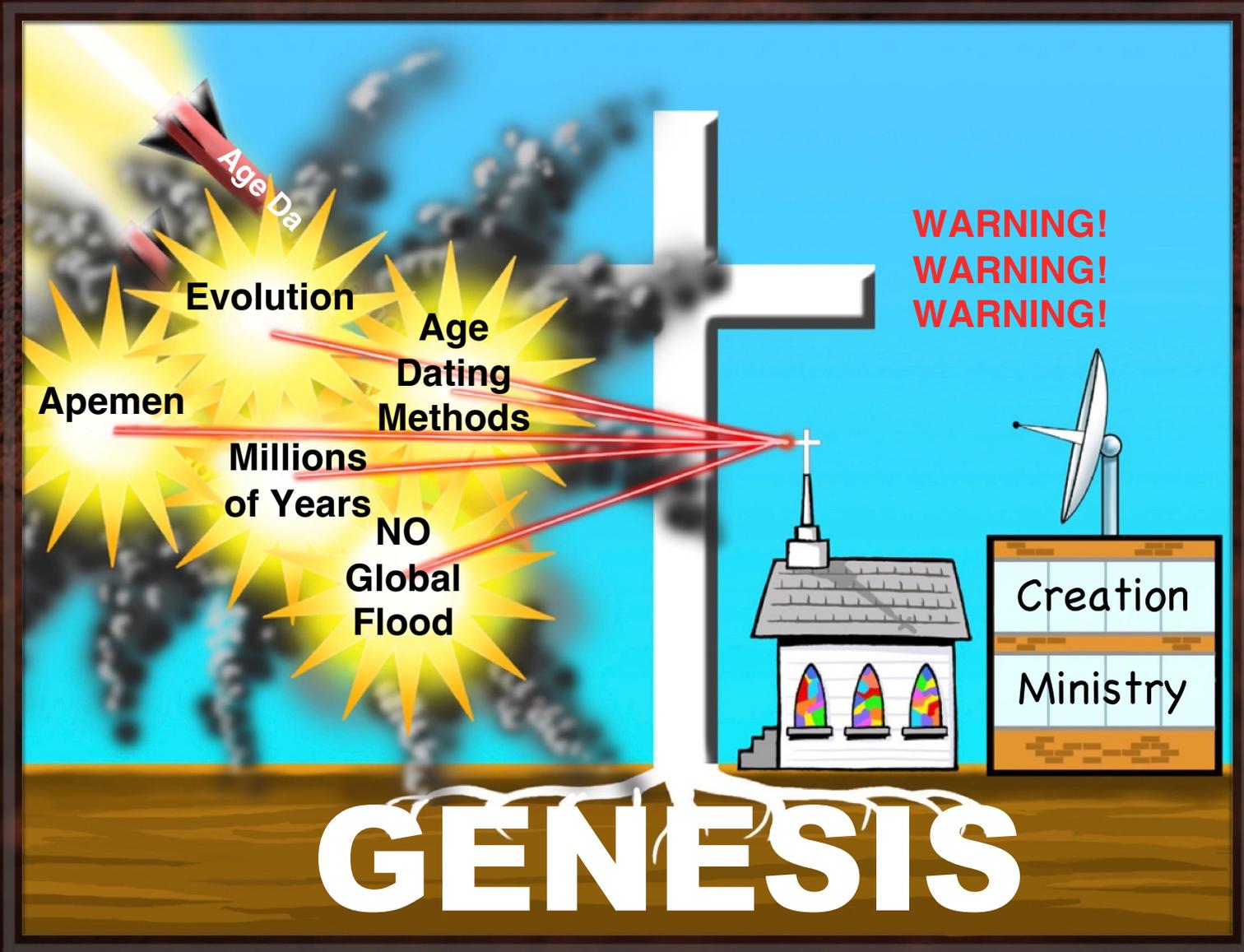
Millions
of Years

NO
Global
Flood

Creation

Ministry

GENESIS



Age Da

Evolution

Age

Dating
Methods

Apemen

Millions
of Years

NO
Global
Flood

WARNING!
WARNING!
WARNING!

Creation

Ministry

GENESIS

COME TO
JESUS! COME TO
THE CROSS AND BE
SAVED!

GENESIS

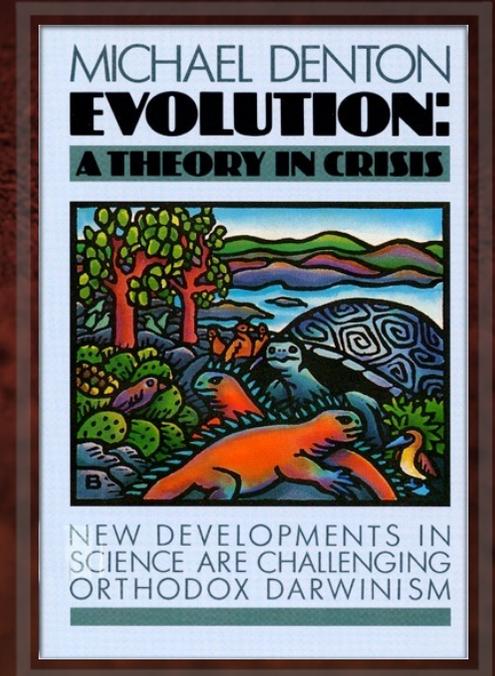


2 Corinthians 10:4–5

⁴ For the weapons of **our warfare** are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

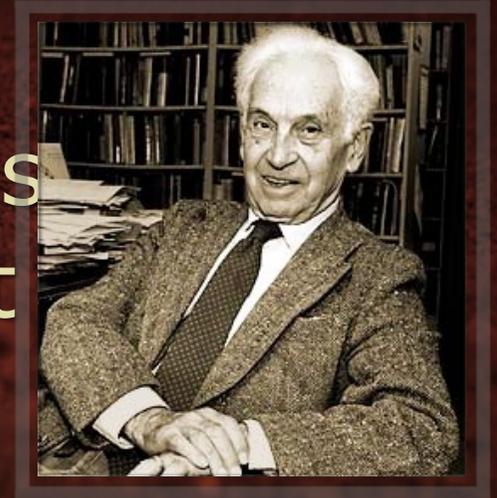
⁵ We are destroying **speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God**, and we are taking **every thought captive to the obedience of Christ**.

“Today it is perhaps the Darwinian view of nature more than any other that is responsible for the agnostic and skeptical outlook of the twentieth century.”



Michael Denton, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* (London: Burnett Books, 1985), p. 358.

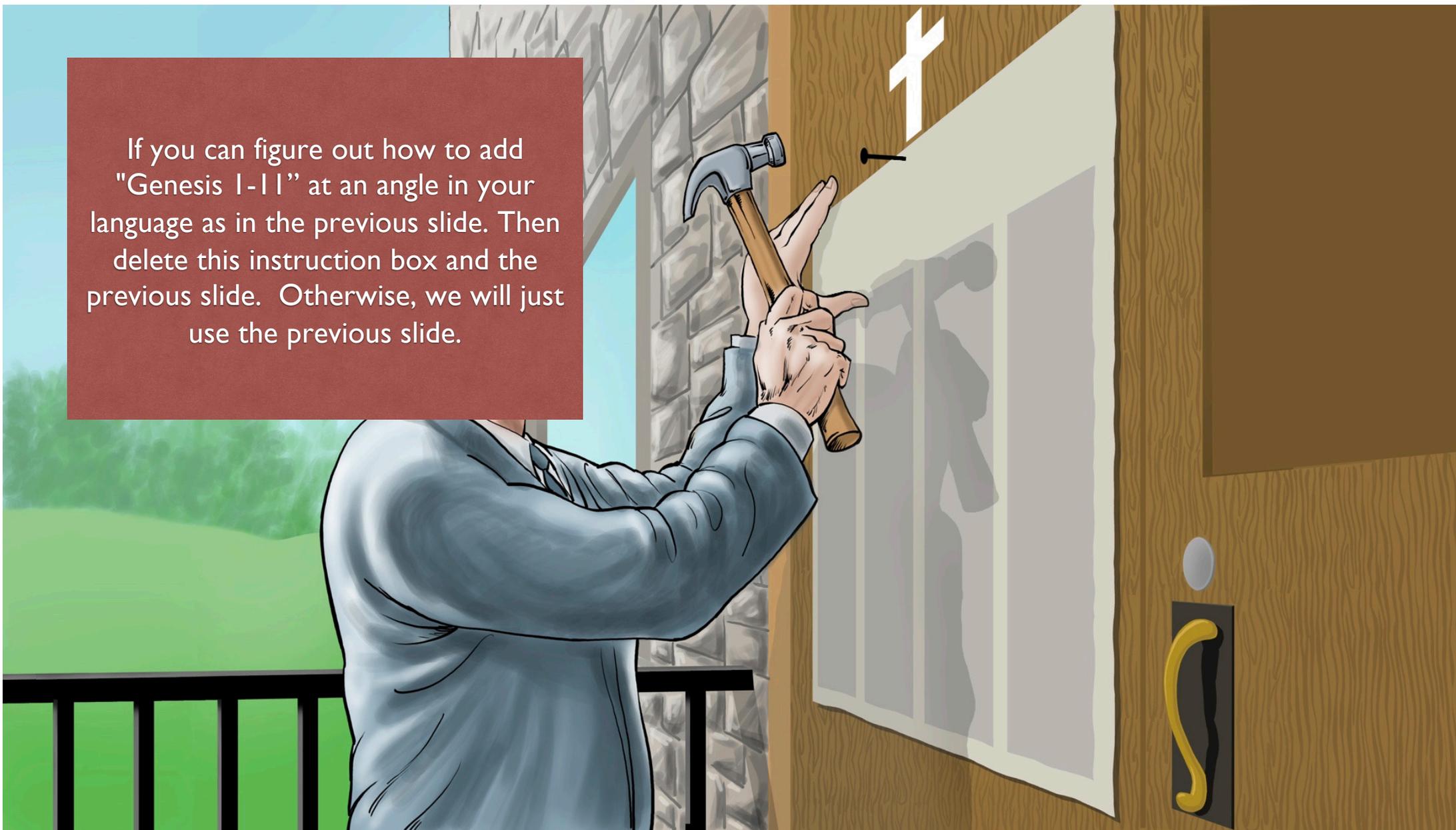
“The [Darwinian] revolution began when it became obvious that the earth was very ancient rather than having been created only 6000 years ago. This finding was the snowball that started the whole avalanche.”



Ernst Mayr, “The Nature of the Darwinian Revolution,” *Science*, vol. 176 (2 June 1972), p. 988.



If you can figure out how to add "Genesis 1-11" at an angle in your language as in the previous slide. Then delete this instruction box and the previous slide. Otherwise, we will just use the previous slide.



Psalm 40:4

How blessed is the man who has made the LORD his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood.

Proverbs 29:25

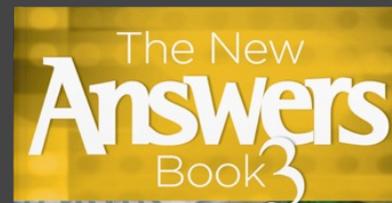
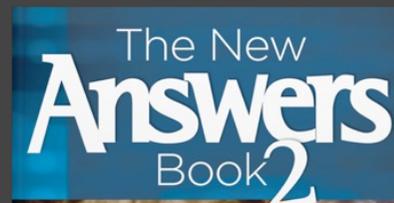
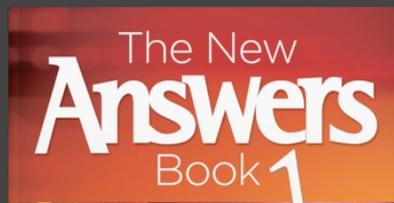
The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be safe.



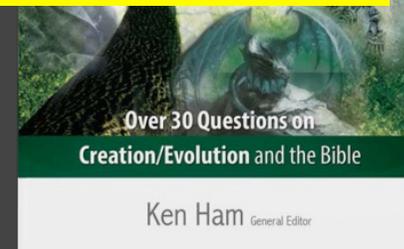
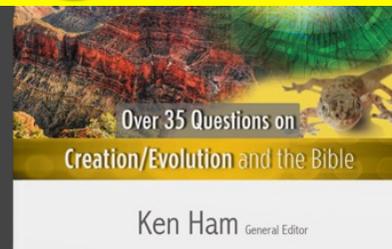
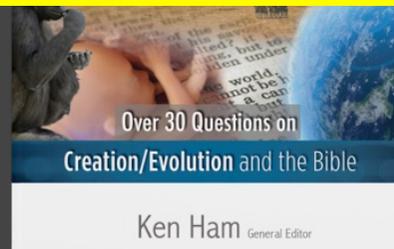
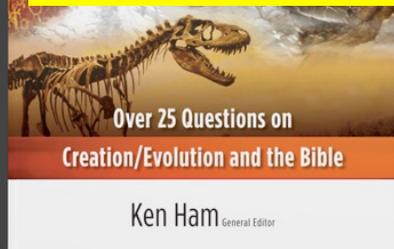
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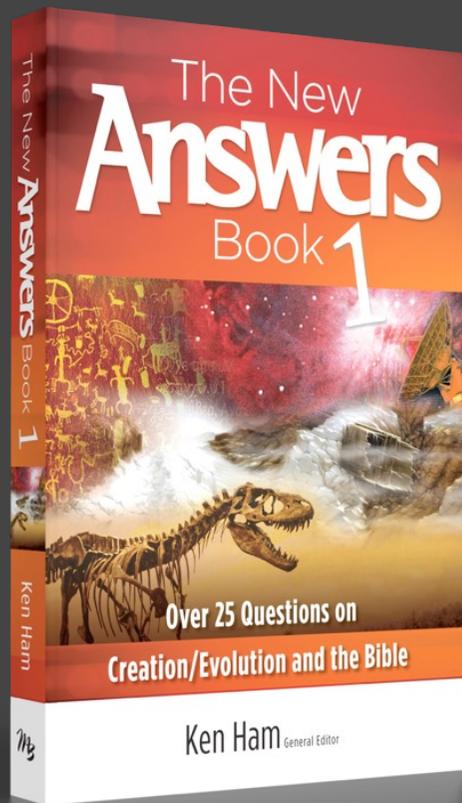


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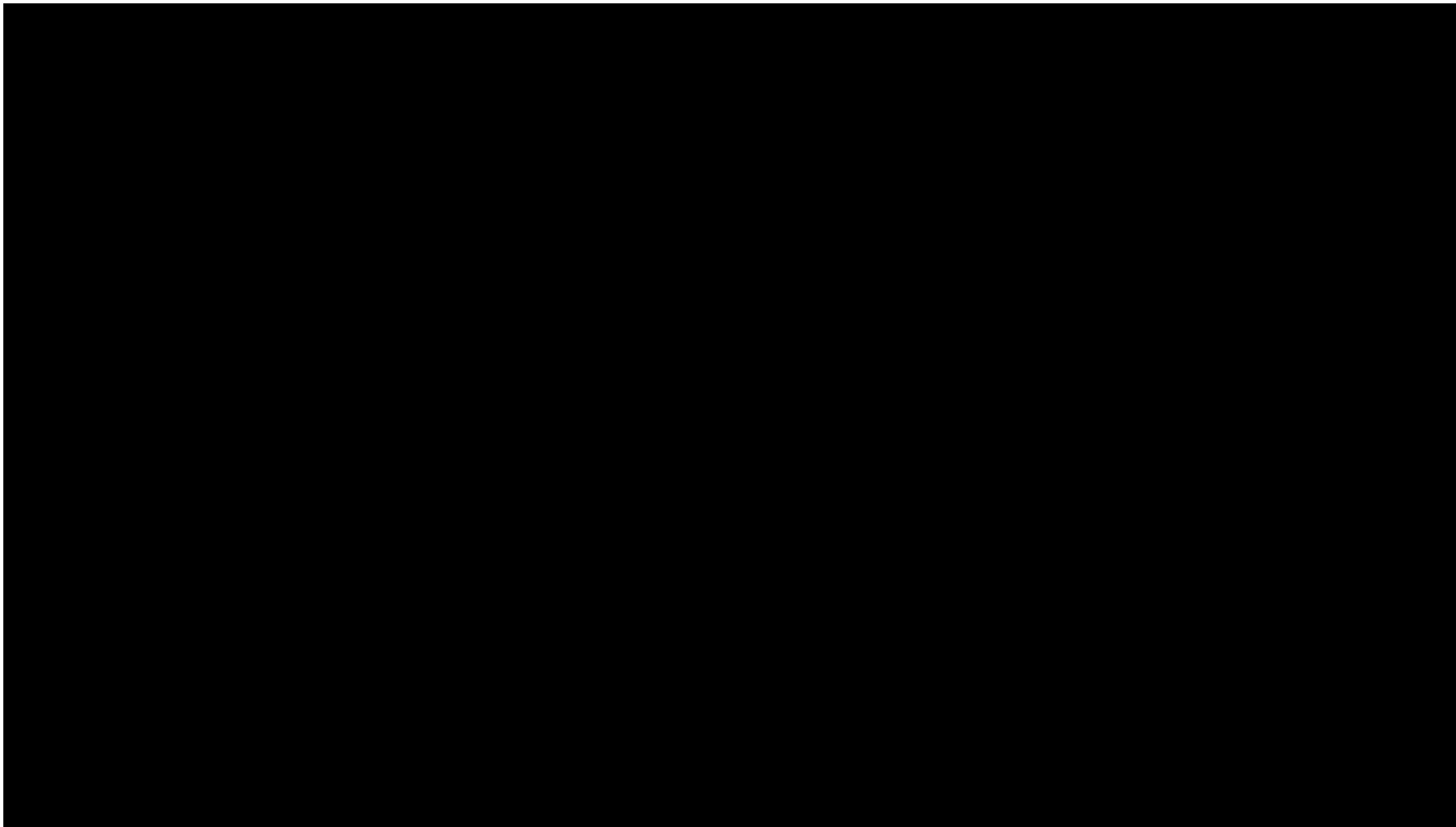




Creation Museum, Cincinnati, OH

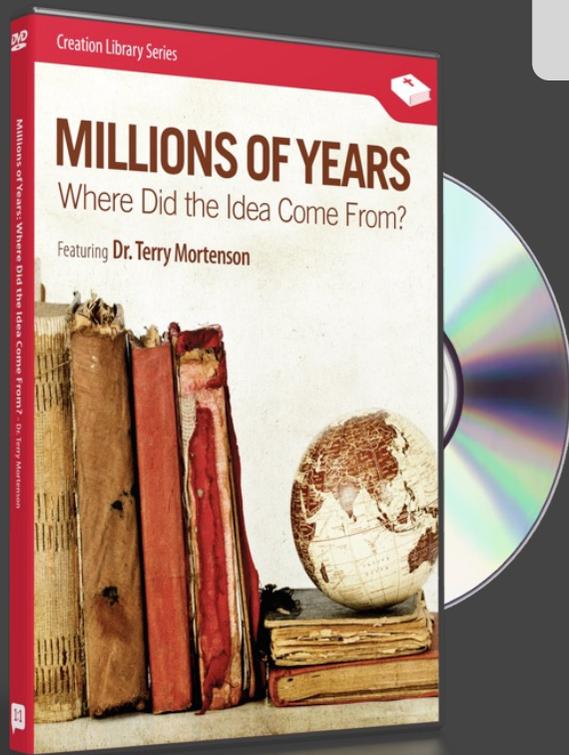
Ark Encounter, Williamstown, KY





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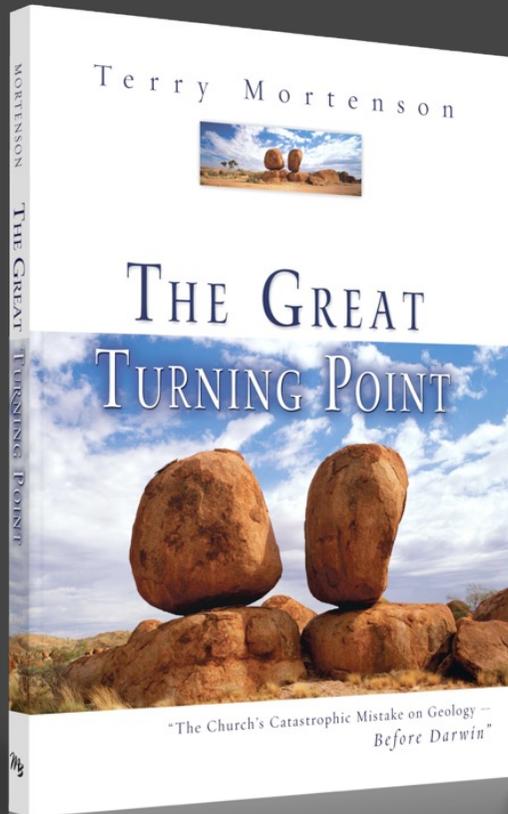
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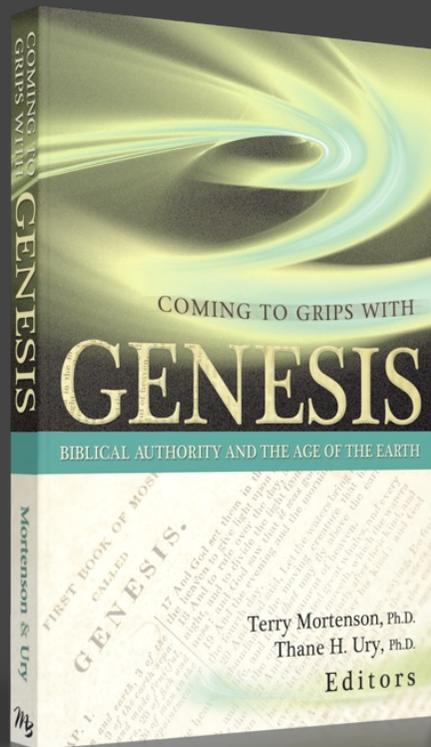
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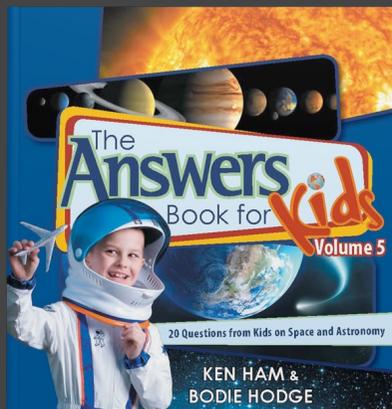
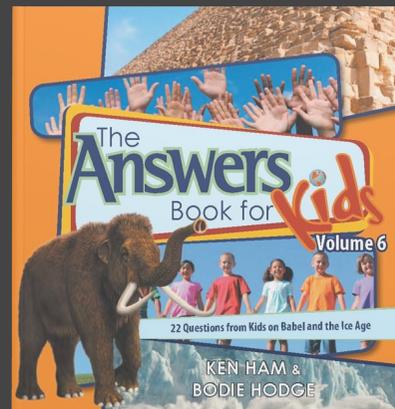
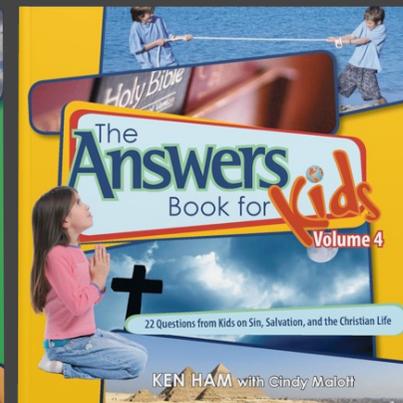
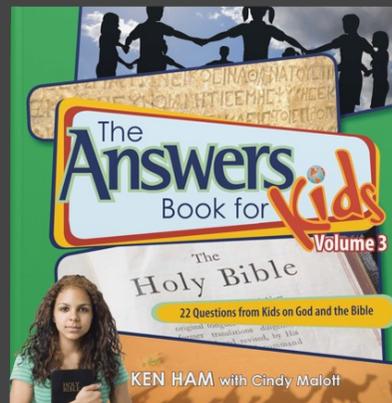
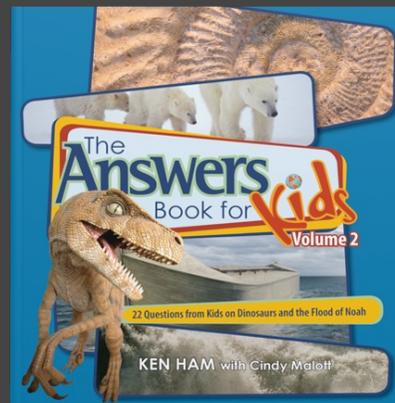
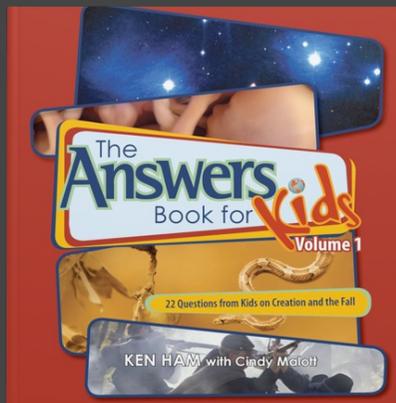
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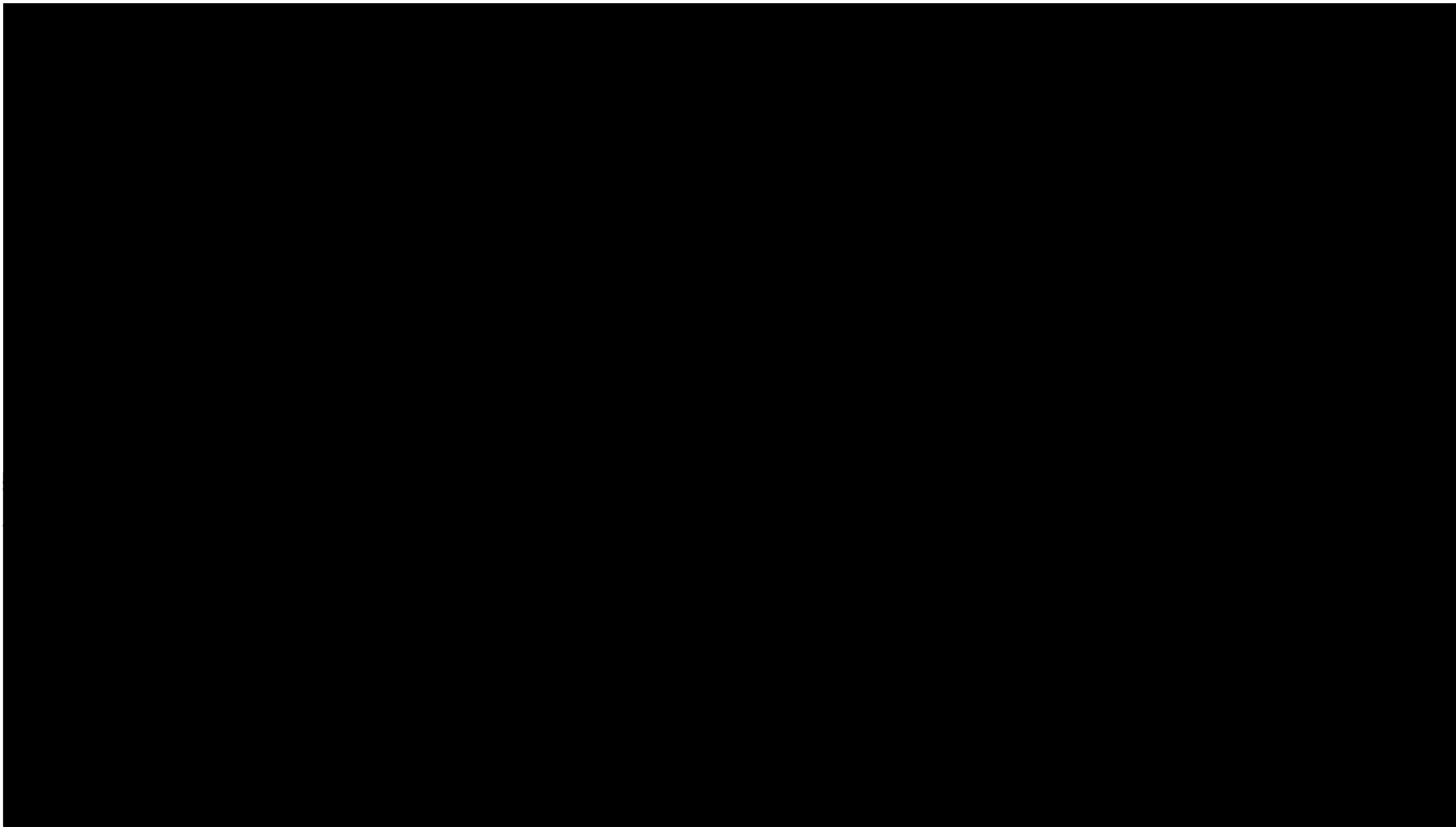
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