

# SATAN and SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

**"What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people'...Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God" (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).**

Paul's words have trenchant significance. As in Paul's era, two mutually exclusive realms exist today. Scripture forcefully testifies: there exist in human society at all times and eras two distinct and separate worlds. The two opposite and contradictory realms or worlds are that of God and His Christ, and that of Satan and his minions.<sup>2</sup> And those under Satan's dominion, one way or another, seek to annihilate those in God's kingdom. The followers of Christ are commanded to live solely in His domain and not try to mix the two, nor to straddle both, nor try to bring Satan's world into theirs. So Paul insists those in the New Covenant, the Church, separate from the pernicious influence of those who oppose them.

## The Concern

Believing that science is correct in its explanation of origins, evangelicals recently have produced a flood of works encouraging Christians to adopt Big Bang and billions of years. Tremper Longman, for example, in his 2016 Zondervan commentary on Genesis (*Genesis, The Story of God, pages 7-8*), says, "Based on our present knowledge derived from science, the origins of the cosmos are to be located in the Big Bang that happened approximately fourteen billion years ago. The creation of [*H*]omo sapiens sapiens occurred about two hundred thousand years ago." In books and journal articles, Denis Lamoureux, who teaches science and religion at the University of Alberta and who claims to be an evangelical, states that God used the process of evolution to create people. The John Templeton Foundation gifts large sums of money to promote the adoption of evolution and billions of years in the Church. Renowned evangelical theologians and scholars at BioLogos and at Reasons to Believe advocate the adoption in churches, Bible schools and seminaries of naturalistic evolution and/or billions of years of earth history. These people reject the Genesis narrative of a recent, 6-day creation followed by a world-wide flood.

Electrical engineer and business consultant, Perry Marshall, writes, "...I do not see how this view [that naturalistic, macro-evolutionary processes explain the origin of all life] is dishonoring to God. If anything it shows God to be capable of more than most people ever gave Him credit for." He writes further that it is "...necessary to make a biblical worldview

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<sup>1</sup> Elitist scientists define science as "whatever atheistic scientists do when they are at work." They thus define creationist science and Christian scientists out of existence. The anti-theistic animosity is palpable. We define science as the use of methodology to understand God's creation in order to praise Him and to bring blessing to His creatures. It may be that God gave humans science as a gift to use to alleviate suffering and to bring blessing to many. And as we use science to increase our understanding of nature and to better our lives, we glorify God, the author of our reasoning abilities. Science, engineering and medicine have made possible unprecedented survival and flourishing for billions of people on earth today. So readers should not misunderstand the argument of this paper. We take no issue with what scientists observe in the natural world, but with their interpretations of evidence and their speculative scenarios that impugn or contradict biblical revelation. Apart from Scripture, those doing science have no basis for making statements about the unknowable past, about how things came into existence, or about the existence of God or that which is supernatural. The use of science as a weapon against God is what provokes this paper.

<sup>2</sup> Satan is not a personification or a symbol of evil; rather, he is a supernatural being who was created and has (or had) a heavenly existence. He is called the "god of this world" (2 Corinth 4:4), "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31), and the "evil one" (John 17:15, 1 John 5:18-19). He seeks to prevent people from believing in Christ (Luke 8:12). As head of an anti-theistic world system (Colossians 1:13, 1 John 2:15-17), he deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9 and 20:3, also John 16:11). His animosity toward Christ is evident in Matthew 4:1-11 and elsewhere. He deceives the nations into rebelling against God, chiefly by devising counterfeit religions. He seeks "to devour" Christians (1 Peter 5:8), evidently by tempting believers to do evil (1 Thessalonians 3:5, Acts 5:1-11, and 1 Corinthians 7:5). Some well-intentioned writers claim that it isn't necessary to postulate the existence of a Satan; human depravity is more than sufficient to explain the evil in the world. But Scripture repeatedly mentions this person, and there has to be an explanation for the entrance of evil into the cosmos and into the human race. So we take his existence literally and seriously.

compatible with observable science,” and “...there is no conflict between the Bible and an evolutionary view.”<sup>3</sup>

The result of this profuse effort is that in most churches both leaders and lay people are confused if not already converted to a naturalistic explanation of origins.<sup>4</sup> Young people going off to college find themselves defenseless before the onslaught of atheistic teachings and views they there encounter. One can only wonder what Christian theology will look like in coming decades.

In the churches of America today there is a crisis of authority. If we can't trust Scripture's narratives because science alleges otherwise, why should anything else revealed therein be trusted? We also ask, what presuppositions underlie our thinking? Are we worshipping Science; has Science become a modern day idol? A tidal wave of anti-theism, propelled by evolutionism and billions of years, is about to inundate the Church. Older believers may cluck at it, but young people will flee.

## Billions of Years

Aggressively promoted today is the notion that the cosmos is very old, billions of years old. This dogma is essential to the scientific explanation of origins. Billions of years are needed to allow time for extremely slow evolutionary processes.<sup>5</sup> But that's not the main reason for the billions of years. The real reason is it impugns the testimony of Scripture. It makes the Bible, which describes a recent, 6-day creation and a subsequent world-wide flood as a judgment on sin, laughable.<sup>6</sup> It makes a mockery of Scripture and of belief in God. If biblical creation is a fable, why not also walking on dry land thru a great body of water with a wall of water to the right and a wall of water to the left? Why isn't a virgin birth also a fable? And a resurrection? Billions of years is something unbelievers, those who dwell in Satan's kingdom want, no; it's something they *need*. They need billions of years desperately because it's their excuse for refusing to believe in God and for rejecting the testimony of God in the Bible. Believers however should want nothing to do with this counterfeit explanation of origins. Believers should be glued to the biblical revelation, for they live in a different sphere, in which its citizens love God and His Word, and prize loyalty to God. Satan, it would appear, is using billions of years either to entice Christians back into his rebellious world, or to provoke God into punishing Christians for unfaithfulness.

Billions of years therefore is not innocuous. It's not something believers can paste into their Bibles. Billions of years necessarily means God (if He's really there) had no purpose in creating. Why, after all, if God wanted to have mankind dwell in His presence, would He have dithered for billions of years until humans even came onto the scene? Why would it have taken God (again, if He even exists) billions of years to bring His “very good” creation into existence? Couldn't He have done it a bit faster if it was so important to Him? Billions of years makes a purposeful creation risible. The cosmos,

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<sup>3</sup> Letter to the Editor, *CRSQ*, 53(2):164, Fall 2016. Marshall is the author of “Evolution 2.0: Breaking the Deadlock Between Darwin and Design,” BenBella Books, 2015.

<sup>4</sup> The spread of billions of years in Western society parallels the spread of progressive political ideology. That's largely because our world system exalts intellectualism and stipulates that an intellectual must be politically to the left and hold to billions of years. Everyone thus becomes a *poseur*. Wannabe intellectuals fall for the old identification trick, the same strategy Satan used in more subtle form in the Garden: If you want to identify as a god, you have to believe the appropriate lies. Universities and colleges suck young people into this conceit. The media abet the process. What's astonishing is that theologians and church leaders want to be included! Something in Christianity has failed.

<sup>5</sup> Even billions of years would be insufficient for what evolution requires. “Natural selection” is inadequate to account for the origin of all living forms. It does not and cannot do all that it has to accomplish. Neither do all the other adaptations that are wrongly referred to as mechanisms for macro-evolutionary change, such as endosymbiosis, epigenetics, transposons, mutations, and horizontal gene transfer. That these mechanisms account for the massive diversity of life on earth, the magnificent correspondence everywhere of form and function, and the universal evidence of design is wishful thinking. It's a fantasy.

<sup>6</sup> Why a world-wide Flood? Because the text reads like a historical narrative; a boat would have otherwise been unnecessary; geology confirms it; and Jesus and Peter in the New Testament refer to it as a historical event. In his 2<sup>nd</sup> Epistle, Peter refers to the Flood as the historical basis for a future, greater judgment. And why a literal, 6-day creation? Because the text uses preterite verbs; ordinals are used with the word “day;” and especially because of the precisely detailed genealogical timeline in Genesis chapters 5 and 11. Genesis One cannot be metaphorical or poetic because the referent would be otherwise unknown. The Israelites taught their children not poetry or metaphor as the explanation of the origin of everything, but what was revealed to them by their God and was accepted as literally true.

indeed life itself, must be senseless, meaningless. If billions of years is true, evolution and the non-existence of any transcendent Being is vastly more plausible than what the Bible teaches.

Furthermore, billions of years calls God a liar. Or, it means that the Scriptures are not really sourced in Him but rather are simply the work of man. So although it may contain wisdom and certain truths, the Bible isn't and cannot be something on which to base one's life and destiny. It means the Bible isn't authoritative; science is more authoritative. How can the Scriptures command obedience when what it says is so really isn't so? How can God hold us accountable when what is supposedly His Word is wrong.

But no one *has* to believe in billions of years! It is not something we experience. We do have to believe in gravity, for example, and in the laws of thermodynamics, because we experience them daily. Gravity, friction, magnetism, and other physical features make up the reality we all know. Billions of years however is not in this category. At best, it's an inference scientists make from certain physical data.<sup>7</sup> More likely, it's a lie that came from Satan. It's his attack on God and on God's Word.

## The Testimony of Scripture

The entire Bible conveys the crucial message that two spheres or realms exist, and they are mutually contradictory. In Genesis 4, the Cain and Abel story introduces the theme that there are two distinct offspring of Adam, one godly and another who is not, and the ungodly one seeks to destroy the first.<sup>8</sup> The rest of the introductory chapters in Genesis starkly tell the history of these two lines, a godly line, and the other line that stemmed from Cain. These chapters end sadly at the Tower of Babel with all those early people in rebellion against God. God then chose one person, Abram, and from him and his offspring He created a new people who would be godly. The rest of the Old Testament follows these people, the Israelites, while the Gentile nations remain in rebellion and under the dominion of Satan.<sup>9</sup> So, from Genesis 12 forward, there are two entirely distinct spheres, one at the forefront of the text, namely, Abraham's line and the Nation of Israel, and in the background – but never forgotten – is the world of the Gentile nations.

As the Old Testament unfolds, this theme of two opposing domains repeatedly surfaces. The sordid episode of the Golden Calf tells how the Tribes of Israel, having been miraculously delivered from the dominion of the Gentile nation of Egypt,

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<sup>7</sup> Since Charles Lyell introduced the notion of deep time, geologists interpret earth's history based on the doctrine that the present is the key to the past. That's a presupposition – and it cannot be anything more than that. After all, there's no way to know that the geologic processes observed today are what occurred in the past and have given rise to what we see in the rocks. The presupposition is nonsense. Geologic study indicates that catastrophic events of immense proportion indeed happened at some time in the past. Creationist geologists, unfettered by such unprovable presuppositions, have substantiated the historicity of the Bible's Flood narrative. So the speculative reconstructions that modern-day geologists are committed to constitute a false narrative. Moreover, the fossils in the rocks are not evidence of a sequence of eras, as evolutionists allege. The stratified rocks and the fossils they contain are a vast graveyard from the Genesis Flood. The stratifications are demonstrably an artifact of lithification. And small genomic changes do not lead inexorably to great phylogenetic changes, as evolutionists claim. That's just more speculation. The potential for genetic change that allows variation and adaptation to changing environments, built into the created kinds, has sadly been misread by evolutionists blinded by anti-theistic religious beliefs.

Non-scientists probably assume that radiochemical assays of rocks prove that deep time is true. They may suppose that a rock is put into an instrument and the rock's age is displayed. That is not the case. The analytical data has to be interpreted, and it's in the *interpretation* that great age appears. The interpretation is based on assumptions that cannot be proved and on the religious presupposition of deep time. Geochronologists assume, for example, that at the time a rock formed no daughter nuclide was in the rock, only the parent. Why that assumption? Because the religious belief is, there is no God, so there was no creation. Therefore it is assumed that natural processes (only) were operating for billions of years. So the daughter nuclides had to have gotten in the rocks by radioactive decay. Billions of years is a very clever, Satan-inspired deception and, tragically, a very successful one. Of course, if the daughter nuclides were in the rock when the rock formed, that wipes out deep time.

<sup>8</sup> Robert Bowie Johnson, Jr, finds parallels between the early chapters of Genesis and Greek mythology, suggesting the ancient Greeks crafted a religion based on the historical biblical narratives. But one critical difference indicates Satan's influence: the Greek religion exalted Cain's line and glorified the attempt to eliminate Seth's godly line. See Johnson's *The Parthenon Code*, Solving Light Books, Annapolis MD, 2004, or his article, Athena and Eve, in *TJ*, 17(3):85-92, 2003.

<sup>9</sup> Let's observe that the Bible records past events, but it doesn't explain them. God wants us to learn from and base our lives on the *meaning* of those events. Anti-theistic scientists care nothing for the meaning of the events that are recorded in the Bible. The dogmas of their contradictory religion forbid them from doing that.

returns to a Satanic form of worship. And God angrily punished them. Nadab and Abihu tried to bring something of Satan's world into the holy Tabernacle, and God again erupted in anger. At Kadesh-barnea, the Tribes of Israel committed to going back to Egypt. And God again in anger punished them. Except for a few bright moments, all thru the period of the monarchy the Nation of Israel toyed with Satan's world while supposedly worshiping their great Creator God, Jehovah. Until God had enough of their unfaithfulness and threw them off the Land.

In the New Testament, the theme continues. Jesus declared that there are two paths (and *only* two) that one can take in life, meaning we must decide to follow either Jesus or we are a follower of Satan. The choice between these two alternatives surfaces repeatedly. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) repeated the mistake of Nadab and Abihu, trying to bring something of Satan's world into the Church, and God judged them. In Romans, Paul clearly places all humanity into one of two categories, of the line of Adam (unsaved) or of Christ (the New Humanity). In Romans One, Paul explicitly states that humans worship either the God of the Bible or that which was created. Again, in Ephesians (and elsewhere), Paul sees only two possibilities for people: they follow either Satan or they follow Christ. John states (1 John 5) that the whole world "lieth in the evil one," referring to those not in Christ.<sup>10</sup> And at the end of the Bible, we find only two possible destinies for all people, they either dwell with God, or they are cast into hell. There is no neutral or middle category.

From beginning to end, the Bible very clearly reveals two options. One may choose to worship and serve the Creator God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, or by default remain in the world of Satan. And, Satan seeks to destroy those who are godly. And attempts to blend or harmonize the two worlds incites God's anger.

Evolutionary science means for millions of years there was on-going creation by naturalistic processes.<sup>11</sup> Scripture, however, clearly states that God separately made all the different kinds of life at the beginning and that, after 6 days of creating, the world was "very good." It was a completed creation. It was not death, nor predation, nor struggle for survival over vast eons that gave rise to the various life forms. God spoke them into existence. Creation was effected by a good, all-knowing Creator, a Master-builder, in a week – in the time it would take to build a house, a house for His creatures to dwell in. Science says that the universe came into existence billions of years ago. Scripture however clearly indicates by means of a genealogic time-line, a chronology, that creation occurred about 6,000 years ago. As soon as the house was built, God filled it with the living creatures He loves so they can dwell with Him and be blessed by His presence. On offer today are two mutually contradictory explanations of origins. They cannot be harmonized, patched together, or both be true. We are obliged to choose between them.

## **Satan**

The opening chapters of the Book of Job reveal Satan is opposed to God. Satan is willing and eager to use God's creatures, in whom God delights, as a way of hurting God. Satan introduced evil purposely so that mankind will then use that evil as a reason to rebel against God. (Thus atheists exploit theodicy as central to their denial of deity.) An epic, cosmic conflict seems to be going on in heaven involving God and Satan, and humans are key players who are instrumental in determining the outcome. Will we side with Satan? Or with God?

At the beginning of history, Satan entered the Garden and put into use for the first time what is his perennial strategy: "Yea, hath God said...?" With deceit and malice, Satan induces us to doubt God's Word. This is, of course, a trap, and God holds us accountable for walking into it. Satan cannot judge God's creatures, only God can. So Satan seeks to get us to violate God's Word so that God must, in perfect justice, punish us.

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<sup>10</sup> In the New Testament, "world" is a term used for the entire system by which people live apart from God and opposed to God. Although it is hostile to God, He allows it in His sovereign will and purpose. The world is ruled by Satan. When Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of this world, Christ did not confront him as lying (Matthew 4:8-9); the offer evidently was genuine, the kingdoms were indeed Satan's. The world promotes autonomy, idolatry, unrighteousness, pride, selfishness, covetousness, and other sins. Believers are commanded to have nothing to do with the world (James 1:27 and 4:4; 1 John 2:16; 1 Corinth 5:10; and 1 Timothy 6:17).

<sup>11</sup> Life on Earth is tightly organized so that extensive and complex relationships exist between organisms and between living things and their environment. Scientists are unravelling the many complicated interactions that occur at all levels of life. This extreme interaction cannot possibly have come about by slow, random events or mindless processes. Rational thought denies that possibility; logic forces us to discard the notion as preposterous. All life had to come into existence in a very brief period of time for the biosphere to function. It's not even plausible that our complexly functioning world could come into existence gradually, piece-by-piece, by totally random processes over vast periods of time. Evolutionists deny the undeniable when they insist that there's neither design nor purpose in our world. The dogmas of their anti-theistic religion forbid them from acknowledging the only rational explanation of origins, viz., fiat creation by an all-wise transcendent God.

God's Word reveals spiritual truths to us.<sup>12</sup> Through it, God reveals or communicates Himself to us. God so identifies with His Word that He expects us to tremble at it. Therefore reading it is an encounter with the living God. Satan knows this. Thus he uses the question, "Did God really say...?" as his prime weapon to alienate us from our loving Creator. Satan's billions of years and evolutionary processes purposely force us to reject God's Word, which is tantamount to rejecting God. And that invites God's retribution.

In the early centuries after Christ, Satan threw up formidable barriers to the spread of Christianity. While Christianity increasingly was being accepted as the religion of those in the Roman Empire, Buddhism was gripping the hearts and minds of people in south China. And Hinduism did the same in north India. Those Satanic counterfeits quickly became national religions. And to this day they prevent all but a small number from believing the Gospel. It should be no surprise that Satan is attempting to oppose the Protestant Reformation with yet another counterfeit religion.<sup>13</sup>

The Enlightenment was, in essence, the gradual formulation of a new religion, a pantheistic religion that is focused on creation rather than the God of the Bible.<sup>14</sup> It's a religion characterized by naturalism, humanism, rationalism, and secularism. It's a religion that, like Islam and communism, seeks to exterminate Christianity from the planet. It's a religion that uses science as a weapon against Christians, which is why its "sacred myths" include evolution and billions of years. It's a religion necessarily based on lies, of which a central one is that science has the ability to discover truth.<sup>15</sup>

One can easily surmise Satan's two-fold objectives: (1) he maintains his world, the world of non-Christians, in an iron-like grip by means of lies. He keeps his world deceived so people won't trust Christ and be delivered from his dominion into a world of truth and love and blessing. He keeps his world deceived so they will have to be judged with him, thereby denying God one of the purposes He had in bringing creation into existence. And (2) he intimidates Christians, gets them to compromise with his values so that their Lord will have to judge them, something Satan lacks the authority to do.

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<sup>12</sup> Crispin Sartwell, professor of philosophy at Dickinson College, defines truth in several ways: "Truth has been held, among other things, to be the correspondence of what we say to reality; to be a matter of the way a set of beliefs hang together; to be what we all agree about or would agree about in the long run; or to be, as William James said, 'what works best in leading us' to solutions to our practical problems." (*Wall Street Journal*, Saturday/Sunday, May 6-7, 2017, p. A13). Using a slippery definition of truth, the elites of science insist that billions of years and evolution are a truth everyone should accept. But with regard to origins, truth in an absolutely true sense must come from the God of the Bible. Satan is, in contrast, the "father of lies" (John 8:48). The fantasy of evolution and billions of years is not truth by any definition. It's primarily to crush or smash Christians and to support an alternative belief-system (or religion). Of course it provides a framework for scientific work, but that work derives from – and its intent is to validate – the particular scientist's unprovable anti-theistic religious beliefs. Scientists are mortals after all, tempted by many things, such as money, applause, status, and fear of ostracism. So it's to be expected that their religion will influence their work and they'll want to convert others to their beliefs.

<sup>13</sup> We define "religion" as a commitment to a set of beliefs that deal with ultimate matters. Religion deals with, for example, where the cosmos came from, as well as ideas regarding deity. Religion controls our thinking, our values, what we love and hate, and what we do in life.

<sup>14</sup> Satan's influence on society is mediated through certain individuals. Satan inspired Baruch Spinoza, for example, whose thought was subsequently processed by other philosophers in Europe to constitute what is known as the Enlightenment. He inspired a host of others, including Marx and Darwin. See the article on this website, "Spinoza's Ghost in the Evangelical Closet," for discussion of Satan's role in molding Western thought.

<sup>15</sup> Other lies at the core of science's tale of origins include the following: (1) Evolutionary scenarios, including the origin of the universe, are advanced as the explanation of how things actually occurred, yet they are simply fabrications, made up out of human creativeness and imagination. The stories may seem plausible, but they are nothing more than speculations. (2) Evidence is presented as if it were dispositive. But it isn't. Evidence is meaningless until it is interpreted, and the interpretations always rest on certain unprovable presuppositions. This means that science can never discover truth. Science is a methodology, not a pursuit of truth. (3) Trivial lab observations are routinely extrapolated to a macro- scale. That is totally unwarranted; it's science fiction. Yet scientists and science popularizers, in love with anything "scientific," believe and promote these species-specific processes as if they were the cosmic mechanisms by which life came about. (4) Scientists are supposedly objective, dispassionate observers of the physical world. They are not. They are fallible, and they are religious (*all* people are religious!). When it comes to origins, the stakes are self-evidently huge because the critical underlying issue is whether divine judgment comes after death.

And it seems that God allows Satan to carry out this massive deception! One can only conjecture as to His reasons. Perhaps it's a judgment on the West for ignoring His Word and the Gospel of Christ while indulging in all the blessings He has graciously bestowed.<sup>16</sup>

## Faith

Because faith is so important to God, we need to think about what it is. The word means more than just to have confidence in, or to rely on something God said. It's our total response to God's Word. We respond to what we read by saying, "Yes! That's true, and *I'll live my life on the basis of that.*" We live by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7). Faith produces action; we have to respond to our encounter with God (James 2:14-20). Faith thus would include obedience, service, loyalty, and love. So faith is a very big word, and Scripture gives examples of it.

Daniel's three friends vividly demonstrated faith in Daniel 3:17-18: "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O King. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O King, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." And then, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego... They trusted in him and defied the King's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God" (v. 28). Paul exhibited such faith (see 2 Corinthians 11) and exhorted us to imitate him! Faith is radical and total commitment to God and His Word.

Faith also is tested (1 Thessalonians 3:2-10). The Bible is replete with examples of such tests. We thus should assume that God tests our faith even today. Of course, the purpose of the tests is not to see if we fail, but to prove that our faith is genuine. And we should endeavor always to pass those tests to God's glory. It may be that our faith is being tested by what we do with evolution and its billions of years.

It's difficult (and perhaps foolish) to philosophize about faith, but faith seems to be closely related to presuppositions. Augustine wisely said, "We must believe something before we can know anything." All rational people, *everyone*, has certain latent presuppositions in their minds about where we came from, how we got here, and where we're going. These presuppositions are *prior, non-rational* commitments; we then use reason to legitimate them.

Everyone has presuppositions. We have presuppositions, for example, about God: He exists or He does not exist. The presupposition that God exists leads (or *should* lead) to a worldview holding that He created, that He revealed Himself to us, that there are absolutes, that He redeems, He judges, He blesses, etc. The presupposition that God does not exist leads to a worldview that accepts science as having authority and that exalts nature. (So science is not a neutral, detached objective activity; it's a tool of pre-existing presuppositions.) We live out our lives on the basis of these underlying presuppositions.<sup>17</sup> And we can change our presuppositions. (That's repentance.)

Faith thus involves presuppositions. We can, for example, presuppose that God's Word is true in an absolute sense. And we then logically would commit to obeying it, to serving Him, and to being loyal to Him regardless what the consequences may be. That's biblical faith. Or, we can presuppose that God's Word is not literally true, or we don't agree with what it says, or that some other source is more authoritative. And we then would either interpret it differently or ignore it. Readers can decide whether such is biblical faith. Our plea here is that Christians would willfully (and lovingly) embrace the presupposition that God's Word is absolutely true; that God thru His Word speaks plainly to us and obliges us with all humility to act accordingly.

## Conclusion

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<sup>16</sup> Although causes and reasons may be identified for why the West enjoys prosperity, health, peace, and freedom, these should be regarded as blessings from God. The Western world has advantages people of another era could not even have imagined, thanks to God's goodness. Yet most in the Western world respond with contempt for His Word and neglect of His Son.

<sup>17</sup> The creation-evolution debate is not objective science *versus* irrational faith. Rather, it can be understood as two different sets of pre-existing commitments, two different sets of presuppositions vying for acceptance. Reason can be used to validate either set, because reason can be used to validate *any* presupposition, *even evil ones*. There exists no compelling or persuasive reason why the science worldview should be preferred to that of creation. Presuppositions of various sorts affect all science, but religious presuppositions are of greatest importance in the matter of origins. That's because the key issue is whether God created (biblical theism) or nature itself creates (pantheism).

Satan seems to be usurping or exploiting science for his own ends, his malignant agenda. Christians are not free to paste Satan's counterfeit imaginary narrative regarding origins into their Bible or into their worldview with impunity. Doing so is idolatrous. It's an abomination comparable to the Judeans placing idols in the Temple. Scripture condemns as spiritual adultery attempts by believers to live in the world of Satan.

Evangelicals should realize that a project is going on in science that is more consequential than mere scientific discovery. Science popularizers such as Bill Nye and Neil deGrasse Tyson are too aggressive in pushing their view of origins. Those in science who advance evolution and billions of years likewise are too strident. Richard Feynman said, "a scientist's highest obligation is to prove himself wrong." But when it comes to origins, scientists are so committed to this dogma they assiduously refuse to consider any contrary evidence; in fact they devise all manner of *ad hoc* reasons to *not* be wrong. The aggressive promotion of evolution and the commitment to it that its adherents evidence indicate that evolution and billions of years are not just a scientific explanation of evidence, but a deliberate campaign to spread a religion.<sup>18</sup> Evolution and billions of years are an essential component of religious warfare: pantheism versus biblical theism, Satan versus Christ.<sup>19</sup>

Some well-meaning biblicists assert that the creation/evolution issue is "paradigms in conflict."<sup>20</sup> But it's not. The Bible's account of origins is not just a paradigm on offer, as if we can choose either the Bible or science's competing and equally valid paradigm. Nor is it merely a conflict of historical narratives. Science's narrative is a man-made story; it is *not* history! The Bible's narratives are documented true history. Genesis One is not a "paradigm" nor is it merely a historical narrative. It is *revelation*. God is speaking, telling us what He did. To allege otherwise brings anti-theistic presuppositions to the text. The issue is *religious*! Billions of years is a core article of faith for the evolutionists' religion. The creation/evolution issue therefore is a conflict between evolutionists' anti-theistic religion and the Christian religion.

Nothing in the sphere of humanity is neutral. Secular is not neutral, it's anti-theism in disguise. Everything unbelievers do, whether in business, entertainment, education or science, is related in some way to their rebellion against God. Christians therefore are not at liberty to adopt the ideas and beliefs that prevail in the world of Satan. They are here to glorify God and to proclaim truth to unbelievers. So they need to exercise great caution and much discretion regarding the limits that loyalty to God places on them.

Should believers bring alien religious ideas such as karma into the Christian religion? How about reincarnation? Sharia law? Prayer to the spirits of the forest? If not, why import billions of years? After all, billions of years and evolution are only religious beliefs, the beliefs of a religion we identify as pantheism.

Adopting billions of years and evolutionary processes is misplaced loyalty. It's loyalty to Satan instead of to a loving and saving God.

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<sup>18</sup> Why the fanciful reconstructions in almost every natural history museum, and why the aggressive teaching of evolution in schools? Why a hostile stance whenever evolution is challenged in public, or whenever someone suggests purpose or design for anything in nature? Why can't a creationist scientist get funding for his research, or publish in mainstream journals? Why the outrage, the bullying and the intimidation? Because evolution and billions of years is not merely a scientific explanation of certain evidence. It's the necessary component of a religion.

<sup>19</sup> Pantheism is the occult religion that has so permeated the Western world we can say that it's become the foundation of modern society. Secularism serves as a mask, as camouflage that Satan uses to keep pantheism hidden from view. Other articles on this website explain and defend our use of this term, pantheism.

<sup>20</sup> The film, "Is Genesis History?" produced as a DVD by The Truth Project and sold by Focus on the Family, for example, uses "paradigms in conflict" as its unifying theme.