

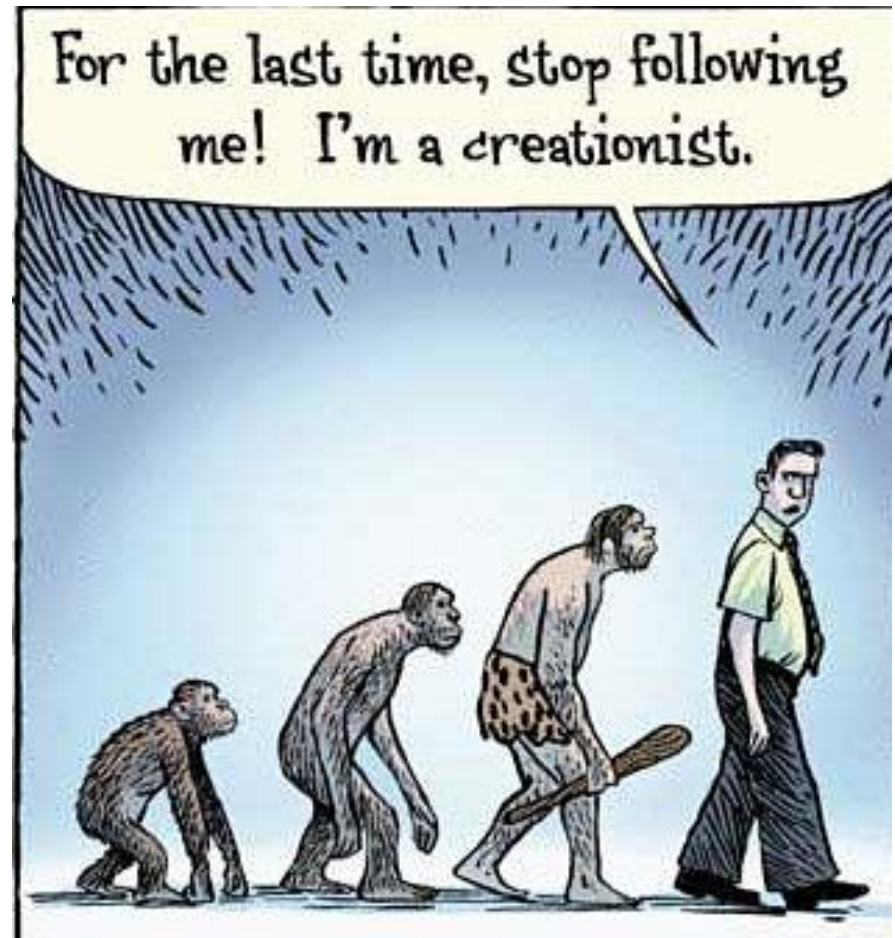
# **The Bible and Biology:**

**How Did We Get Here?**

# The Bible and Biology: Questions to Consider

<http://www.metrolic.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/bizarro-creationism.jpg>

- Why has evolution been so controversial among American Christians?
- What do “scientific creationism” and “intelligent design” claim about God, the Bible, and evolution?
- Does the acceptance of evolution entail the denial of orthodox Christianity?



# Why has evolution been controversial?

- Copyrighted image removed:  
<http://cdn.theatlantic.com/assets/media/img/posts/AP2501010165.jpg>
- **Clarence Darrow (left) and William Jennings Bryan at Scopes trial (1925), Associated Press image**

# Vernon Kellogg, *Headquarters Nights* (1917)

[http://darrow.law.umn.edu/photos/VERNON\\_KELLOGG\\_1917.jpg](http://darrow.law.umn.edu/photos/VERNON_KELLOGG_1917.jpg)



## Headquarters Nights

A Record of Conversations and Experiences  
at the Headquarters of the German  
Army in France and Belgium

By Vernon Kellogg

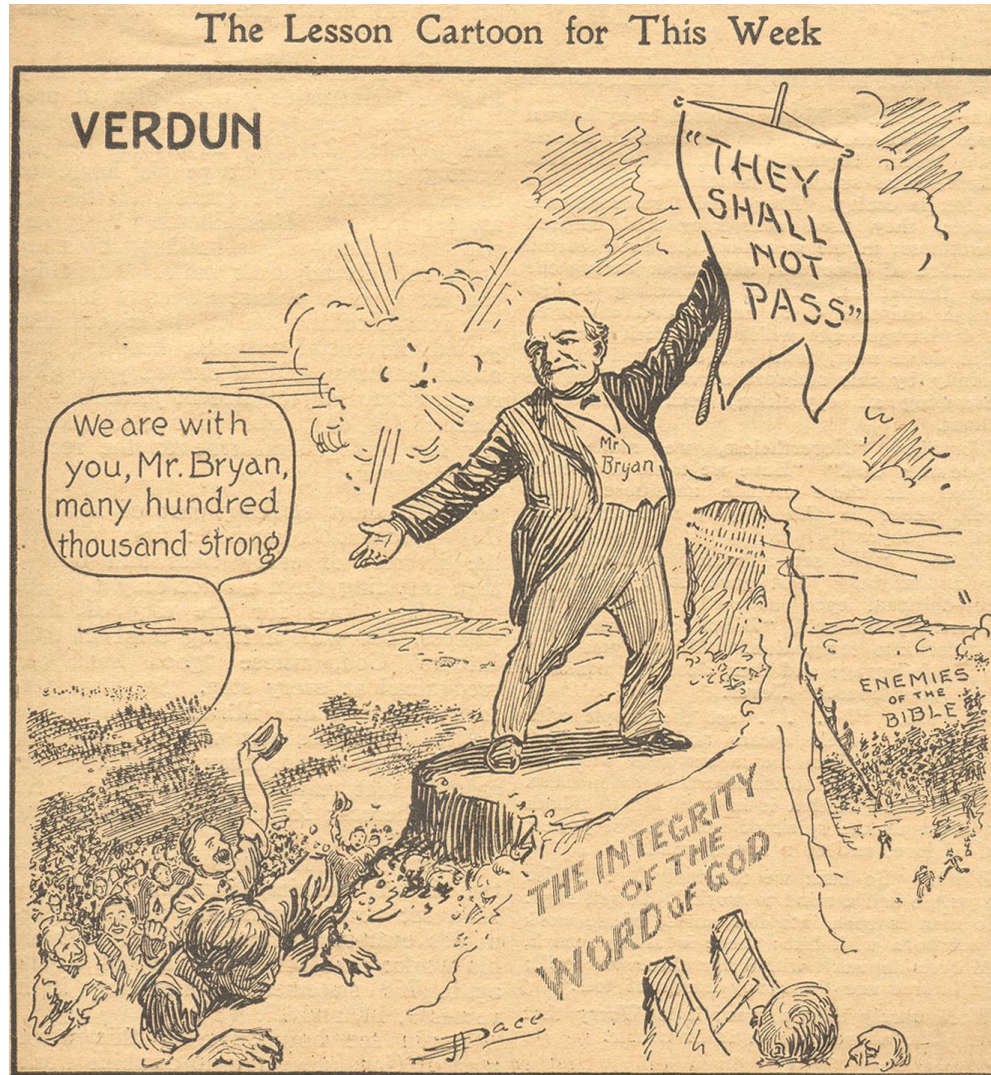


The Atlantic Monthly Press  
Boston



# Bryan Launches his Antievolution Campaign in 1922

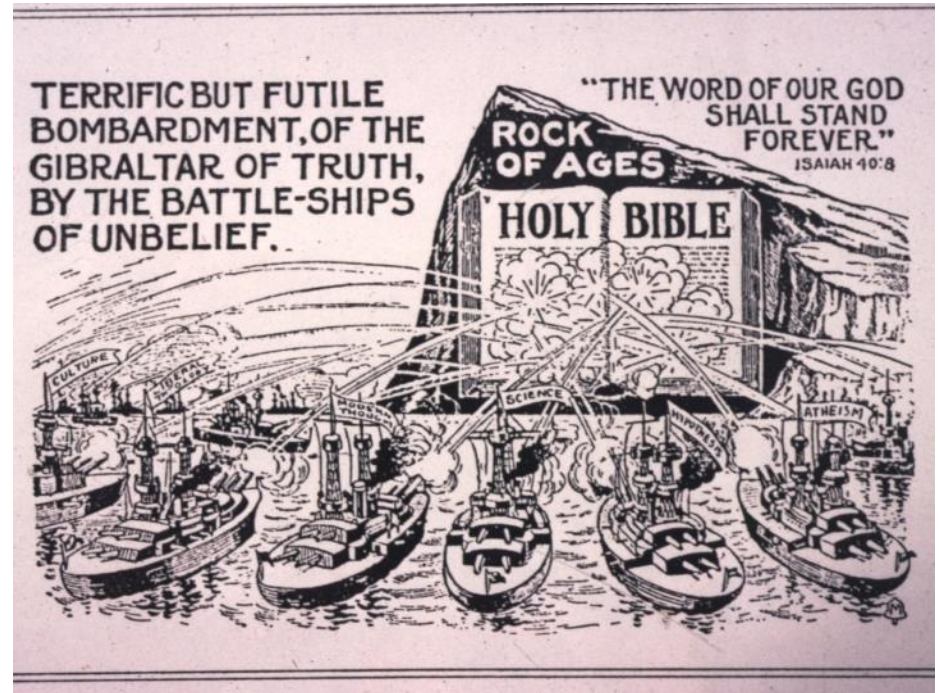
Cartoon by E. J. Pace, *Sunday School Times* (19 August 1922)



# Why has evolution been controversial?

Cartoon by unknown artist, *The King's Business* (Dec 1927)

- In the 1920s, the controversy about teaching evolution in public schools was inseparable from the culture wars
- Bryan and other “fundamentalists” saw evolution as one of several aspects of modernity that were attacking the Bible



# “Fundamentalist” Defined (July 1920)

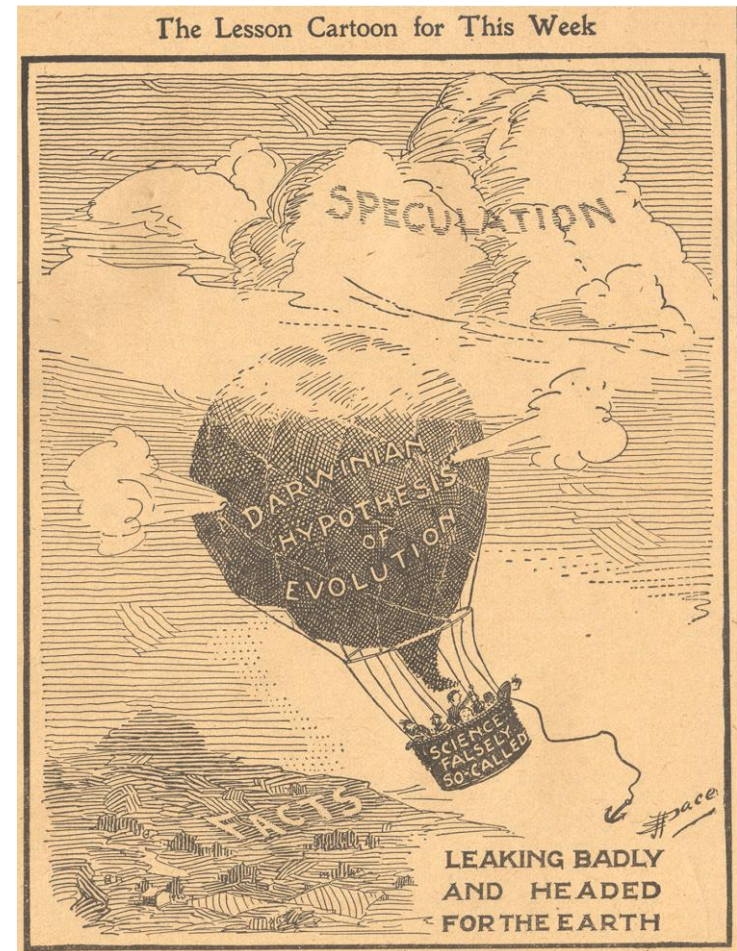
- Indeed, the word “fundamentalist” itself originated in a context of culture wars
- “We suggest that those who still cling to the great fundamentals and who mean to do battle royal for the fundamentals shall be called ‘Fundamentalists.’”  
—Curtis Lee Laws, editor, *The Watchman-Examiner*
- Copyrighted image removed: **James R. Moore, *The Future of Science and Belief: Theological Views in the Twentieth Century* (1981), p. 32**



# Why has evolution been controversial?

Cartoon by E. J. Pace, *Sunday School Times* (June 1922)

- Many Christians believe that evolution has never been adequately demonstrated
- They see it as unsupported speculation, on a collision course with the facts
- In their view, evolution is an example of “science falsely so-called” (1 Timothy 6:20)

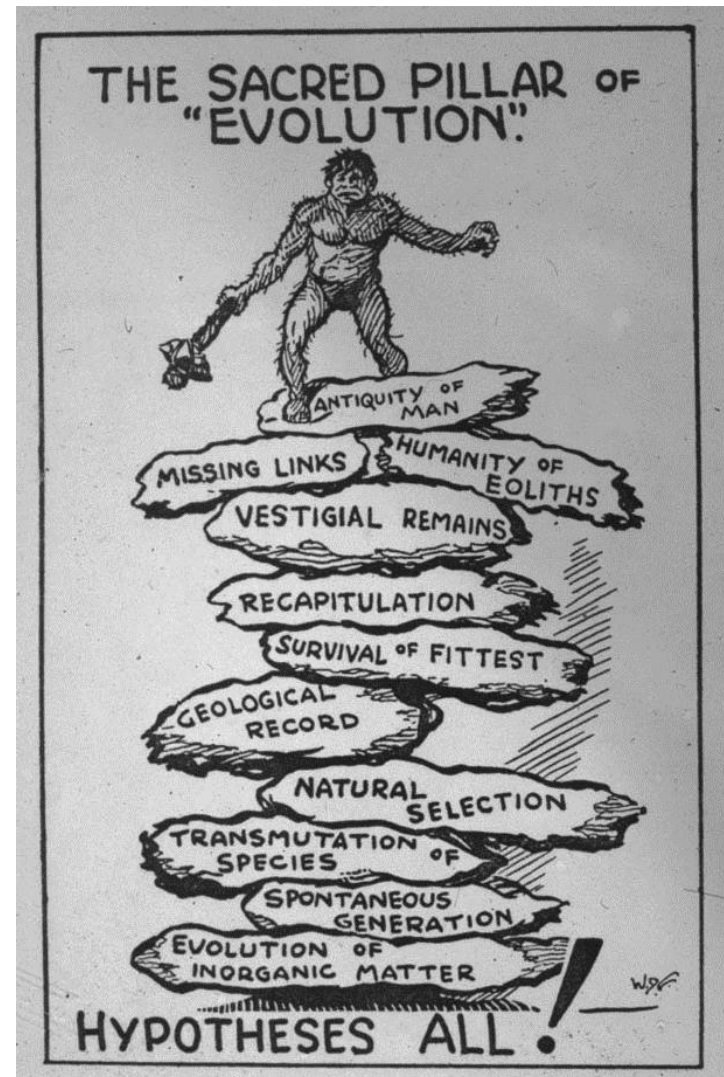




# Why has evolution been controversial?

Newman Watts, *Why Be an Ape?* (1936)

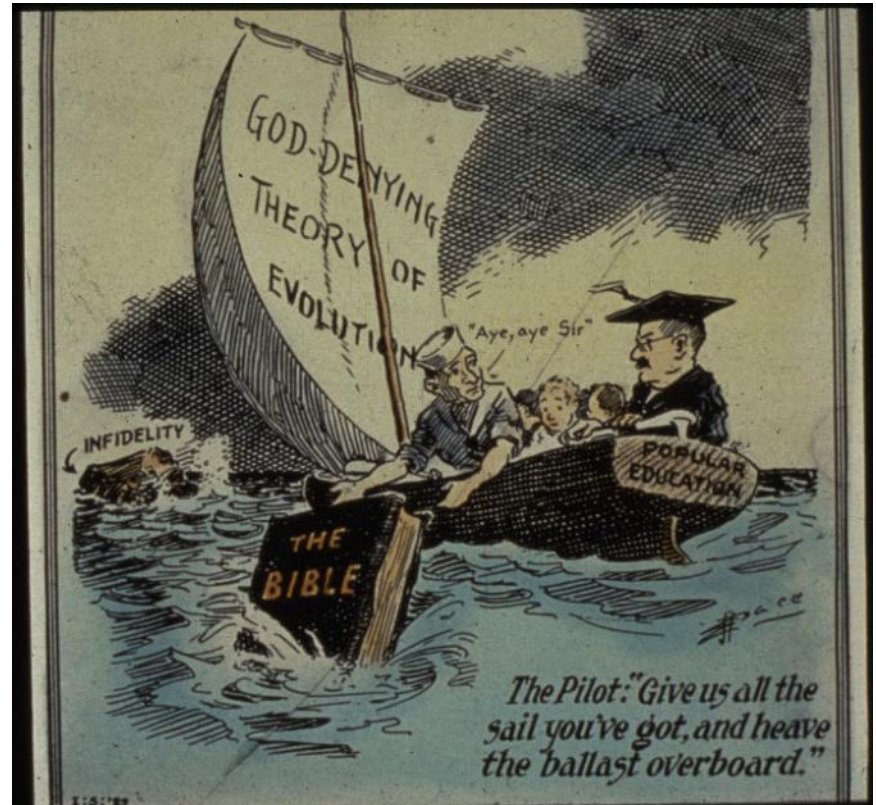
- “The word hypothesis is a synonym used by scientists for the word guess...”  
—William Jennings Bryan, *The Menace of Darwinism* (1923)
- “Evolution is not truth, it is merely an hypothesis—it is millions of guesses strung together.”  
—Bryan’s last statement at Dayton (1925)



# Why has evolution been controversial?

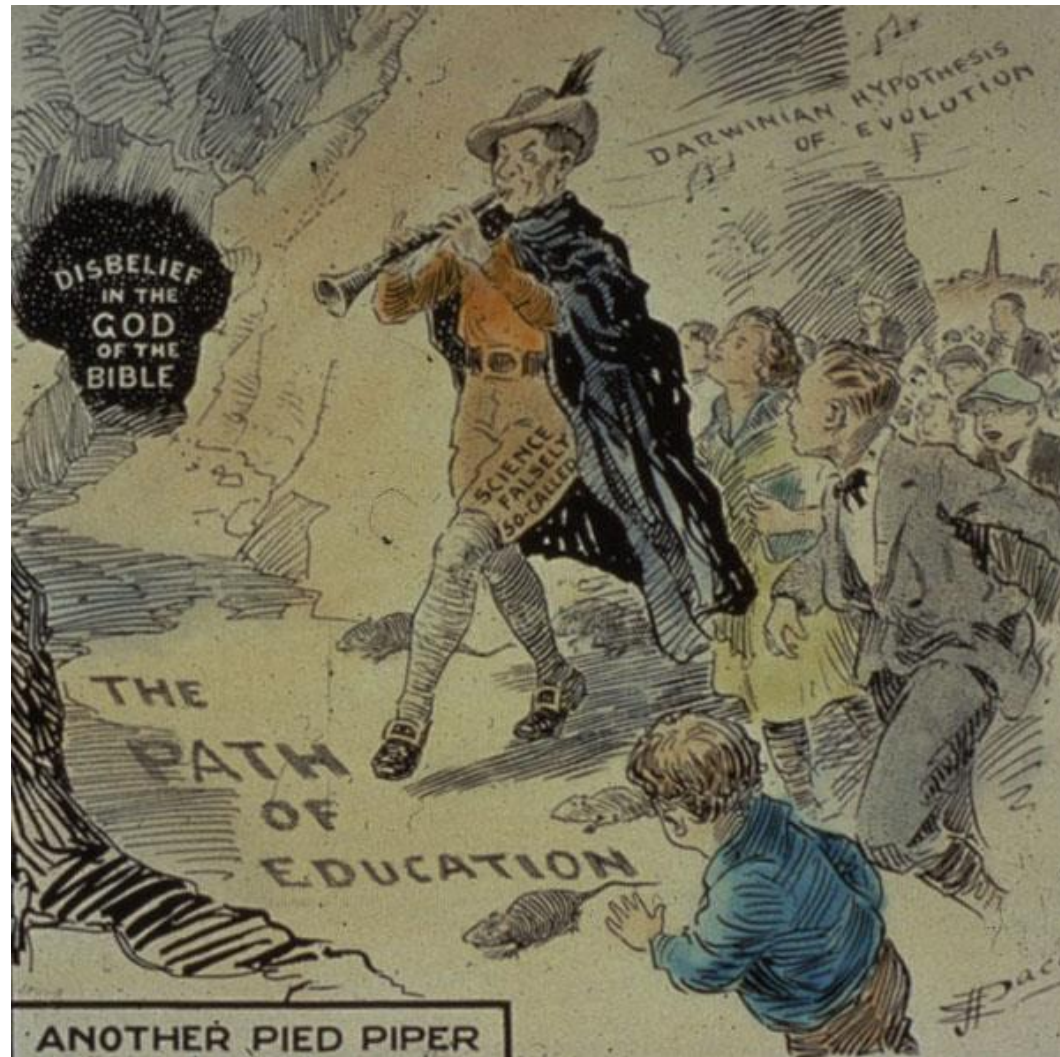
Cartoon by E. J. Pace, *Sunday School Times* (Jan 1929)

- Many Christians see evolution as a God-denying theory that contradicts the Bible
- In their view, teaching evolution in public schools is a violation of the Constitutional mandate for religious neutrality on the part of our government



# Why has evolution been controversial?

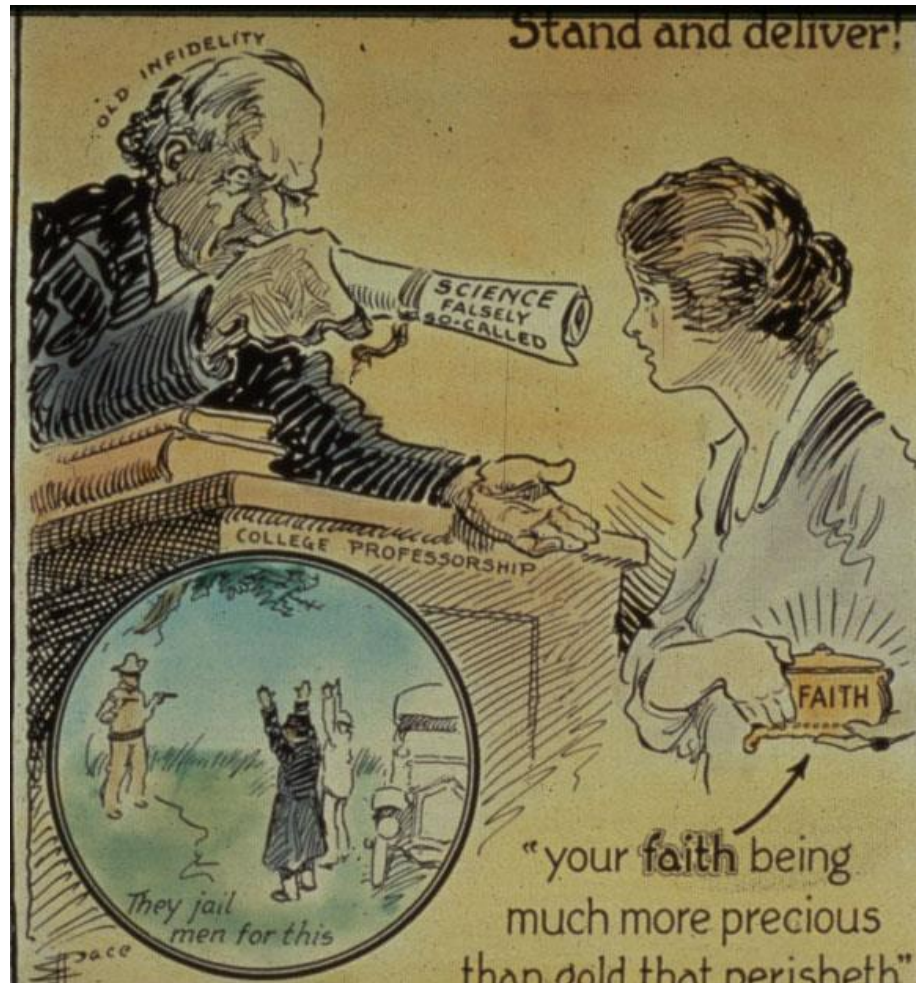
Cartoon by E. J. Pace (c. 1922)





# Why has evolution been controversial?

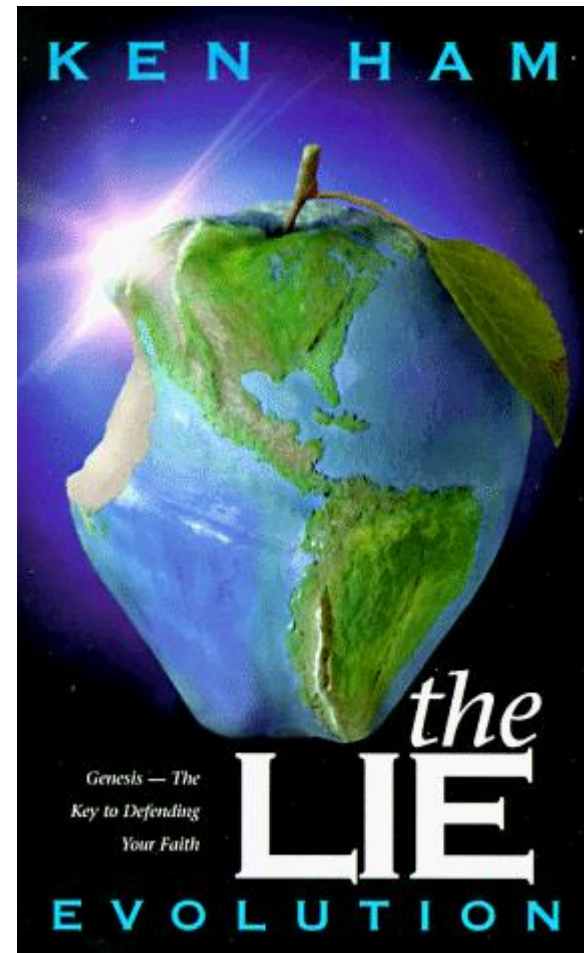
Cartoon by E. J. Pace, *Sunday School Times* (Mar 1923)





# Why has evolution been controversial?

- The confrontational attitude of Bryan and others in the 1920s is readily seen today in Ken Ham and his creationist ministry, Answers in Genesis
- However, unlike Bryan, Ham rejects not only evolution, but also the great age of the earth—which did not bother Bryan or other fundamentalists of his day



# Why has evolution been controversial?

<https://answersingenesis.org/ministry-news/core-ministry/launching-a-new-public-school-outreach/>

© AiG 2002

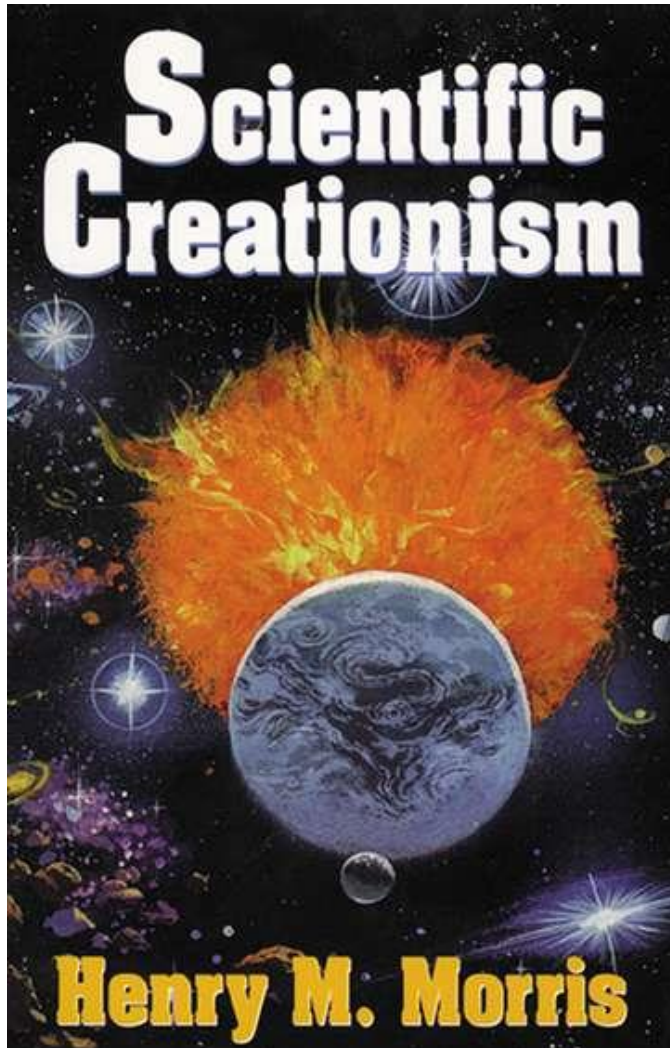
- As with the 1920s, culture wars are still a large part of this
- Ham and other fundamentalists see evolution as Satanic in origin, inseparable from social and moral evils
- “When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”  
—Psalm 11:3



# What about creationism and intelligent design?

Henry Morris, *Scientific Creationism* (1974)

*Time* (Aug 2005)





# Scientific Creationism: Ken Ham

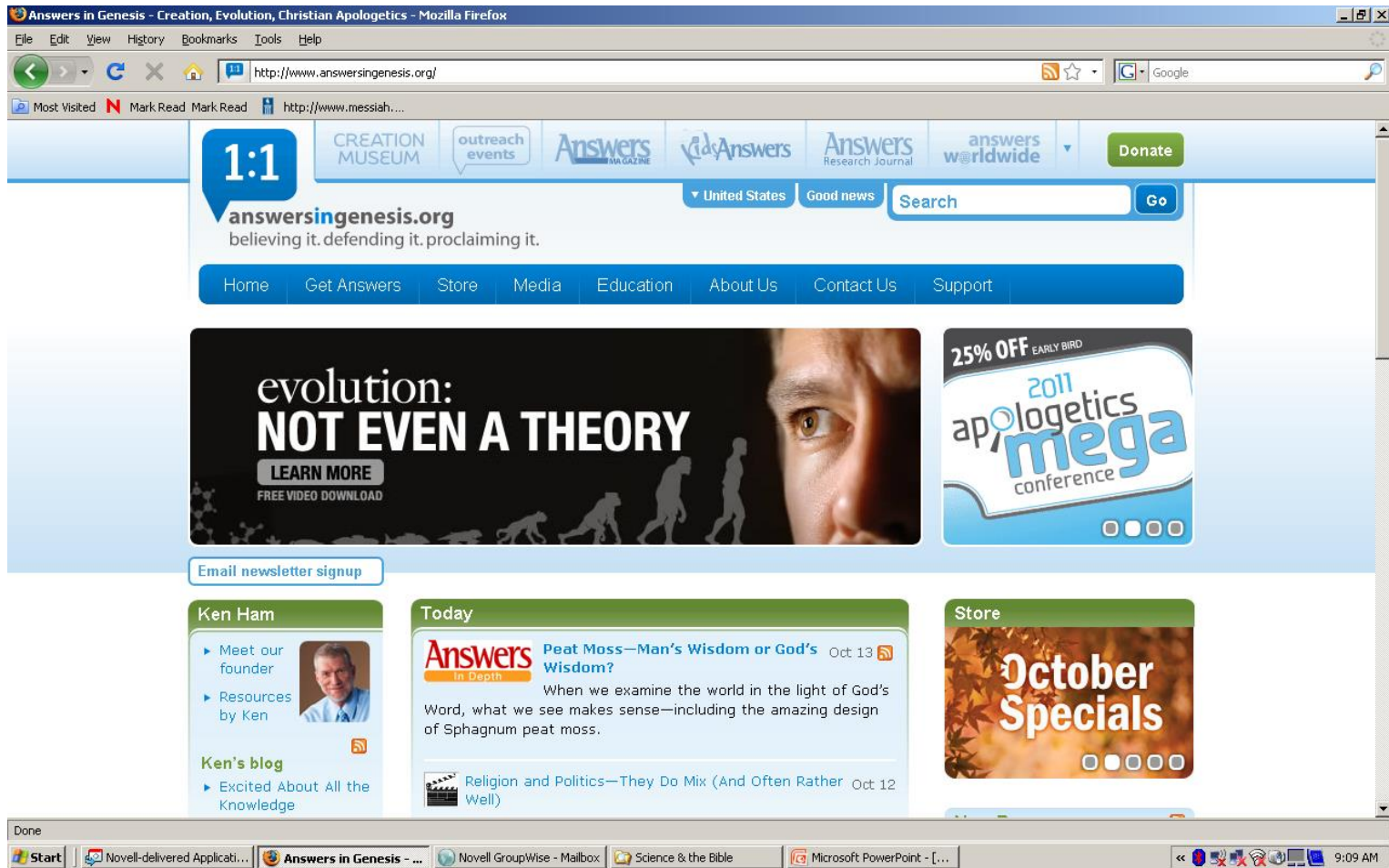
[http://thescroogereport.files.wordpress.com/2007/05/450\\_ap\\_creation\\_070528.jpg](http://thescroogereport.files.wordpress.com/2007/05/450_ap_creation_070528.jpg)





# Scientific Creationism: Answers in Genesis

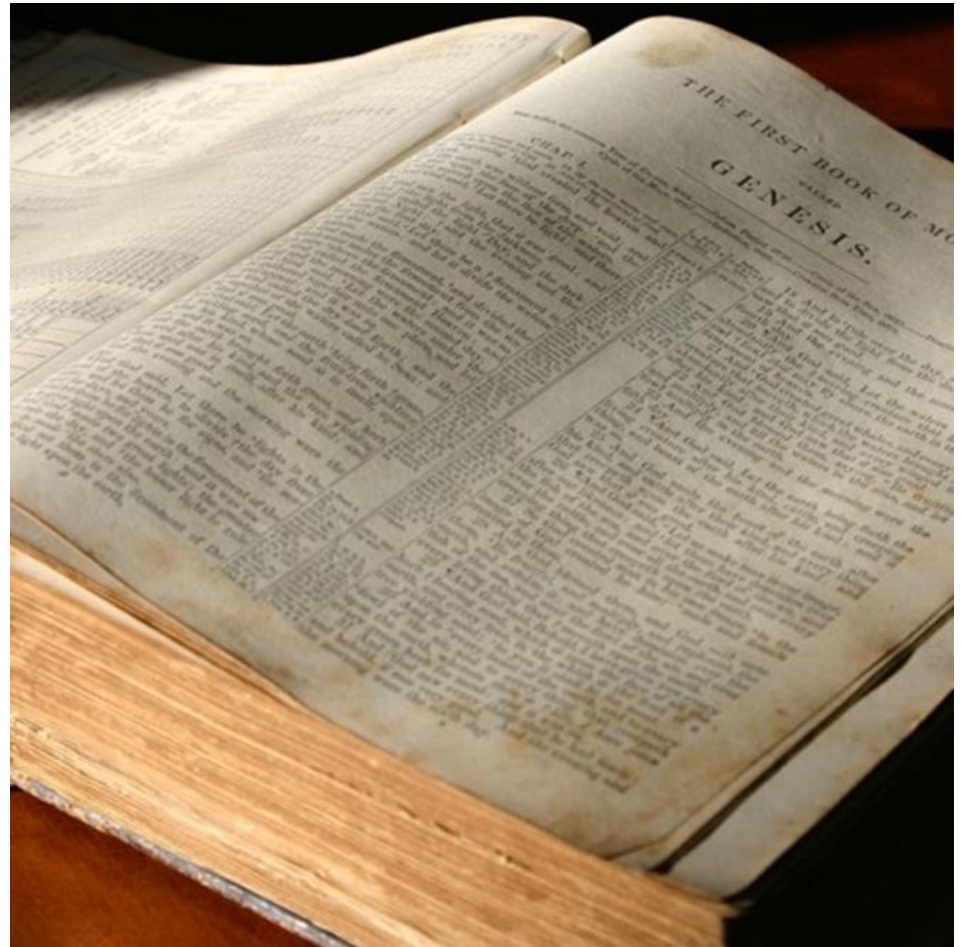
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/>



# Scientific Creationism

[https://biologos.org/files/modules/listing\\_what-factors-should-be-considered-in-determining.jpg](https://biologos.org/files/modules/listing_what-factors-should-be-considered-in-determining.jpg)

- The Bible is the *ONLY* truly reliable source of knowledge about the origin of the earth and the universe
- God was the only eye-witness of the creation
- God has told us directly what took place—how could there be a higher authority?



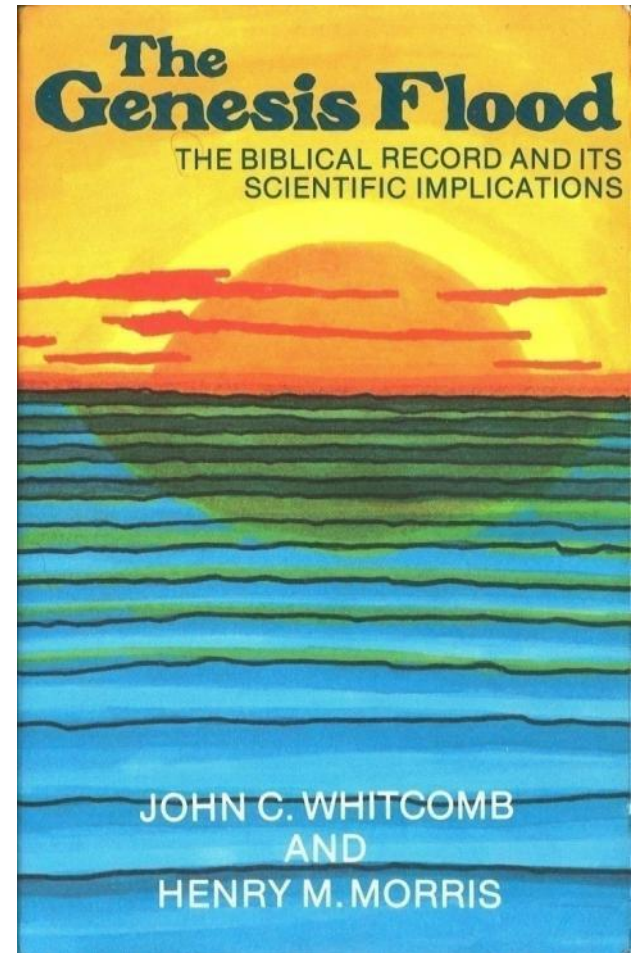
# Scientific Creationism

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[https://assets.answersingenesis.org/img/mediafile/resource\\_file/ltbt/the-best-evidence.gif](https://assets.answersingenesis.org/img/mediafile/resource_file/ltbt/the-best-evidence.gif)  
**Dan Leitha, *God is the Ultimate Authority* (2012)**

# Scientific Creationism

Whitcomb & Morris, *The Genesis Flood* (1961)

- Scientific evidence, when properly interpreted, is consistent with a literalistic interpretation of the Bible
- Mainly, it's the “historical” sciences (geology, cosmology, evolution) that are contested by creationists; most other areas of science are fully accepted



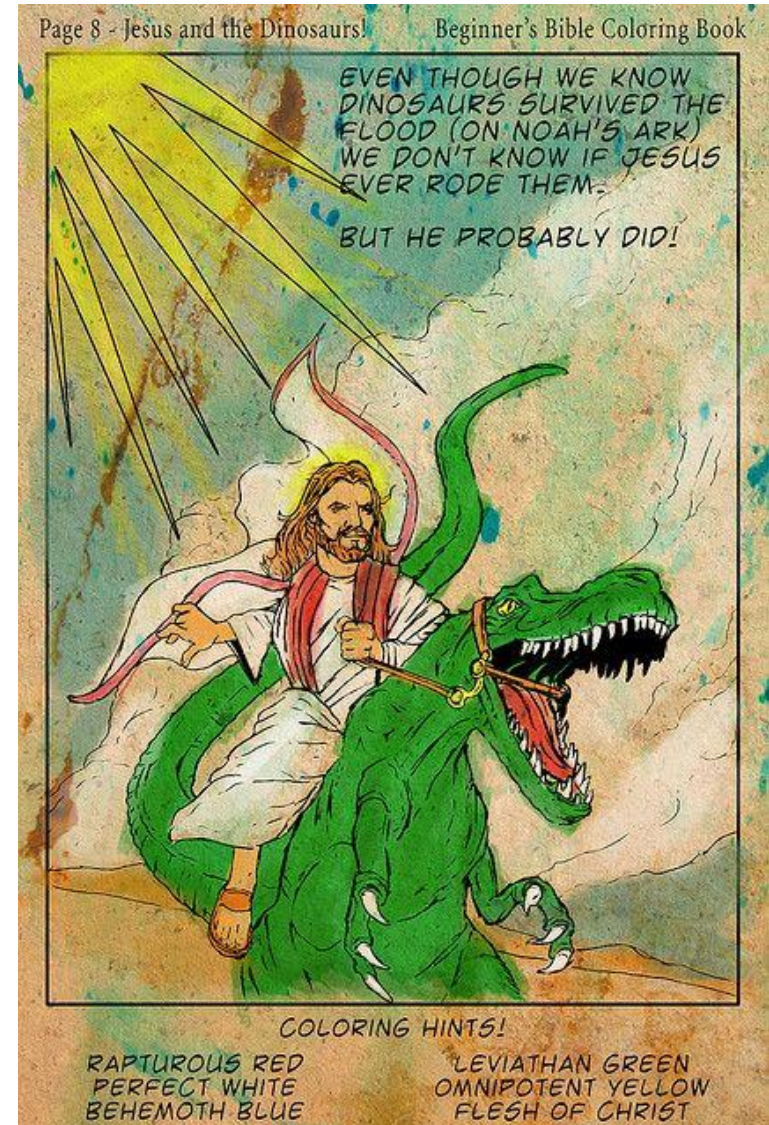


# Scientific Creationism

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/279645458085333366/>

*Beginner's Bible Coloring Book*

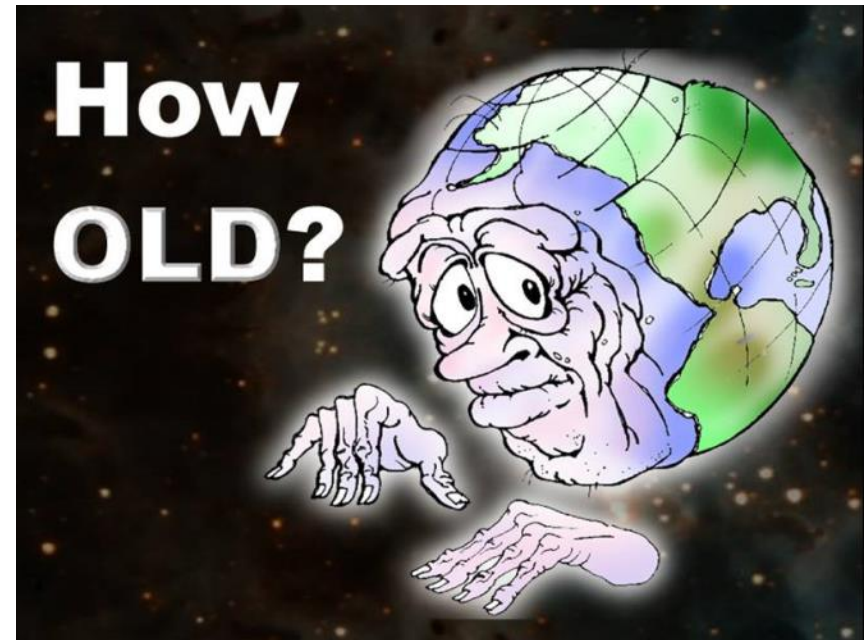
- According to creationists, humans and dinosaurs were created on the same day
- They co-existed with us until some point after the Flood



# Scientific Creationism

<http://mjbelle8.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/old-earth.jpg>

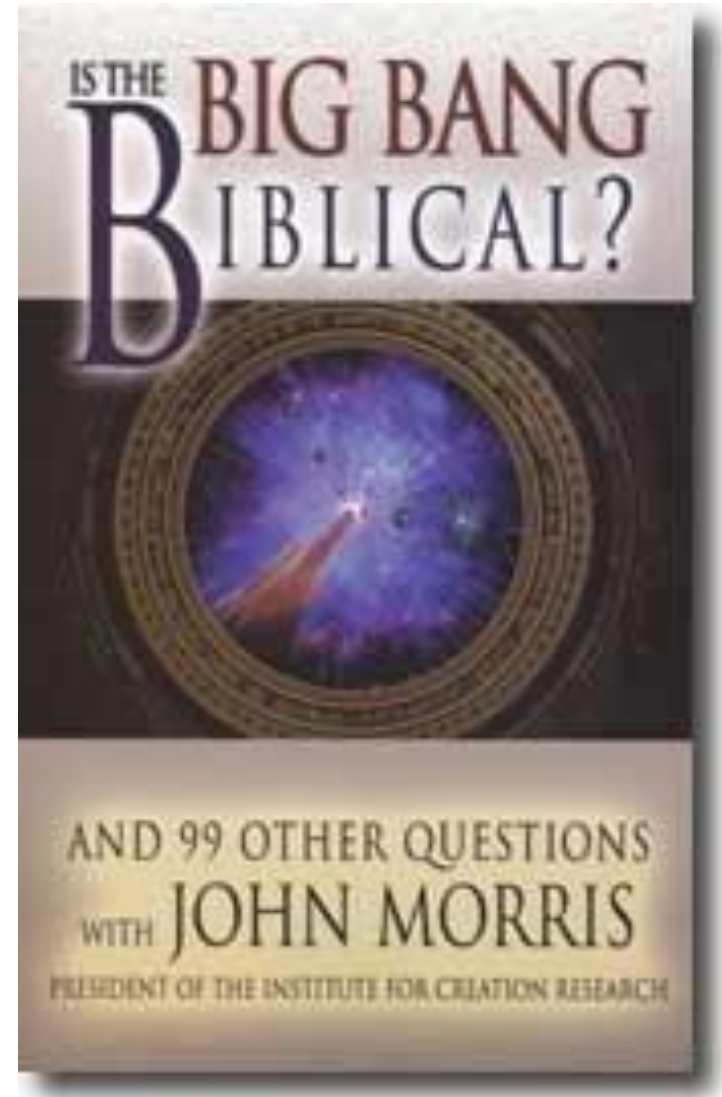
- The Bible tells us that the earth is “young” (not more than about 10,000 years old), and that all major kinds of living things were created separately, in six 24-hour days, not long ago
- Mainstream science puts the ages of the earth & the universe as:
  - Earth = 4.54 BY
  - Universe = 13.798 BY



# Scientific Creationism

<http://store.answersingenesis.org/WebServices/images/37-4525-ImageEnlarge.jpeg>

- Creationists believe that the big bang is a false theory that contradicts the Bible
- “When first proposed, [the big bang] was an attempt to explain how the universe could have been created without God. Really, it is an *alternative* to the Bible; so it makes no sense to try to ‘add’ it to the Bible.”  
—answersingenesis.org

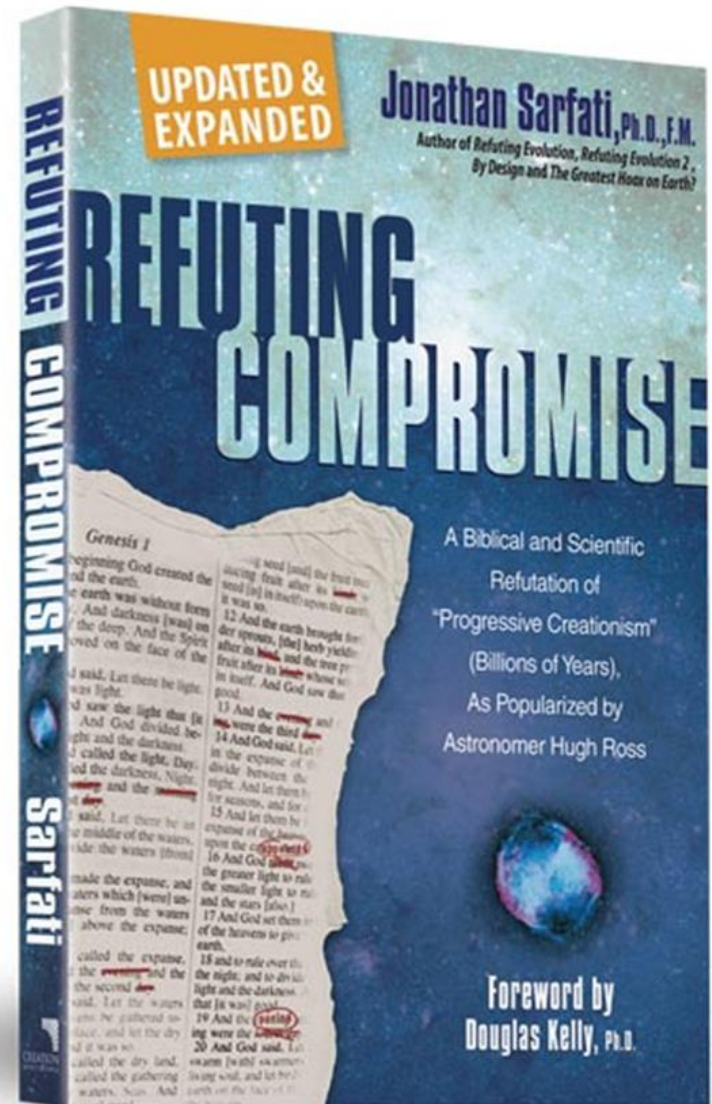




# Scientific Creationism

<http://usstore.creation.com/catalog/images/prodimg/img826.jpg>

- Creationists see alternative interpretations of the Bible as genuinely heretical & gravely harmful to the Bible, and thus to Christianity
- When speaking about such views, they often use the words “compromise” or “accommodation” as pejorative terms



# Scientific Creationism

[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_H0r3Wlzn5g/St6x1BsxDqI/AAAAAAAAACes/poYdX930ltw/s400/flood.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_H0r3Wlzn5g/St6x1BsxDqI/AAAAAAAAACes/poYdX930ltw/s400/flood.jpg)

- The Flood was responsible for producing many fossils, during human history
- This view is called “flood geology,” and it utterly contradicts natural history since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century



# Scientific Creationism

Scofield Reference Bible (new & improved edition, 1945; first published in 1909)

- From the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century (**roughly 1860 to 1960**), most conservative Protestant writers in the USA held to either the day-age or gap theory of Genesis
- That is, they accepted the validity of an “old” earth and universe
- This is reflected, e.g., in the **Scofield Reference Bible (1909)**, which was very widely used by conservative Protestants

redemption (3. 1–4. 7). 111. 1 he Diverse Seeds, Cain and Seth, to the Flood (4. 8–7. 24). IV. The Flood to Babel (8. 1–11. 9). V. From the call of Abram to the death of Joseph (11. 10–50. 26).

The events recorded in Genesis cover a period of 2,315 years (Ussher).

CHAPTER 1.	B.C. 4004.	
<i>The original creation.</i>	<i>a</i> John 1.1. <i>b</i> Deity (names of). Gen. 2.4, 7. (Gen. 1.1; Mal. 3.18.) <i>c</i> Holy Spirit. Gen. 6.3. (Gen. 1.2; Mal. 2.15.) <i>d</i> Job 26.13. Psa. 104.30.	upon the face of the deep. And <i>c</i> the <i>d</i> Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
IN the <i>a</i> beginning <i>1b</i> God <i>2</i> created the heaven and the earth.		<i>The new beginning—the first day: light diffused.</i>
<i>Earth made waste and empty by judgment</i> (Jer. 4. 23–26).		3 And <i>God said</i> , Let there be <i>4</i> light: and there was light.
2 And the earth was <i>3</i> without form, and void; and darkness was		4 And God saw the light, that <i>it</i>

<sup>1</sup> *Elohim* (sometimes *El* or *Elah*), English form “God,” the first of the three primary names of Deity, is a uni-plural noun formed from *El* = strength, or the strong one, and *Alah*, to swear, to bind oneself by an oath, so implying faithfulness. This uni-plurality implied in the name is directly asserted in Gen. 1. 26 (plurality), 27 (unity); see also Gen. 3. 22. Thus the Trinity is latent in *Elohim*. As meaning primarily the Strong One it is fitly used in the first chapter of Genesis. Used in the O. T. about 2500 times. See also Gen. 2. 4, *note*; 2. 7; 14. 18, *note*; 15. 2, *note*; 17. 1, *note*; 21. 33, *note*; 1 Sam. 1. 3, *note*.

<sup>2</sup> But three *creative* acts of God are recorded in this chapter: (1) the heavens and the earth, v. 1; (2) animal life, v. 21; and (3) human life, vs. 26, 27. The first creative act refers to the dateless past, and gives scope for all the geologic ages.

<sup>3</sup> Jer. 4. 23–26, Isa. 24. 1 and 45. 18, clearly indicate that the earth had undergone a cataclysmic change as the result of a divine judgment. The face of the earth bears everywhere the marks of such a catastrophe. There are not wanting intimations which connect it with a previous testing and fall of angels. See Ezk. 28. 12–15 and Isa. 14. 9–14, which certainly go beyond the kings of Tyre and Babylon.

<sup>4</sup> Neither here nor in verses 14–18 is an original *creative* act implied. A different word is used. The sense is, made to *appear*; made *visible*. The sun and moon were *created* “in the beginning.” The “light” of course came from the sun, but the vapour diffused the light. Later the sun appeared in an unclouded sky. *which*



# Scientific Creationism

[http://content.clic.edu/ui/custom/default/collection/coll\\_riley/images/riley\\_at\\_desk.jpg](http://content.clic.edu/ui/custom/default/collection/coll_riley/images/riley_at_desk.jpg)

William Bell Riley at his desk

- **William Bell Riley** (1861-1947), founding president of the World Christian Fundamentals Association, could not identify a single “intelligent fundamentalist who claims that the earth was made six thousand years ago; and the Bible never taught any such thing.”



# Scientific Creationism

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/c/c3/Egw1899info.jpg>

Ellen White (1899)

- During this period, belief in a young earth & flood geology was prominent only among fringe groups such as the **Seventh-day Adventists**, who followed the creationist views of prophetess **Ellen G. White** (1827-1915)
- (Dr. Benjamin Carson is probably the most well-known Adventist today)



# Scientific Creationism

[http://www.bellresearchlab.com/images/ellen\\_white-new\\_light\\_kgkf.jpg](http://www.bellresearchlab.com/images/ellen_white-new_light_kgkf.jpg)

- White claimed to have experienced trance-like “visions” in which God revealed various truths to her
- In a vision about the creation week, she was “carried back to the creation and was shown that that the first week, in which God performed the work of creation in six days and rested on the seventh day, was just like every other week.”





# Creationism: Ellen White

[http://www.willard.lib.mi.us/historical/bcphotos/individuals/images/h55\\_5331.jpg](http://www.willard.lib.mi.us/historical/bcphotos/individuals/images/h55_5331.jpg)

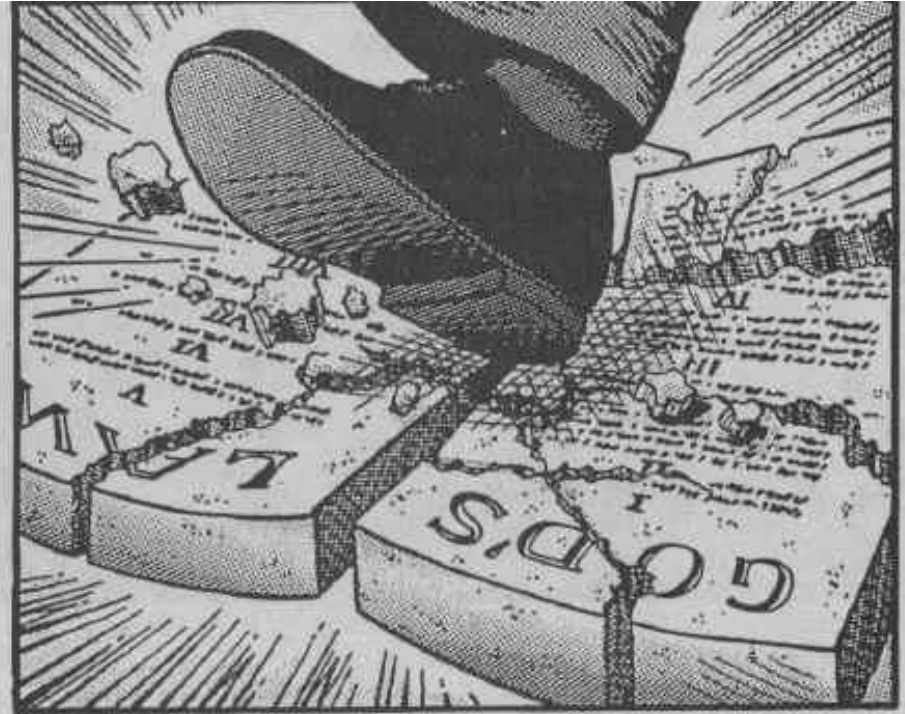
- White also taught that Noah's flood had sculpted the surface of the earth, burying the plants and animals found in the fossil record
- "Flood geology," as it was later called, became a standard part of Adventist teaching



# Creationism: Ellen White

<http://www.seventh-day.org/EGWLAW.jpg>

- And, she taught that Christians should celebrate God on the Jewish Sabbath—on Saturday, not Sunday—to remind us that the creation week was literal, and that God actually rested on the seventh day (Saturday)



*The modern Christian world is trampling underfoot God's Ten Commandment law when they believe they can pick and choose which commandments they will keep, and which ones they don't need to keep. Isaiah 66:22-23 clearly states that the seventh-day Sabbath will be kept throughout all eternity in the New Earth, which is why there is such a concentrated effort to point out the truth of the fourth commandment in these days just before the Lord's second coming!*

# Historical Comments

Price (1920s)

<http://www.creationism.org/books/price/PredicmtEvol/GeorgeMcCreadyPrice.jpg>

- White's ideas were later popularized by another Adventist, **George McCready Price** (1870-1963), a Canadian school teacher and self-taught geologist
- Price's version of White provided the core ideas for modern creationism in the 1960s

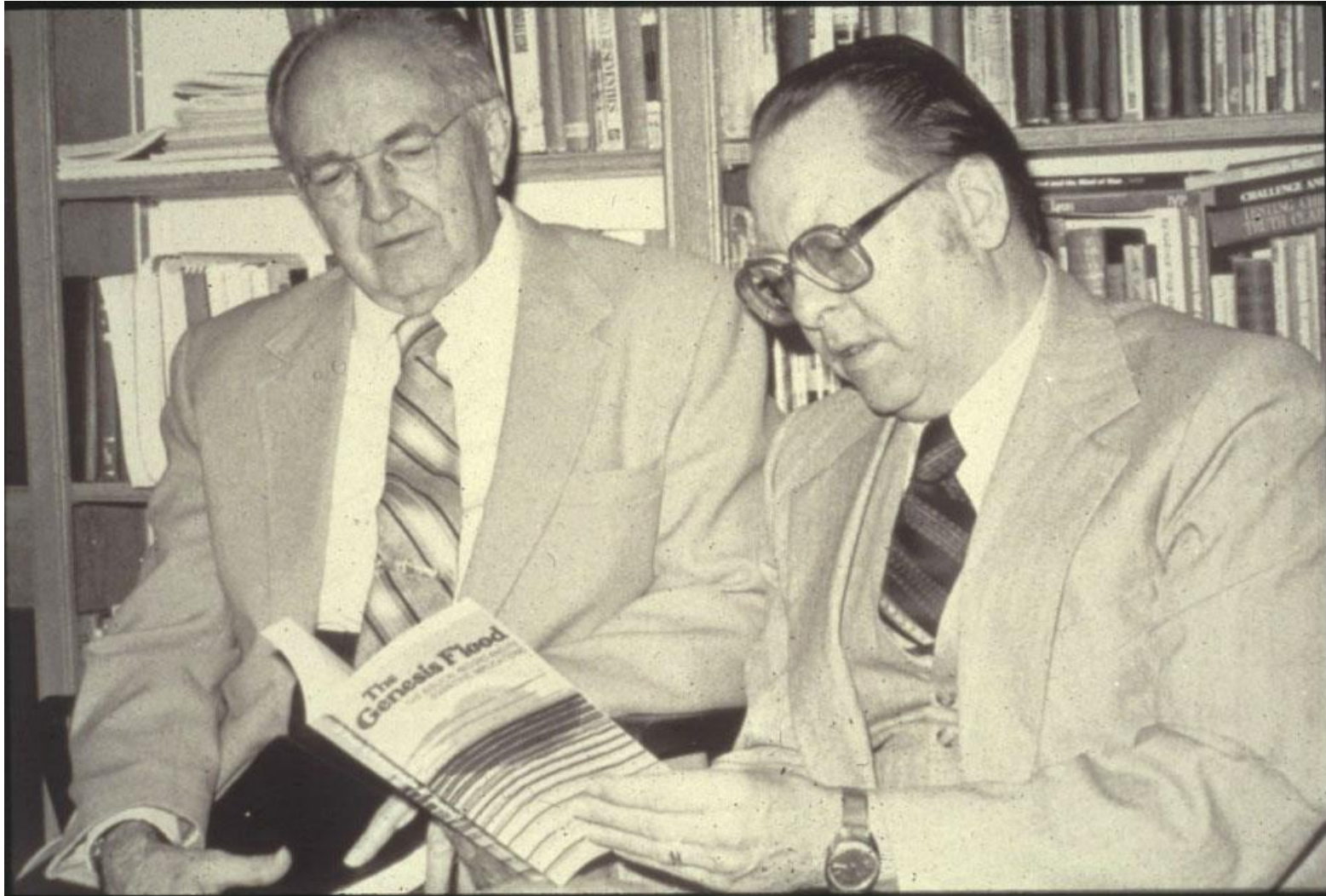




# Scientific Creationism: Morris & Whitcomb

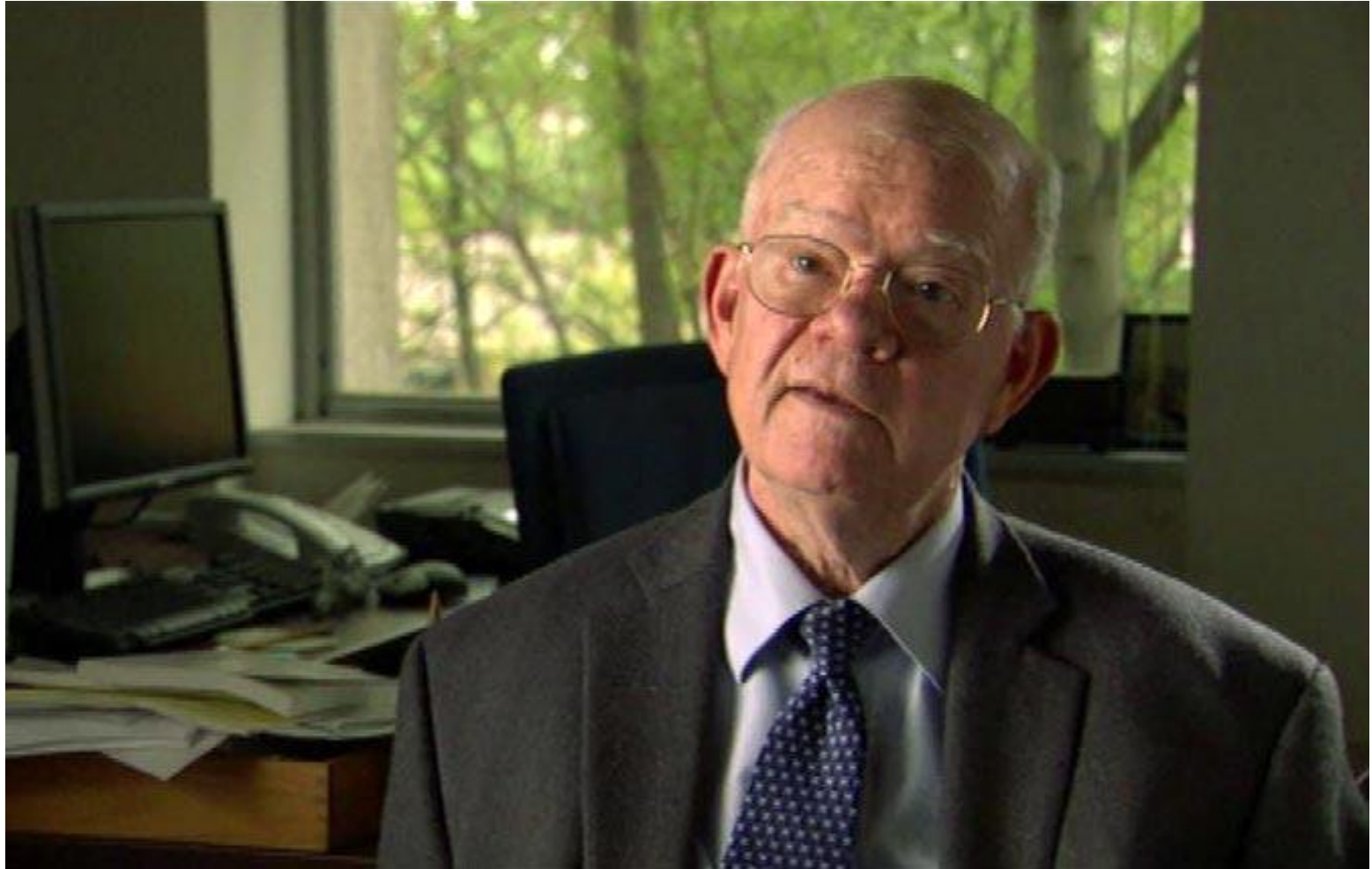
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/assets/images/articles/am/v6/n1/whitcomb-and-morris.jpg>

Henry Morris (left) and John C. Whitcomb, Jr. (1984)



# Intelligent Design: Phillip E. Johnson

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/beta/assets/img/21-defID/image-01-large.jpg>



# Intelligent Design: The Discovery Institute

<http://www.discovery.org/csc/>

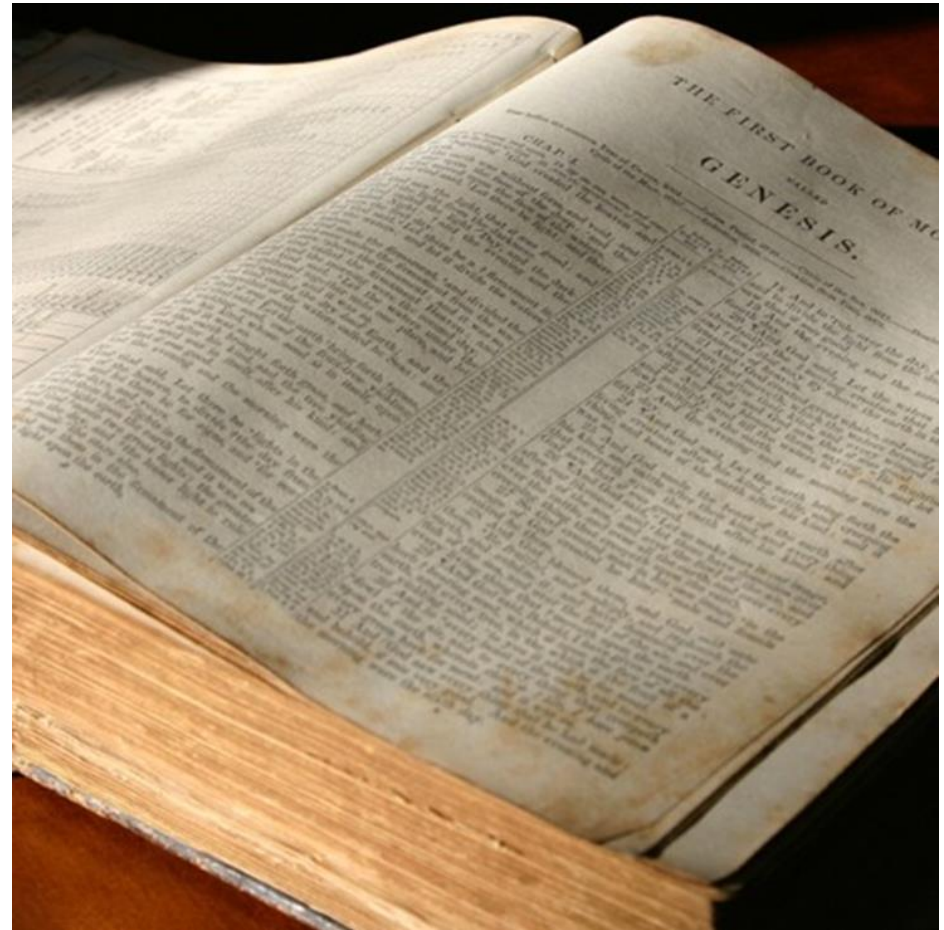




# Intelligent Design

[https://biologos.org/files/modules/listing\\_what-factors-should-be-considered-in-determining.jpg](https://biologos.org/files/modules/listing_what-factors-should-be-considered-in-determining.jpg)

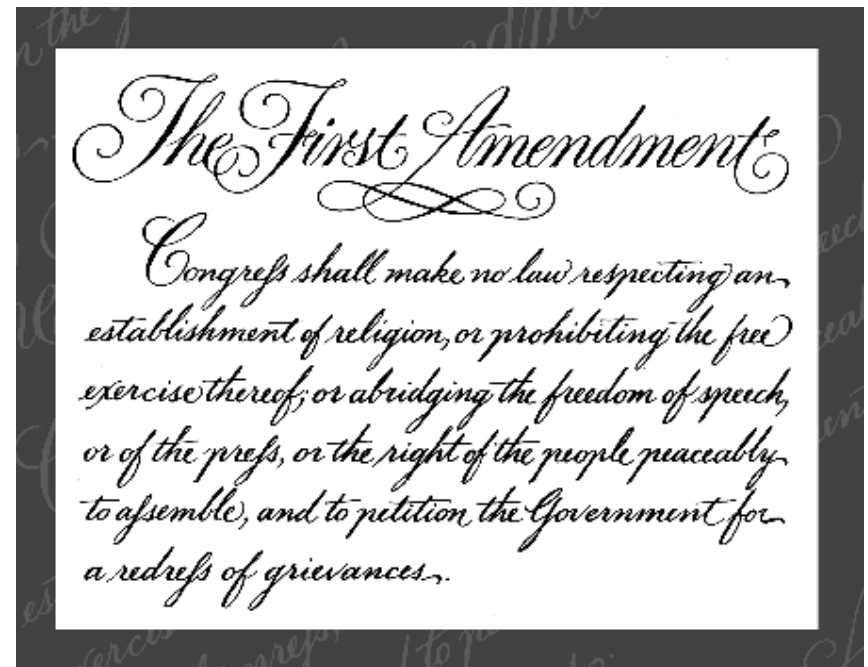
- The Bible is **NOT** to be mentioned (at least for now); ditto for “God” and “theology” as far as possible
- This is a deliberate strategy, partly for constitutional reasons, to keep arguments at the level of philosophy and science



# Intelligent Design

<http://www.rochester.edu/college/psc/images/Courses/Spring2008/FirstAmendment.png>

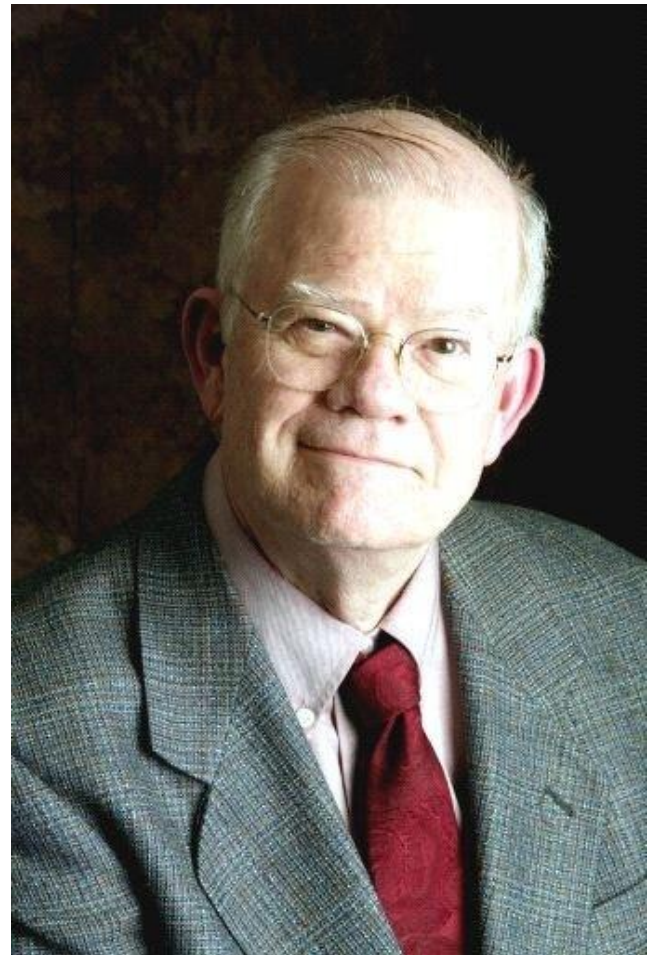
- The establishment clause in the First Amendment system lies behind this stance
- Since the 1980s, federal courts have consistently ruled that “creationism” cannot be taught in public school science classes
- Proponents of ID always want to ensure that they are not perceived as advocates of “creationism”



# Intelligent Design

[http://amarillo.com/images/041005/29684\\_512.jpg](http://amarillo.com/images/041005/29684_512.jpg)

- “the first thing that has to be done is to get the Bible out of the discussion”
- “This is not to say that the biblical issues are unimportant; the point is rather that the time to address them will be after we have separated materialist prejudice from scientific fact.”  
—Phillip Johnson, *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity* (July/August 1999)



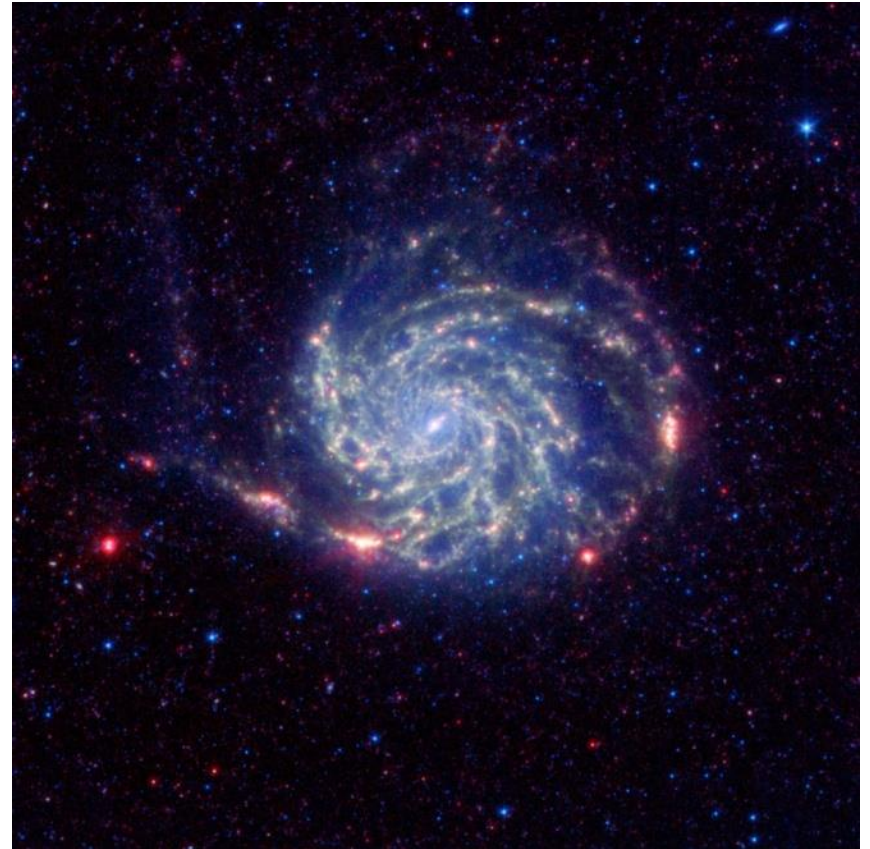


# Intelligent Design

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/images/spitzer/20080721/A-M101-IRAC-MIPS-browse.jpg>

Pinwheel Galaxy (M 101)

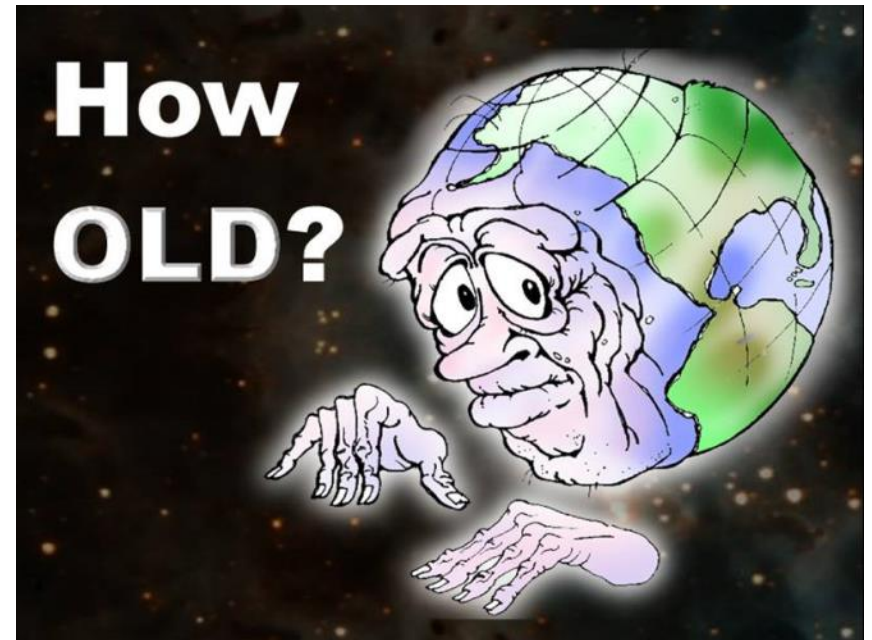
- the universe itself, and the objects that compose it (both living and nonliving), exhibit abundant evidence of having been “designed” by an “intelligent designer”
- They are NOT products of “blind chance”



# Intelligent Design

<http://mjbelle8.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/old-earth.jpg>

- The biblical issues (the age of the earth, the effects of the flood, etc.) can be discussed later on, once the existence of an “intelligent designer” has been more widely accepted in the academic establishment



# Intelligent Design

- ID is a “big tent”, united by opposition to materialism (which is often equated with evolution or “Darwinism”) and content for the time being to overlook major theological differences among adherents
- Not all ID proponents are Christians, and at least a few are not even theists

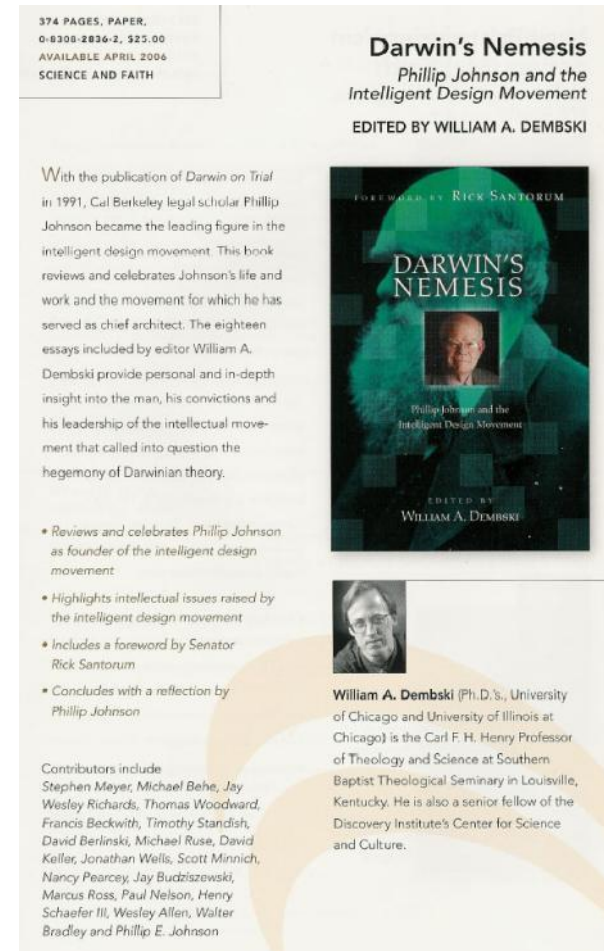




# Intelligent Design

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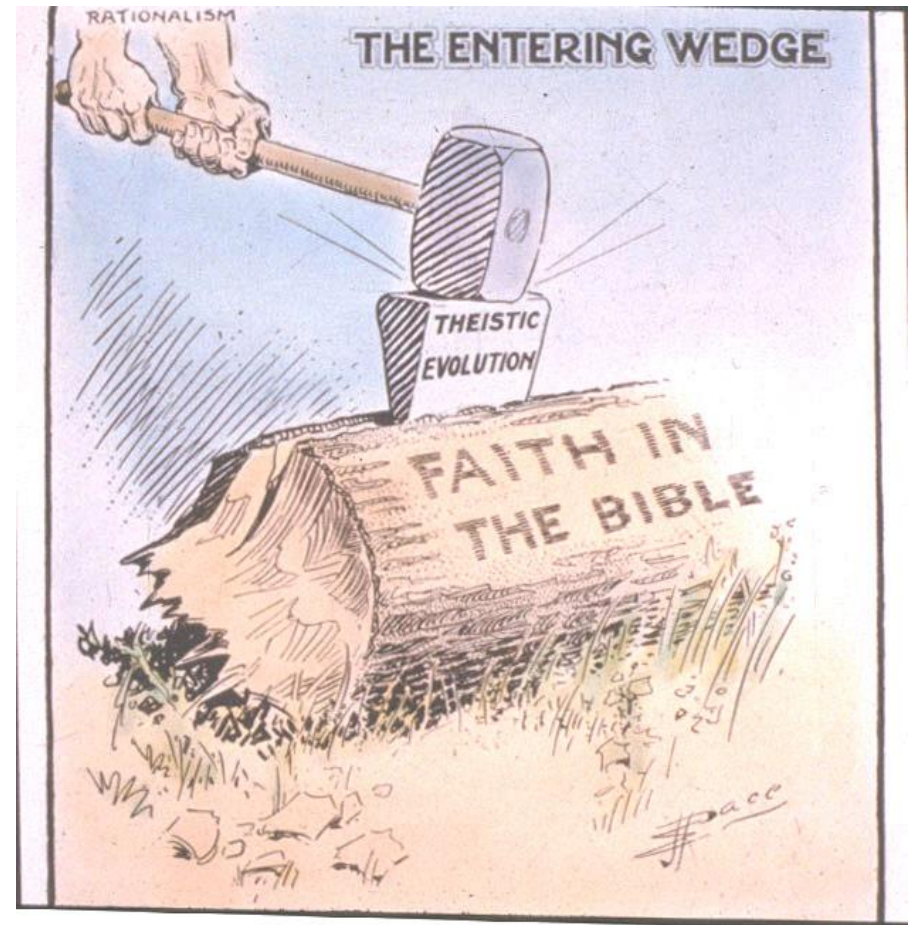
- ID is *NOT* “creationism,” but the ***tone*** of ID does resemble “creationism” very closely, when it comes to cultural issues
- “Because of *Kitzmiller v. Dover*, school boards and state legislators may tread more cautiously, but tread on evolution they will—the culture war demands it!” —William Dembski’s preface to *Darwin’s Nemesis*



# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

Cartoon by E. J. Pace (unknown date)

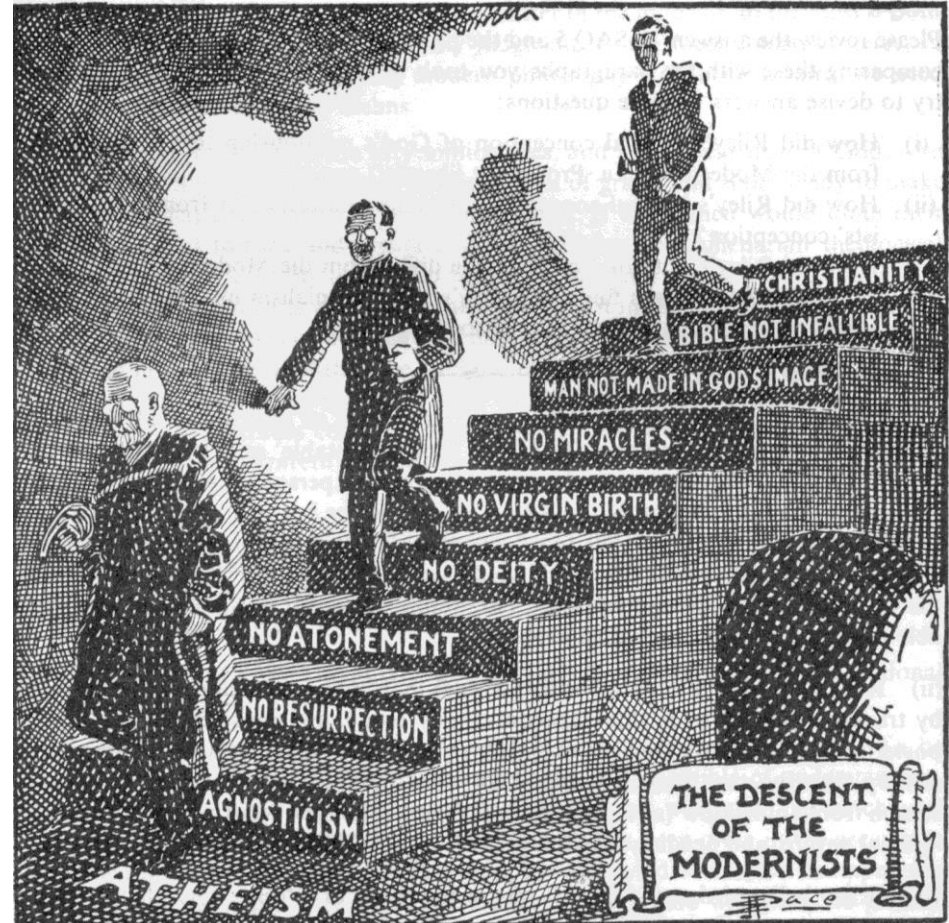
- Bryan: theistic evolution is “an anesthetic which deadens the pain while the patient’s religion is being gradually removed.”
- “a way-station on the highway that leads from Christian faith to No-God-Land”



# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

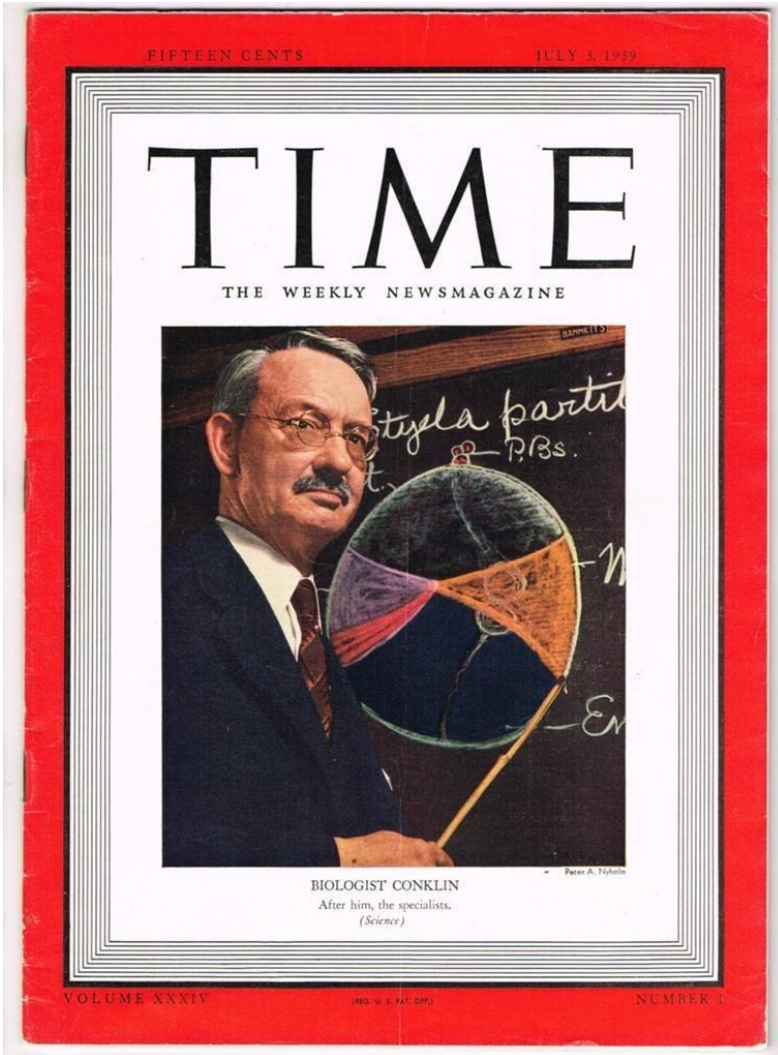
Cartoon by E. J. Pace, frontispiece from Bryan, *Seven Questions in Dispute* (1924)

- Evolution is “the cause of [religious] modernism and the progressive elimination of the vital truths of the Bible”—Bryan’s letter to Charles Trumbull (Jan 1924), Bryan Papers, Library of Congress
- “There is no stopping place” on this descent





# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?



Religion of Science very different from  
Religion of tradition & Revelation.

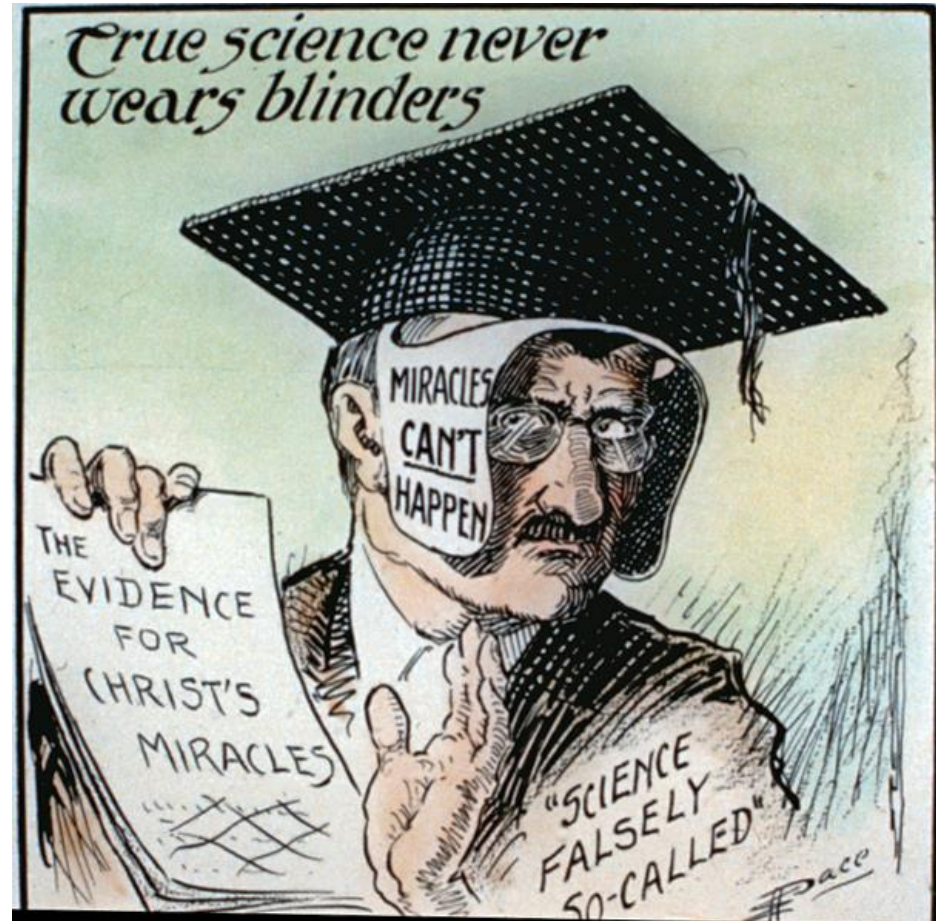
1. No Personal Gods. } Father  
Son  
Holy Ghost.
2. No Miracles.
3. No Supernatural Revelation.
4. No Personal Immortality.
5. No ghosts, witches, demons.
6. No "blood atonement".
7. No propitiation of angry Gods.
8. No objective Efficacy of Prayer.
- 9.



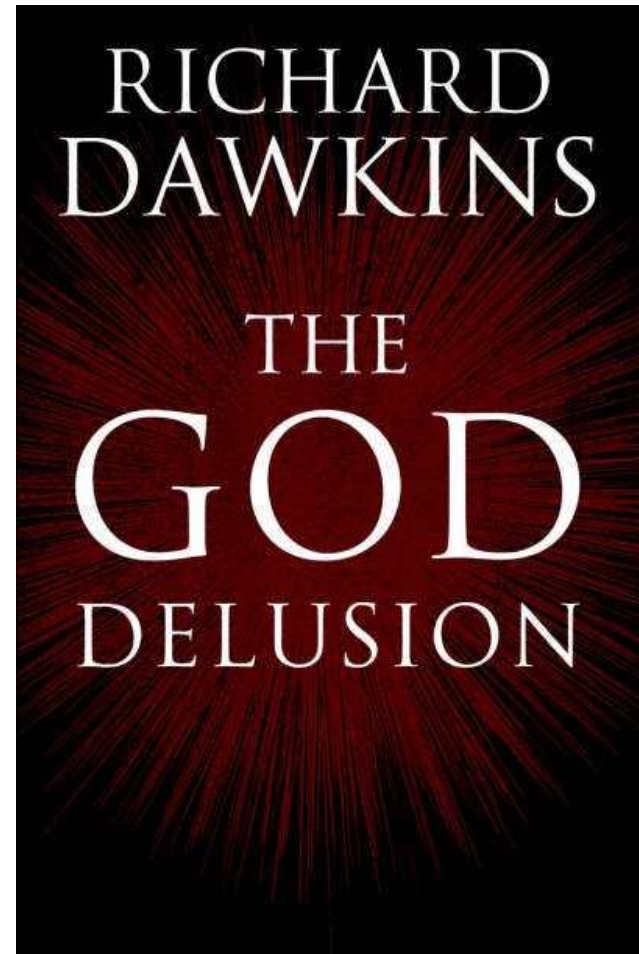
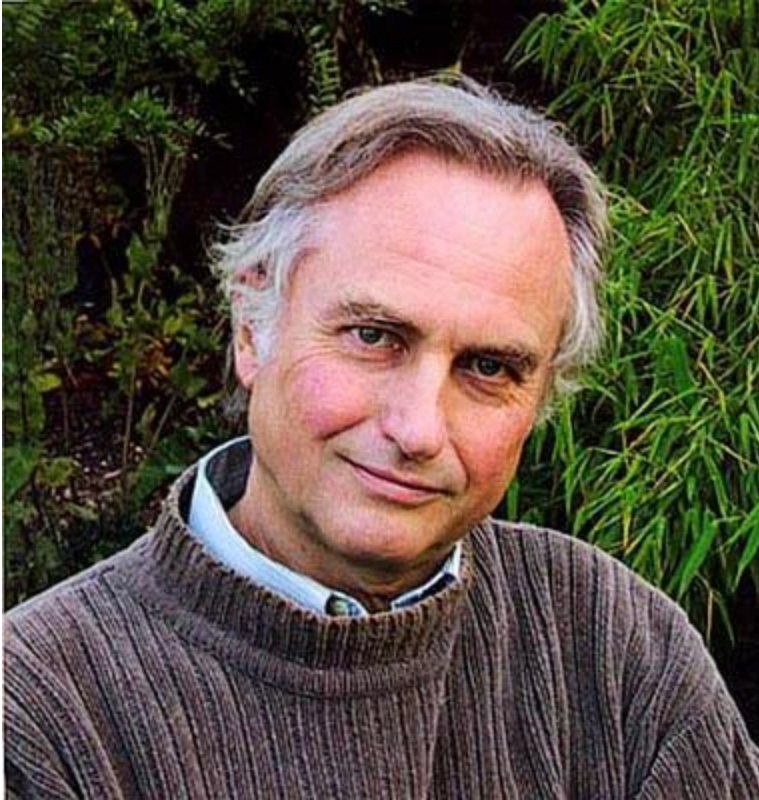
# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

Cartoon by E. J. Pace, *Sunday School Times* (July 1924)

- Many Christians believe that **methodological naturalism**—the idea that science must deal only with “natural” causes—leads inevitably to **philosophical naturalism**—the idea that there is no God
- In biblical studies, insisting on “natural” causes for **all** events implies that all of the miracle stories are fables

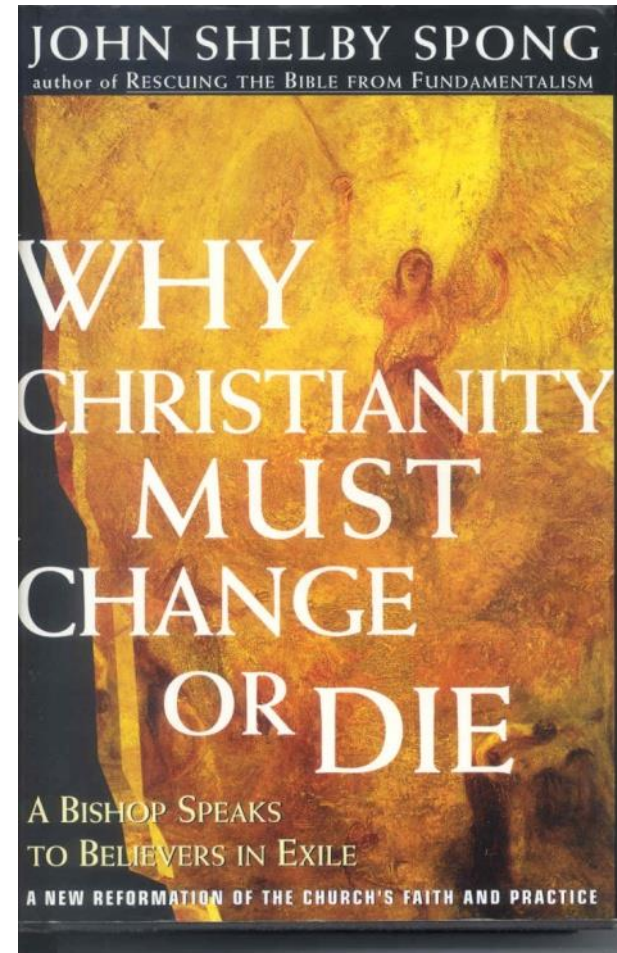


Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?





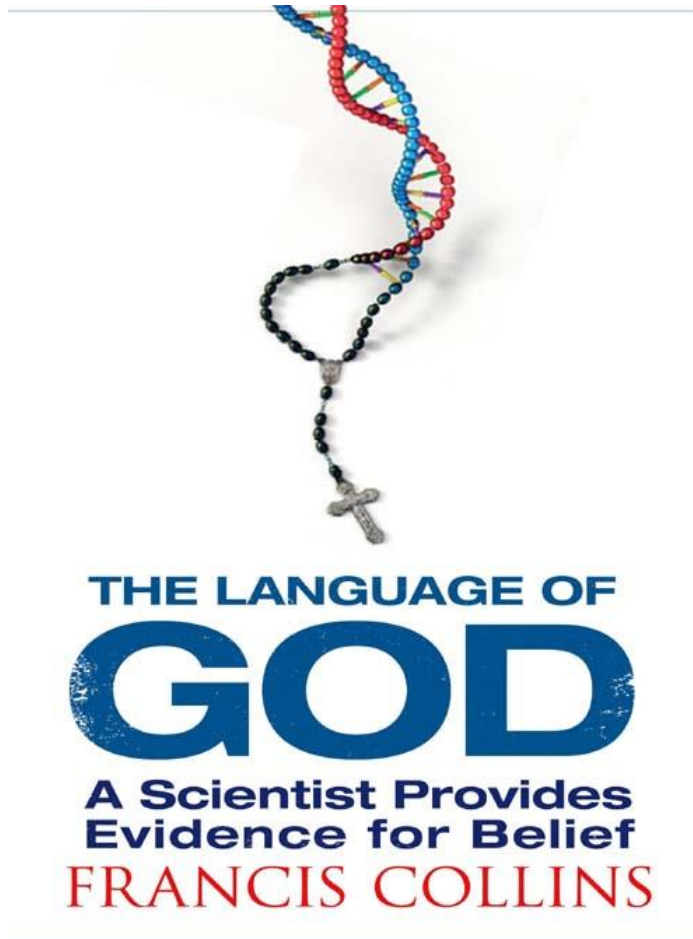
# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?



# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

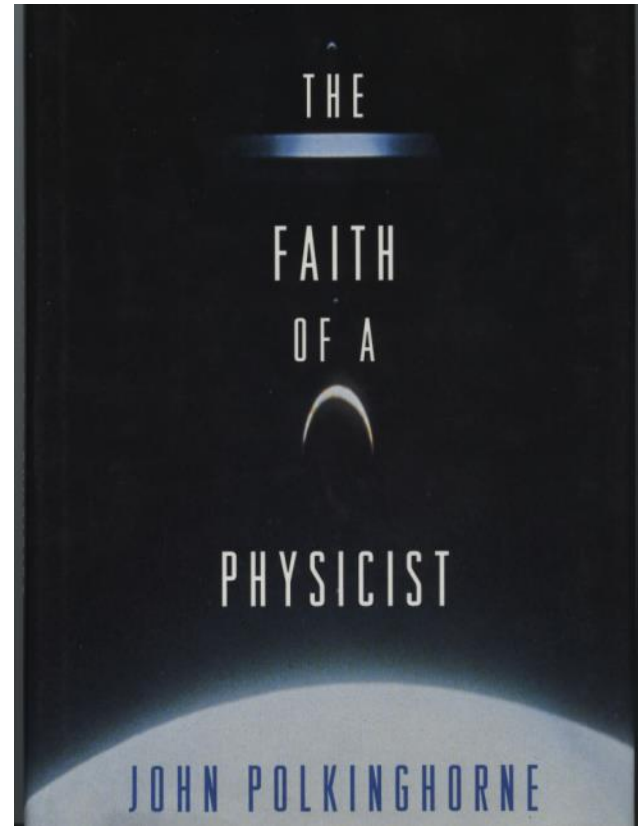
<http://images.contentreserve.com/ImageType-100/1571-1/%7B353B775D-0C96-4963-BA28-4420354BA7AD%7DImg100.jpg>

[http://oldearth.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/francis\\_collins.jpg](http://oldearth.files.wordpress.com/2009/07/francis_collins.jpg)

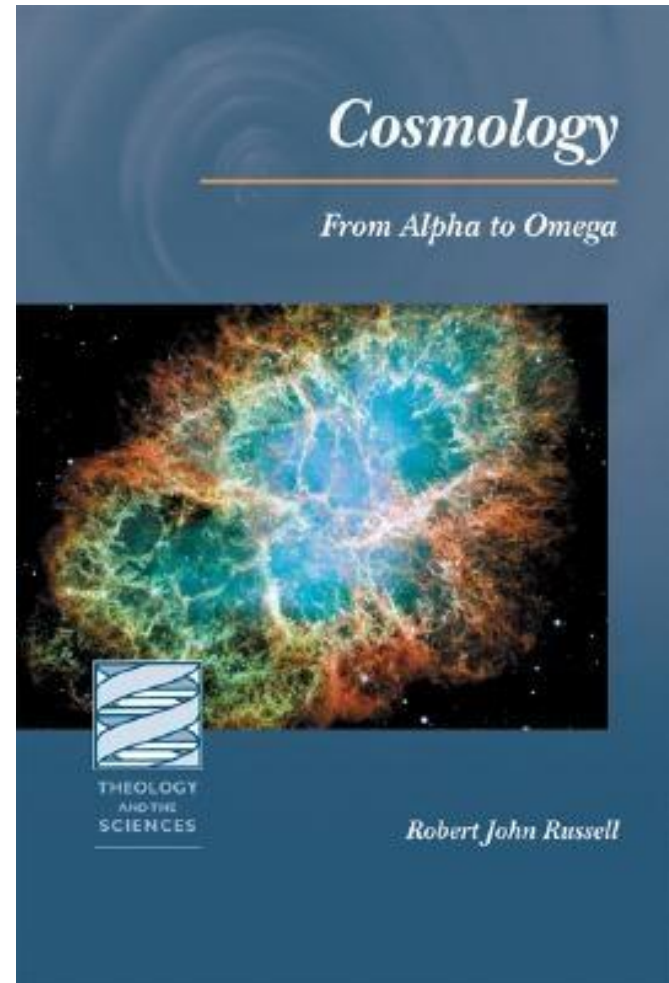




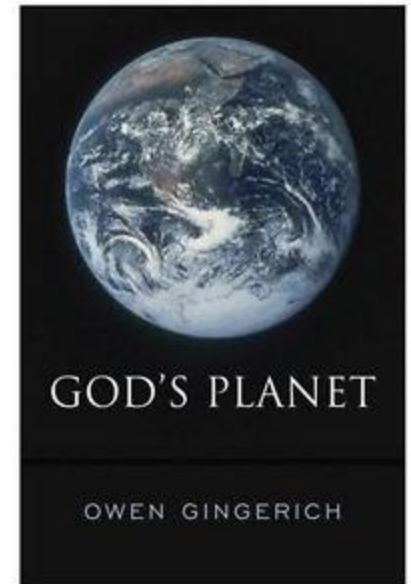
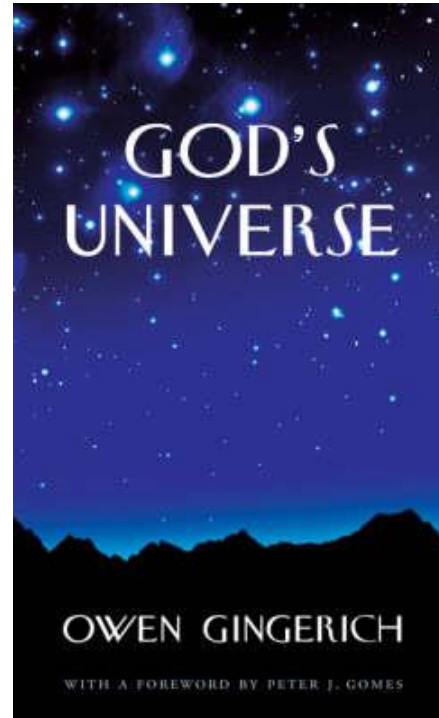
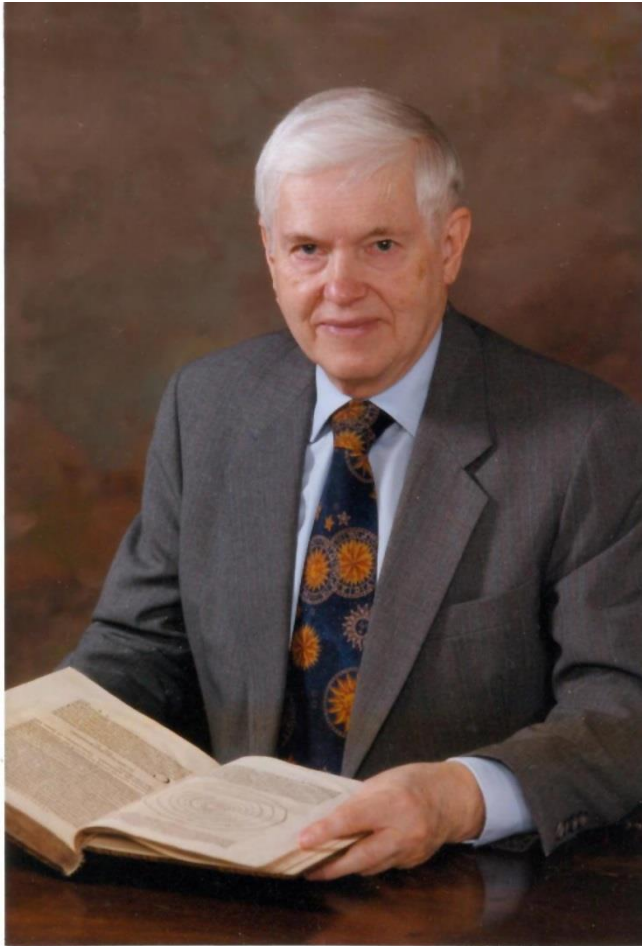
# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?



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# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

- For many American Christians, the ideas of Collins, Polkinghorne, Russell , & Gingerich are no more acceptable than those of Dawkins
- Nevertheless, they represent a significant new feature on the historical landscape: world class scientists and theologians who accept evolution, but who also affirm the Incarnation and the bodily resurrection of Jesus
- There was no one out there like them in the 1920s

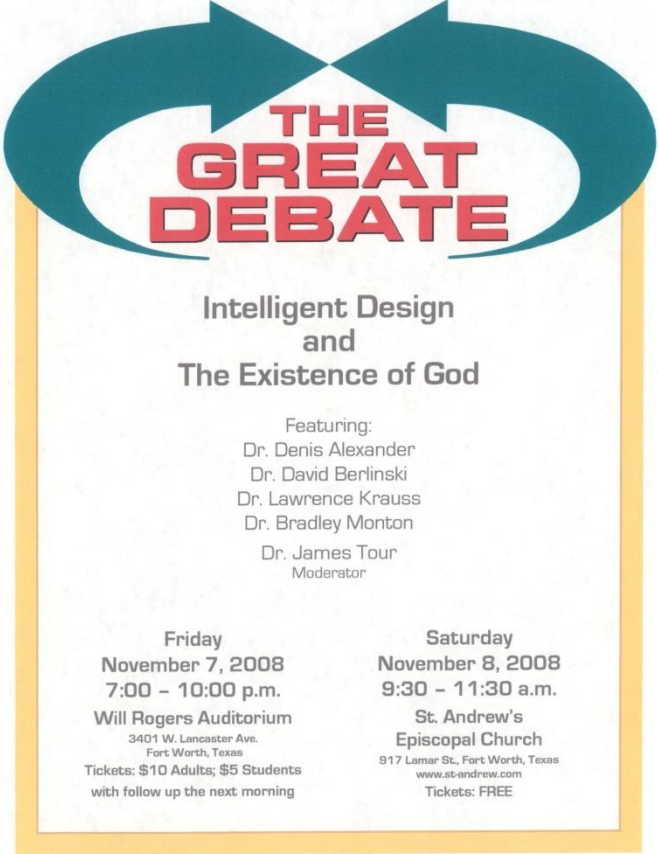


# Does evolution deny orthodox Christianity?

- Will voices such as these have a permanent effect on the conversation? Will their attitudes and ideas, with the passage of time, be accepted by more American Christians?
- I am an historian, not a prophet; I cannot say how this will play out
- But, not all is the same as it was in the 1920s—and that might prove to be significant in the long run

# Extra slides from Q&A now follow

<http://www.evolutionnews.org/greatdebate1.jpg>



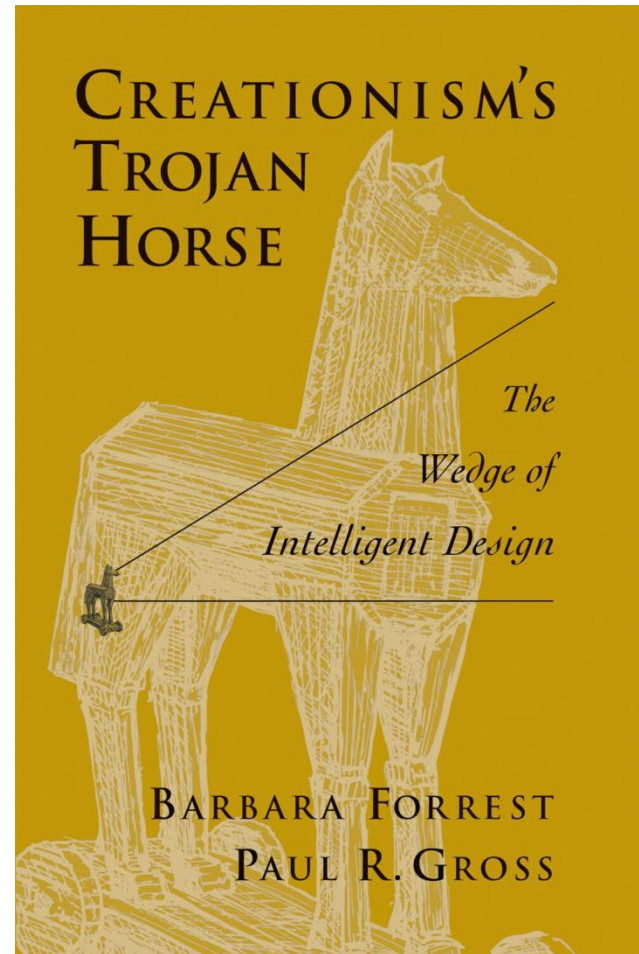
**THE  
GREAT  
DEBATE**

**Intelligent Design  
and  
The Existence of God**

Featuring:  
Dr. Denis Alexander  
Dr. David Berlinski  
Dr. Lawrence Krauss  
Dr. Bradley Monton  
Dr. James Tour  
Moderator

<b>Friday</b> <b>November 7, 2008</b> <b>7:00 – 10:00 p.m.</b> <b>Will Rogers Auditorium</b> 3401 W. Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth, Texas Tickets: \$10 Adults; \$5 Students with follow up the next morning	<b>Saturday</b> <b>November 8, 2008</b> <b>9:30 – 11:30 a.m.</b> <b>St. Andrew's Episcopal Church</b> 917 Lamar St., Fort Worth, Texas <a href="http://www.st-andrew.com">www.st-andrew.com</a> Tickets: FREE
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# What about Dover?

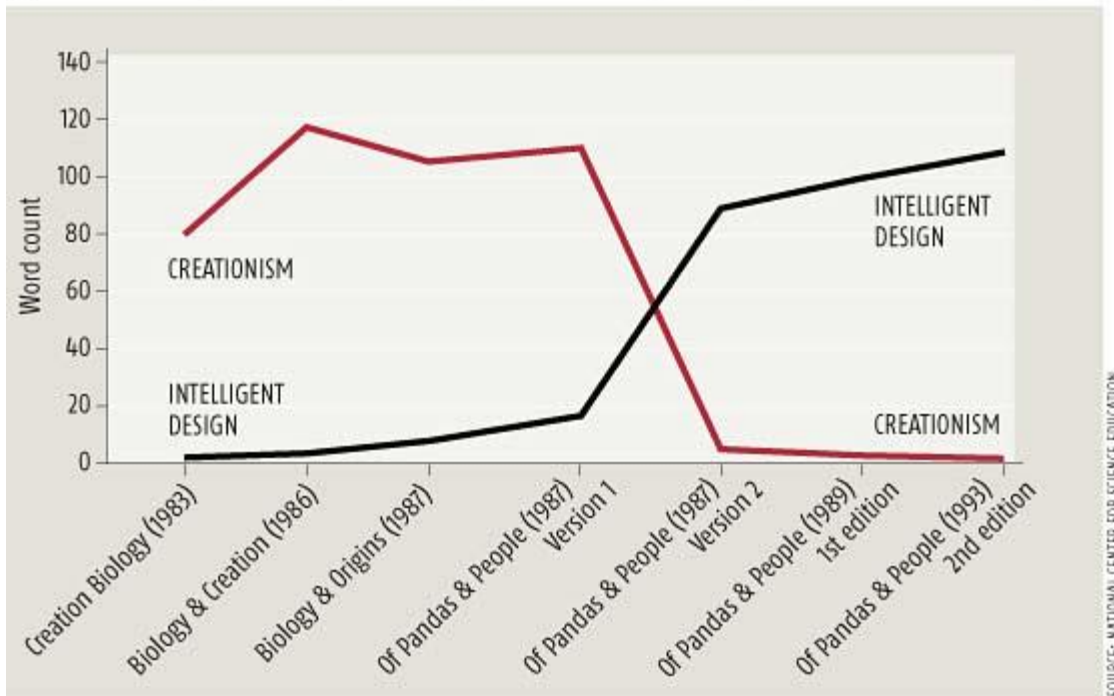


# What about Dover?

[https://www.newscientist.com/blog/shortsharpscience/uploaded\\_images/wordplay-736296.jpg](https://www.newscientist.com/blog/shortsharpscience/uploaded_images/wordplay-736296.jpg)

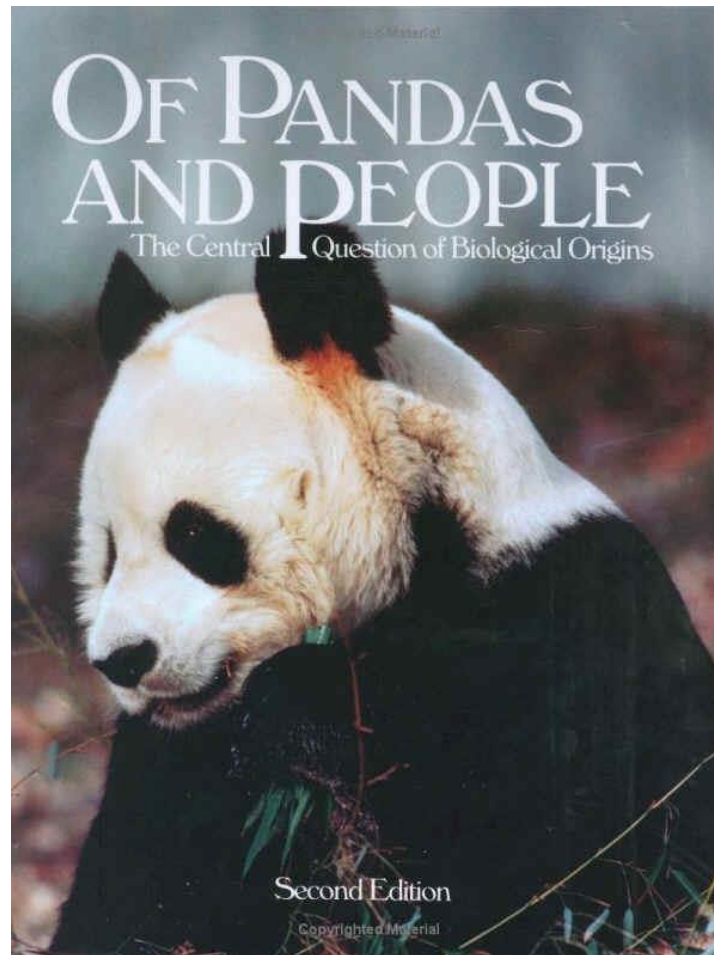
## WORD PLAY

The word "creationism" was largely replaced with "intelligent design" in recent editions of the textbook *Of Pandas and People* following the 1987 supreme court ruling banning "creation science" teaching





# What about Dover?



# What about Dover?

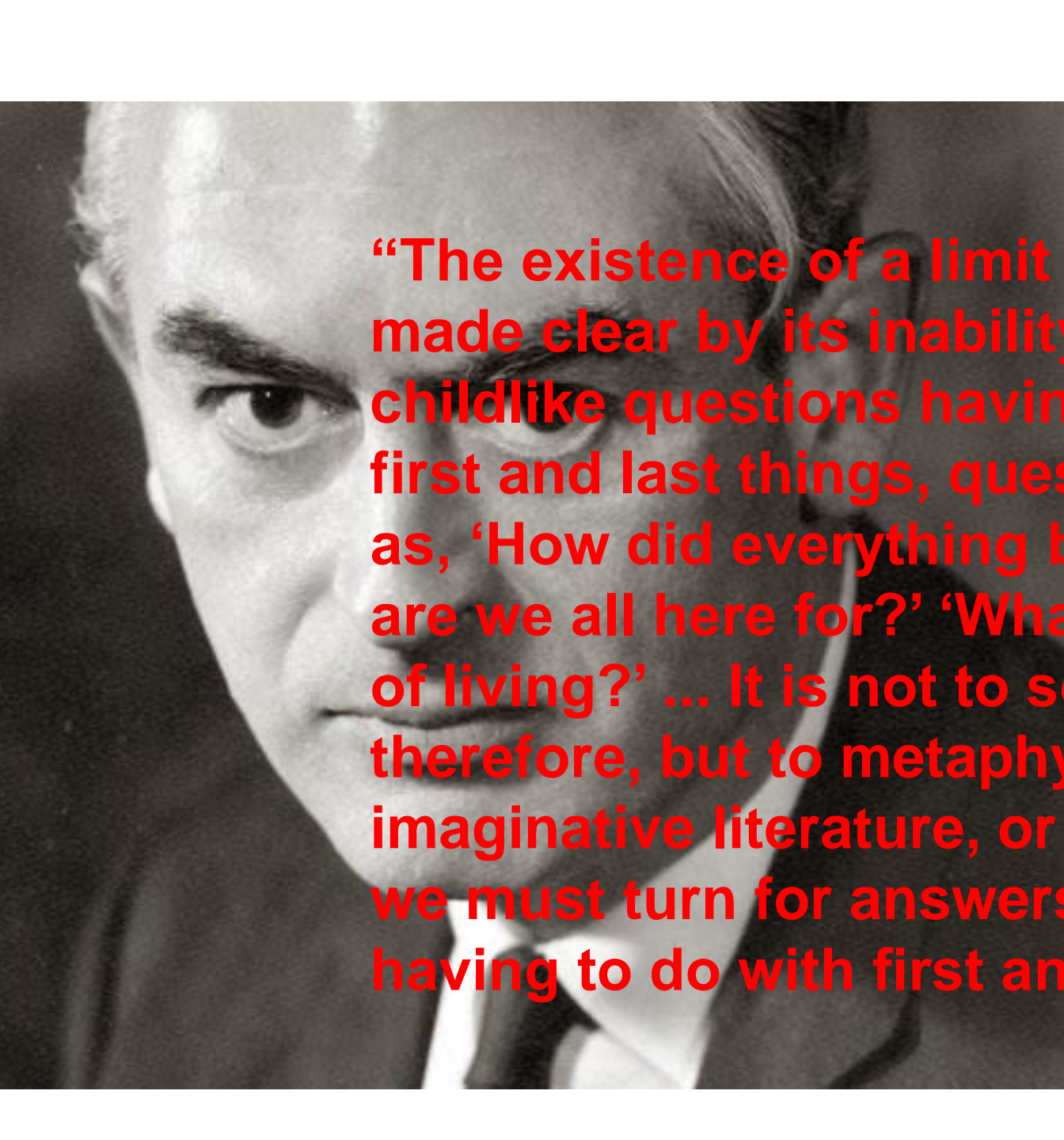


- “The evidence at trial demonstrates that ID is nothing less than the progeny of creationism,” Judge Jones wrote.
- As a result, “it is unconstitutional to teach ID *as an alternative to evolution* in a public school science classroom.”



**“What is the meaning of life?”**

**“... if *science* has nothing to say, it's certain that no other discipline can say anything at all.”**



**“The existence of a limit to science is made clear by its inability to answer childlike questions having to do with first and last things, questions such as, ‘How did everything begin?’ ‘What are we all here for?’ ‘What is the point of living?’ ... It is not to science, therefore, but to metaphysics, imaginative literature, or religion that we must turn for answers to questions having to do with first and last things.”**