

St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church, Richmond Hill

Servants Meeting

(December 2014 – January 2015)



Apologetics – “Creation”

Today's Culture

- A shift in paradigm, values, world-views and ways of life.
- A post-Christian and pluralistic age.
- Historians and sociologists call it the age of "Postmodernism"
- It is a world characterized by: rejection of moral absolutes and religious pluralism.

Today's Culture

- Children & Youth servants must have realized that ATHEISM, for example, is a major challenge our children & youth face in society.
- There are many reasons for this:
 - Educational system
 - Science teachers
 - Peers

Apologetics

- Greek root words:
APO = "from";
LOGOS = "word, logic, reasoning"
- Two Types of Apologetics
 - Defensive
 - Offensive

- **Theology** - علم الله
- **Anthropology** - علم الانسان
- **Christology** - علم المسيح
- **Soteirology** - علم الخلاص
- **Ecclesiology** - علم الكنيسة
- **Eschatology** - علم الآخريات
- **Angelology** - علم الملائكة
- **Patrology** - علم الأبائيات

Why Study Apologetics?

1- God's Command

2- Reason's Demand

3- The World at Hand

4- Strengthening our faith

Why Study Apologetics?

(But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear) 1 Peter 3:15

بَلِّغُوا الرَّبَّ إِلَهَ فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ،
مُسْتَعِدِّينَ دَائِمًا لِمُجَابَاةِ كُلِّ مَنْ يَسْأَلُكُمْ عَنْ
سَبَبِ الرَّجَاءِ الَّذِي فِيكُمْ بِوَدَاعَةٍ وَخَوْفٍ

Christianity & Science

- My Christianity is in NO such danger from the results of science.
- *Christianity is not about HOW the world works !* Sure, this glorious cosmos bears witness to the wisdom of its creator, *but Christianity is about the relationship between God and the world He created, especially human beings !*

Christianity & Science

- **St. Gregory of Nyssa**
- “As for the question of precisely ‘how’ any single thing came into existence, we must banish it altogether from our discussion, even in the case of things which are quite within the grasp of our understanding.”

Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)



French Mathematician,
Physicist & Philosopher.

***“ If God does not exist, one
will lose nothing by
believing in him, while if he
does exist, one will lose
everything by not believing”***

Isaac Newton (1643 - 1727)



The Father of Physics, the owner of the law of gravity.

“ Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it can’t explain who set the planets in motion.

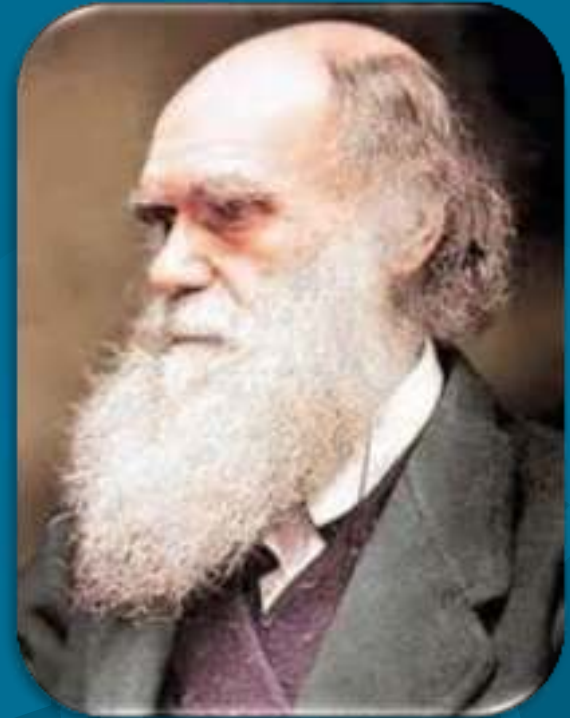
God governs all things and knows all that is or can be done ”

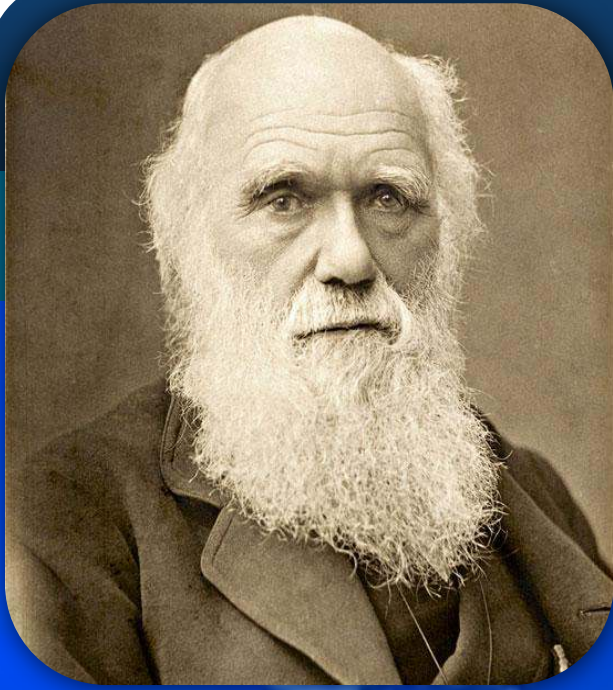
Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882)

Born in England

Spent 5 years (1831-1836)
on a ship, commissioned
to survey the coast of
South America.

He formulates the theory of
evolution (he called it
“Descent of Modifications”)

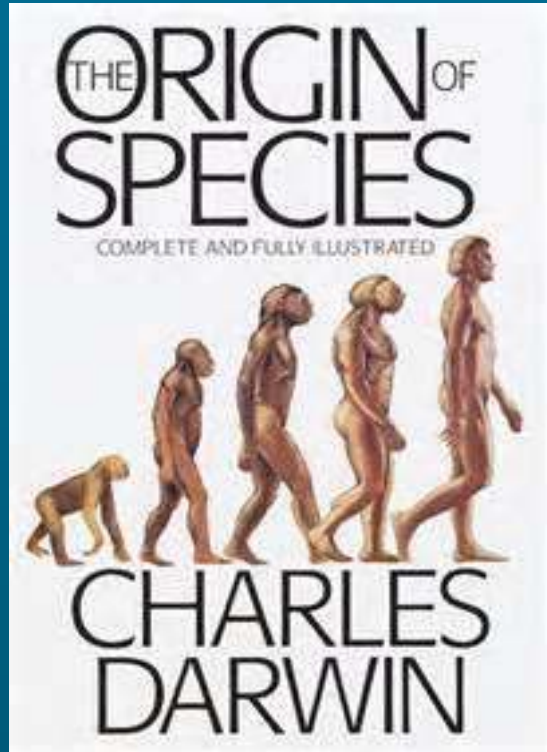




Darwinian Evolution Theory



Darwinian Evolution Theory



- In 1859, Darwin published his theory “***On The Origin of Species***” - According to it, God didn’t create the world, it just came into being by chance and “***Survival of the fittest***”

Darwinian Evolution Theory



- All forms of life, including human beings, descended from **a common ancestor** by gradual modifications.
- The mechanism of this gradual modification is **“Natural Selection”**

Origin of Life

Forms of Origin of Life



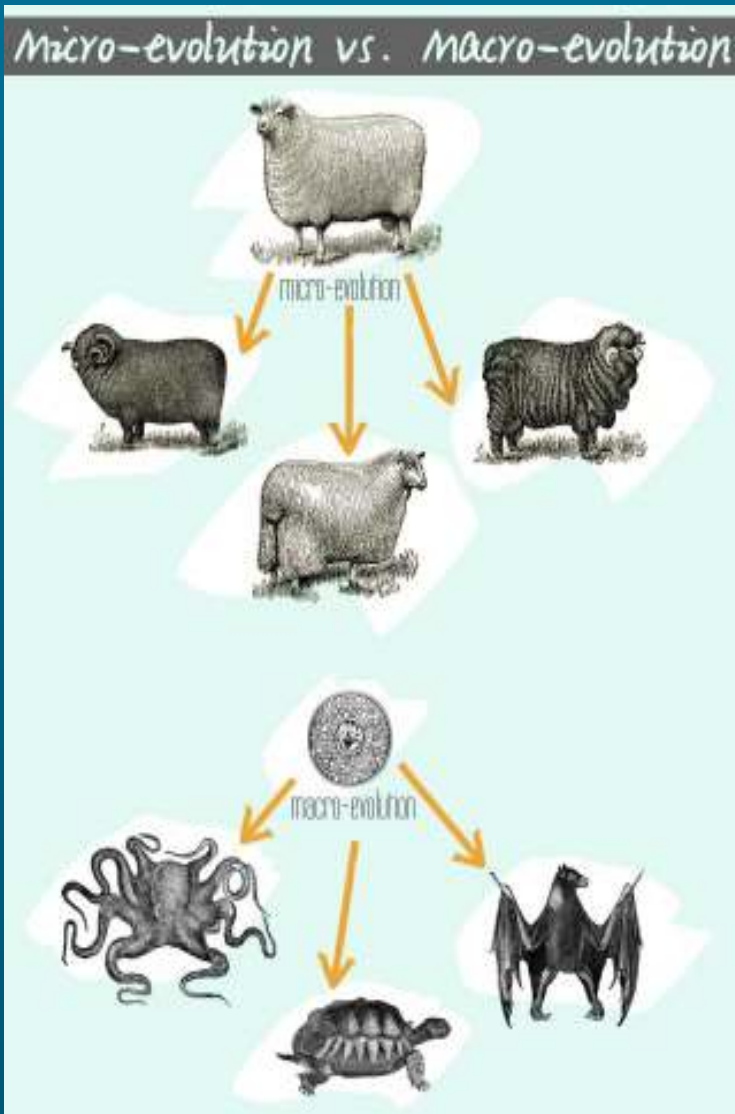
Evolution

**No Intelligent Intervention
Natural Cause**

**Intelligent
Design**

**Intelligent Intervention
Intelligent Cause**

Micro vs. Macro Evolution

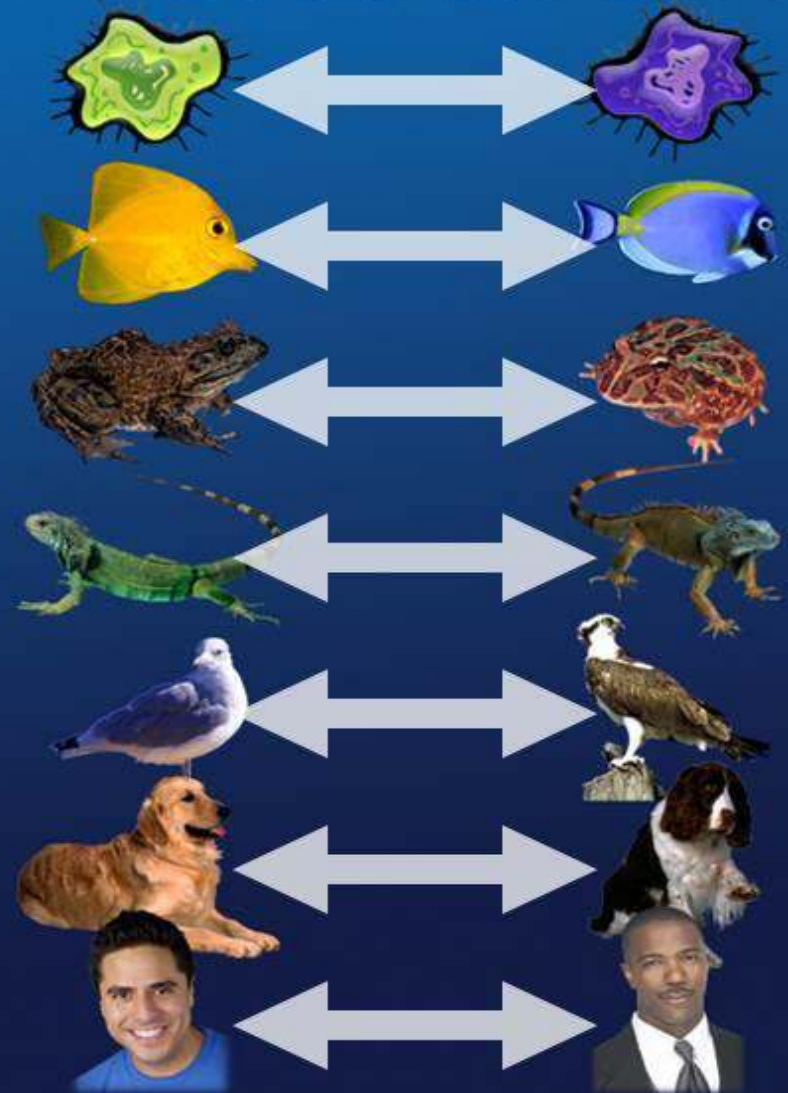


- **MICRO:**
- Minor changes within a living organism allowing it to adapt to its environment.
- **MACRO:**
- Living species are related to one another by common descent. (Descent with modifications)

EVOLUTION



CREATION



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Evolution vs. God - Movie

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ>
 - 1) What do evolutionists claim to know?
 - 2) How do they claim to know it?
 - 3) What's the evidence for it?
 - 4) How does it explain the origin of all things?

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #1:**
- **Evolution does not explain the origin of the universe.**
- Natural Selection may help explain the survival of species but not the arrival of species.
- Two options for origin:
 - 1- No one created the world out of nothing
(Atheist)
 - 2- Someone creates the world out of nothing
(Theists)

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #2:**
- **Non-life can not produce life.**
- **Life from non-life?**
 - Spontaneous generation (chemical evolution) has never been observed or shown to be possible.
 - Law of biogenesis (living things come only from other living things) has never been falsified.
 - Irreducible Complexity: Certain biological systems are too complex to have evolved from simpler, or “less complete” predecessors, through natural selection.

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #3:**
- **No Transitional Fossils Found.**
 - The fossil record must demonstrate a sequence of fully functional intermediate forms.
 - For example (It should show a gradual change from one species of animal to another.)

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #4:**
- **Evolution can not explain intelligence from non-intelligence.**
 - If intelligent breeding meets genetic limits, how can non-intelligence exceed them?

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #5:**
- **Evolution can not explain the purpose and meaning of life.**
- **Evolutionists on meaning of life?**
 - “It is meaningless that we are born; it is meaningless that we die” (Jean Paul Sartre).
 - “Life is a disease and the only difference between one man and another is the stage of the disease at which he lives” (George Bernard Shaw)
 - Humans have always wondered about the meaning of life ... life has no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA ... life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference” (Richard Dawkins)

Challenges to the Theory of Evolution

- **Challenge #6:**
- **Evolution does not explain the source of objective morality.**
- **Objective Morality?**
 - Objective moral laws do exist.
 - Existing of moral laws imply the existence of a Moral Law-Giver.
 - Morality that is defined by nature/man can also be dismissed by nature/man.

Arguments against Evolution

- 1- Something to evolve from Nothing.
- 2- Non-living things coming to life.
- 3- No evidence to observe – Fossil doesn't show intermediate life forms, but show final species.
- 4- Natural Selection is incapable of finding the link to prove how one kind of creature could evolve into a completely different kind.
- 5- Inability to explain how the first living organism evolved.
- 6- Inability to explain the source of objective morality.

Arguments against Evolution

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbiXT_H0484M
- **2 Major Scientific Evidences Against Evolution**
 - 1- Life has never been observed to come from non-life.
 - 2- There is no known observable process by which new genetic information can be added to the genetic code of an organism.

The Steady State Theory

- Since Darwin's Theory couldn't be statistically viable, Scientists came up with this theory to support Darwin's theory, which called **“Steady State Theory”**.
- According to this theory, the universal is eternal ! And, since it's eternal, then statistical probabilities do not apply !

Georges Lemaître (1894 - 1966)



- He was a Belgian Roman Catholic priest, professor of physics and astronomer.
- In 1927: He proposed what became known as the **“Big Bang Theory of the origin of the universe”** although he called it **“Hypothesis of the primeval atom”**

Edwin Hubble (1889 – 1953)



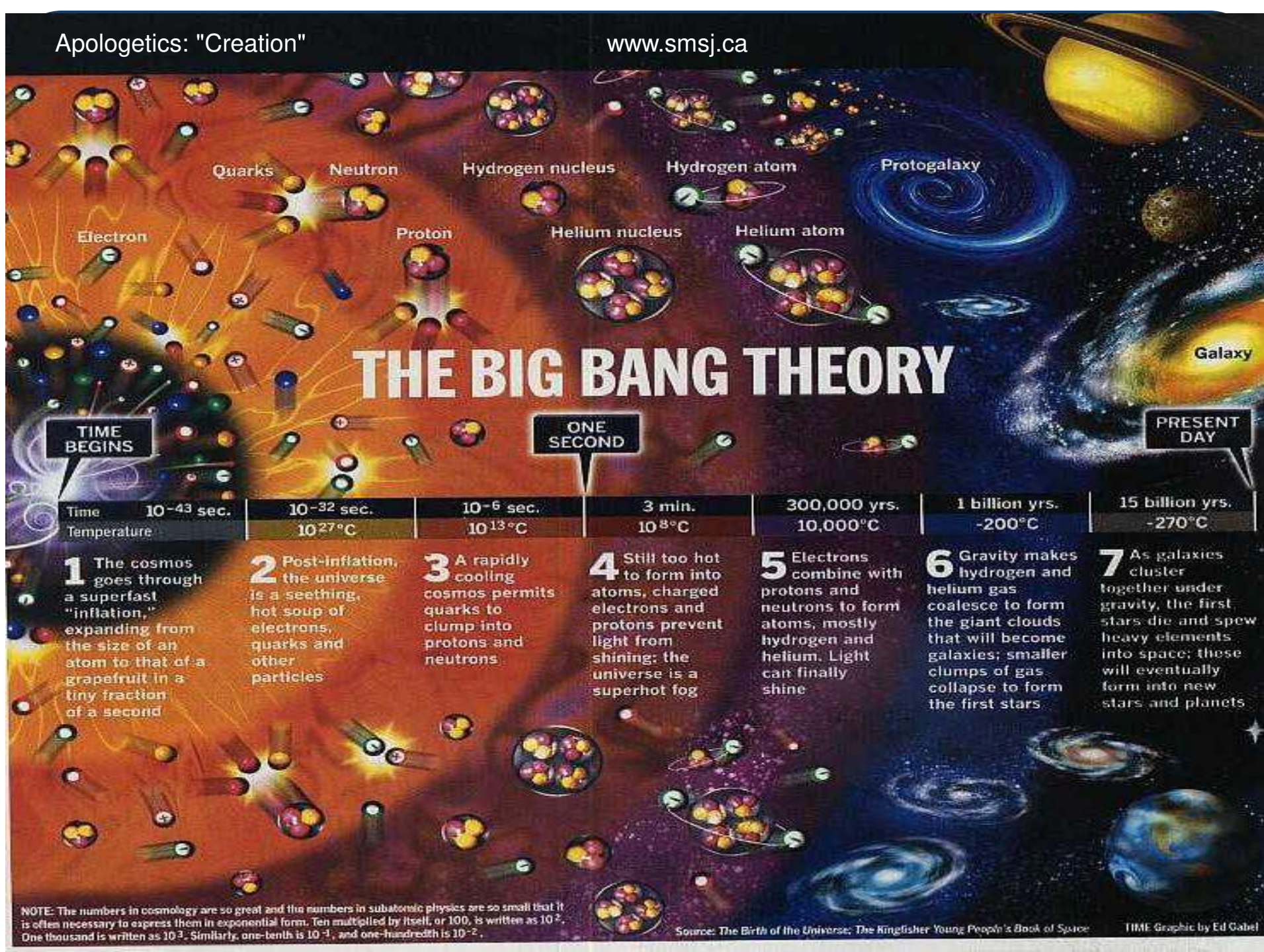
- He was an American Astrologer.
- In 1929: He discovered that our galaxy which is called (***The Milky Way***) was not the only galaxy in the Universe but there were billions of other galaxies.
- A new science was born called (***Cosmology***).

The Big Bang Theory (1950 – 1955)

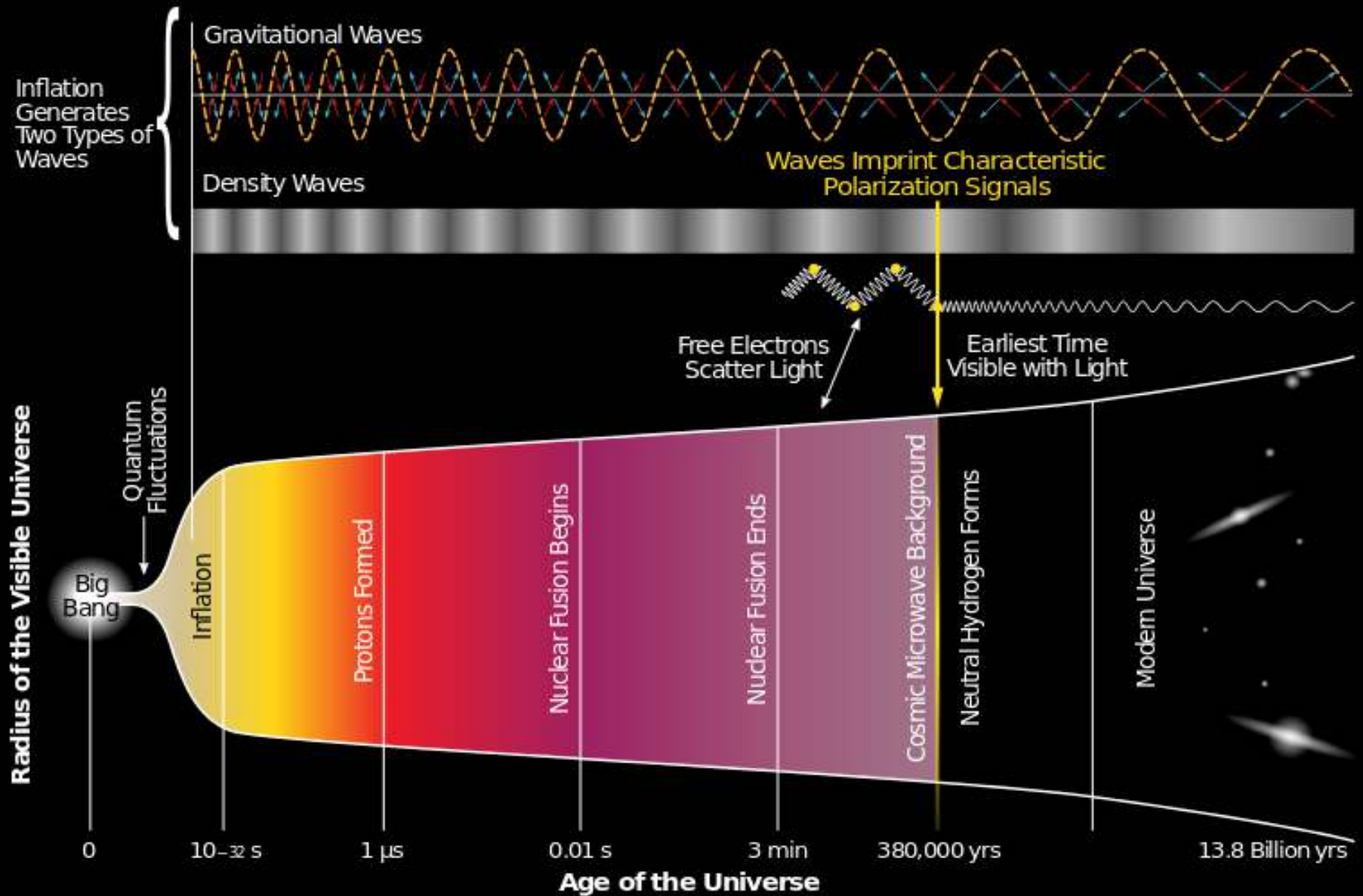
- **Fr. Georges Lemaître - Father of the Big Bang**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhLQb3bKdI>
- **Edwin Hubble – Father of Cosmology – Expanding universe red shifts**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVApTLE7Csc>

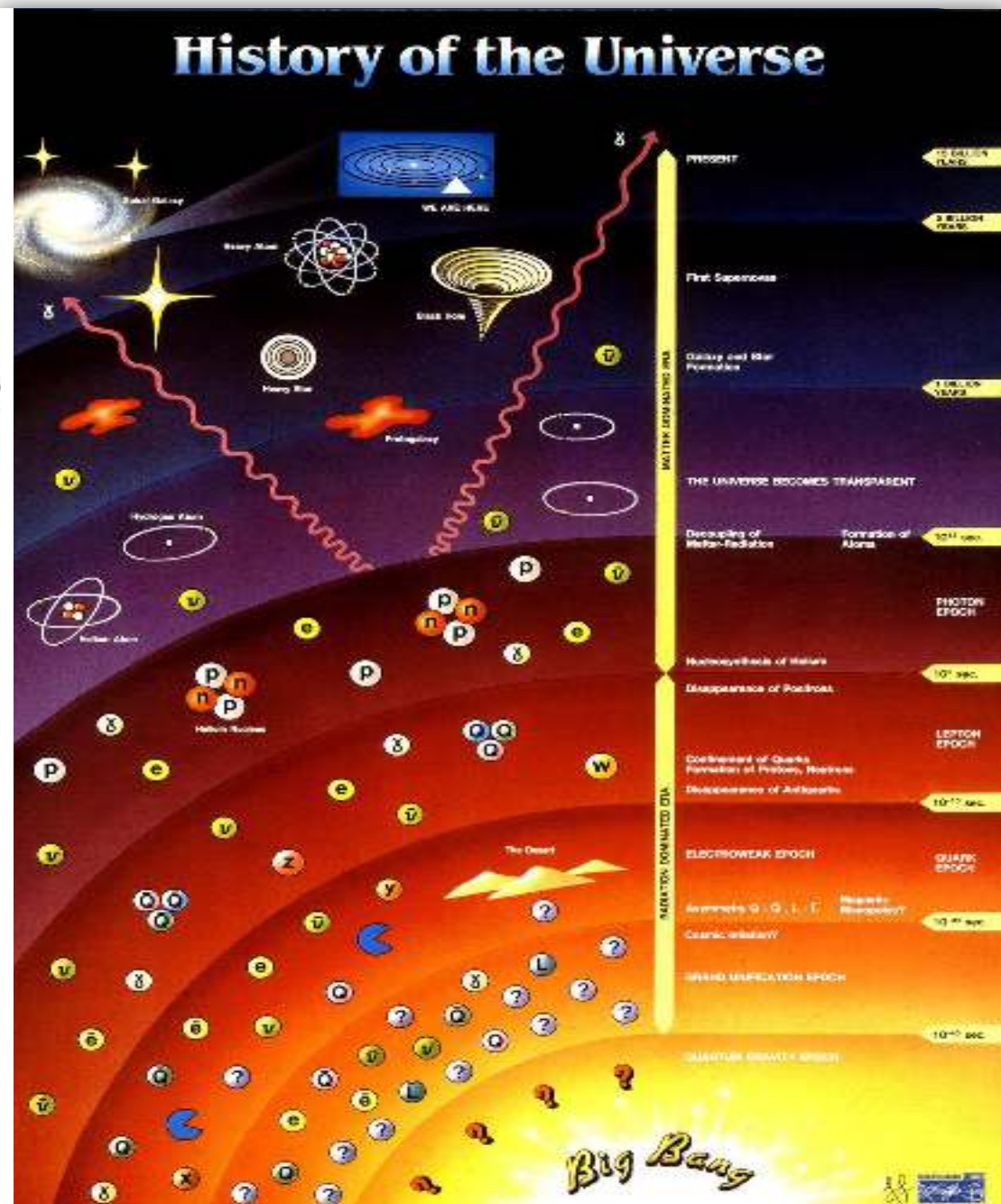
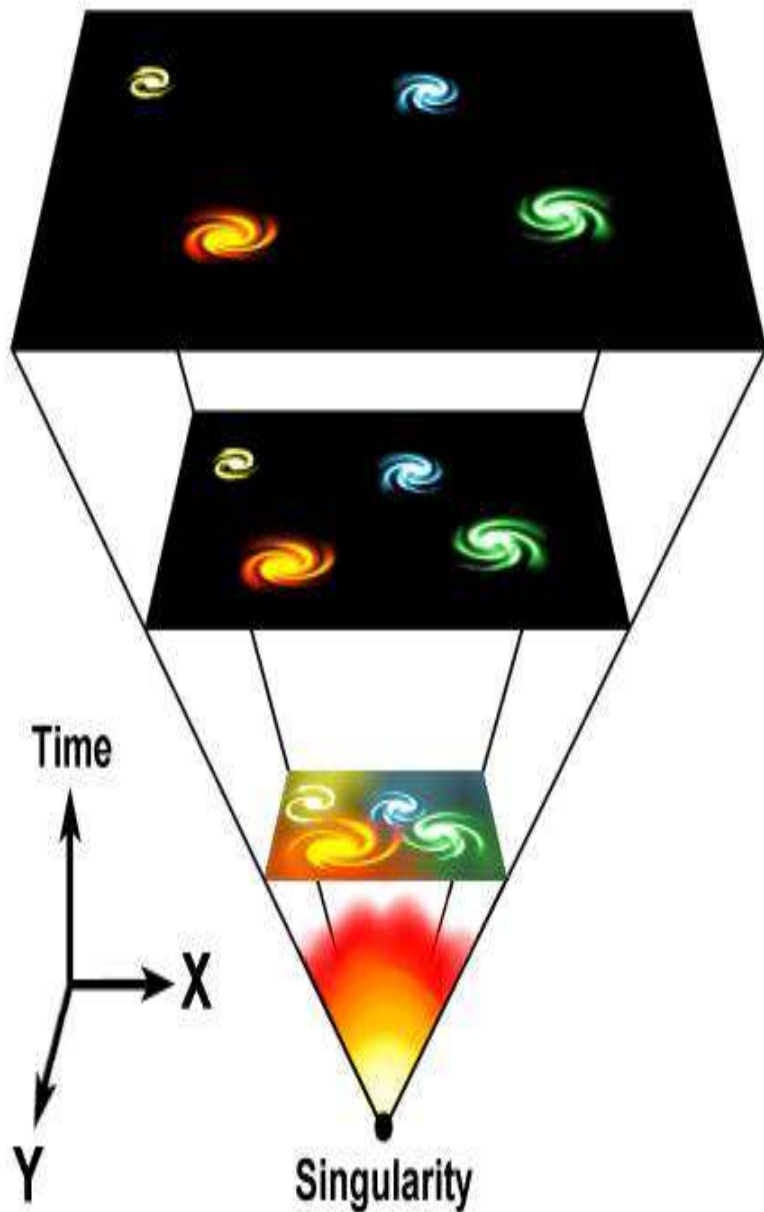
The Big Bang Theory (1950 – 1955)

- The Big Bang Theory is currently the only theory that explains the existence of the universe.
- **According to The Handy Space Answer Book, 1998:**
(15 to 20 billion years ago a big bang, or explosion, occurred, creating the universe. The universe began as an infinitely dense, hot fireball, a scrambling of space and time.)



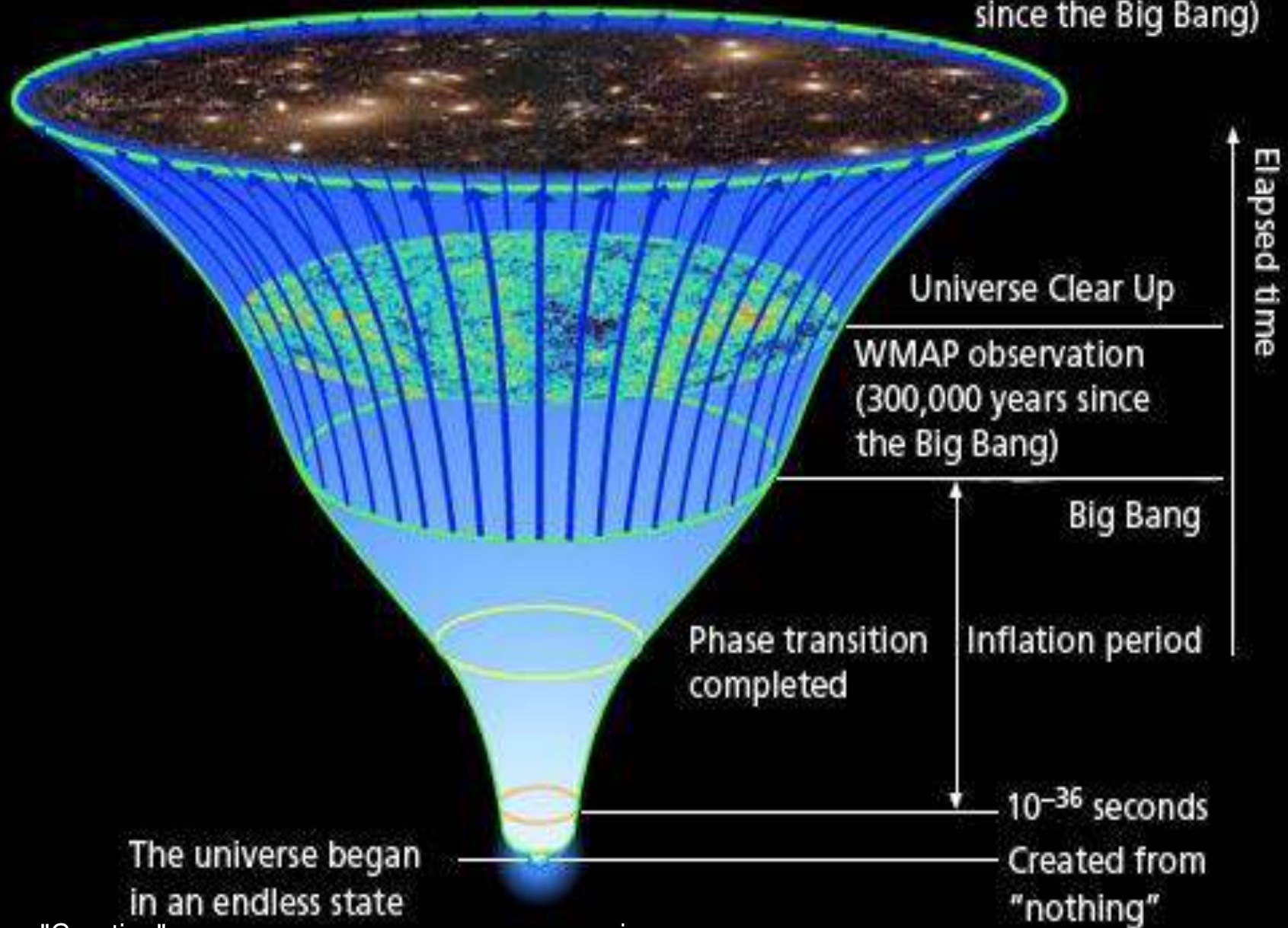
History of the Universe





Stars and galaxies that can be observed today were born as a result of the evolution of the universe.

Present time
(13.7 billion years
since the Big Bang)



The Big Bang Theory (1950 – 1955)

- ***What's accepted?***

- The universe had a beginning in time, which in turns leads to the cosmological argument :
 - Everything that begins to exist must have a cause.
 - If the universe began to exist, then the universe must have a cause.

The Big Bang Theory (1950 – 1955)

- ***What's rejected?***

- The idea of an explosion of a primeval atom, which led to the formation of all the matter in the universe, leads to the following arguments:
 - Who created that primeval atom?
 - Who caused it to explode?
 - How can an explosion create a structured matter?

Evolutional Model Summary

- About 15 billion years ago, universe exploded into existence.
- About 4.6 billion years ago, earth evolved.
- About 3.5 billion years ago, life evolved.
- Human evolved from ape-like creatures.

Creational Model Summary

- God created the universe and everything in it in 6 days. (Genesis 1)
- God created man in the image of God. (Genesis 1) But, man sinned and the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)
- God destroyed all living things on earth by a worldwide flood. (Genesis 7)

What the Bible Teaches ...



- God was before time.
(In the beginning God created ...)
- God is the creator of all life.
- God is the creator of all things.

What the Bible Teaches ...



(In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.) (Genesis 1:1)
(فِي الْبَدْءِ خَلَقَ اللَّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ.)

- God created the heavens ...
With all heavenly creatures: Angels,
Archangels, Thrones, Powers, ...)

What the Bible Teaches ...

- Bible starts and ends with God as Creator.
- Many things about the origin of life we can't understand.
- There is no excuse to those who don't believe in God as the Creator.
- The days of Creation – (doesn't mean 24-hour day, but rather a period of time)
- The seventh day – (extends from the creation of Adam & Eve until today).

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- ***Q1: Can the “Origin of Life” be proved as life was created by God through the “Evolution Theory”?***
- A1. No, as the Bible states that God created every living thing that moves, every winged bird that flies, and every plant, according to its kind. (Gen 1:11&21)

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- Q2: Can “Evolution” be proved by the changes of digestive system in human being before flood (Gen 1:29) & after flood (Gen 9:3)?
- A2. No, as this is an adaptation within the same species (Human) to accommodate to outer environment.
 - Human was created vegetarian, and after flood he was permitted to eat meat, so digestive system of the human was adapted to new type of food, yet he remained a human being.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- Q3: Is the story of Adam & Eve in Genesis a myth?
- A3: Adam & Eve's story:
 - Historically: Humanity could have not existed until today just in theory.
 - Symbolically: There are many features that have prophetic and symbolic meanings in all events relating to Christ and salvation.
 - Theoretically: There are many related concepts, embedded in the holy bible.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q4: Contradictions in the 6-Days of Creation?**

- **A- When was the light created: Day 1 or 4?**
(Gen 1: 5 & 16-19)

- A4A: The light was created in the 1st day, but the sun, moon & stars in the 4th day of creation.
 - We can't determine the period from 1st day to 4th day as time could have been determined after 4th day (Gen 1:14)
 - The 6-Days of Creation can be divided into:

1- Heavens/ Earth/ Light	4- Sun, Moon & Stars
2- Firmament (Heaven/Sky)	5- Sea Creatures/ Birds
3- Land/ Seas & Plants	6- Animals & Human

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- Q4: Contradictions in the 6-Days of Creation?
 - B- What was created first: Animals/Birds or Human? (Gen 1:20-23) & (Gen 2:7-19)?
- A4B: Sea Creatures/ Birds (in the 5th day) & Animals & Human (in the 6th day).
 - God created all creatures before Adam, and then after creating Adam, God planted غرس (not created) a garden called (Eden).
 - Out of the ground, He made every tree grow انبت that is pleasant to the sight and good for food.
 - Out of the ground, He formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought احضر them to Adam.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q5: Did God create Dinosaurs? And, if so, where it's mentioned in the Holy Bible?**
- A5: Yes ! (Great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded,... every winged bird ... beast of the earth) (Gen 1:21, 24)
- However, the word “Dinosaur” is a relatively modern word, from the Greek word meaning “Terrible Lizard”, which didn't appear in the bible, same as most of the animals (like: Giraffes, Zebras, kangaroos...)
- There is no specific reason why some animals are extinct ! Perhaps dinosaurs were created and became extinct before the creation of man, because of changing climate and limited food resources.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q6: Why in Gen 1:27, it says that God created male and female, and in Gen 2:21-22, it says that God created female (Eve) from the rib of the male (Adam)?**
- A6: **Gen 1:** provides an overview for the beginning of Creation. All living creatures on earth, under sea, in air were given the ability to procreate. (Gen 1:22, 28)
- **Gen 2:** provides more details as to the formation of Eve and the mystery of Holy Matrimony which is clearly pronounced.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q7: Why didn't Genesis account of Creation record the creatures of other planets/ clusters/ constellations of the "Milky Way Galaxy" or any other galaxies?**
- A7: The Holy Bible is the record of the creation of human by God, human's relationship with God, and human's salvation through God.
- Human is the central figure of God's creation and the object of His unconditional love.
- The history of Creation leaves out much details regarding all of creation – No evidence of any creatures on other planets.

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q8: Did God create the universe under the “Laws of Nature”?**
- A8: Laws of Nature (like; Thermodynamics, Biogenesis, Probability, Genetics, ..etc) point to the existence of a supreme being, as hundreds of creation scientists concluded, the laws of nature attest to the existence of God.
- How can there be a **law** without a **lawgiver**?! That’s where the mystery lies – The key point here is either we have **unexplained God** or **unexplained laws** !
- Science / Laws of Nature, can’t explain our existence without a Creator. Science proclaims the creator !

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q9: Is the flood of Noah's time a myth? And, if not, was it global (or local flood)?**
- A9: Geological Evidence / Observations / Processes / Fossils prove a real global flood occurred.
- In the Bible, Gen 7:10-24, if God had wanted to teach a global flood, how could He have said it more clearly? And, if the flood was local:
 - What's the need for the Ark?
 - Why was the Ark big enough to hold all kinds of animals?
 - Why did God send the animals to the Ark to escape death?
 - Why would birds have been sent on board?
 - How could be God's judgment universal?
 - How can be God's promise broken after?

Q&A on Creation - Genesis

- **Q10: Why is God so different in the OT (God of Wrath) than He is in the NT (God of Love) for His creation, especially mankind?**
- **A10:** While we might see one aspect of God's nature revealed in certain passages of Scripture more than other aspects, God Himself doesn't change (immutable) But it's God's progressive revelation through historical events, and through His relationship with people.
- Throughout the OT: God is declared to be compassionate/ gracious/ merciful/ slow to anger and abundant in love (Ex 34, Num 14, Deut 4, Neh 9, Ps 86/108/145); Yet, we also see His justice/ righteousness in judging and punishing other nations or children of Israel, same as a loving father deals with His children.

Conclusion

- *For True Christians:*
 - Bible (Scripture) is God's special revelation to humanity, to those who believe in Him.
- *For Everyone Else:*
 - Nature / Science (the means for understanding it) are God's general revelation to humanity, to everyone whether or not they believe in Him.
- ***TWO PATHS TO THE ONE TRUTH !***

Conclusion

- **Sound Faith & Sound Science** can never disagree ...
- Therefore, if there appears to be a disagreement, we are dealing with either **unsound faith**, or **unsound science**, or **both** !

References

A Study in Christian Apologetics: What We Believe & Why

<http://www.suscpts.org/resources/literature/545/a-study-in-christian-apologetics-what-we-believe--/>

Apologetics

<http://www.suscpts.org/resources/literature/546/apologetics/>

Evolution vs. God

<http://stbishoy.ca/index.php/component/preachit/messages/series/evolution-vs-god?Itemid=0>

Creation, Evolution, Cloning & Life

http://stbishoy.ca/images/preachit/documents/Dogma_02_Creation_FrJacob.pdf

Evolution Fact or Fiction

<http://www.suscpts.org/pdf/apologetics/evolutionfactorfiction.pdf>

The truth behind the theory of evolution

<http://www.suscpts.org/pdf/apologetics/darwinianeolution.pdf>

The Creation Evolution Controversy

http://www.suscpts.org/pdf/conference/2001college_abstract-evolution.pdf

Evangelism & Apologetics: Truth Conference

<http://coptictruthministry.org/convention/>

The Existence of God

<http://www.suscpts.org/messages/lectures/theologylecture2.pdf>

Creation

<http://www.stmaryscopticorthodox.ca/legacy/content/books/creation.pdf>

Video Clips

- **Evolution vs. God**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ>
- **Documentary Unlocking the Mystery of Life Intelligent Design**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzj8iXiVDT8>
- **Unlocking the Mystery of Life (12 Parts)**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWvS1UfXI8k&list=PL9F238BF1EB056938>
 - **Intelligent Design – Faults to Evolution**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5MEWxUti_2o
 - **Intelligent Design – Darwin to Intelligent Design**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz1pJiM30YU>
 - **Intelligent Design – Proof of Design (Part 1)**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8GqJuDpKIY>
 - **Intelligent Design – Proof of Design (Part 2)**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpD5tiN9K_U
 - **Intelligent Design – Design Overview**
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsrl9Gw_cYo

Suggested Books

- **Darwin on Trial, Phillip E. Johnson.**
- **The Edge of Evolution, Michael J. Behe.**
- **Darwin's Black Box, Michael J. Behe.**
- **Evolution: The Fossils still say No !, Duane T. Gish.**
- **The Controversy, Donald E. Chittick.**
- **What about Origins, Dr. A J Montey White.**
- **True science agrees with the Bible, M Bowden.**
- **Navigating Genesis: A Scientist's Journey through Genesis 1-11, Hugh Ross.**
- **God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?**
- **God and the Astronomers, Robert Jastow.**
- **The Language of God: A scientist presents evidence for belief, Francis Collins.**
- **I don't have enough Faith to be an Atheist, Norman Giessler.**

Suggested Websites -1

- CS Lewis Institute: www.apologetics.org
- Ravi Zacharias Ministries: www.rzim.org
- Norman Geisler: www.normgeisler.com
- Frank Turek: www.crossexamined.org
- William Lane Craig: www.reasonablefaith.org
- Lee Strobel: www.leestrobel.com
- Grant R. Jeffrey: www.grantjeffrey.com
- Christian Apologetics and Research: www.carm.org
- Xenos Christian Fellowship: www.xenos.org
- Evidence for God from Science: www.godandscience.org
- Reasons to believe: www.reasons.org
- Tekton Apologetics Ministries: www.tektonics.org
- Inplainsite: www.inplainsite.org
- Bible Probe: www.bibleprobe.com
- Bible Research Internet Resources: www.bible-researcher.com

Suggested Websites -2

- White Stone Press: www.whitestonepress.com
- Truth Decay Prevention: www.preventingtruthdecay.org
- Living Waters Ministries: www.livingwaters.com
- Christian Answers Network: www.christiananswers.net
- Interactive Bible: www.bible.ca
- Answers in Genesis: www.answersingenesis.org
- Insights of God: www.insightsofgod.com
- Got Questions" www.gotquestions.org
- Let Us Reason Ministries: www.letusreason.org
- Bible Study Planet: www.biblestudyplanet.com
- Apologetics Press: www.apologeticspress.org
- Evidence for Christianity: www.evidenceforchristianity.blogspot.com
- Discovery Institute: www.discovery.org
- One Minute Apologist: www.oneminuteapologist.com

Creation



***“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me if you have such insight.” (Job 38:4)***