



How Did the Universe Get Here?

*Contrasting Various Views on
Origins*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Questions We All Must Answer

Genesis = "Beginnings"

- **Origin:** Where did we come from?
- **Purpose:** Why am I here? Is there meaning?
- **Morality:** Why is there evil in the world?
- **Destiny:** Where am I going? Is there hope?

Narrative Parallels to Genesis

- Memphite Theology
- Enuma Elish
- Atrahasis Epic
- Gilgamesh Epic
- Creation
- Creation
- Creation & Flood
- Flood



Enuma Elish ("When on High")

- Babylonian account of creation
- Written in Akkadian
- On seven tablets, composed during 11th century BC
- Tiamat the mother goddess
- Marduk the son kills Tiamat, creating the universe from splitting her corpse into water and sky
- Humankind made to do hard physical labour from blood of Tiamat's co-conspirator, Kingu

Two Other Sumerian Accounts

Eridu Genesis

- Origin: 1600 BC
- Order parallels Genesis account
- Narrates creation of mankind, cities, and great flood; hero named Ziusudra

Enki, Ninmakh and Creation of Humankind

- Enki created by fathering clay of Apsu
- Enki, Ninmakh and Namma fashioned humans from clay to farm food and labour

Atrahasis Epic

"Let the birth-goddess create offspring, and let man bear the toil of the gods... create humanity that he may bear the yoke... let Nintu mix clay, that god and man may be thoroughly mixed in the clay, let there be a spirit from the god's flesh"

(Arnold/Beyer, 24)

- **Akkadian 1650 BC**
- **Creation & flood stories**
- **Man created to help overworked gods**
- **Man made from clay**

Views of Creation

1871

Pagan

Biblical (Genesis)

Polytheistic

Monotheistic (Gen 1:1)

Myth

History

**Written to satisfy man's
curiosity on origins**

**Written to glorify God &
extend his rule**

**The gods created themselves
and other gods**

**The Word existed before
creation (John 1:1-3)**

**The gods struggled for
sovereignty**

**Yahweh sovereign by nature
(Gen 1:3)**

**Man mostly not in divine
image (low status)**

**Man created in God's image
(high status)**

**People made to be slaves of
the gods**

**Man rules over creation
(Gen 1:26-27)**

Life came from death

Life came from life

Views of Creation

1871

Pagan

Biblical (Genesis)

The most powerful god used magic to create

Yahweh did not need to use magic

Male and female gods had sexual activity

Yahweh had no female consort

Creation resulted from conflict between gods

Creation by orderly means

Creative activity not separated into days

Six days of creation model the work week

These are gods in and of themselves

Creation of light, sun, sky, moon, etc.

No corresponding rest day is taught

A Sabbath rest completes creation

Material assumed to be eternal in the past

No pre-existent material (Hebrews 11:3)

Psalm 11

David rejoices in the providence and justice of God.

1 To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of David. I put my trust in the

LORD; how can you say to me, Flee

from the danger of the sword?

2 For lo, the wicked have

made ready their arrow;

they have bent their bow;

they have put their hand to the

trigger, as if to shoot.

3 If the foundations are destroyed,

what can the righteous do?

4 The LORD [is] in His holy temple;

the LORD's throne [is] in

Heaven; His eyes behold, His eye-

lids examine the children of men.

4 that has said shall do much

own; who [is]

5 For the opp

for the sighing

now arise, say

in safety, he p

the words

pure words, [

furnace of e

7 You shall k

You shall pre

generation for

8 The wicked

when vileness

of men.

The Relevance of Genesis

IN THE BEGINNING

God
created
the heavens
and the earth

Genesis 1:1



Psalm 11:3

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







DOCTRINE

GENESIS

2ND COMING

1ST COMING

LAST ADAM

CURSE

DOMINION

WORK

7-DAY WEEK

GENESIS

**MEANING
OF LIFE**

STANDARDS

MARRIAGE

LAWS

CREATION
GOD'S
WORD

ABORTION

PORNOGRAPHY

HOMOSEXUALITY

LAWLESSNESS

EVOLUTION
MAN'S
OPINION

The secrets of evolution are time and death. Time for the slow accumulations of favorable mutations, and death to make room for new species.

Carl Sagan, program entitled "One Voice in the Cosmic Fugue."

**FOSSIL
RECORD**

**MILLIONS
OF YEARS**

=

**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

EVOLUTION

DEATH

**Bloodshed
Suffering
Disease**

**MAN'S
EXISTENCE**



CREATION

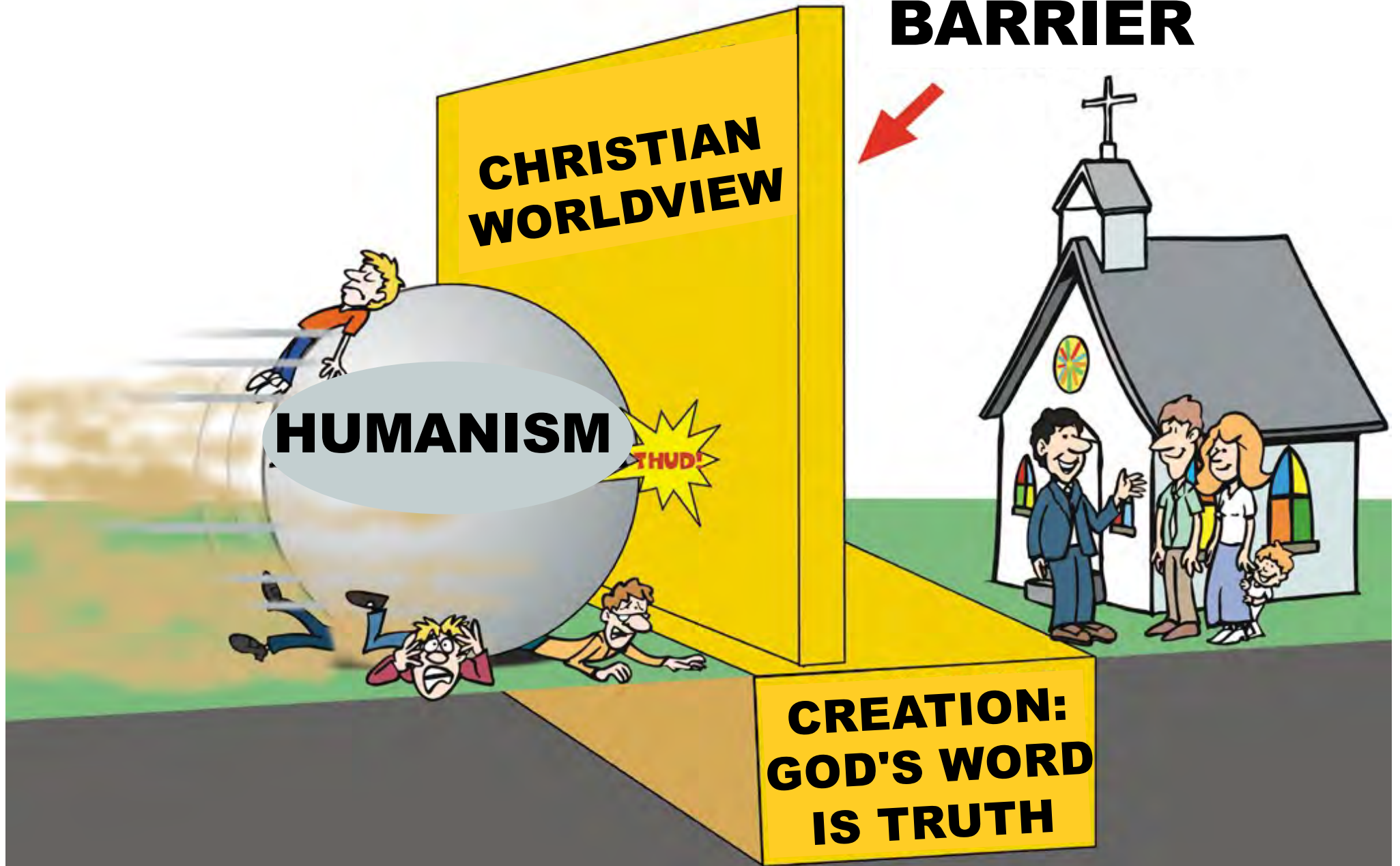
**MAN'S
ACTIONS**

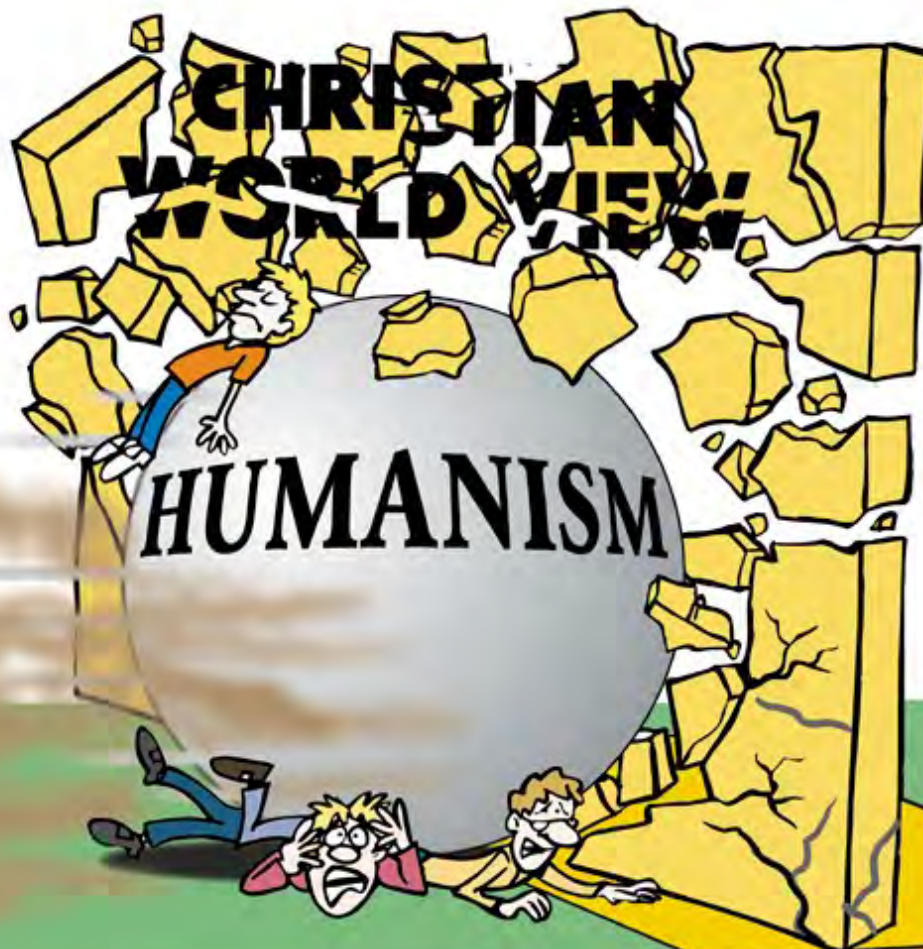


DEATH



BARRIER





**CREATION
GOD'S WORD
IS TRUTH
IS TRUTH**



Genesis 3:15

And I will cause hostility between you [serpent] and the woman [Eve], and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel" (NLT).



For we
know that
all creation
has been
groaning

as in the
pains of
childbirth
right up to
the present
time.

(Rom. 8:39
NLT)

REINTERPRETATIONS

LOCAL FLOOD

THEISTIC
EVOLUTION

DAY AGE

GENESIS

PROGRESSIVE
CREATION

GAP
THEORY

FRAMEWORK
HYPOTHESIS

9. How did sin arise?

(a) The Garden of Eden is a "myth," i.e. a historical tale embodying spiritual truth. From the viewpoint of anthropology it is exceedingly unlikely that there was a First Man and Woman. Yet the "myth" contains many great truths... *continued...*

Hugh Montefiore, bishop of the Anglican (Episcopal) church,
Confirmation Notebook, p. 20

9. How did sin arise?

- (b) Human beings are the results of evolution, and shaped by natural selection. Self-centeredness and aggression were essential at every stage of evolution.
- (c) Human beings naturally inherit this self-centeredness ("original sin") and without it babies could not survive.

Hugh Montefiore, bishop of the Anglican (Episcopal) church, *Confirmation Notebook*, p. 20

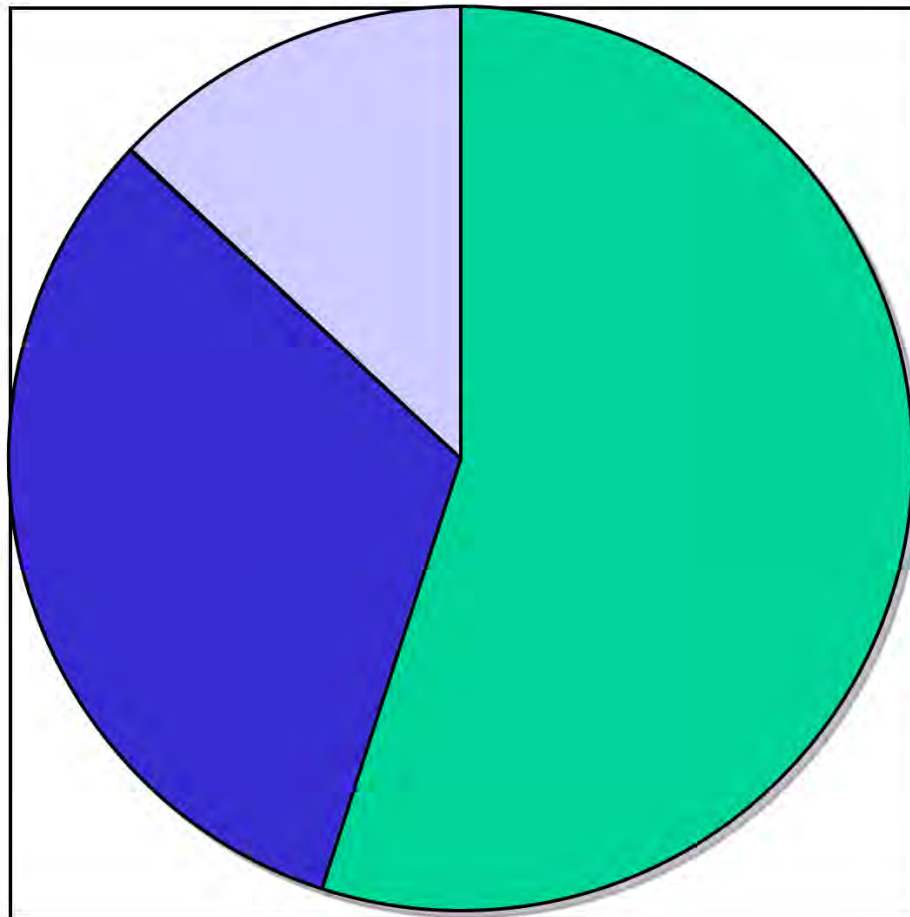
What the cross is not:

(b) The Son standing in my place to take the punishment that I ought to have. Such a view is immoral. In any case, no one person could suffer the whole world's punishments.

Hugh Montefiore, bishop of the Anglican
(Episcopal) church, *Confirmation Notebook*, p. 22



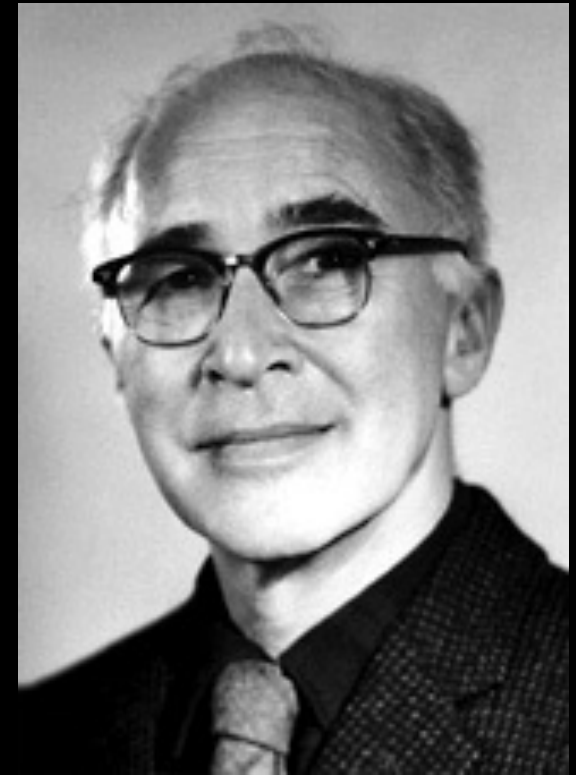
Who believes what?



- **Creationists (55%)**
- **Theistic Evolutionists (32%)**
- **Darwinists (13%)**
(the view that leading scientists and educators accept)

Did life originate as an accident?

"There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God.... There is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility... that life came as an act of supernatural creation by God, but I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore, I choose to believe that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution."



Dr. George Wald
Professor Emeritus of Biology,
Harvard
Nobel Prize winner in Biology,
1971

"The day will come when the evidence constantly accumulating around the evolutionary theory becomes so massively persuasive that even the last and most fundamental Christian warriors will lay down their arms and surrender unconditionally. I believe that day will be the end of Christianity."

**Richard Bozath, "The Meaning of Evolution,"
American Atheist, September 20, 1979, p. 30**

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"As were many persons from Alabama, I was a born again Christian. When I was 15, I entered the Southern Baptist Church with great fervor and interest in the fundamentalist religion. I left at 17 when I got to the University of Alabama and heard about evolutionary theory."

**E. O. Wilson, Professor of Sociobiology at Harvard University,
The Humanist (September 1982), 40**

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... raised a Methodist in Indianapolis and went to church regularly as a child and teenager, "I believed all this God stuff," he said. "I was a good little boy and all that... In school, we opened with the Lord's prayer. That was big stuff." That changed when he attended Purdue University in Indiana. After taking physics and chemistry, he began to question the veracity of the Bible. In particular, he doubted how the entire world could have flooded in the days of Noah's Ark.

**Richard Suhre, suit to the remove Ten Commandments from
Haywood County Courthouse, North Carolina**

**MEANING
OF LIFE**

STANDARDS

MARRIAGE

LAW S

CREATION

W O R D S

ABORTION

PORNOGRAPHY

**HOMOSEXUAL
BEHAVIOR**

LAWLESSNESS

EVOLUTION

**MAN'S
OPINION**

**"MILLIONS
OF YEARS"
TERMITES**

Gay
Marriage

Abortion

Euthanasia

Moral
Relativism

THE PROBLEM

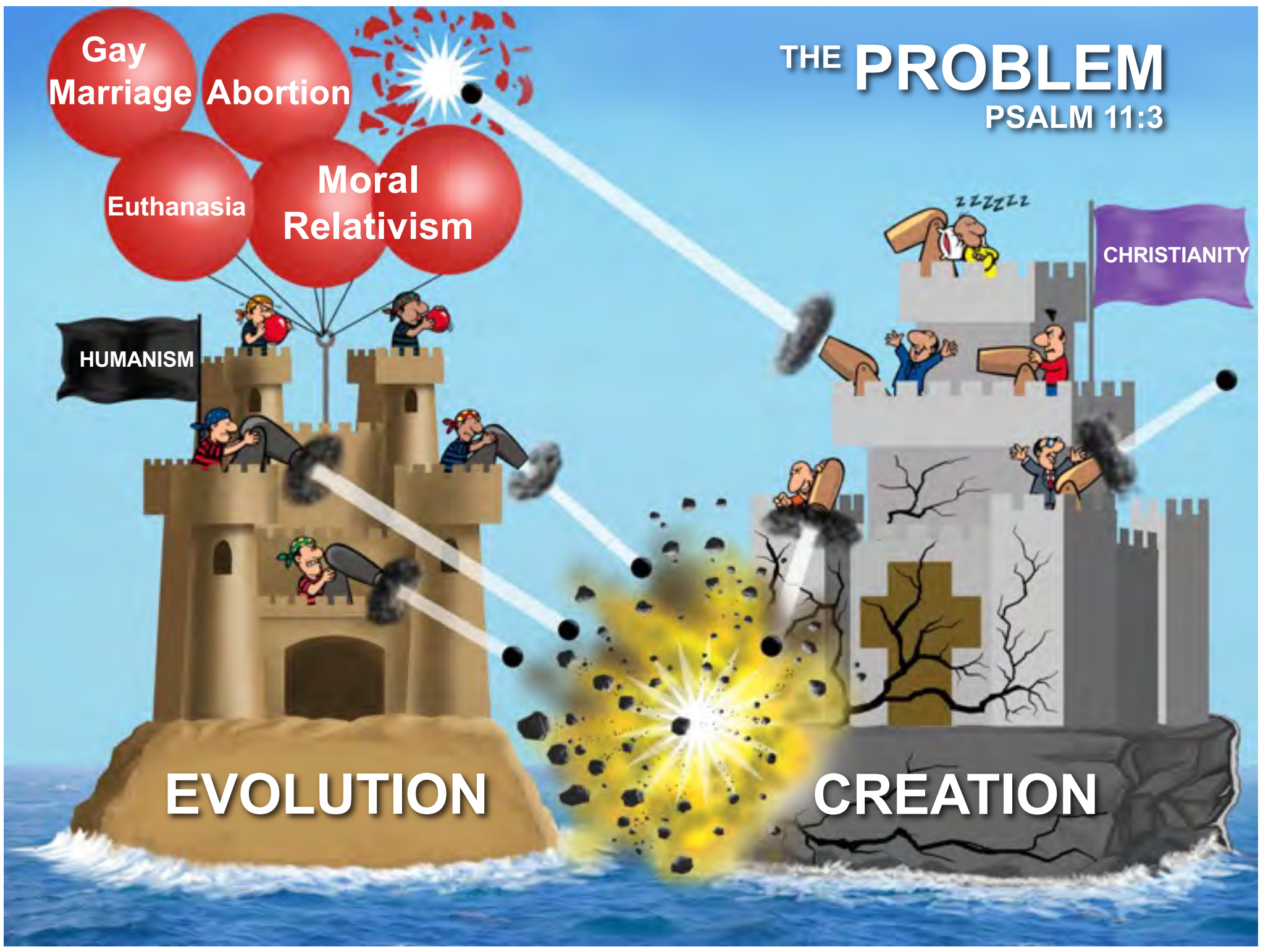
PSALM 11:3

HUMANISM

CHRISTIANITY

EVOLUTION

CREATION



THE SOLUTION

ISAIAH 58:12

Gay
Marriage

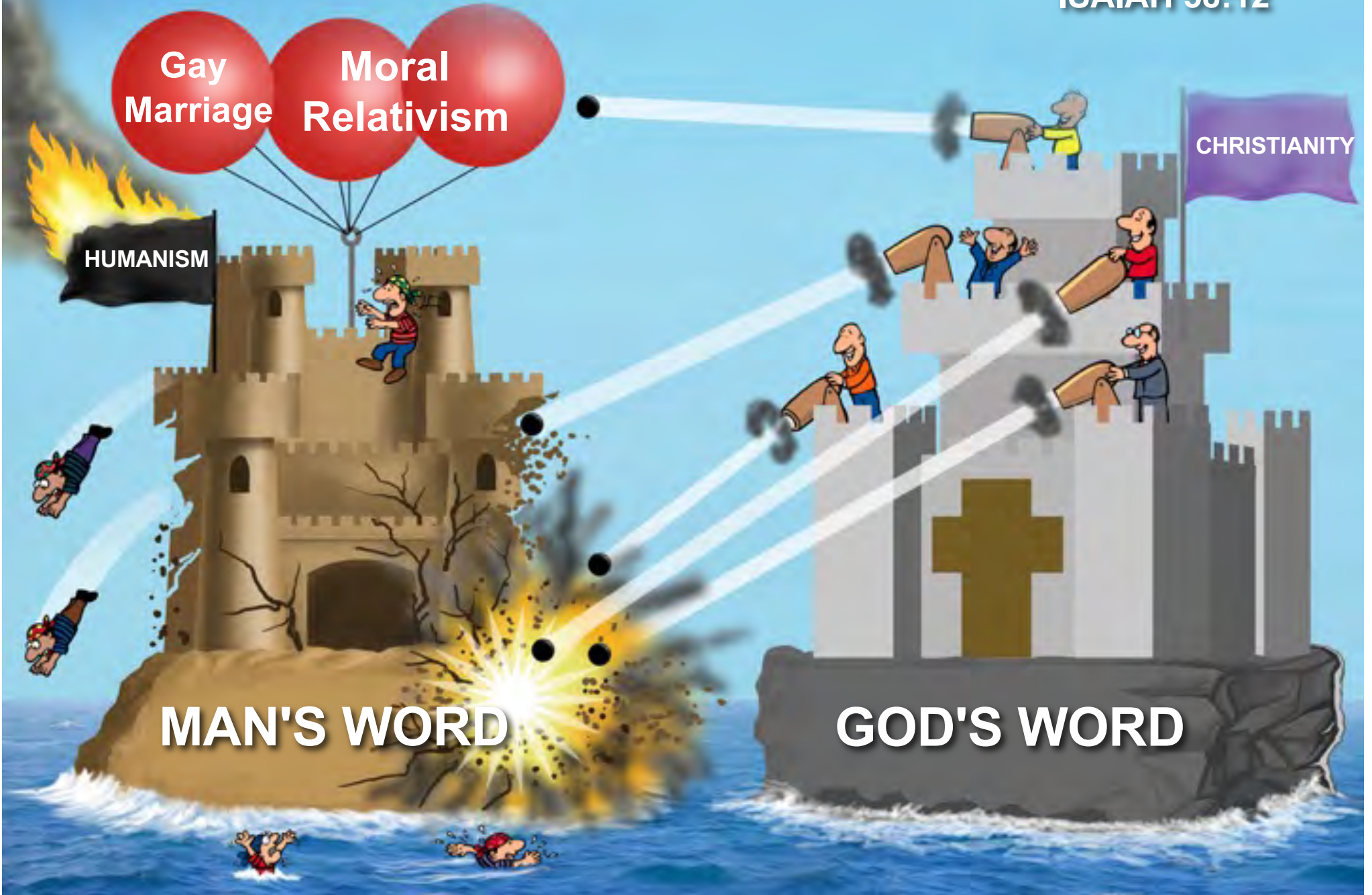
Moral
Relativism

CHRISTIANITY

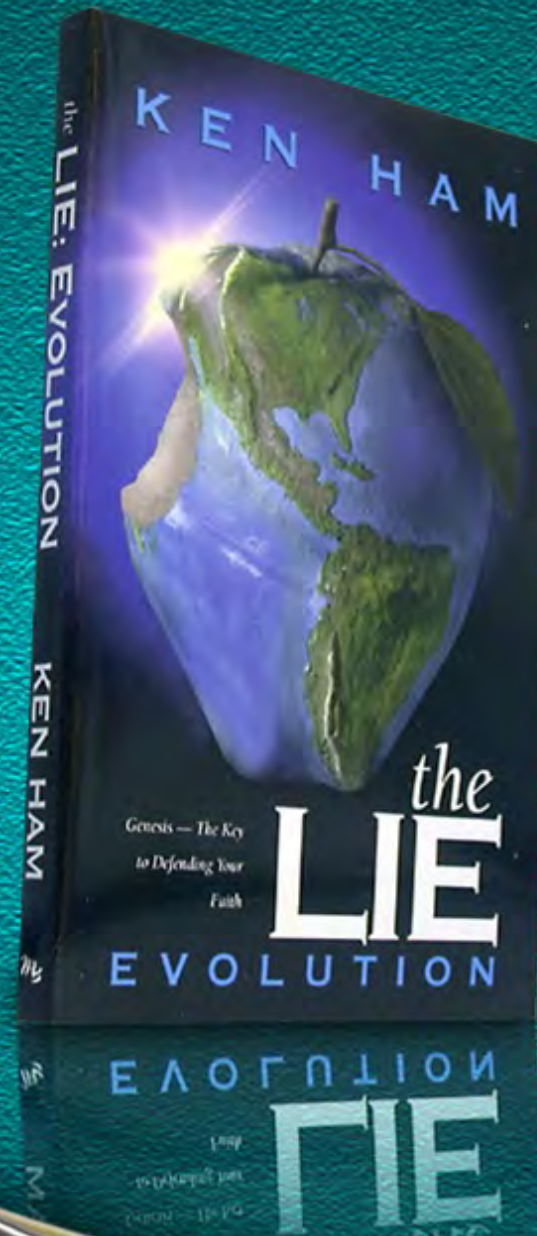
HUMANISM

MAN'S WORD

GOD'S WORD



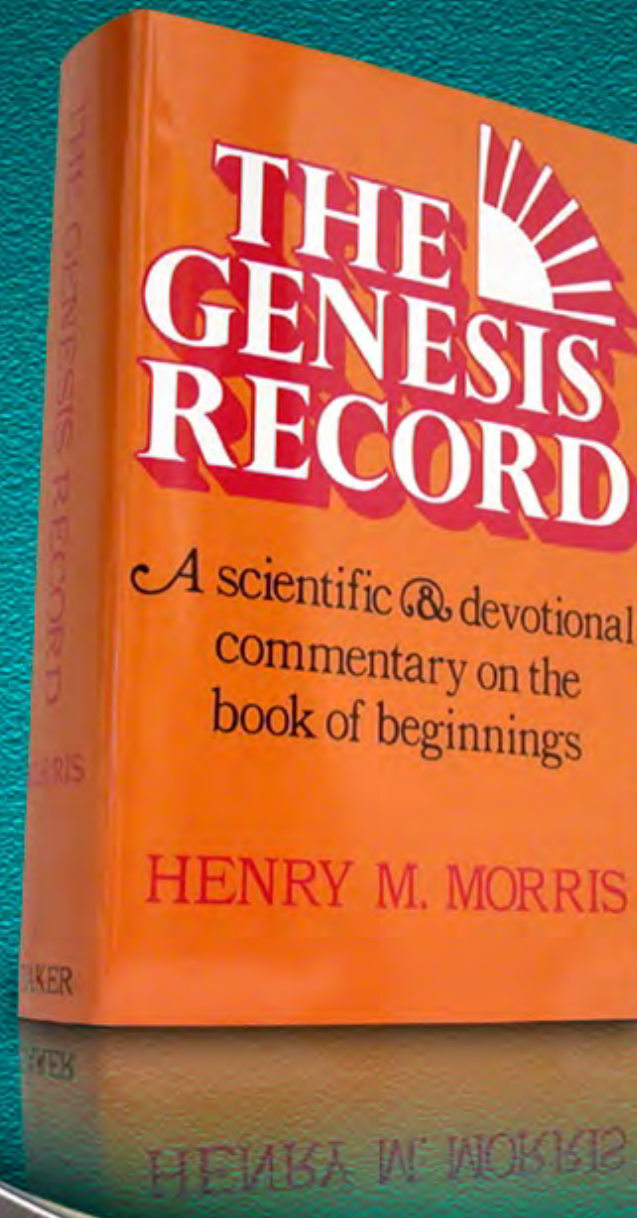
Books



The Lie: Evolution *by Ken Ham*

 Answers in
GENESIS

Books



The Genesis Record *by Henry Morris*

Questions & Answers

Visit
Answers in Genesis
on the web:

www.AnswersInGenesis.org



Days of Creation

Formless → Forming

Void → Filling

Day 1: Light

Day 4: Sun, moon & stars arranged

Day 2: Water & air separated

Day 5: Fish & fowl

Day 3: Land & sea separated

Day 6: Animals & man

Genesis 1:3-31

How Does 1:1 Relate to 1:2-3?

Original Creation (Traditional View)

• Leupold, Keil, Cassuto, Griffith

1- Creation out of nothing of the original mass on Day 1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1)

2- Three disjunctive, parallel clauses describe the condition of the earth immediately after the creation of the universe.

"Now the earth **was** formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (1:2 **NIV**)

3- An independent, narrative sentence shows the manner in which God worked—by His Word.

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (1:3)

How Does 1:1 Relate to 1:2-3?

Gap Theory (or Ruin/Reconstruction)

- Pember, Hengstenburg, Scofield Reference Bible (1st ed.)

1- An independent narrative of the original, perfect creation

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1)

Satan's fall

2- Satan fell between 1:1 and 1:2, followed by God's judgment which put the earth into a chaotic state

"Now the earth **became** formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (1:2 NIV margin)

—an improbable translation of the Hebrew disjunctive

3- An independent, narrative sentence describes the first step to reconstruct & reform the judged earth

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (1:3)

How Does 1:1 Relate to 1:2-3?

Relative Beginning (5 variations)

- Rashi/NEB, Speiser, Unger, Young, von Rad/Waltke/Ross

Satan's fall

1- Relative clause (dependent or temporal to 1:2) or till

"When God began to

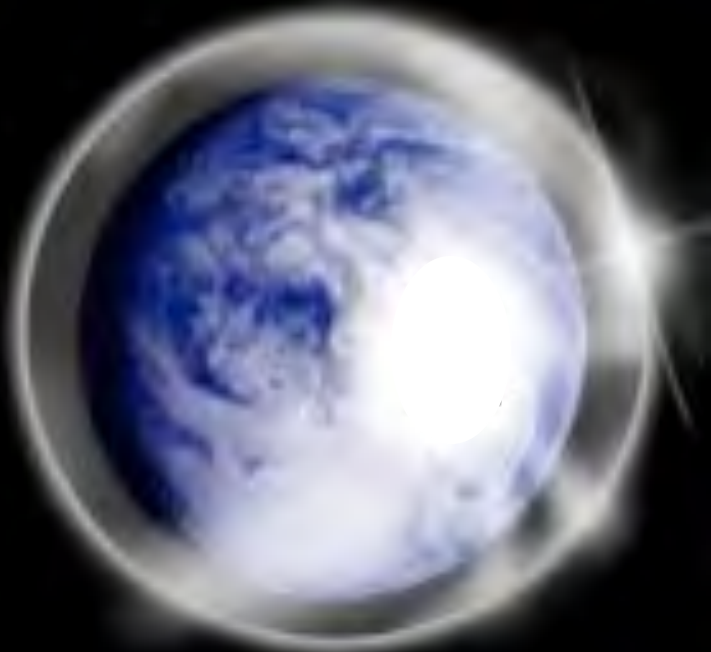
2- 1 Implications:

- a) "For the initial creation, or original creation, one has to look elsewhere in the Bible"
- b) "This view in no wise teaches evolution or allows for it... It simply recognizes that 'beginnings' with God are not necessarily absolute beginnings" (Ross, 723)

3- A... in the manner in which... re-erased the earth into its present state (not creation out of nothing) after divine judgment.

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light" (1:3)

Water Vapor Canopy Theory



- First proposed by Isaac Newton Vail in 1874
- Support sought in "Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water" (Gen. 1:6)
- Provided enough water for universal flood (Gen. 7:11)
- Enabled long pre-flood life spans (reduced radiation)
- Held by young earth advocates
- Hotly contested!

Evangelicals Differ

Reasons to Believe

Hugh Ross

Walt Brown

Old Earth

Progressive Creation

Mid-East Flood

Rain waters

reasons.org

godandscience.org

creationscience.com

Institute for Creation Research

Henry/John Morris, Duane Gish

Joseph Dillow, Ken Ham

Young Earth

24-hour Creation Days

Universal Flood

Vapor canopy

answersingenesis.org

genesispark.org

icr.org critiques Ross at:

icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-217.htm



EARTH'S PRE-FLOOD VAPOR CANOPY
FOREWORD BY HENRY M. MORRIS
Revised Edition

Two Accounts of Creation

Genesis 1

Use of "God" (*Elohim*)

Days 1-6

Creation of Everything

"In the beginning..."



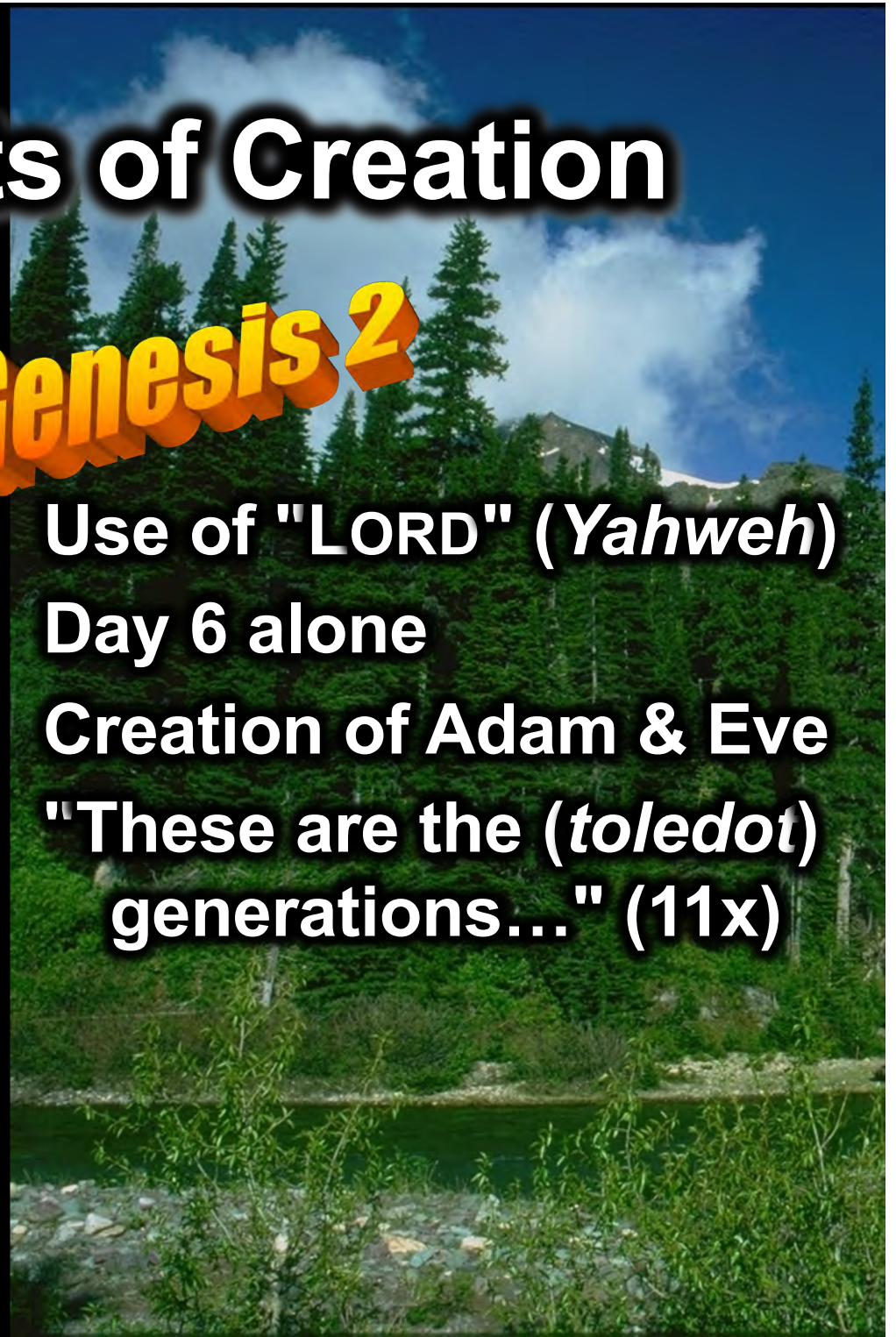
Genesis 2

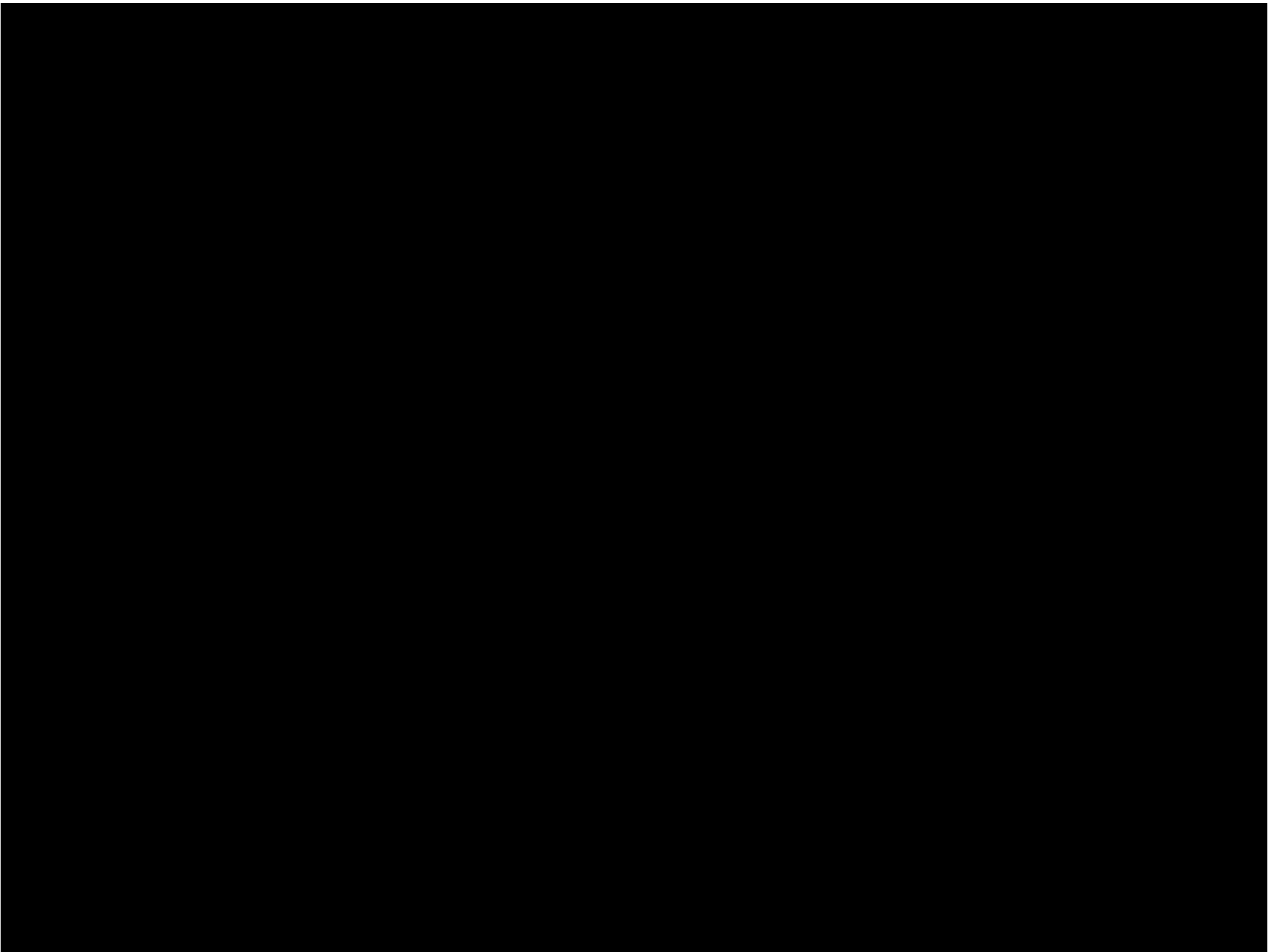
Use of "LORD" (*Yahweh*)

Day 6 alone

Creation of Adam & Eve

"These are the (*toledot*) generations..." (11x)





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