



# How Did the Universe Get Here?

*Contrasting Various Views on  
Origins*

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# 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 wrath of the LORD; for he

will make ready their arrow

and will take aim against the

righteous; he will bring down the

stronghold of the fortress by the

word of the LORD. He will bring down

the high fortification by the sword.

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 eyelids

examine the children of men.

4 that has said shall do much of his own; who [is]

5 For the oppressor shall not be able to stand for the sighing of the righteous; now arise, say in safety, he per

6 For the words of the LORD are pure words, [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 You shall know the righteous, because he will not be afraid; you shall know the upright, because he will not be troubled. You shall know the righteous, because he will not be afraid; you shall know the upright, because he will not be troubled.

8 The wicked shall be as chaff, and shall be blown away; as smoke shall he be driven away. You shall know the righteous, because he will not be afraid; you shall know the upright, because he will not be troubled.

9 The LORD will take vengeance for His people, and will execute His wrath against the wicked. You shall know the righteous, because he will not be afraid; you shall know the upright, because he will not be troubled.

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**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COMING**

**1<sup>ST</sup> 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

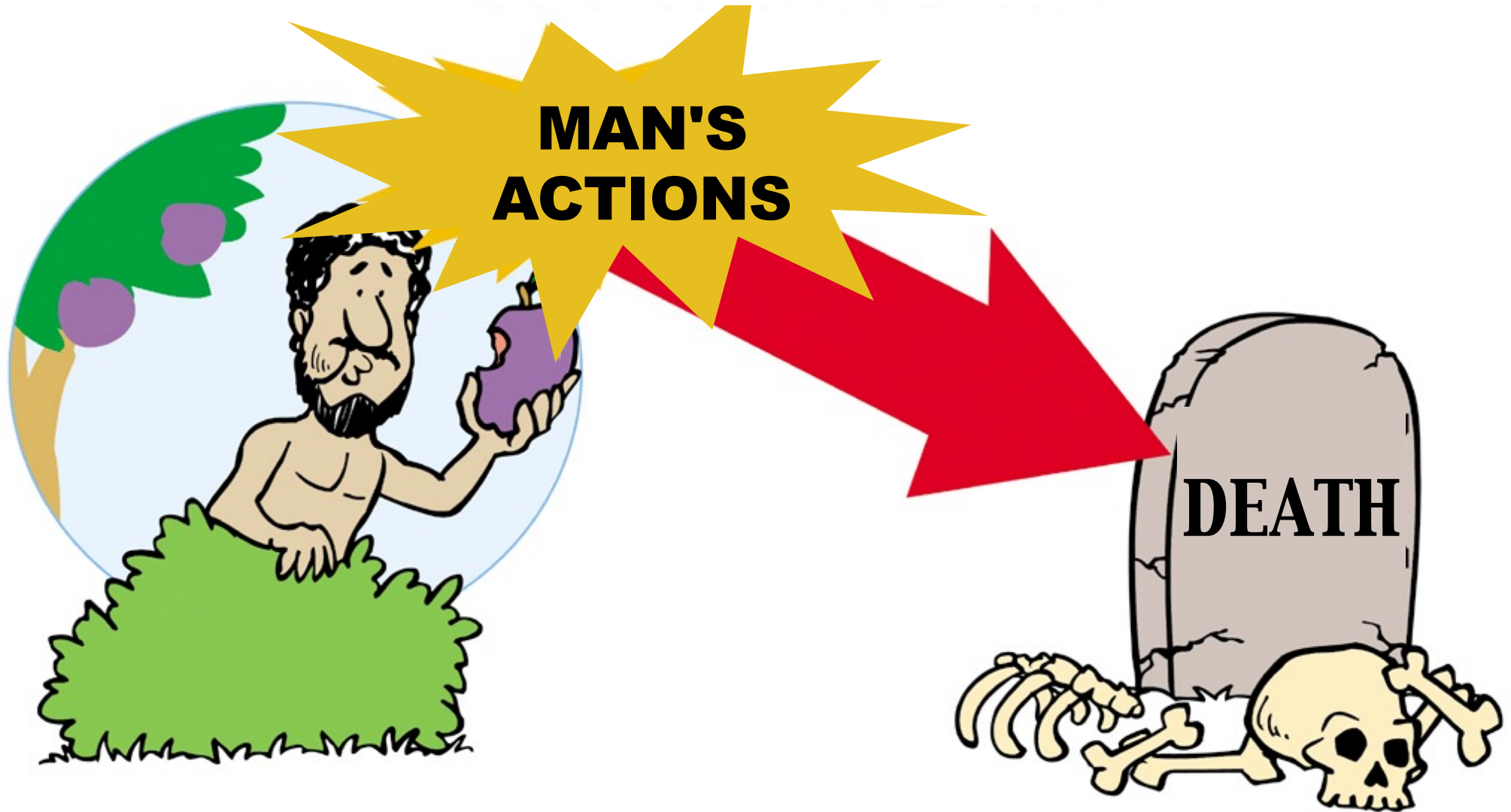
**DEATH**

**Bloodshed  
Suffering  
Disease**

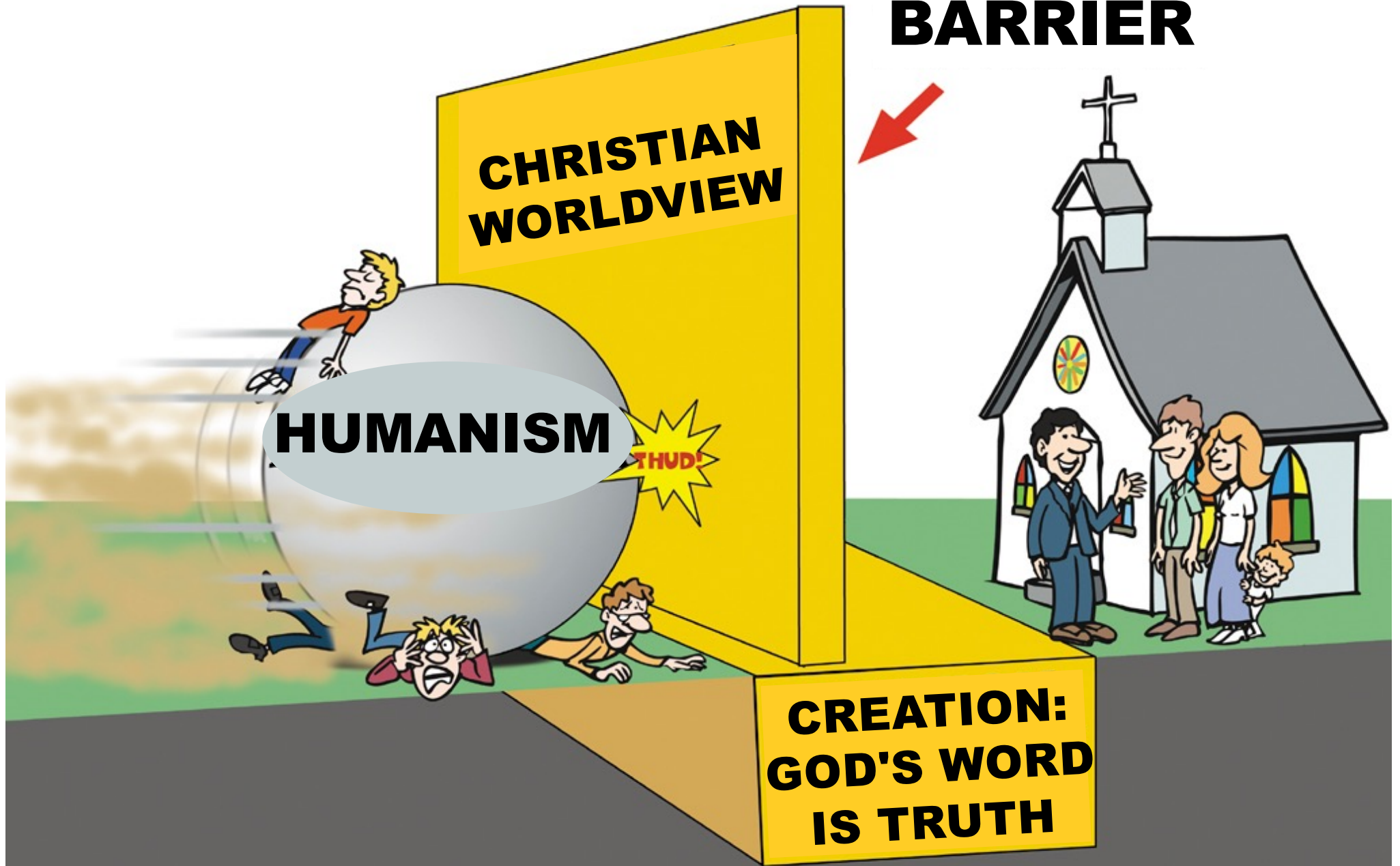
**MAN'S  
EXISTENCE**



# CREATION



# 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

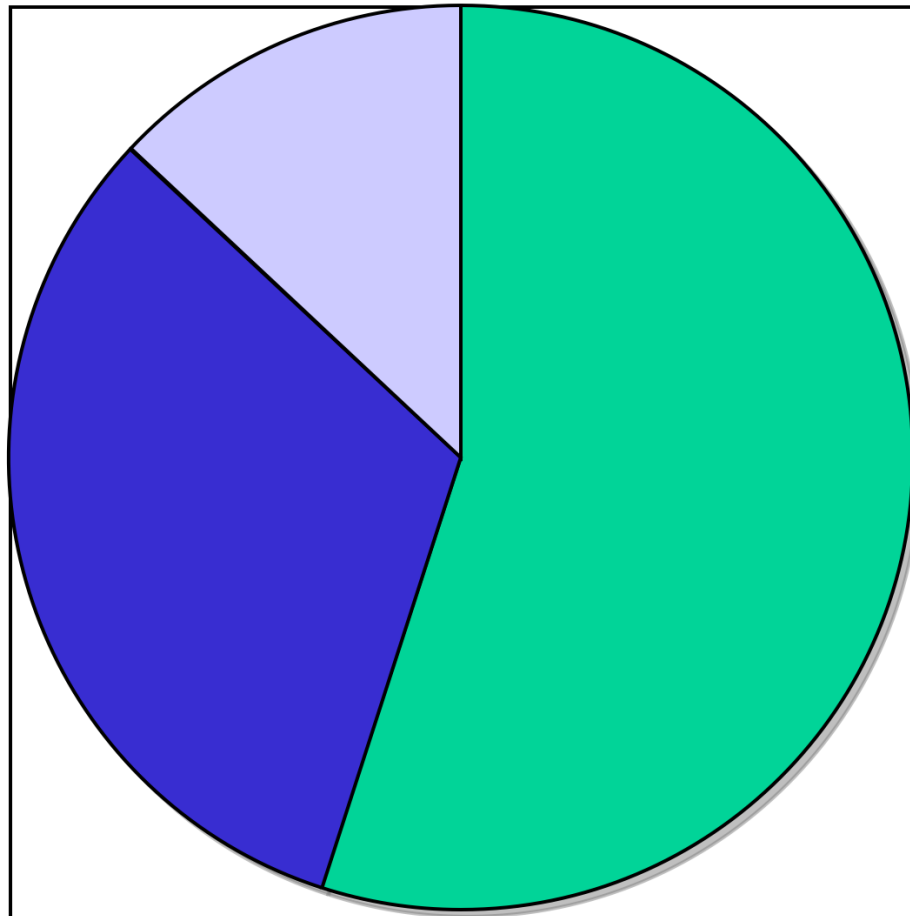
# What the cross is not:

**(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



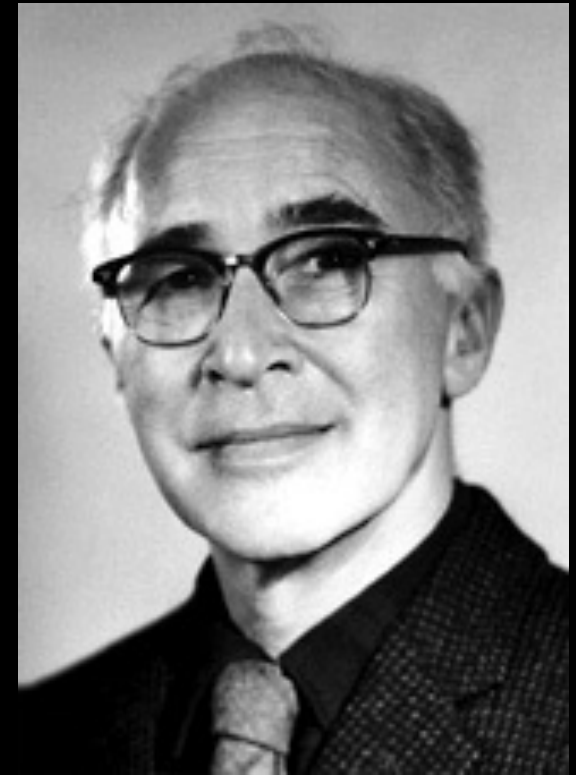
# Who believes what?



- **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  
G O D ' S**

**ABORTION**

**PORNOGRAPHY**

**HOMOSEXUAL  
BEHAVIOR**

**LAWLESSNESS**

**EVOLUTION**

**MAN'S  
OPINION**

**"MILLIONS  
OF YEARS"  
TERMITES**

Gay  
Marriage

Abortion

Euthanasia

Moral  
Relativism

# THE PROBLEM

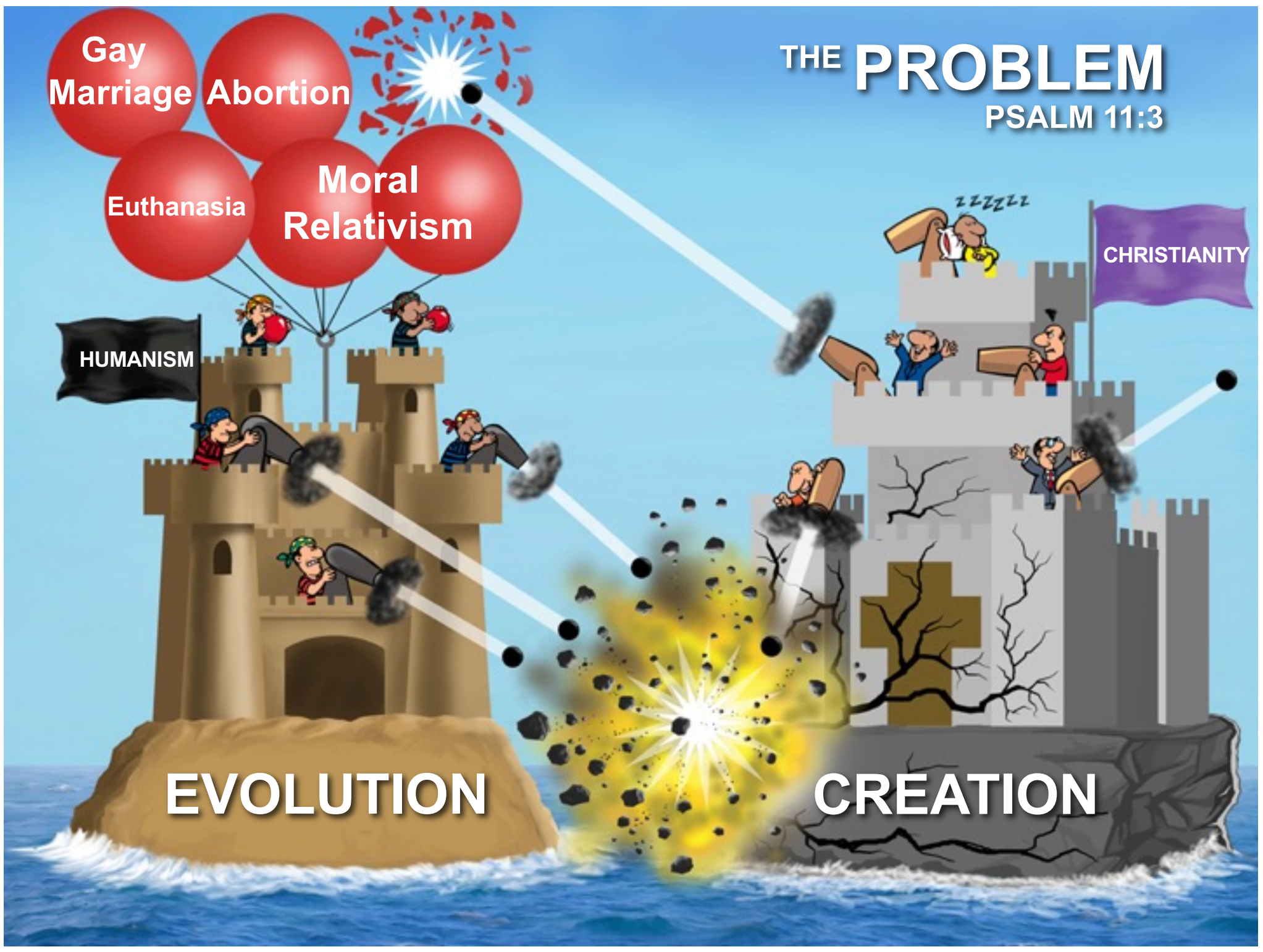
PSALM 11:3

HUMANISM

CHRISTIANITY

EVOLUTION

CREATION



# THE SOLUTION

ISAIAH 58:12

Gay  
Marriage

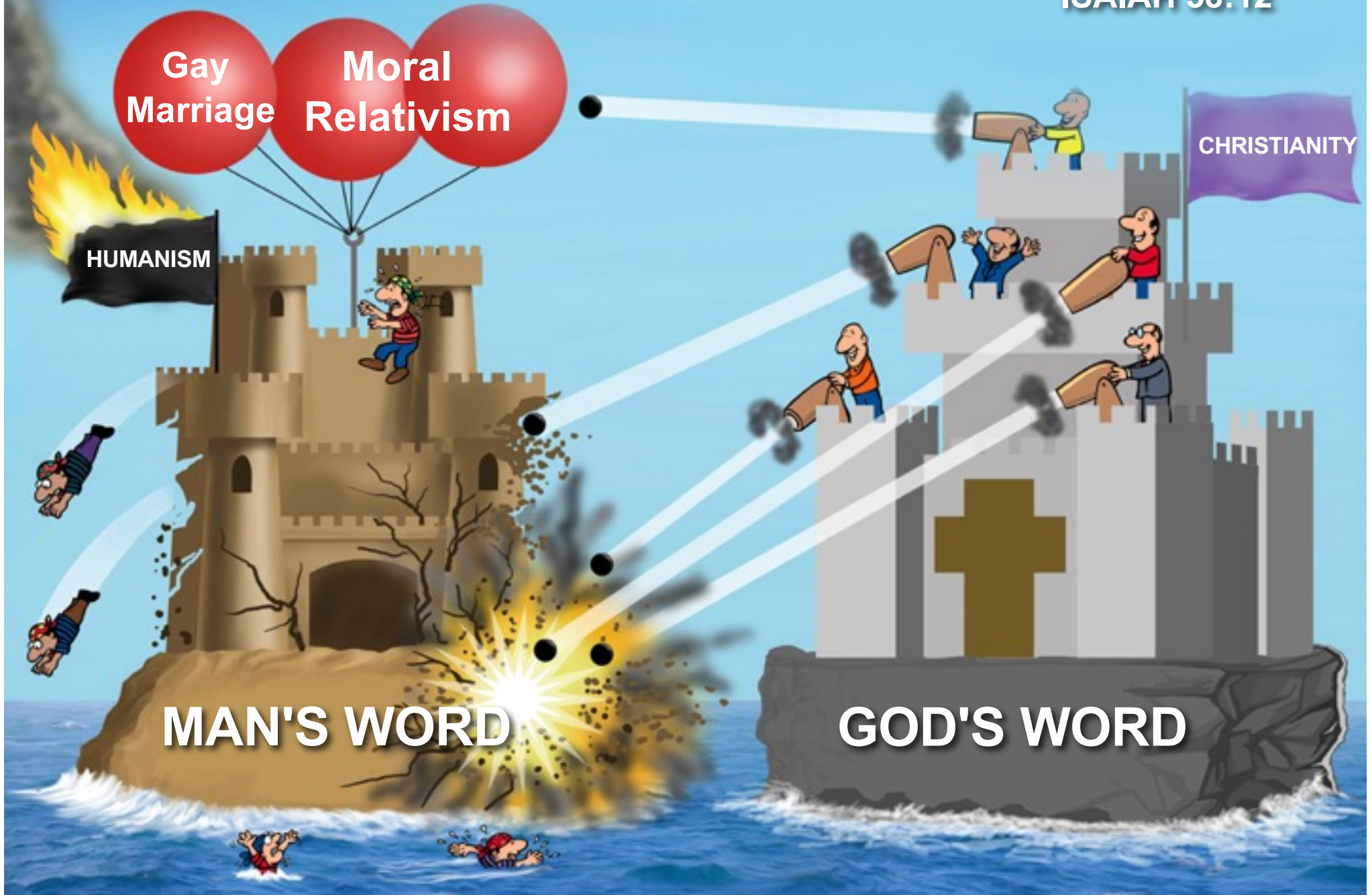
Moral  
Relativism

CHRISTIANITY

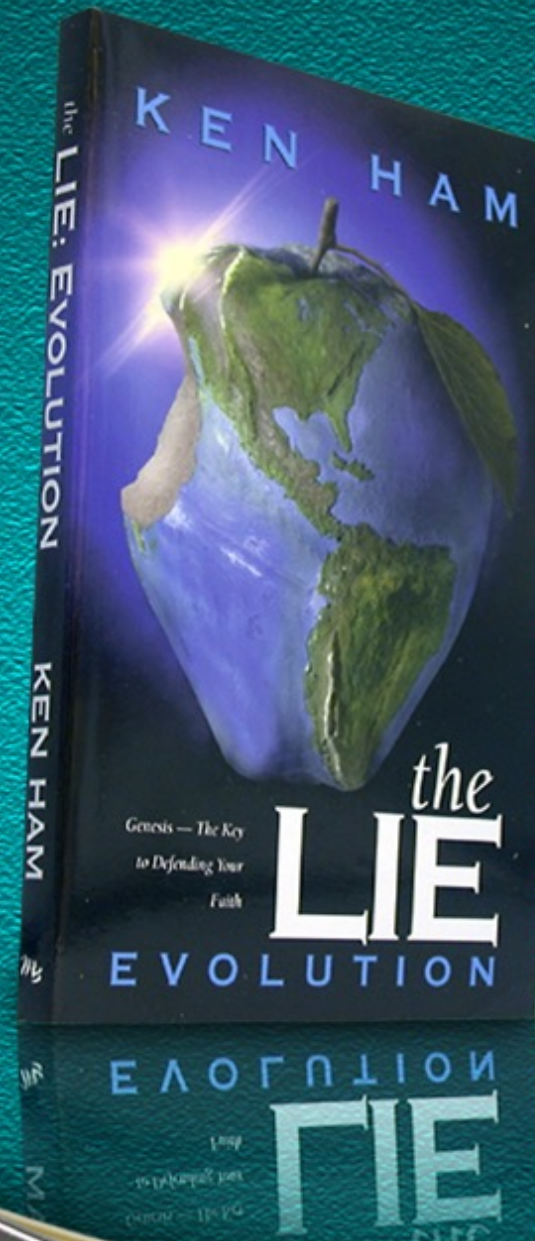
HUMANISM

MAN'S WORD

GOD'S WORD



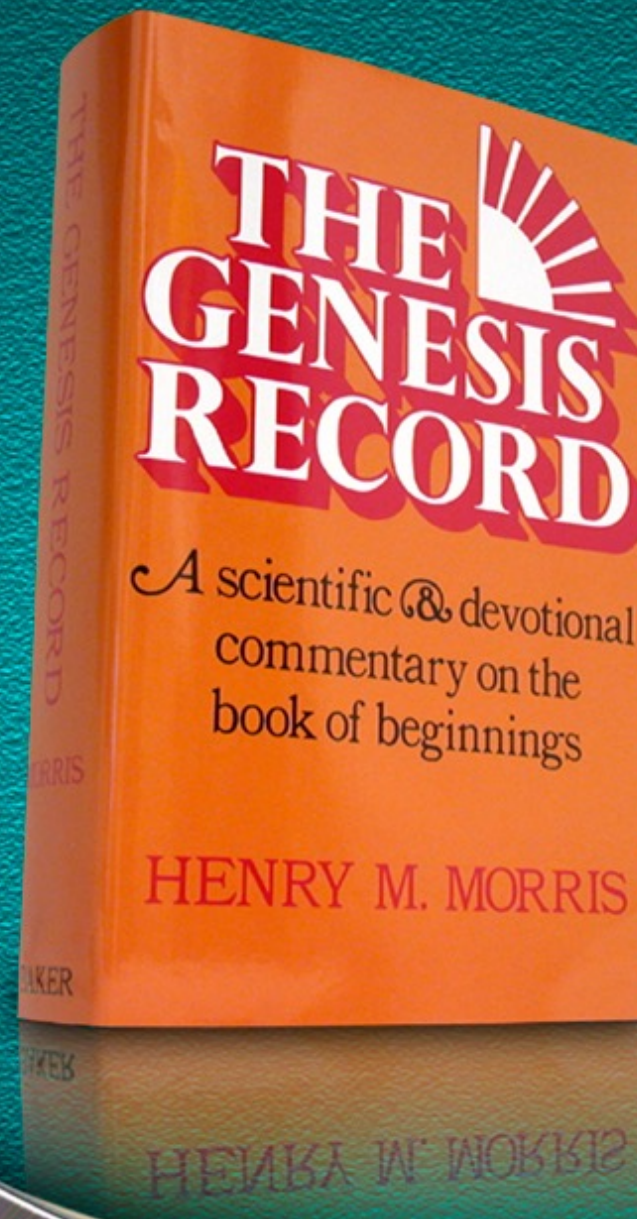
# Books



## 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](http://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**)

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

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—an improbable translation of the Hebrew disjunctive  
(1:2 NIV margin)

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

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

34

## 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 title

"**When God began to create** the heavens and the earth" (1:1)

2- Three circumstantial clauses with negative, disjunctive sense describe the condition of the earth when God spoke.

"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)

3- An independent, narrative sentence shows the manner in which God recreated/refashioned 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)

# 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

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**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)

# 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](http://reasons.org)

[godandscience.org](http://godandscience.org)

[creationscience.com](http://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](http://answersingenesis.org)

[genesispark.org](http://genesispark.org)

[icr.org](http://icr.org) critiques Ross at:

[icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-217.htm](http://icr.org/pubs/imp/imp-217.htm)

JOSEPH C. DILLOW **THE  
WATERS  
ABOVE**



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..."



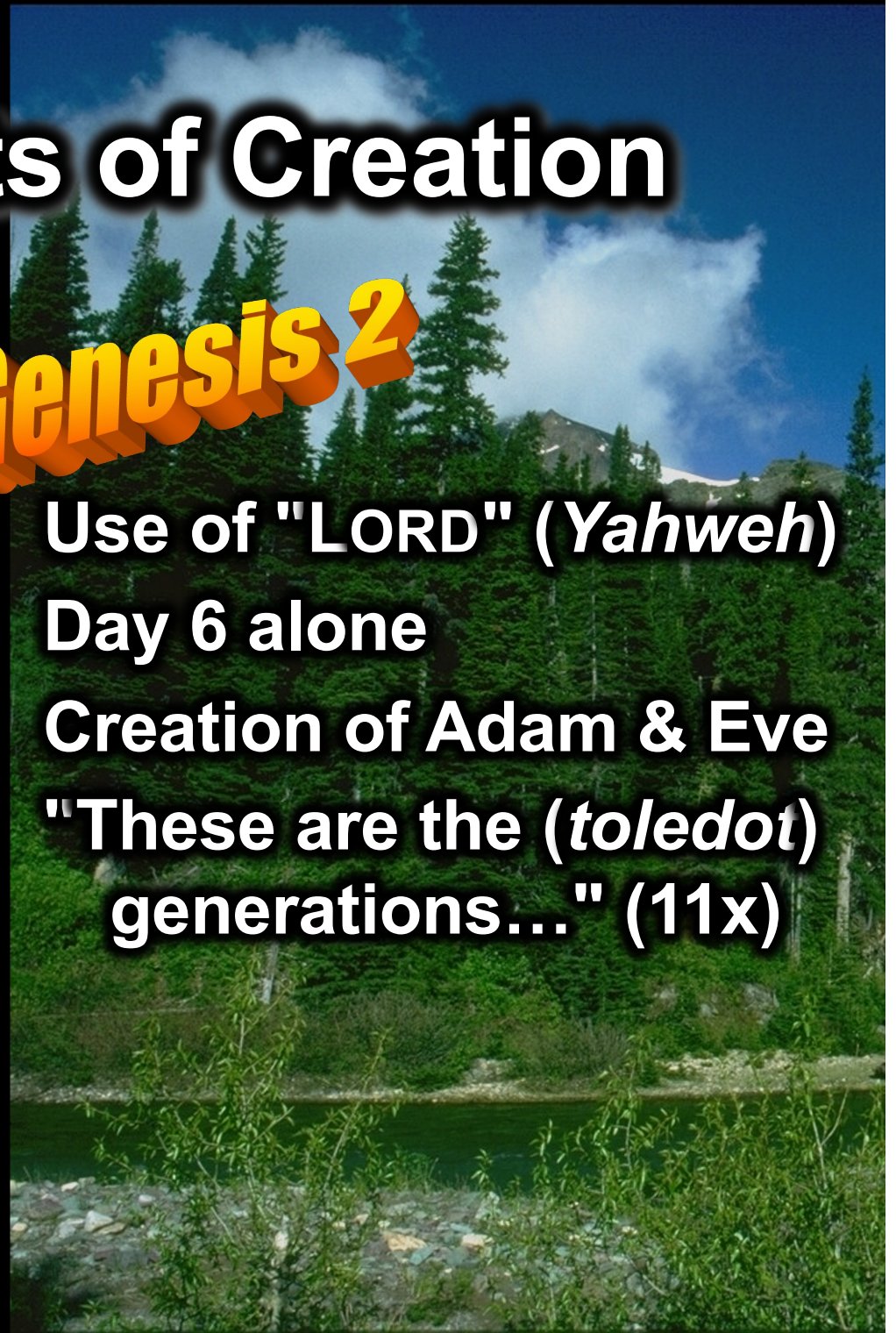
## Genesis 2

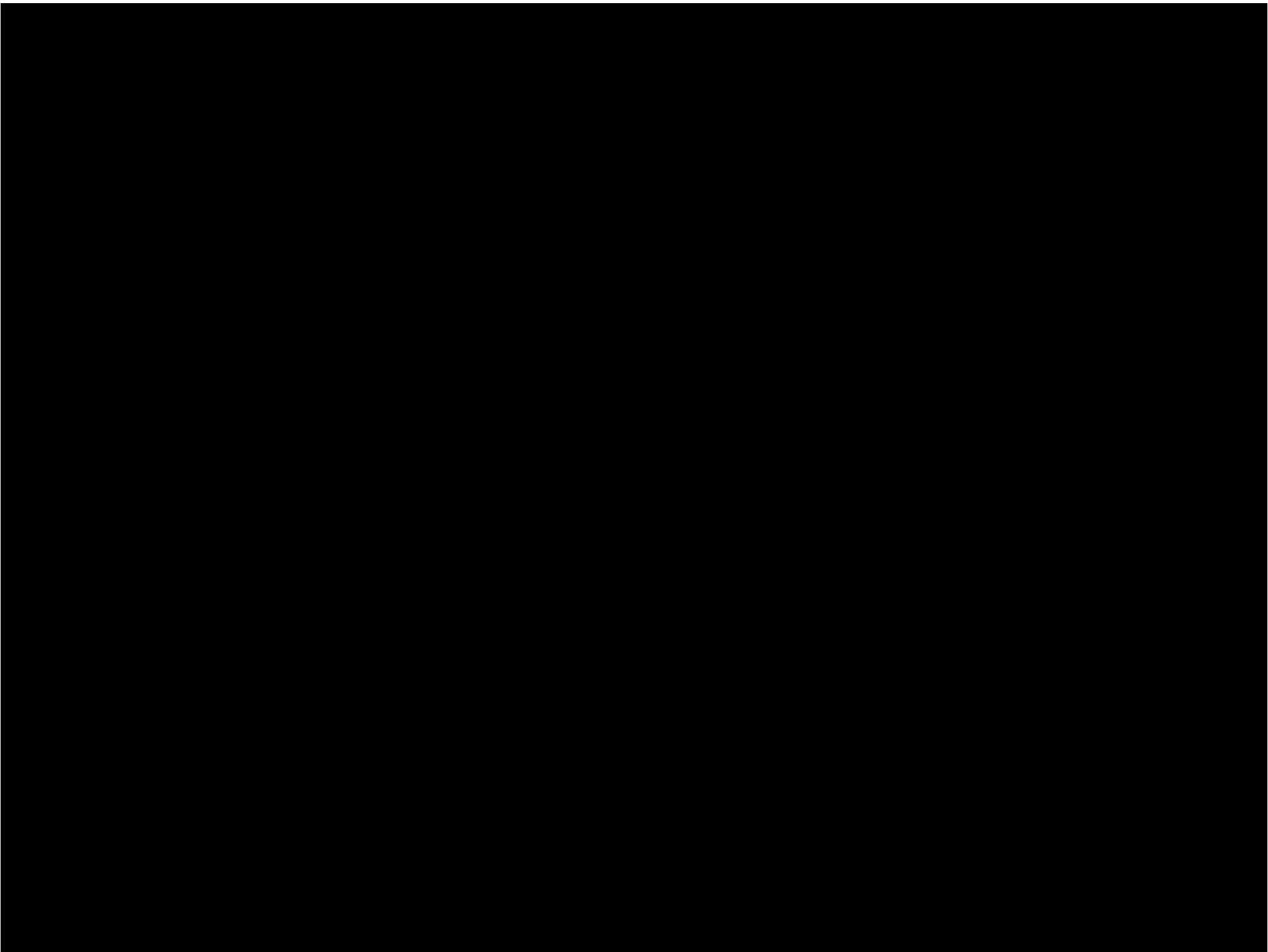
Use of "LORD" (*Yahweh*)

Day 6 alone

Creation of Adam & Eve

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





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