

The Bible and Science:

II. Creation



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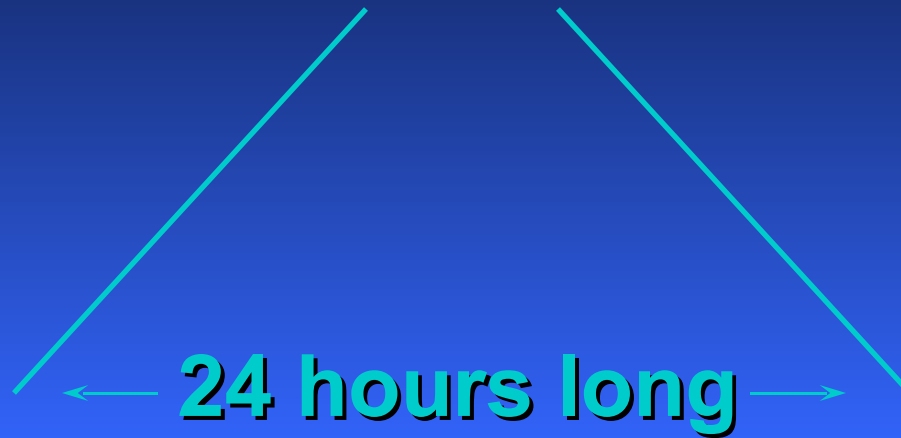
Bibliographical Resources

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- C. John Collins, *Science & Faith*, on analogical days.
- Young, *Creation and the Flood*: age of the earth.
- Poythress, *Redeeming Science*: Christian worldview, days of creation, and evolution

Principles for Evaluation

- God gave us the Bible and rules the world.
- Priority belongs to redemptive special revelation in the Bible.
- Be sober about our knowledge of science, and about our knowledge of the Bible.
- Be patient.

Literal 24-Hour Days



Straight-
forward

Mature Creation

Also called “ideal-time” view.

- God creates in place Adam and mature plants and animals. Subsequent scientific inspection would see “appearance of age.”

plant looks
6 months old



Adam looks
20 years old.

grapes come
from a vine that
looks 5 years old

Age-Day Concordism



Analogical Day

God works and rests

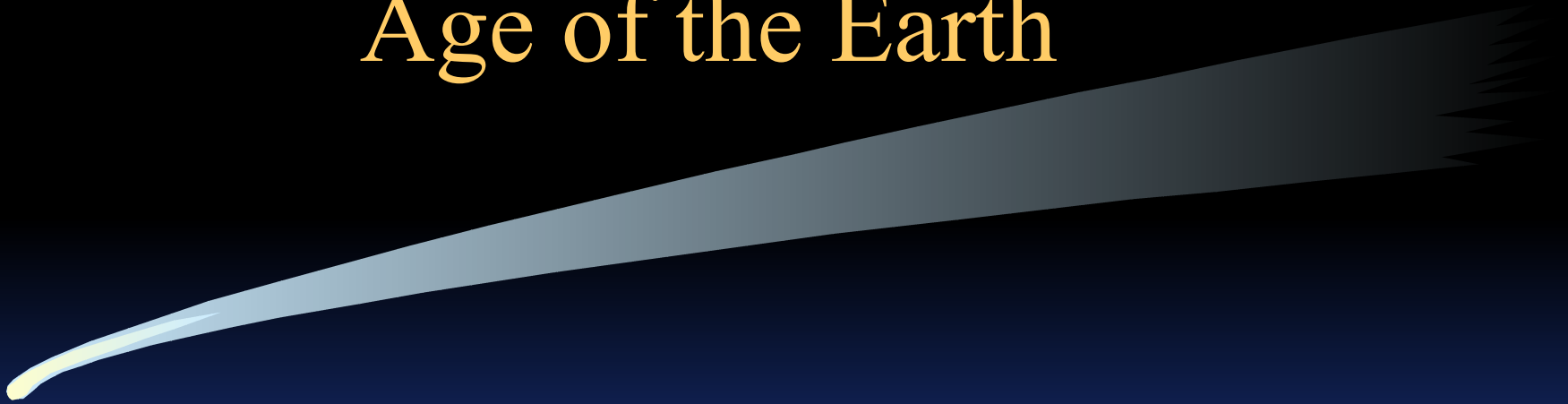


analogous

Man works and rests



Evaluation of Age of the Earth



Evaluating 24-Hour Day View

- According to astronomy, light from distant galaxies requires millions of years to arrive here.
- Hence the universe appears to be millions of years old.
- Hence, 24-Hour Day View goes over into the Mature Creation View.

Evaluating Age-Day Concordism

counterevidence:

- Days are numbered.
- They have an “evening” and “morning.”
- Exod. 20:11 correlates creation with the 6/1 pattern of Israel’s weekly sabbath.

If Gen. 1 has an analogical or figurative use of time, the analogy belongs to the whole picture, not to the word “day.”

Hence, analogical view is more appropriate.

Key Text

“but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, ...



For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exod. 20:10-11)

"make," 'asah

Analogy from Exod. 20:10-11

God's week



model

man's week
(Exod. 20:11)



- Exodus 20:10-11 indicates an analogy between God and man.
 - God worked six days, rested on the seventh.
 - man works six days, rests on the seventh.



God's Rest

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation. (Gen. 2:3)

God's Rest

work in providence, redemption

creating
(finished)

(Gen 2:1)

God's rest (= from creating)
everlasting

(Gen 2:3)



consecrate time of God's rest

“sabbath” = God's rest

Man's sabbath is analogous.

God's Rest

- God continues to work (providence, redemption).
- God has finished creation: rest (Gen 2:1).
- God's rest is everlasting.
- God's seventh day, as consecrated for rest, is also everlasting.
- Man's seventh day is analogous not identical.
- Whole week is analogous.

Possible Further Analogy

- Genesis 1 says, “and there was evening, and there was morning” (1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31).
- From evening to morning is the night: “and at evening it [the cloud] was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. So it was continually; the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. (Numbers 9:15-16)
- Night is the time of man’s rest: Psalm 104:23.

model

Resting

God pauses
at each evening

God rests
on sabbath

Permanent
rest

model

model

Man pauses
at each evening

Man rests
on sabbath

Temporary
rest

until consummation

Evaluating the Analogical View

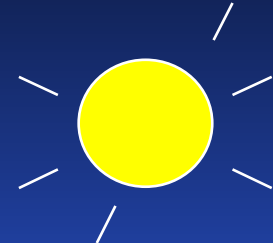
God's week



God's
gardening
(Gen. 1:11, 2:9)



God makes
time measures
(Gen. 1:14)



model

model

model

man's week
(Exod. 20:11)



man's gardening
(Gen. 2:15)



man counts
periods
(Lev. 23; 25)

Cultures Using Time

Clock orientation:

watch mechanical or electronic measuring devices.

modern,
technological

Interactive orientation:

experience the rhythms of human interaction with other humans and with the world.

most cultures



Timing in the Days of Creation

- From the fourth day on, the sun is a timing device (Gen 1:14).
- On the first three days, timing is only through interactive orientation.
- The days are days of human rhythms of work and rest.

Evidence for Analogical View

- God's days are a pattern for and analogous to ours, but not identical with ours.
 - Heaven/earth analogy is familiar (Exod. 25-40).
 - Man is made an earthly image of heavenly God.
 - Man's working is analogous to God's working.
 - 7th day symbolizes consummation (eternal).
 - 7th day is analogical; so is the whole week.
 - Trees now take years to grow to maturity.
 - Man measures time through means provided on the fourth day: prevents measuring God's days.

Conclusion on Age of the Earth

- 24-Hour Day is possible, but weak, especially with the 7th day.
- Mature Creation is possible and harmonizes with mainstream science.
- Analogical View
 - avoids exegetical overreading
 - attends to 7th day
 - notes foundation of the world in Divine action.

III. Evolution





Bibliography

- Michael Denton, *Evolution: Theory in Crisis*
- William Dembski, *Intelligent Design*
- Michael Behe, *Darwin's Black Box*
- Phillip Johnson, *Darwin on Trial*

Evolutionary Naturalism

“Evolutionary naturalism” uses “evolution” as a platform for a complete worldview that has answers for the “big” questions about meaning and destiny.

- Who? God does not exist or is irrelevant.
- Where are we from? Purposeless evolution.
- Where are we going? To dust and extinction in “heat death” of the universe.
- Why? To propagate the species.



Poisonous
lies.

Science and Naturalism

Founders:
(Galileo, Newton)

Method: focus on immanent means used by Designer

Developers:
(Laplace)

Method: only treat immanent means (the rest is not science)

Scientism:
(Sagan)

Claim for reality: only matter and motion exist

- Naturalism (materialism) now gains prestige from the triumphs of science.



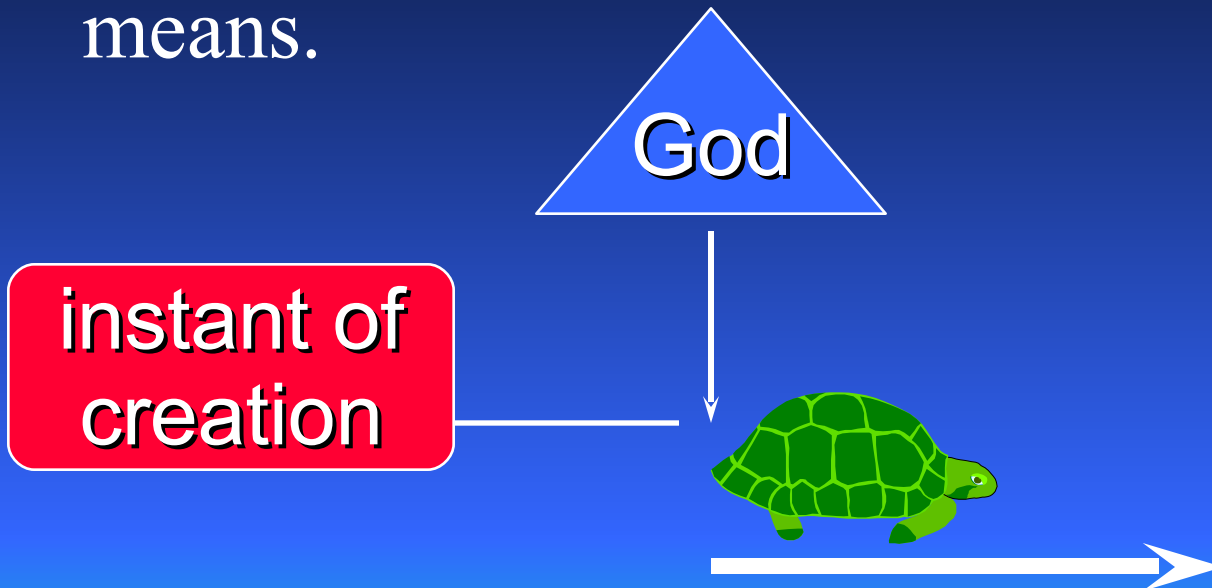
Quite a change

A. Principal Christian Views of Biological Evolution



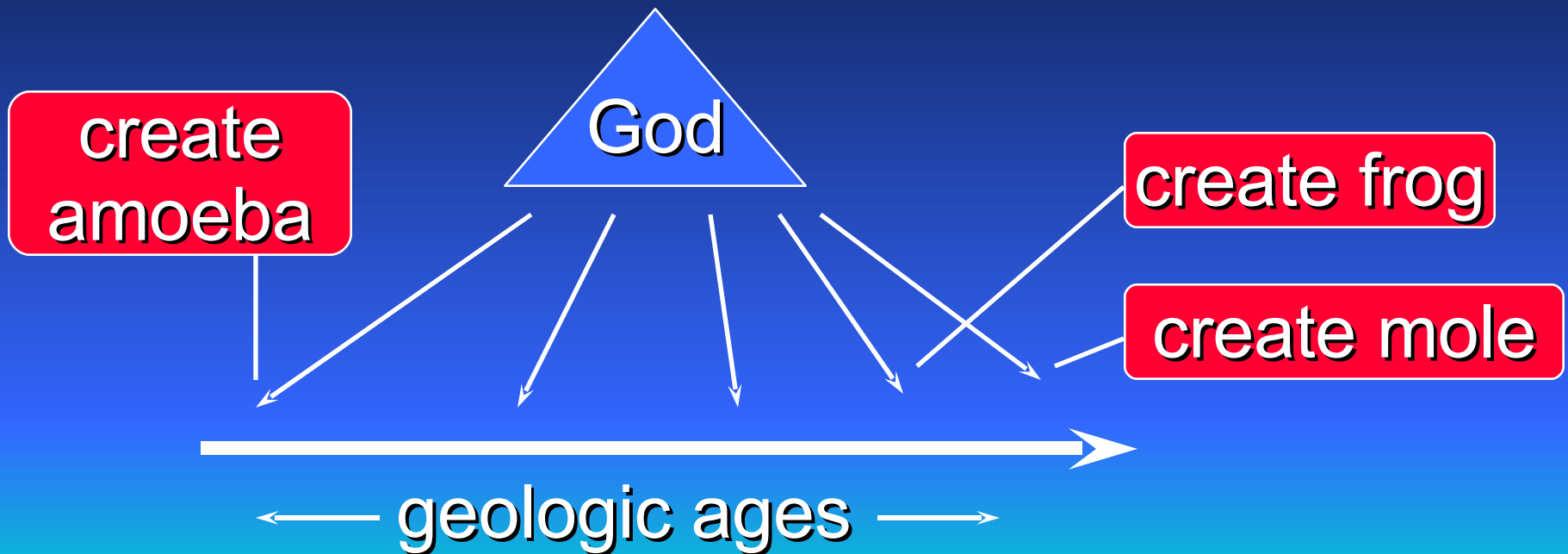
Fiat Production

- God creates the distinct “kinds” of living things instantaneously. He uses pre-existing material (e.g., dust), but no other means.



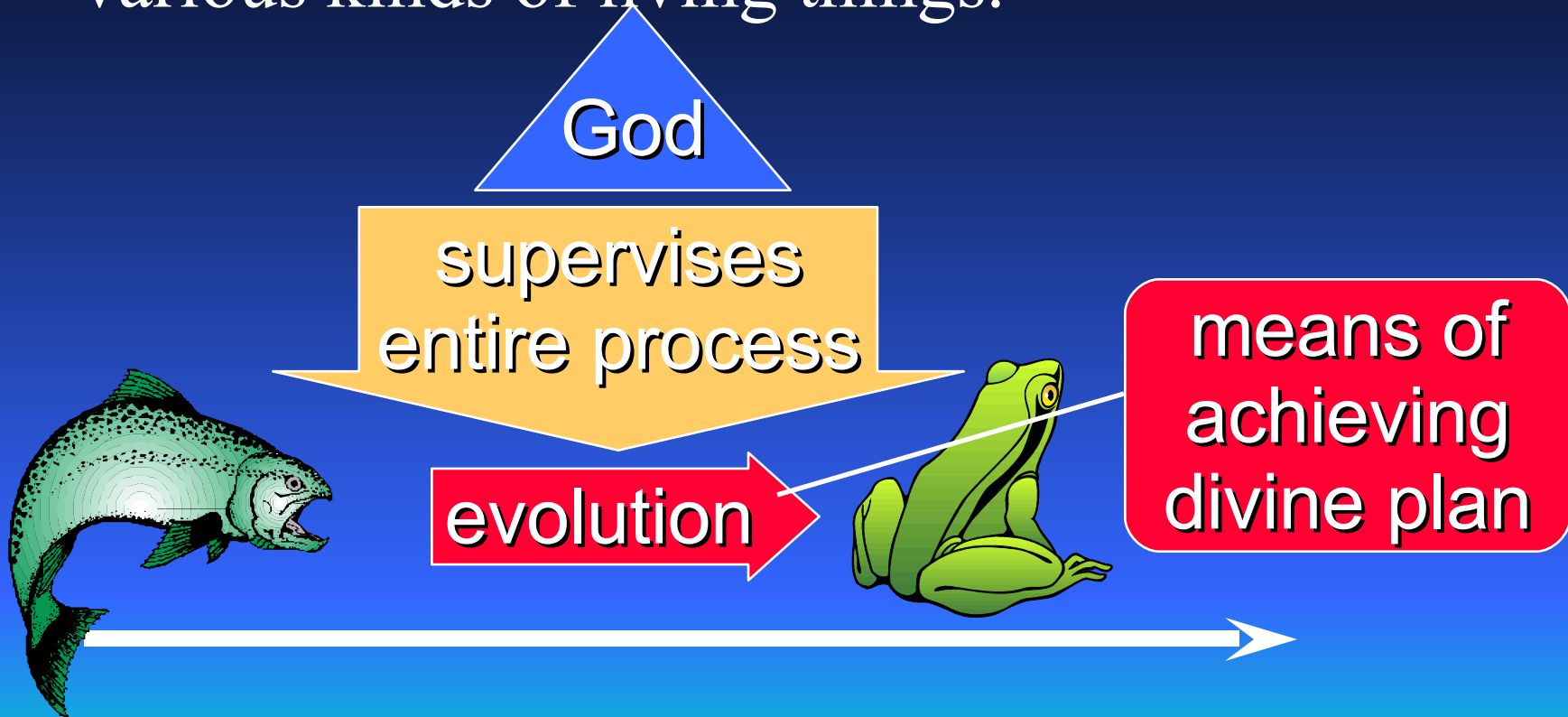
Progressive Creationism

- By special acts God creates distinct “kinds,” with acts of creation occurring at particular points along a long time scale.

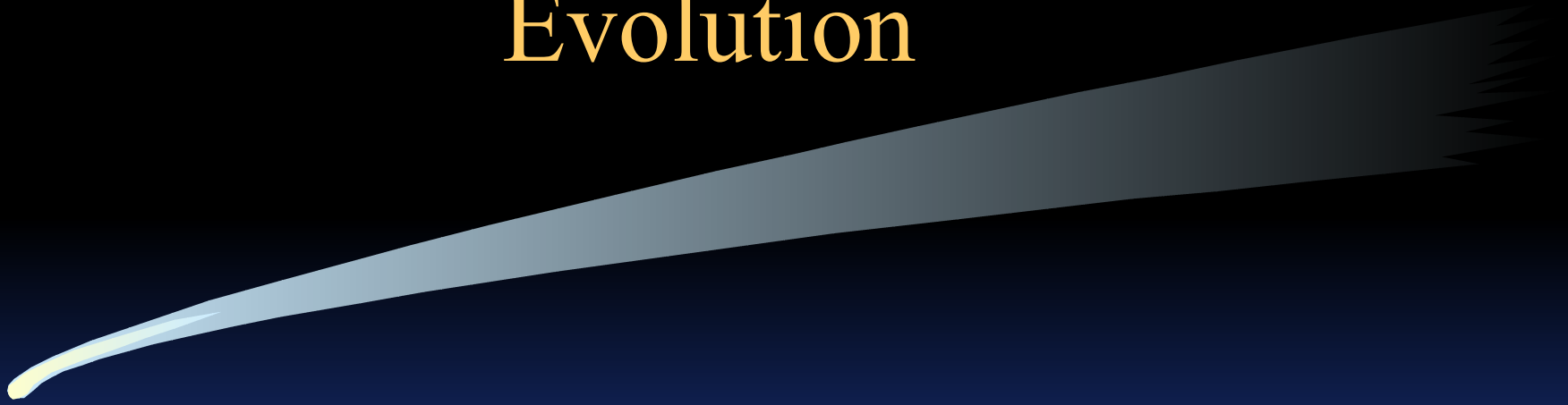


Theistic Evolution

- God uses very gradual evolution as the means by which he makes (creates) the various kinds of living things.



B. Biblical Evidence on Evolution



Creation of Eve (Gen. 2:21-22)

“... while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh” (Gen. 2:21).

- The Bible gives procedure (“how”). A rib.
- Hence, it contradicts theistic evolution.
- If supernatural here, maybe elsewhere in Gen. 1-2.



Science doesn't
dogmatize.

Creation of Eve (Gen. 2:21-22)

“... while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh” (Gen. 2:21).

- The Bible gives procedure (“how”), not just theological purpose (“why”). A rib.
- Hence, it contradicts theistic evolution.
- If events are supernatural here, no reason to withhold supernaturalism from other acts of creation in Gen. 1-2.



Science doesn't
dogmatize.

Creation of Plants and Animals

- No mention of means (secondary causes such as evolution)

-
- But silence is not evidence that there were no means.

- Genesis focuses on God. No need to discuss the means.
- Means may be omitted (Ps. 104:14) or mentioned only in another place (Exod. 15:4, 8, compared with Exod. 14:21).

Fixity of Kinds?

Does reproduction “according to kinds” imply absolute fixity of kinds (thus, no evolution)?

- God guarantees to Israelites that breeding sheep leads to more sheep, and doves to more doves. He is the author of this order of things.
- Genesis does not offer a scientific, technical comment about what might in theory happen in the course of millions of years of reproduction.



Summary of Biblical Evidence

- Eve is a special creation by God.
- The Bible does not say whether God used means in creating kinds of plants and animals.
- Go look at general revelation to learn details about means.

C. Scientific Evidence Regarding Evolution



Mainstream Science

The mainstream claims massive cohesive evidence from many subdisciplines:

- Paleontology: fossil progression
- Geographical distribution
- Physiological similarities
- Embryology
- Molecular biology
- Current occurrence of variation, mutation, and survival of favorable adaptations

Looks
impressive.



Problems with the Mainstream

- Anomalies. Anomalies in each specialty are held at bay by appealing to the “clear” conclusions of all the other specialties. (See Denton.)
- Circularities. Evolution “explains” anything and therefore explains nothing in particular.
- Assumption: Presupposition bridges gaps.
- Lack of alternatives. No good alternative except supernatural creation, which science cannot investigate with its tools.
- Intelligent design: molecular machines inside cells show evidence of being designed.

Allowing the Extraordinary

- God rules with regularity.
- But he can make exceptions, as with Eve.
- Materialists, but not Christians, cannot allow exceptions.
- The different views of scientific law influence conclusions about evolution.