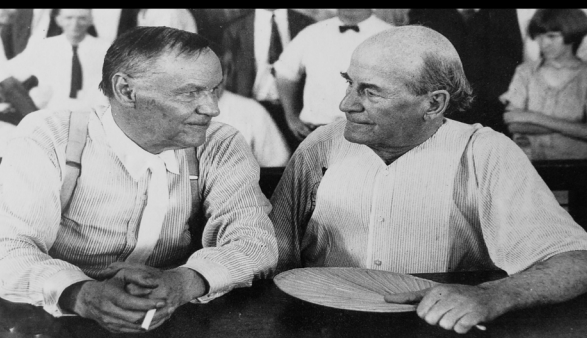


G R E A T E S T LEGAL BATTLE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

100th Anniversary
of the Scopes
Monkey Trial

Dayton, Tennessee

By: Mike Mueller, BS, MS



Greatest Legal Battle in American History

100th Anniversary of the Scopes Monkey Trial - Dayton, TN

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Clarence Darrow: “Do you think the earth was made in six days?”

William Jennings Bryan: “Not in six days of twenty-four hours.”

Darrow: “Doesn’t it say so?”

Bryan: “No sir.”

Darrow: “Does the statement, ‘The morning and evening were the first day,’ and ‘The morning and evening were the second day,’ mean anything to you?”

Bryan: “I do not see there is any necessity for constructing the words, ‘the evening and the morning,’ as meaning necessarily a twenty-four hour day...”

Darrow: “The creation might have been going on for a very long time?”

Bryan: “It might have been continued for millions of years.” ¹

[1 Trial Transcript: pp,302 & 303]

Those answers given by William Jennings Bryan, Defender of the Christian Faith and Bible, to Clarence Darrow on Day 8 of the trial shook the courtroom and the world. Today I wonder why Bryan, three-time presidential candidate, great American orator, leader of the anti-evolution campaign, Bible expert and Christian fundamentalist that helped introduce legislation in 15 states to ban the teaching of evolution, could not defend the creation week being 6 literal 24 hour days. If he understood the Hebrew word for day used in scripture was “yom”, that each day was numbered, and defined by morning and night, and Exodus 20:11 and 31:17 written by the finger of God himself declares “For in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth...”, Bryan should have had a solid foundation to declare the truth of the creation week as it is described in the Bible. But he caved under pressure, and in so doing, undercut the reliability of God’s Word, and thus was a factor that led millions of people over the past 100 years to abandon belief in God.

But he caved under pressure, and in so doing, undercut the reliability of God’s Word...



William Jennings Bryan in the Courtroom
Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society



Darrow, right, cross examining Bryan, left, outside the courthouse.
Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society

The last couple of years I’ve been exploring the 1925 Scopes Monkey Trial which is now marking its 100th anniversary. I first visited Dayton, TN in November 2023 and then in March 2025. When you visit Dayton to learn the history, you inevitably visit the site of the trial at the Rhea County Courthouse, visit the trial museum in the courthouse basement and Bryan College founded in 1930, five years after the trial and William Jennings Bryan’s death. Bryan College has a motto “Christ Above All,” and an administration building built in the dimensions of Noah’s ark.



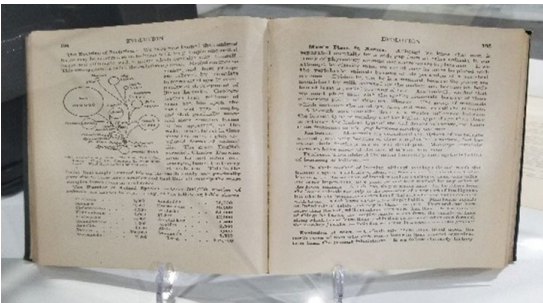
Rhea County Courthouse and statue of William Jennings Bryan
Photo Credit M. Mueller



Mercer Hall at Bryan College
Photo Credit M. Mueller

After reading every book and resource I could get my hands on, I have learned this historic event has deep implications on perspectives about science versus the Bible and it is one of the most interesting events in American history. There’s no room in this article to begin to cover the entire event but I will give a brief introduction to the trial and then focus on some of the evidence presented for evolution at the trial and share scientific resources we now have that they did not in 1925. The resources provided by creation science organizations today like the Institute for Creation Research, Creation Ministries International, Creation Research Society, Genesis Apologetics, Answers in Genesis, Institute for Biblical Authority, and Search for the Truth, which have all developed at various times since 1970s, have restored faith through science, by building a body of evidence that has debunked the trial recorded testimony of eight evolution “experts”.

Why the title? As I studied the significance of this historical event often called the trial of the century, it became apparent that although this legal battle may not have been a bloody battlefield from the American Revolution or Civil War, it has cost the eternal lives of countless souls. The false evidence for evolution presented during the trial has caused many to doubt the validity and truth found in the Biblical Creation account and consequently the Gospel. All that is taught in public schools today is the one-sided teaching of the atheistic perspective of evolution and millions of years fueling the idea that science has disproven the Bible. Just as Christians feared in 1925, the teaching of evolution and millions of years has caused our youth to leave their faith behind. Studies have shown 2/3 of youth raised in the church leave the church by middle and high school because they have been convinced evolution and millions of years is true. According to new studies, 44 percent of Millennials (born 1981- 1996) are “nones” or religiously unaffiliated. 48.5 percent of Generation Z (born 1997-2012) identify as “nones”.² The concerns of Christians a century ago have come true, the teaching of evolution, millions of years, and false evidence supporting an old age of the earth has caused our youth to leave their faith behind.



Hunter’s Civic Biology Book – Rhea County Courthouse Museum | Photo Credit M. Mueller

I was stunned that the battle lines had been so clearly drawn in 1925 in America, and that the battle fought in that Tennessee courtroom has since faded into obscurity in the halls of history. There was legislation being considered in many states in the 1920’s that forbid the teaching of evolution in the public schools, especially anything going against the Biblical account of divine creation of man in His Image. Despite those laws, evolution was being taught in public schools. Hunter’s Civic Biology

book, used back then in many public schools, clearly taught evolution.

This trial was staged to test a new anti-evolution law HB 185, the Tennessee Butler Act, passed March 1925 and introduced by TN State Legislator John Washington Butler. Butler became disturbed about the dangers of teaching evolution when he heard of a young woman from a nearby town who had gone away to college and came back believing in the theory of evolution and as a result rejected her religious heritage. He drafted the bill with the intent of ensuring the theory of evolution be taught only as a theory.³

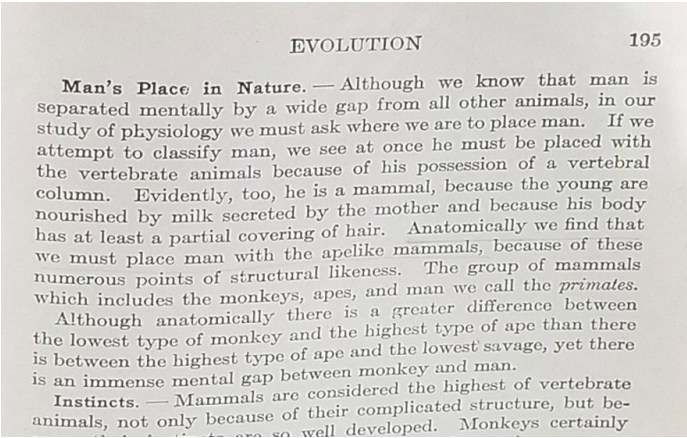
The Rhea County Courthouse Museum gives this brief history of the trial. “In the social frenzy of the Roaring Twenties, the public debate over competing theories of human origins collided in this courtroom. In March 1925, the Tennessee General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a bill to make it ‘unlawful for any teacher in any of the...public schools of the State...to teach any theory that denies the Story of Divine Creation of man as taught in the Bible, and to teach instead that man has descended from a lower order of animals.’ It was signed into law by Governor Austin Peay on March 21. William Jennings Bryan, a leading Christian spokesman, and Clarence Darrow, a prominent agnostic and evolution advocate, volunteered to assist the prosecution and defense, respectively.”⁴



Clarence Darrow, Defense and William Jennings Bryan, Prosecution | Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society

this day have not any right to declare that children are not to be taught this doctrine (evolution)... Parents have a right to say that no teacher paid by their money shall rob their children of faith in God and send them back to their homes, skeptical, infidels, or agnostics or atheist”.⁴

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) put an ad in the Chattanooga Daily Times newspaper wanting to rid the country of this and other laws like it which read “We are looking for a Tennessee teacher who is willing to accept our services in testing this law in the courts.” This trial was started originally by Dayton local businessmen because they saw staging this trial in town could spur on some badly needed exposure and economic revival since the town was dying. The businessmen answered the ACLU ad in the Chattanooga Daily Times to test the new anti-evolution law. And they found a math teacher and football coach, substitute science teacher, John Scopes, to agree to volunteer



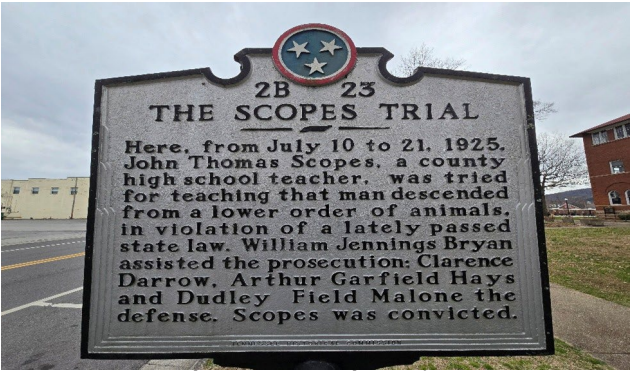
Hunter's Civic Biology Book – Rhea County Courthouse Museum
Photo Credit M. Mueller



John Scopes appearing in Court
Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society

to contest the law. Ironically, Scopes is reported as saying he never really taught evolution, but he did teach out of Hunter’s Civic Biology book which included a chapter on evolution.¹ Trial Text pg. 129

The battlefield was set, two of the most famous national icons of all time and their teams went at it for 8 days in Dayton, TN. If you want the actual event as recorded in history, you should read the original trial text, *The World's Most Famous Court Trial: Tennessee Evolution Case, 1925*.¹



Rhea County Courthouse Sign
Photo Credit M. Mueller

The trial took on a life of its own. The population of Dayton swelled from 1,800 to 5,000 during the trial. Two Hundred American and international reporters, three news services and 100 media outlets covered the trial. Stories totaled two million words, some written by famous reporters. In China, 27 newspapers published full daily cable accounts of Scopes trial proceedings. There were 65 telegraph operators who dispatched two million words by wire and airplane to 2,310 daily newspapers in the US. There were more words sent to Europe and Australia than had ever been cabled about any other American happening. Chicago’s Tribune’s WGN did the first live national public radio broadcast in a courtroom laying all the telegraph wires necessary.

The battle against the Book of Genesis and Biblical fundamentalism staged by Darrow and a team of attorneys, included bringing a dozen so called evolution experts. Clarence Darrow’s objective in the trial was “to focus the attention of the country on the program of Mr. Bryan and the other Fundamentalists in America.” The plan all along was to get through this small town trial and take the battle to a higher court, making the teaching of evolution legal everywhere. His motives were clear: “Preventing bigots and ignoramuses from controlling education in the United States, that is all.”¹ Trial Text pg. 299 Darrow told Bryan he was examining “your fool ideas (literal belief in Bible) that no intelligent Christian on earth believes.”¹ Trial Text pg. 304



Student Testifying in Court – Notice Radio Microphone Mounted on Post-Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society

Darrow and the team of attorneys and their eight evolution experts brought to testify to the truth of evolution said, “We expect to show by men of science and learning-both scientist and real scholars of the Bible – men who know what they are talking about – who have made some investigation- expect to show first what evolution is, and, secondly, that any interpretation of the Bible that intelligent men could possibly make is not in conflict with any story of creation, while the Bible, in many ways, is in conflict with every known science, and there isn’t a human being on earth believes it literally.”¹ Trial Text pg. 146 Darrow’s “men of science” included:

1. Dr. Jacob G. Lipman – Dean College of Agriculture, State University of New Jersey
2. Dr. Dr. Charles Hubbard Judd –, University of Chicago – Psychology and Education
3. Fay-Cooper Cole – Anthropologist, University of Chicago
4. Wilbur A. Nelson – State Geologist of Tennessee
5. Dr. Kirtley F. Mather – Chairman Department of Geology, Harvard University
6. Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf – Zoologist, John Hopkins University
7. Dr. Winterton C. Curtis – Zoologist, University of Missouri
8. Professor Horatio Hackett Newman – Zoologist, University of Chicago



Defense & Darrow's Scientist Evolution Expert Witnesses
Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society

The Defense team also said, "We expect to show that it (Bible) isn't in conflict with the theory of evolution. We expect to show what evolution is, and the interpretation of the Bible that prevails with men of intelligence who have studied it." Introducing Dr. Metcalf, Zoologist, one of his science experts, Darrow said, "This is an evolutionist who has shown ample that he knows his subject and is competent to speak, and we insist that a jury cannot decide this important question which means the final battle ground between science and religion – according to our friend here – without knowing both what evolution is and the interpretation of the story of creation."¹ Trial Text pg. 146

Here is Dr. Metcalf's description of evolution; you decide if he knows his subject and is competent to speak about it: "Evolution, I think, means the change. In the final analysis, I think it means the change of an organism from one character into a different character, and by character I mean its structure, or its behavior, or its functions, or its method of development from the egg, or anything else—the change of an organism from one set characteristic which characterizes it into a different condition, characterized by a different set of characteristics, either structural or functional, could be properly called, I think, evolution—to be the evolution of that organism. But the term in general means the whole series of such changes which have taken place during hundreds of millions of years, which have produced, from lowly beginnings the nature of which is **not by any means fully understood**, organisms of a much more complex character, whose structure and function we are still studying, because **we haven't begun to learn what we need to know about them.**" (emphasis mine)¹

Trial Text pg. 156

"...we haven't begun to learn what we need to know about them" (complex organisms)

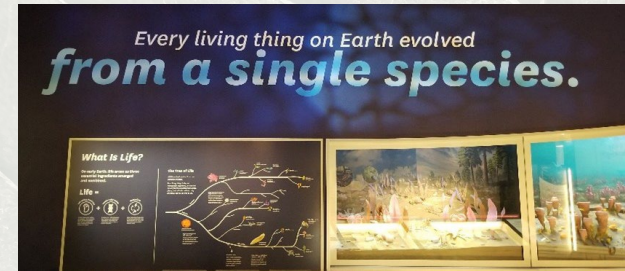
You can read the entire stumbling text of Darrow's expert witnesses on pages 231-280 of the trial text. Evolutionists are still puzzled by what they see in nature, still studying, and getting nowhere. On the other hand, Creation scientists have built an impressive body of research that supports the Biblical story of Creation.

William Jennings Bryan said in his *Last Message* prior to his death five days after the trial, "Evolution was not truth; it is merely a hypothesis—it is millions of guesses strung together...and they (Christians) therefore oppose the teaching of guesses that encourage godlessness among the students."⁵ Even though modernist, evolutionists, the Defense and the experts and others tried to say there is no conflict between evolution and the creation account, that is not true, evolution does not fit into the Bible. Evolution is based on millions of years of death and trial and error, through random, small successional, incremental changes via mutations, creating intermediate forms of life. And even though the fossil record does

not contain any transitional forms of life, the other important truth is the Bible clearly states death started with Adam's sin and all have sinned (Romans 5:12, 3:23) so there could be no trial and error death for millions of years prior to God creating man and we should all stand on that truth "**no death before sin**". (emphasis mine)

The following is a summary of the topics and subjects the so-called evolution experts gave in statements as evidence for evolution in 1925. Much of it is still used today. But the evidence on which they based their beliefs is better explained by a Biblical worldview supporting the creation account. Today, science supports the Bible like never before. The following also includes the current scientific evidence and how creation scientists today give a more accurate Biblical account.

ANIMAL/PLANT EVOLUTION:



Evolution Display at Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC
Photo Credit M. Mueller

Dr. Jacob Lipman, University of New Jersey, Dean of the College of Agriculture, looking at organic evolution from the point of view of soil investigation stated, "After the lowly bacteria and other microscopic forms of life had lived and produced extensive changes on land and in the sea, conditions became more favorable for the growth of plants. The primitive forms of plant life gradually developed into more perfect organisms, until the mosses, ferns, cycads gave way to flowering plants, perhaps 10,000,000 years ago at a very conservative estimate. In some way bacteria learned to establish a partnership with some kinds of plants such as clover, alfalfa, soybeans, etc. (produces useable nitrogen in soils)."¹ Trial Text pg. 232-234 This is pure speculation with no evidence

cited and the statement "bacteria learned" makes no sense.

Dr. Fay-Cooper Cole, University of Chicago, Anthropologist, stated this, "Anthropologists accept evolution as the most satisfactory explanation of the observed facts relating to the universe, to our world, and all life on it. They hold that evidence abundantly justifies us in believing that development has been from the simple to the complex and that present forms of life, including man, have been produced from earlier existing forms, but through immense periods of time."

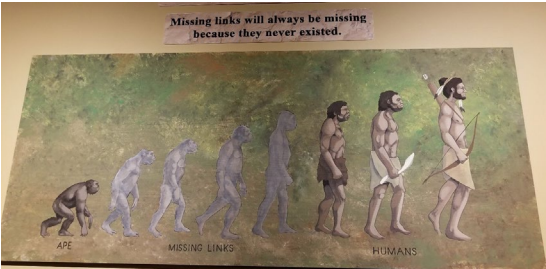
Dr. Charles Hubbard Judd, University of Chicago, School of Psychology and Education, a Psychologist who said this: "It will be impossible, in my judgment, in the state university, as well as in the normal schools, to teach adequately psychology or the science of education without making constant reference to all the facts of mental development which are included in the general doctrine of evolution. The only dispute in the field of psychology that has ever arisen among psychologists so far as I know has to do with the method of evolution. There is general agreement that evolution in some form or other must be accepted as the explanation of human mental life."¹ Trial Text pg. 231-232 He gives evolution major credit for mental development but does admit no method of evolution had been agreed upon.

Creationist Rebuttal

Animal/Plant Evolution is stated as a fact from simple cell to complex life...bacteria to man. The experts did admit they did not know where the first cell came from, or they were not clear on the process or method of evolution. We know life does not come from non-life according to the Law of Biogenesis, life only comes from other living organisms. Also, for bacteria to man evolution to be true, information must be added to DNA to advance new major life forms and there is no known evidence for this, and random mutations are mostly detrimental to life not a mechanism for adding new information. There are also no transitional in-between creatures in the fossil record, only major kinds of creatures.

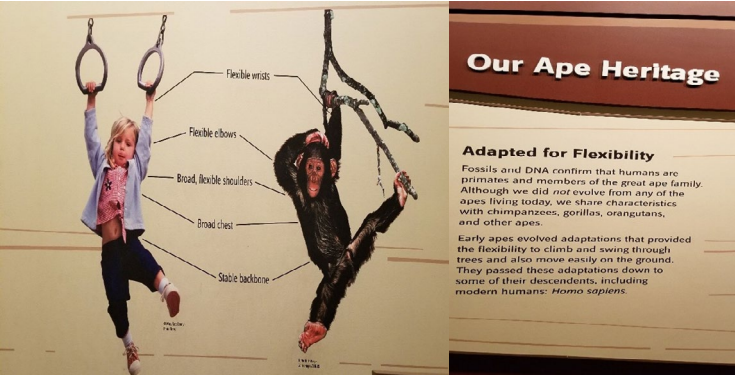
Dr. Randy Guliuzza, Institute for Creation Research (ICR), has introduced a new revolutionary theory called the Theory of Biological Design (TOBD) based on continuous environmental tracking that is a better explanation of life today. The TOBD demonstrates that God put inside each life form the ability to sense and track its environment, adjust to the stimuli and data accordingly using a pre-programmed playbook that gives animals and plants the ability to adapt to their environment and fill the earth and multiply as commanded by God in the beginning. This new theory gives God the glory for building into life the ability to change accordingly from the inside out, not some make believe selector through natural selection that has never been proven. Natural selection is an imaginary concept evolutionists use to replace God as the Creator, glorifying the creation but not the Creator...time to retire the fake news of any selector in nature. Evolution is atheism taught in schools replacing the Biblical creation account supported overwhelmingly by science. Read his five-part series in ICR Acts & Facts.⁶

HUMAN EVOLUTION:



Example of Illustration used in Text Books to Support the Lie of Ape to Man Evolution | Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
Photo Credit M. Mueller

Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard, said, “Comparing the body structure of monkeys, apes, and man, it is apparent that they are all constructed upon the same plan...monkeys have long tails, some apes have long and some have short tails; and man has a vestigial tail composed of generally about four vertebrae...”¹ Trial Text pg. 246



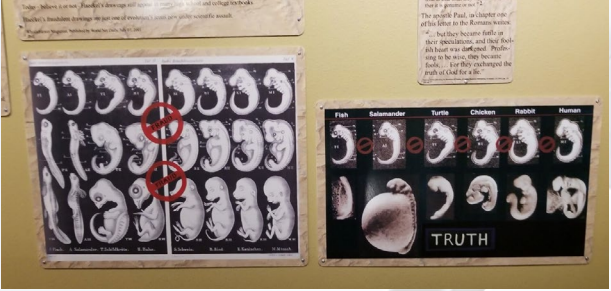
Disturbing Display at Smithsonian Institute Falsely Supporting Comparative Anatomy | Photo Credit M. Mueller

Creationist Rebuttal:

Fossil ape-to-man human evolution with examples like Lucy, Java Man, Nebraska Man, Piltdown Man, Neanderthal, Heidelberg Man and many others are cited with studies focusing on differences in head and brain size among their skulls. However, all the “missing links” between ape and man are still missing. Lucy, the most common supposed missing link, is believed, even by evolutionists, to be an ape. The fossilized remains, which are approximately 40% complete, lack most of the skull. Evidence suggests Lucy did not walk fully upright, exhibiting a bent-hip gait, and had an ape’s inner ear and a large, divergent big toe. Additionally, her fossils were discovered scattered across different locations and at varying depths. Remember, to an Evolutionist, different layers dictates different ages - millions of years apart. Nebraska Man, because it was found in Bryan’s former home state Nebraska, was mockingly renamed “Bryopithicus” and touted by America’s leading paleontologist, Henry Fairfield Osburn, (evolutionist and leading member of ACLU), as “irrefutable evidence” for human evolution on the basis of a single tooth. Shortly after the trial, scientists determined the tooth was from an extinct pig. Osburn knew this but did not say anything and let it be used to support evolution, another good example of using lies as false scientific evidence, avoiding the truth. There are no archeological discoveries that shows man descended from a primate. All of the so-called fossil evidence (usually just bone fragments) is either fully human, fully animal, mixture of animal/human fossils, or fraudulent.⁷

Vestigial features such as tailbone, appendix, wisdom teeth and other examples were shared as parts of an organism thought to be useless leftovers from its ancestor as the creature evolved a new way of life. Over 150 various vestiges or leftovers from evolutionary past were at one time listed as useless but today we know that they all have important functions made according to God’s plan.¹¹ For instance, we know the human coccyx is not a vestigial tail but serves important functions for the human body like muscle attachment, assisting with bodily functions, and others. Similar body parts on different animal groups show a common designer with a brilliant similar overall design plan.

EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT:



Haeckel’s Fraudulent Drawings on Left,
Actual Photographs on Right
Glendive Dinosaur and Fossil Museum | Photo Credit M. Mueller

Dr. Mather, Geologist, Harvard, also falsely referred to facts when he said, “Such facts as I have studied above...that man has been formed through long processes of progressive development, which when traced backward...lead unerringly to a single primordial cell.” And he did admit that, “Nor have we a direct record of whence came the first living cell.”¹ Trial Text pg. 247 This is pure speculation as there is no example of life adding genetic information to life to create more advanced forms of life, which is what evolution would require.

Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf, John Hopkins University, presented false evidence for evolution, “There are very few...structures in man which do not show clear indications of relationship to, descent from, an organ of different use in some related animal.” He gives these examples in Trial Text pg. 253-254:

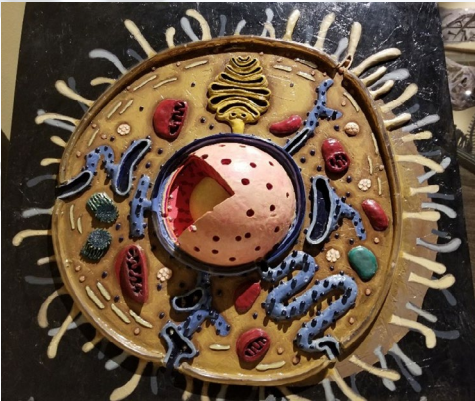
- Lungs of man – swim bladder of fish
- Hair in man – tactile sense organs in skin of aquatic vertebrates
- Bones in human larynx – gill slits of aquatic ancestors
- Human teeth – once scales in skin and so on and so on....

He also gives these often-repeated same false evidence as support for evolution:

1. Comparative anatomy – plants and animals both show increased complexity.
2. Comparative embryology – development of an individual from egg to adult
3. Paleontology and geology – geology shows increasing complexity in layers.
4. Geographic distribution – distribution of plants/animals over earth show origins.
5. Physiology, psychology, and human cultures
6. Vestigial organs – appendix, human coccyx/tail, wisdom teeth

But this idea presented by Dr. Metcalf demonstrates his serious confusion between embryology and evolution when he said, “I have always been particularly interested in the evolution of the individual organism from the egg, and also the evolution of the organism as a whole from the beginning of life, that has been a sort of peculiar interest of mine, always.”¹ Trial Text pg. 136 I hope he got his answer that life in humans begins at conception and God has put the instructions for man into that embryo to fully develop into a man or woman made in His image with unique abilities having nothing to do with evolution of simple cell or bacteria to man.

Amazingly enough, **even the Defense team caused more confusion with embryology**. Lawyer Arther Garfield Hays said “I know that in the womb of the mother the very first thing is a cell, and that cell grows and it subdivides, and it grows into a human being and human being is born. Does that statement, as the boy stated on the stand, that he was taught that man comes from a cell – is that a theory that man descended from a lower form of animals?”¹ Trial Text pg. 156 This has nothing to do with bacteria to man evolution, God made man fully man and fully woman from conception, each with unique sets of genetic information coded to develop that human embryo into a special Child of God, made in His image.

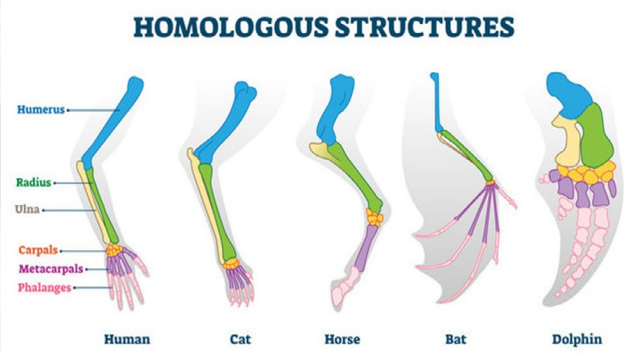


The Complex Cell
Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
Photo Credit M. Mueller

Creationist Rebuttal:

Embryonic development and comparative embryology between animals, and ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny was shown as evolutionary proof of common ancestors. This is the idea that humans and animals have a common ancestor because their embryos have a similar physical appearance, popularized in 1866 by Ernst Haeckel. He was later reprimanded by his own university for using drawings that were fraudulent. Students are still told developing babies go through evolutionary history with gill slits, tail, and yolk sacs, but we know today these features turn into parts of a human body as the Creator designed them to be.¹⁴

GENETICS & BREEDING:



Common Illustration Used in Public Education
By Knut. Rights through Adobe Stock Photos

Professor Newman, Zoologist, University of Chicago also cited examples of the fossil pedigree of man as Java Man, Heidelberg Man, Dawn Man, Neanderthals, and Rhodesian Man. He also wrongly concluded, “We shall merely say that the geneticist is an eyewitness of present-day evolution and is able to offer the most direct evidence that evolution is a fact. Not only do this evidence tell a straightforward story of evolution but each one is entirely consistent with all of the others.”¹ Trial Text pg. 277-280 Genetics and breeding that is used by agriculture and man today is not evolution but simply an example of how man can utilize the variety our Creator placed in all forms of life for our benefit.

Professor Horatio Hackett Newman, Zoologist, University of Chicago, gave this as evidence for evolution: Comparative anatomy, Taxonomy, Serology, Embryology, Paleontology, Geographic distribution, Genetics, and Pedigree of a horse. He cited these examples...forelimbs of man, flipper of a whale, wing of a bird, and foreleg of a horse.¹ Trial Text pg. 263-277

Creationist Rebuttal:

Genetics and breeding are mentioned as evidence for evolution. The difference between DNA of man and ape is now known to be 84% not 98%.¹² And we know today that variation between plant and animal species can be managed by controlled genetic breeding and is not evidence for gradual change driven by random mutations and chance over millions of years through evolution. There is no evidence that through genetics and breeding you can change a cat into a dog; you can create variation within a species, but cats are cats and dogs are still dogs.

Pedigree of the horse and whale evolution are cited as examples of evolution still today. The number of changes and added information necessary to believe that a horse and a cow evolved into a whale has been proven statistically impossible but it is still cited in textbooks. The horse series is not showing molecules to man evolution but a wide variety within the horse kind. Whale fossils look just like modern whales and there is no evolution found.¹³

FOSSILS & THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD:

Wilbur A. Nelson, Tennessee State Geologist, stated this, “The different layers of rock which form the surface of the earth unfold a remarkable story of evolution. These rock layers may be read as clearly as the leaves of a book, and they are the book which tells the true history of the earth; and the buried remains of animal and plant life which they contain likewise show the rise of life and its development of this earth. All forms of life have changed and developed to meet the conditions which have existed on the earth, as it has developed to meet the conditions which have been developing from the beginning of geological time.”¹ Trial Text pg. 238 This is pure speculation, and the Cambrian Explosion found in the lowest geological sedimentary layers clearly demonstrates complex life representing all the major groups of animal life showed up fully developed and all at once.

Nelson continues, “We also know that practically all of the earth has at some time or other been covered by water, and in these ancient seas life has exited, which has left its record to us in the fossil form. East TN is made up of many layers of rocks, limestone, shale and sandstone, all of which were likewise laid down under water, and many of the layers contain animal and plant life.”¹ Trial Text pg. 239 The Genesis Flood is a better explanation.

Creationist Rebuttal:

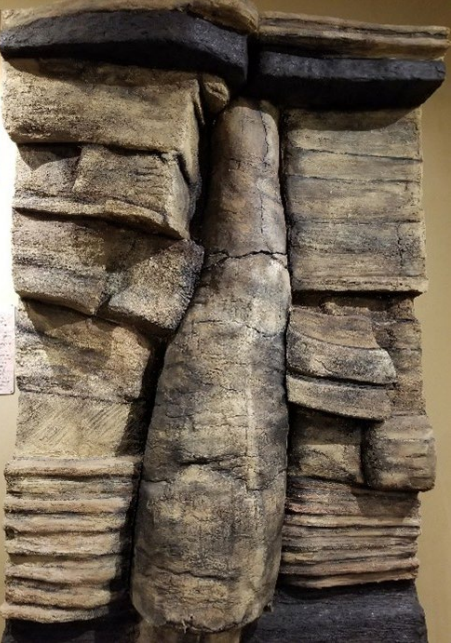
They stated the **fossil and geological** record proves evolution from simple life to complex with the simple life forms buried in the deepest geological layers. We think the Bible has a better answer and the geological record is a record of terrestrial ecological zones buried in succession through several mega sequences as the water flooded the land as recorded in Genesis and supported by research by Dr. Tim Clarey, ICR, using rock evidence from core drilling samples from all over the world.⁸ Polystrate fossils like trees preserved in multiple geological layers provides strong evidence those layers were laid down over a short period of time. The evidence also supports the Cambrian Explosion where incredibly complex animal life appeared suddenly and without any sign of preceding evolutionary ancestors, along with those same fossil creatures having living counterparts today, called living fossils, that show no sign of evolution.⁹



TN Polystrate Fossil Display, Creation Evidence
Museum, Glen Rose, TX | Photo Credit M. Mueller

ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SUCCESSION OF LIFE	INDEX FOSSILS
CENOZOIC Recent Life	QUATERNARY 2-1 Million Years Rise of Man	Recent Pleistocene		PECTEN NEPTUNEA CALOPTEROPHORUS VERMICERACONIA
	TERTIARY 65-100 Million Years Rise of Mammals	Recent Miocene Oligocene Eocene Tertiary		
MESOZOIC Middle Life	CRETACEOUS 80 Million Years Mammals, Seed-Eating Plants, Dinosaurs			SCAPHITES RHODONANUS
	JURASSIC 50 Million Years First Birds			PERISPHINCTES
	TRIASSIC 80 Million Years Gorilla, First Dinosaurs			TRIOPHITES WIDMOTUS
PALEOZOIC Ancient Life	PERMIAN 40-100 Million Years First Reptiles			LEPTODUS PARAF-SULFURA
	PENNSYLVANIAN 10-100 Million Years First Reptiles			DICTYOCLOSTUS
	MISSISSIPPIAN 40-100 Million Years Many Corals			PROLECANITES
	DEVONIAN 50-100 Million Years First Seed Plants Corals, Fish			NUCROSPHERE
	SILURIAN 20-100 Million Years Earliest Land Animals			HEXAMERIS
	ORDOVICIAN 40-100 Million Years Earliest Land Animals			CHRISTOPHERUS
	CAMBRIAN 50-100 Million Years Earliest Land Animals			TRICHOPTERUS BELLINGHOLLA
PRECAMBRIAN Time	EDICARAN 80-100 Million Years Earliest Land Animals			

Geological Column
Image Credit Institute for Creation Research



Polystrate Fossil, Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil
Museum | Photo Credit M. Mueller

EROSION:



Grand Canyon | Photo Credit M. Mueller

Dr. Winterton C. Curtis, Zoologist, University of Missouri, stated this evidence for evolution: “Evolution is, therefore, the doctrine of how things have changed in the past and how they are changing in the present.”¹ Trial Text pg. 254 He cited evidence with kinship with tailless apes – gibbon, gorilla, etc. He also cited James Hutton’s Theory of Earth, 1795, “...it has been the cardinal principle of geological science that past changes of the earth’s surface are explicable in terms of changes now in operation. For example...vast chasm as the Grand Canyon is explained not as produced by miraculous creation or by sudden catastrophe, but by running water acting upon the rocks throughout innumerable centuries.”¹ Trial Text pg. 256 This is the evolutionist explanation of erosion and geological columns that says

the present erosional processes we see today are the key to the past or better known as uniformitarianism! Creation science better says the past, our Biblical history, is the key to the present.

He continues, “We know that streams and rivers carry sediment; that muddy waters are full of the soil and of some field washed into a nearby stream...this mud goes down the Tennessee river, into the Mississippi river and to the Gulf of Mexico.”¹ Trial Text pg. 239

Creationist Rebuttal:

They cite their belief the **geological record was formed by erosion at current rates** today which is otherwise known as uniformitarianism. The evidence today supports rapid deposition of sedimentary layers all over the world, deposited thousands of years ago. Fossils are formed during the right conditions which are rapid and deep burial with mineral rich water and no oxygen. Dinosaur fossils discovered with preserved soft tissue, blood cells and vessels and other biomaterials show rapid and recent burial. Similar sedimentary layers found over vast distances covering the different continents are only explained by massive water movement.⁸ Fossils of animals in the act of giving birth and with recent meals preserved inside show rapid burial as the most logical explanation.

MILLIONS OF YEARS:



Photos from Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
Photo Credit M. Mueller

Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, Chairman, Department of Geology, Harvard University, stated this as evidence, “The facts of life development are so numerous displayed and so evident in the rocks of the earth’s crust that every geologist with whom I am acquainted has accepted the evolutionary principle as demonstrated. In the very oldest rocks, which have yet been discovered, which are at least 100,000,000 years old, there are absolutely no traces whatsoever of any animal or plant life. In somewhat younger rocks...there are one celled plants...next era of earth history...Proterozoic...worms...sea weeds...invertebrates...fish...reptiles...birds.”¹ Trial Text pg. 242-243



Photos from Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum
Photo Credit M. Mueller

Creationist Rebuttal:

The claim that **millions or billions of years** enabled evolution hinges on flawed and assumption-laden dating methods, yet these vast timeframes are often presented as undisputed fact to support evolutionary theory. In contrast, over 100 scientific methods for aging the cosmos, Earth, and life—such as helium diffusion rates, magnetic field decay, and soft tissue preservation—overwhelmingly (at least 90%) point to a young Earth, aligning with the Biblical timeline of approximately 6,200 years. Radiometric dating, frequently cited to argue for an old Earth, relies on unprovable assumptions about initial conditions and decay rates, rendering it unreliable.¹⁰ Moreover, the persistent presence of carbon-14 in fossils, diamonds, and coal—materials supposedly millions of years old—defies expectations, as carbon-14’s short half-life of 5,730 years should leave no detectable traces after such vast periods, powerfully supporting a young Earth.

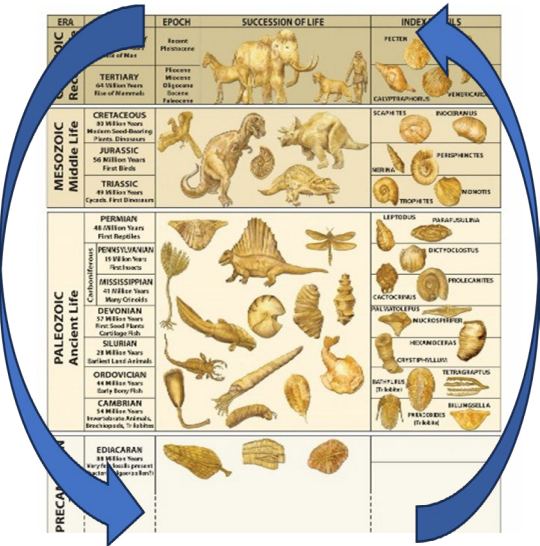


Image Credit Institute for Creation Research – Arrows
Included by M. Mueller

The geological columns are better explained by the flooding of ecological zones on land during the yearlong global flood event as recorded in Genesis. Secular geologists and evolutionists, when asked how old is this fossil or how old is this rock, will refer to the geological column layer of rocks the fossil is found in or what fossil is found with the rock to get to estimated age of both. This is circular reasoning and the Genesis flood is a better answer.

Finally, taxonomy, anatomy and homology, serology and blood tests, geographic distribution, ice ages, and astronomy were all mentioned as some sort of proof of evolution.

We will not cover all the topics cited, but I must mention the Biblical Worldview has a sound argument to explain the **ice age** that occurred after the flood and was a direct result of the global impacts from the Genesis Flood. The acronym HEAT is a good reminder of the creation answer. The global flood event created (H) heated oceans due to fountains of the deep bringing forth hot water, molten material from the earth’s interior, widespread volcanic activity, and friction from plate tectonics. Warmer oceans would increase (E) evaporation allowing for an increase in moisture in the atmosphere resulting in greater snowfall in northern regions. (A) Aerosols like ash from global volcanic activity reflected sunlight shading the earth, cooling the earth’s surface keeping the earth cooler during summer to allow for snow and ice buildup creating the one and only ice age. After the flood tectonic and volcanic activity continued for a (T) time along with mountain building in later stages of the flood allowing the time needed to accumulate the ice and today the volcanoes we see erupting are but a remnant of that period.¹⁵

THE BIBLE:

Dr. Mather, Geologist, Harvard also postulated, “The geological factors assembled in the primitive earth provided an environment within which the spiritual could manifest itself in the material.... Thus, in truth, was man made from the dust of the ground.” He also said, “But none of these facts is really in any way disturbing to the adherent to Christianity. We believe that science (Evolution) and religion are not in conflict. Some of the opposition to evolutionary science results from failure to read the Bible...another of the reasons for the modern distrust of science in the religious world is the idea that evolution displaces God.”¹ Trial Text pg. 249-251 When a clear study of the evidence and science of creation today is understood, it is plain the evidence for evolution is still not there and is only imagination. The evidence clearly supports the Bible and not evolutionary ideas.

Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf, Zoologist, John Hopkins University, stated this about evolution, “There is no conflict, no least degree of conflict between the Bible and the fact of evolution, but the literalist interpretation of the words of the Bible is not only puerile (childish, silly); but it is insulting, both to God and to human intelligence. But the fundamentalist would do much worse than insult God. He is in reality, although he doesn’t realize this, trying to shut man’s mind to God’s ever-growing revelation of Himself to the human soul.”¹ Trial Text pg. 252 This statement on so many levels is wrong and insulting, the Bible and evolution are not compatible for many reasons, and God’s word is to be taken literally as written as Truth.

“There are many answers today and it is a great time to be a Christian.”

Creation scientists have shown us that we have an omnipotent and all-wise Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, and we can be confident the Word of God is true and lasting and gives us life and hope in a future through Jesus our Redeemer.

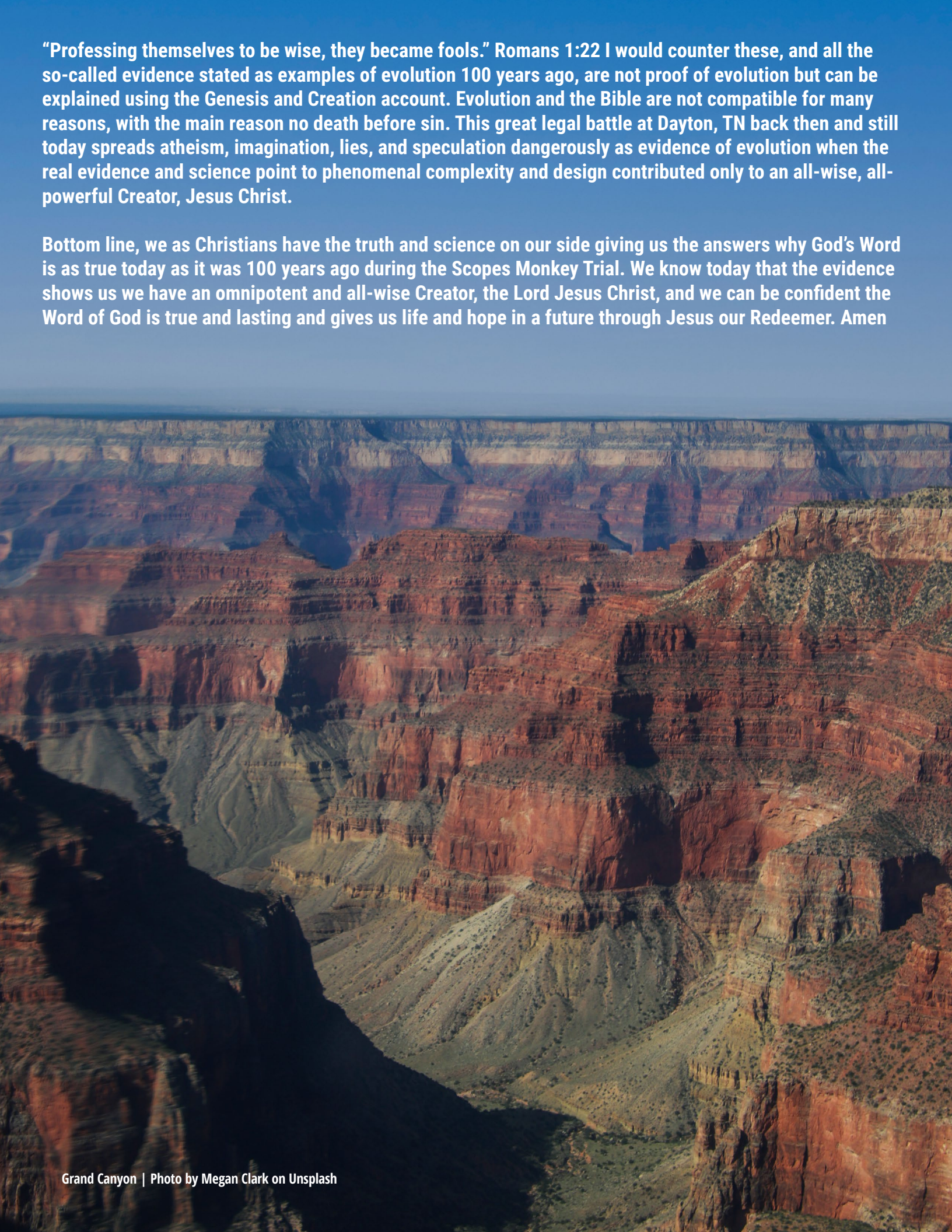
What would have happened if William Jennings Bryan had all this scientific evidence and knowledge back then to take on Darrow’s questioning? There are many answers today and it is a great time to be a Christian. We have science supporting the Bible like never before. The Bible is God’s inspired Word true from the first word to the last and faith in what it says is enough. We must decide for ourselves what we believe and make a choice: God’s Word or Man’s Word, Creation or Evolution, Design or Accident, Hope through Jesus our Creator or No hope.

When you read the “expert” testimony in the Scopes Trial record, you see it was all huge generalizations and opinions stated as facts. Their interpretation of the evidence, based on their secular worldviews and presuppositions, sounds like a string of guesses, fantasy, and speculation.

Their opinions are the same imaginative historical narrative still used today and taught in public schools. They are not observational science. They use the same evidence creation science uses but the creation science and Biblical perspective makes more sense.

“Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” Romans 1:22 I would counter these, and all the so-called evidence stated as examples of evolution 100 years ago, are not proof of evolution but can be explained using the Genesis and Creation account. Evolution and the Bible are not compatible for many reasons, with the main reason no death before sin. This great legal battle at Dayton, TN back then and still today spreads atheism, imagination, lies, and speculation dangerously as evidence of evolution when the real evidence and science point to phenomenal complexity and design contributed only to an all-wise, all-powerful Creator, Jesus Christ.

Bottom line, we as Christians have the truth and science on our side giving us the answers why God’s Word is as true today as it was 100 years ago during the Scopes Monkey Trial. We know today that the evidence shows us we have an omnipotent and all-wise Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, and we can be confident the Word of God is true and lasting and gives us life and hope in a future through Jesus our Redeemer. Amen



Grand Canyon | Photo by Megan Clark on Unsplash

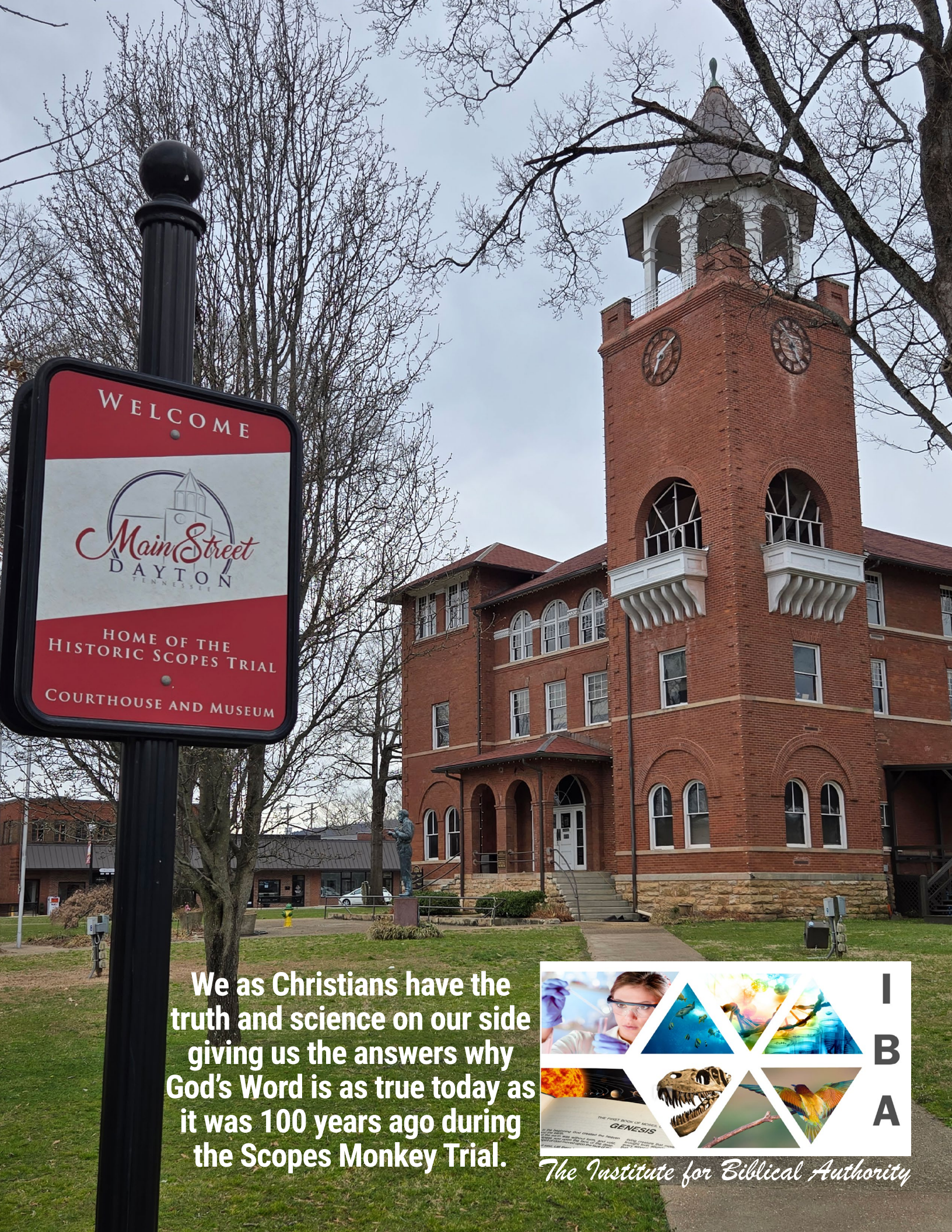
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Front Cover Bottom Left: Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan | Photo Credit Rhea County Historical Society.
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Back page Rhea County Courthouse | Photo Credit M. Mueller



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