Rev. Matthew Versemann Trinity Lutheran Church Decatur, Illinois Creation Series – Part 7 POWER POINT SERMON July 26th, 2020

"The Relevance Of Genesis"

Hear the Word of God from Genesis 3,

"DID GOD REALLY SAY, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?"

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

Today we conclude our series on Creation versus Evolution by looking at the Relevance Of Genesis, why young people are quitting the church, and what we can do to stop it.

(BEGIN POWER POINT)



SLIDE 1

1st Chronicles 12:32, "...of the sons of Issachar, who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."

The men of Issachar had understanding of their times - it was time for David to be king. We live in an era of history in which we see the collapse of Christianity in our Western world - but why? Do we understand the times we are living in? Consider Europe and the Britain - churches are closing down all across these countries - why? Do we understand the times? The following churches I'm going to show you are located in Britain. These photo shows the 'NORM' (not the exception) of what is going on in Britain and Europe.



SLIDE 2

This Christian church has been turned into a Sikh temple.

Page 1



SLIDE 3 Another view of the same Sikh temple.



SLIDE 4 Inside of the Sikh temple.



SLIDE 5 This Christian church where God's people once received Christ's body and blood for their forgiveness, IS NOW......



SLIDE 6 An Indoor Rock-Climbing center.



SLIDE 7 This church, where sinners once heard the forgiveness of their sins in Holy Absolution, IS NOW.......



SLIDE 8 A Doll and Art Museum.



SLIDE 9 This church, where lives were once touched with the Good News that God is no longer mad at us, because Jesus bled to death on a cross IS NOW.....



SLIDE 10 A secular theatre.



SLIDE 11 This church, where sinners once heard the Word of God, that everyone is included in Christ's death, and no one is excluded unless they refuse the gift, IS NOW...



SLIDE 12 A tourist information center.



SLIDE 13 This church where little babies were once Baptized, and Galatians 3 says, "Were clothed with Christ," IS NOW.... Turned into a clothing and New Age store.



SLIDE 14 This former church IS NOW....... A Furniture Store.



SLIDE 15 This former church, where the Risen Jesus was once worshiped and praised, is now a shop where POP MUSIC is worshiped and praised.



SLIDE 16 This church where sinners received Christ's body under the bread, and Christ's blood under the wine, for the forgiveness of their sins, IS NOW..... A liquor store.



SLIDE 17 This church - in Bedford, England – home of John Bunyon, who wrote the Christian classic "Pilgrim's Progress" IS NOW..a Nightclub with drinking and dancing.



SLIDE 18 And this church, which once proclaimed Christ crucified, is now a tattoo parlor, and body piercing joint.

NOTE: Church attendance in Europe and Britain is now down to about 5%. And it is estimated that the church in Britain will be completing dead and gone by 2040, only 20 years from now.

Our Lord tells us in 2 Timothy that "In the Last Days many will turn away from the faith, and will turn aside to myths."



SLIDE 19 So what about our nation? America has more churches, more Christians, more Christian institutions, and more Christian resources than any other nation in history; yet, let me ask: 'Is America becoming more or less Christian every day?' What do you think?



SLIDE 20 WE ARE BECOMING LESS CHRISTIAN EVERY DAY! So something is dreadfully wrong - do we understand the times? What is wrong? What's the problem?



SLIDE 21 We are now starting to observe the same phenomena with churches in America. This next series of photos is of church buildings in the United States. This church was turned into....



SLIDE 22 A Wig-Wam Museum.



SLIDE 23 This American church was turned into....



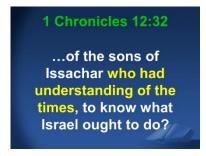
SLIDE 24 A Town Hall.



SLIDE 25 This church was turned into a Martial Arts center.



SLIDE 26 This church was turned into a music store that sells guitars.



SLIDE 27 Again, we need to ask ourselves: "Do we understand the times we're living in? What is happening in our land?"



SLIDE 28 Who would have ever thought that issues like: 'abortion', 'gay marriage', pornography, creation taken out of schools, prayer taken out of schools, removal of the Ten Commandments and Nativity scenes from public places, and so on...... would permeate America in the 21st century? What has happened to cause this?



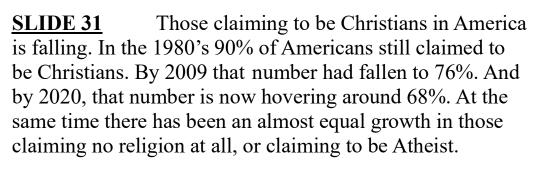
SLIDE 29 In April 2009, Newsweek declared on its' cover: 'The Decline And Fall Of Christian America'. Who would have ever thought we'd see this in America?



SLIDE 30 Another article, in that same edition of Newsweek was entitled: "The End Of Christian America". The article then quoted statistics from a Newsweek survey(next slide)......



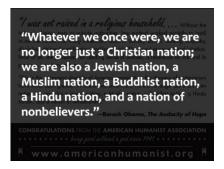
... the number of people willing to describe themselves as atheist or agnostic has increased about fourfold from 1990 to 2009, from 1 million to about 3.6 million.



SLIDE 32 From 1990 to 2009 those describing themselves as Atheist or Agnostic increased by 360%. And by 2020, 22% of Americans, or 70 million, now claim to be Atheist, Agnostic, or nothing at all.



SLIDE 33 The article goes on to state that America is now a country with many gods. And many no longer desire to declare our culture as: "one nation under the Biblical God." We are now a nation, like the Greeks in Paul's day, that had many gods.



SLIDE 34 Even Former President Obama, whether right or wrong, declared in his autobiography that: 'America is no longer a Christian nation, but a nation of many gods, and many religions."



SLIDE 35 The many gods of the Greeks is a reminder that our nation is increasingly becoming a pagan nation. So what does this mean? This has a great bearing on how we teach and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You see America used to be more like an Acts 2 culture - where the Jewish people who listened to Peter, understood Genesis 1-11. They believed there was ONE God, Who created all things. They understood the meaning of sin, as rebellion against the God Who owned them. They realized that death was not always in the world, but that death is an intrusion into God's perfect plan, caused by sin.

And because they had that solid foundation from Genesis 1-11, Peter could proclaim the Good News of Jesus, as our Savior from sin. And those people understood Peter. So when Peter called them to repent of their sins against the God who made them, owns them, and defines reality; and then gave them God's solution to their sins in the death and resurrection of Jesus, thousands were saved.

However, when Paul preached a similar message in Acts 17 the people didn't understand Paul. It was foolishness to them. Why? Here's why. The greeks believed in many gods. There foundation was man's opinions, rather than God's Word. They had no concept of a single God, Who created us, and to whom we are accountable. They didn't have the Ten Commandments, did understand sin, and believed that death was a normal part of life, rather than the consequence of Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden, and from which they could be rescued. As a result, they didn't understand what Paul was saying to them.

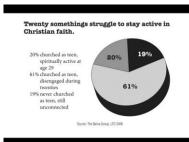
So Paul used their "Altar to an unknown God" and He took them back to Genesis 1-11, telling them that what they called 'an unknown God' was the only real God who created them and owned them. He then explained that all humans were of one blood, taking them back to the creation account of Adam and Eve. And once Paul defined his terms, with God's Word as the foundation, then he proclaimed the solution to their sin problem in Christ's death and resurrection, and some of his hearers were converted and saved.

America was once an Acts 2 culture. Even if some people didn't believe in Jesus, or go to church, they still understood God's foundation in Genesis 1-11, and could understand when Christians applied God's Word to their lives. But America today is more like an Acts 17 pagan greek culture, which is why, like Paul, we need to take our culture back to Genesis 1-11 before they will ever be able to understand the Gospel.

When asked to estimate the likelihood that they will continue to participate in church life once they are living on their own, levels dip precipitously to only about one of every three teens.

Barna Research Online, 'Teenagers Embrace Religion but Are Not Excited About Christianity,' January 10, 2000, www.harna.org

SLIDE 36 Research from George Barna reveals that nearly 2/3's of teens brought up in the church say they will leave the church once they're living on their own. And even the LCMS has done studies showing that 75% of those who are baptized will quit the church. So why is this happening?



SLIDE 37 This chart, by Barna Research in 2006, shows that 61% of teens who were active in church, dropped out of church in their twenties.

A new study by The Barna Group conducted among 16- to 29-year-olds shows that a new generation is more skeptical of and resistant to Christianity than were people of the same age just a decade ago.

http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdateNarrowPreview&BarnaUpdateD=280

SLIDE 38 A new study by The Barna Research Group conducted of 16-29 year-olds show that this new generation is more skeptical of, and resistant to, Christianity than were people of the same age just a decade ago. Why is this? Do we understand the times we're living in?

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

SLIDE 39 Paul warns us in 2 Corinthians 11:3, "<u>But I</u> fear, as the serpent deceived Eve by his subtle cunning, your minds may be led astray from your pure devotion to Christ." Paul is warning us that satan is going to use the same method on us, he used on Eve to get us to doubt God's Word. So what did satan do to Eve to introduce this doubt?

Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

SLIDE 40 In Genesis 2 God commanded Adam that he could eat of any tree in the Garden, except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. And He warned Adam that if he ate of that tree, he would surely die. This was a test of Adam's faith in God, which we know Adam failed, bringing sin and death into the world.

Genesis 3:1-2

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; SLIDE 41 But in Genesis 3, the serpent – or satan – came to Eve and tempted her to disobey God. And the method he used was to attack God's Word – and this is CRITICAL. Satan said to Eve was, "Did God really say? You don't have to take God at His Word, you can reinterpret it, decide truth for yourself, and be your own god."



SLIDE 42 Satan's method was to get Eve (and Adam) to doubt God's Word: "Did God really say?" WE CALL THIS A 'GENESIS 3 ATTACK'.

And Evolution and Man's Opinions are Genesis 3 attacks increasingly hitting our culture and our kids in the last 60 years. "Did God really say He created everything in 6 days,

that God defines what sin is, and that death is the result of man's sin?" Eat the fruit of Darwin's tree, and be your own 'god'. Since you're here by chance do whatever you want with sex. We came from cats and dogs, what's wrong with acting like them. Since Genesis 2 is a myth, do whatever you want with marriage: a man and a man, a woman and a woman, why not marry an animal, since Genesis isn't true? Genesis 3 ATTACKS.

In science classes, movie theatres, TV shows, and especially the internet, our kids are bombarded with "Genesis 3 attacks" - evolution is a proven fact, the Bible is proven wrong - and then without having answers for our kids, we say, 'Come on kids, get in the car we're going to church to hear more Bible stories.' And our kids are picking up on the fact that many of us don't have answers, so they're dropping out of church.

What about Carbon 14 dating? What about the big bang and billions of years? What about dinosaurs and so-called ape men? We need to understand the Genesis 3 ATTACKS that we, and our children, are facing, and learn the answers to those questions.

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

SLIDE 43 When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being 'born again', Jesus said in John 3:12, "If I have told you earthly things, and you do not believe me, how will you believe Me if I tell you about heavenly things?"

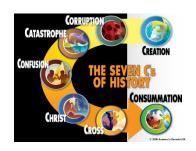
In other words, if you don't believe the "earthly things" I'm telling you about creation, and the history of the world in

Genesis 1-11; then how can you believe the "heavenly things" - that is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, come down from heaven, incarnated in the womb of the virgin, so He can bleed and die on the cross, to cover you sinfulness with His forgiveness?



SLIDE 44 The true history of the world in Genesis can be summarized by 4 C's: Creation, Corruption (SIN), Catastrophe (The FLOOD in Noah's Day), and Confusion (The Tower Of Babel- And Dispersion of People Groups). And those 4 C's are foundational, to the 3 C's of God's gracious solution: Christ, Cross, and Consummation.

In other words, if you don't believe the Word that describe our problem, how will you ever believe in the solution, Jesus Christ, which is found in the same Word? *Page 10*



SLIDE 45 The Solution to the problem of sin and death is illustrated in the last 3 'C's' – Christ, Cross, and Consummation (when Jesus comes again to create a new heaven, and a new earth, and take all believers home). But if God's Word is wrong in Genesis 1-11, as the devil, and the unbelieving world say it is, then we've lost the

foundation for the Good News of Jesus. In other words, the Good News of Jesus' forgiving death, is absolutely dependent on the Bad News of Adam and Eve's fall into sin and death, and our being born in that sin and death. If we teach our kids they can believe whatever they want when it comes to creation versus evolution - or we don't give them answers to the Genesis 3 Attacks that are hitting them then we've undermined the authority and truth of God's Word in their minds. But if we can't trust the first part of the Bible, mom and dad, how can we trust the rest of God's Word? Uh! Just go back to playing your video games? If God's eye-witness account and history of Genesis 1-11 can't be trusted, is it any wonder why our children are walking away from the church?



SLIDE 46 The Book of Genesis is like a foundation to a structure, and the entire structure - the rest of the Bible – is built on this foundation. In other words, the Good News of Jesus hanging dead on a cross for our forgiveness, is totally dependent on the BAD NEWS of Adam and Eve's fall into sin and death. Let's see how Jesus viewed Genesis 1-11.



SLIDE 47 When Jesus was asked about marriage, He replied by quoting from Genesis 1-2, as true history to define the meaning of marriage as one man and one woman. The doctrine of marriage is based on the creation account in Genesis. But when generations of kids are constantly told – evolution is fact, the scientists can't be wrong, but God and

His Word are a myth - then there's no absolute authority. And marriage can be whatever you want it to be, and that's one of the many problems we find ourselves in today.



SLIDE 48 But not just marriage. Ultimately, every single doctrine of God's Word is founded either directly or indirectly in Genesis 1-11: where everything came from, where sin came from, where death came from, where the Gospel came from, clothing, dinosaurs, seven day week.

Romans 10:9

That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, and believe in a young earth, six literal days, you shall be saved.

SLIDE 49 Some people think that when we insist that God's Word and Genesis 1-11 are true, and foundational to all other doctrines, that we're saying a person can't be a Christian if they don't believe in six, literal days of creation and a young earth. But that's not what we're saying.

For example, let's read ROMANS 10:9 which says, "But if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, and you believe in a young earth, and six literal days, you will be saved." Wait a second. God's Word doesn;t have that last sentence. Salvation is not dependent upon believing in a young earth and six literal days. Salvation is only through repentance of sins, and faith in Jesus as Savior.

Romans 10:9

That if you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved.

SLIDE 50 What Romans 10:9 really says is: "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Period. Everyone who believes in Jesus as their Savior from sin is a Christian, whether or not they believe in

the teaching of Evolution. But the problem is this: If you undermine the teaching of God's Word in Genesis 1-11, which describes mankind's fall into sin and death – that is, if you call into question, the source of the problem – eventually you'll be tempted to question the solution to the problem, which is Jesus Christ our Savior.

Most Christians accept man's opinions of history (big bang, millions of year, evolution) and reinterpret Genesis. And the danger is that when we do this, we have made a statement to those that we influence (children, students, piers) that God's Word can't be completely trusted, and we can reinterpret it using fallible man's opinions; and the message we send is that man sits in authority over Scripture. And you've just unlocked the door to undermine Biblical authority, from the very beginning of Scripture. And the next generation tends to push that door of compromise wider still, and so on, until the Biblical faith begins to be rejected, which is increasingly happening in our own land.

Psalm 11:3

If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?"

SLIDE 51 Psalm 11:3 declares, "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Thus, if the foundational history in Genesis is undermined, eventually the whole structure of Christianity will collapse - and that is exactly what we see happening in our land. Many American churches are following the same path as Europe to their own

demise because they trust in man's opinions instead of God's Word as the final authority. And Muslim leaders are already declaring that Christianity will be dead in Europe in the next 40 years or sooner – some believe within the next 20 years. <u>Page 12</u>



SLIDE 52 We send our kids to school where they're taught that the biology of the Bible can't be trusted – but it can be – and if you're looking for answers to back up God's Word go to www.AnswersInGenesis.org. Our kids are being taught that the biology, archaeology, geology, anthropology, and astronomy of the Bible can't be trusted. And then we

say, "Now let's go to church and learn some more Bible stories." And since parents aren't equipping themselves to answer their children's questions, or to initiate the truth, then your children or grandchildren won't know the truth to counter-act the lies they're being taught.



SLIDE 53 If we tell them that the history, biology, geology, astronomy, anthropology, and archaeology of the Bible are NOT TRUE.....when there's great evidence it is true, we're not only failing to teach them how to defend their faith, but we're actually helping to undermine their faith, by teaching them, "You can't trust Genesis 1-11....."



SLIDE 54 Then we tell our kids, "Trust In Jesus" and "Trust in His Cross" Why? Because the Bible says so! But I thought you said that the Bible can't be trusted, where it teaches us about our problem, but now you want me to trust the solution. Do you see the contradiction? And where does our compromising of God's Word lead?



SLIDE 55 The abandonment of all of God's Word, unbelief, and young people leaving the church in droves.



SLIDE 56 For the most part the "Genesis 3 Attacks" Did God really say? – are bombarding our kids from every side; while the church is punting the ball, admitting defeat when we don't have to, by believing the scientists can't be wrong, rather than equipping ourselves with the information that is available to answer the lies our kids are being taught, so we can defend our faith in Creation and in the cross.



SLIDE 57 In our culture (and Europe before us), the Bible is being 'bombed out'/ or attacked by the teaching of evolution, millions of years, ape men, etc..........



SLIDE 58 Today's generations are asking questions of the parents, grandparents, church leaders, to respond to what the world says is a bombed-out Bible. How can I trust in this mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, pastor?



SLIDE 59 And, by and large, rather than giving them answers based on the authority of God's Word, by which they can defend their faith against these Genesis 3 attacks, we simply tell them to 'Trust In Jesus' And the point is this: We do want them to trust in Jesus for salvation, but why should they believe the message of salvation from a book

they're taught can't be trusted. We need to be able to back up God's Word with answers.



SLIDE 60 This is why between 60-80% of young people sitting in church TODAY are ALREADY GONE. In their minds, they've already left because the church isn't giving them answers as to why they can trust God's Word. And yet we still hear many parents and church leaders say, 'It doesn't matter how God made everything, just believe in

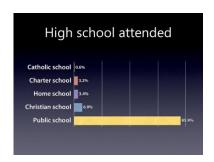
Jesus.' But our kids understand the mixed message that sends, so they're rejecting the message, while many parents and church leaders can't see it, because in many instances they just don't want to do the hard work to study the issues. Thankfully, we now have AnswersInGenesis.org to help us do the job we MUST be doing.



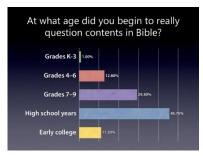
SLIDE 61 The book ALREADY GONE details 1000 young people who used to attend the church regularly, but have now left the church, with no plans to return.



SLIDE 62 Notice: It wasn't at college where most of them stopped attending - the majority had left before they got to college, in their thinking. Which means they already had their hearts and minds changed BEFORE they got to college. How? Where? When?

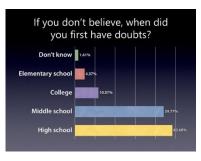


SLIDE 63 Over 85% attended public schools. And it's not the 'type' of school that is the problem, but it's the mixed-messages our kids are receiving both in public school the culture at large, and many of their unbelieving peers, as well as on social media, that contradicts God's Word, is where the problem is arising!



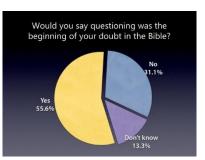
SLIDE 64 Notice: almost 42% were having doubts and questioning the Bible by the end of middle school or junior high. And another 46% MORE (almost 88% total) were having doubts and questioning the Bible by the end of High School. Now, to have questions is not the problem; but to not have answers that confirm what God's Word teaches

is the problem. That's why we parents need to study, learn, and convey those answers.



SLIDE 65 The "Take Away Point" is this: If we don't instill a strong faith in our kids, <u>AND</u> give them answers by which they can defend their faith, then by the end of Junior High we've already lost 42% in their thinking; and by the end of high school, we've lost 88% of them; which is why we plan to take our youth to the Creation Museum, and the

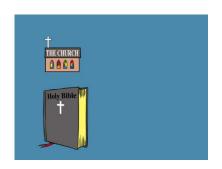
Ark in Kentucky, and I encourage every parent and grandparent to do the same.



SLIDE 66 And they themselves tell us that their doubts are coming from UNANSWERED QUESTIONS!

- How can I trust the Bible, when I'm told it's a bunch of lies?
- How can I believe in a six day creation, when the scientists tell me it's millions of years old?
- How could the dinosaurs have lived alongside of man?
- Where did God come from?
- Isn't the evidence for Evolution overwhelming?

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,



SLIDE 67

1st Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that is in you." The Greek Word for 'Answer' is 'apologia' which means 'apologetics' or 'a defense' - to give a logical, reasoned defense of the faith or the hope that is in you. We need to teach our children how to defend our faith.

<u>SLIDE 68</u> As Christians, we need to learn how to build our faith on the truth of God's Word, beginning with the very first verse. And a lot of the answers you need can be found at: AnswersInGenesis.org.





SLIDE 69 Most churches do not begin their teaching with an in-depth study of Genesis 1-11, and no apologetics of how our kids can 'defend their faith'. So kids come to church and we teach them Bible Stories. We shouldn't even call them Bible stories, which gives the impression these are fairy tales, rather than Biblical accounts of actual events.

SLIDE 70 And then they go to school – and they're told that they're now receiving the REAL HISTORY, BIOLOGY, ASTRONOMY, ANTHROPOLOGY, and GEOLOGY. So the church keeps teaching the children: "Trust In Jesus". But the world keeps telling them: "It's a fact that you can't trust the Bible." So our kids are hungry

for answers, and if we don't give them those answers, they'll eventually drop out of church, because the church doesn't have any answers for what they're really questioning



SLIDE 71 Let me give an example of what I mean. This is a really cute picture of Noah's ark. But it's actually a dangerous picture. Yet this is how Noah's Ark is represented to many of our children in our Sunday Schools. But this gives them the impression that Noah's Ark and Flood were just a fairy tale, or kids' story, and not a real catastrophic

judgment of God upon the world's sins. It also reinforces the idea that "there's no way Noah could have fit all those animals on the ark."



SLIDE 72 This is a more correct Biblical Image of what Noah's Ark would have looked like – a huge ship with plenty of room. We need to start teaching REAL answers in our churches.



SLIDE 73 Our children and grandchildren need real answers so they can understand the Bible and how to defend their faith. For example, when they ask questions like: 'How could Noah fit all those animals on board?' We need to have answers to their questions. And we do have answers:

- The Bible says that God brought the animals to Noah.
- And it does not say two of every variety (which is why some argue they couldn't have fit), but it says two of every 'kind'. For instance, consider the 'dog kind'.



SLIDE 74 While there are MANY species or varieties of dogs, they all belong to the DOG 'kind', or Dog family.



SLIDE 75 Noah would NOT have had to bring a male and female of every species or variety of dogs on board, but just a male and female, or a few representatives of the Dog Kind, which would have enough genetic information to breed all the different species in the dog kind or dog family, that we see today.



SLIDE 76 We need to be able to connect Noah's Flood to the fossil record for our kids, and help them understand that the fossil record was not laid down over millions of years – but most of the fossils were laid down at the time of Noah's flood, about 4500 years ago.

** Our kids need to learn that the fossil record actually supports God's Word, and not Evolution, because although we have found billions of fossils, we have never discovered a single 'bona fide' (without argument) missing link. Those aren't just my words: Dr. Stephen Gould, paleontologist at Harvard once stated, "The Paleontologists little secret is the absence of intermediate forms in the fossil record.' Dr. Colin Peterson, an evolutionist of the British Museum of Natural History, "I'm going to lay it on the line, we do not have a single intermediate fossil for which the evolutionist can make an airtight argument." So if we have billions of fossils without missing links, this backs up scripture which says that God made every kind to produce it's own kind, and then countless numbers of animals were buried and fossilized during the catastrophe of Noah's flood. God's Word has answers! Isn't it exciting to be a Christian?

Genesis 1:29-30

29 Then God said, "I give you every seedbearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

SLIDE 77 Let's use another example. When our kids ask us: 'But how could the dinosaurs and man have lived at the same time, without the dinosaurs killing man?' Guess what: 'We've got answers!' Notice what Genesis 1:29-30 says, "I give you every seed-bearing plant...and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They shall be yours' for food.

....and to all the beasts of the earth – everything that has the breath of life in it - I give every green plant for food." If we take Genesis literally, as Jesus did, then, before sin, man and animals were vegetarian. There was no death of animals or man before sin.

Genesis 9:3

Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.

SLIDE 78 God only put the fear of man into the animals, and gave the animals to man to eat, AFTER Noah's flood.

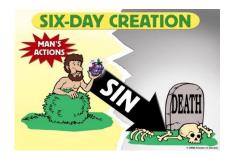
Genesis 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

SLIDE 79 Remember what God told Adam in Genesis He could eat of all the trees except one, and what happened? Adam ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil disobeying God. And to disobey God is called sin. And as a result of their sin, Adam and Eve's bodies started to die until they eventually bit the dust. And the same wages of sin is

death for all of Adam and Eve's descendents, because we're all born in sin and sin daily. So we know where sin, suffering, and death came from. We've got answers in the Bible.



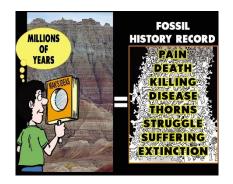
SLIDE 80 suffering.

Man's sin brought death, disease and



SLIDE 81 However, if, as a Christian, you try to hold onto man's opinions about millions of years of evolution, then you have to repeatedly contradict the Bible and say that it doesn't mean what it clearly says. Which the devil then uses to lead us and our children to doubt the message of Jesus, Who came to solve the problem that began in Genesis

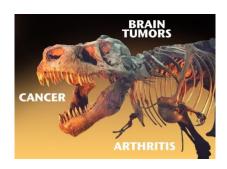
** The Christian who insists that the scientists just can't be wrong (God can be, but not those in white lab coats), you are therefore saying that there was millions of years of death, disease, bloodshed, fighting, brutality, species ripping each other apart and eating each other, BEFORE MAN EMERGED FROM APES, and BEFORE SIN.



SLIDE 82 Christians who say 'God used evolution' to create everything," turn God into a brutal God, rather than a loving God. Unbelievers already refuse to believe in a God Who permits suffering, yet Christians who want to add Evolution to the Bible, are saying that God used pain, death, killing, disease and extinction to create everything, so that the Garden of Eden was a huge graveyard full of dead bones



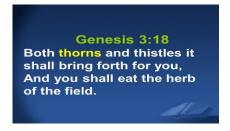
SLIDE 83 Here we see the fossil of one animal eating another animal - you can actually see the tooth going all the way through the femur (leg bone) of the other animal. This fossil is said to be 25 million years old. But wait, if you accept man's opinions, you have to contradict God's Word that says "Death entered the world through sin," and that before man sinned the animals were 'vegetarian'.





We find evidence of many diseases in the SLIDE 84 fossil record, such as: cancer, brain tumors, and arthritis, in fossil bones claimed to be millions of years old, and before man existed. But how could God describe everything as being "VERY GOOD", if it was filled with disease, cancer, suffering, pain and death BEFORE MAN SINNED.

SLIDE 85 We also find thorns and thistles in the fossil record, which the evolutionary scientists tell us are millions of years old. But what does the Bible say?

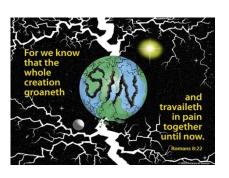


In Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve sinned, SLIDE 86 which was about 6000 years ago, God's Word says, "Thorns and thistles is shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat of the seed of the field."









You see once you try to add Evolution and SLIDE 87 millions of years, and man's opinions to the Bible, you turn God into a very unloving and uncaring God, using suffering and pain, death, bloodshed and extinction. But the Bible says God created everything 'VERY GOOD' before sin.

These two contradictory views cannot both SLIDE 88 be true at the same time, which is what well-meaning, but misguided Christians try to do. And in doing so, they undermine the authority of God's Word for their children, and open a crack in the door, for their kids to be led down the road of evolution and mans opinions away from God.

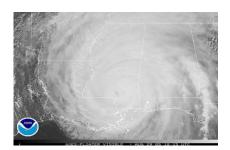
The Bible clearly teaches in Romans 8 that **SLIDE 89** the WHOLE of creation groans because of mans' sin. There was not a groaning world millions of years before sin. When we understand the history in Genesis, we realize that it's because of our sin - it's not God's fault - that terrible things now happen in our world. Page 20



SLIDE 90 Terrorist attacks.



SLIDE 91 The tragic deaths of those we love.

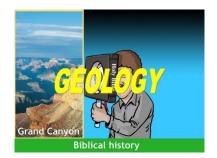


SLIDE 92 Terrible storms in a broken creation.



SLIDE 93 Earthquakes and Deadly Tsunamis.

*** So where is our God of love among these terrible things? Again the reality is that our sin caused these terrible things. But the good news is that our God of love is right here with us. Jesus took on flesh and blood so He could bleed and die. He became THE lightning rod for the full-blown wrath we deserved. He went through Hell and High Water to save us from our sins. He checked into His grave dead, and He checked back out alive, and offers the free gift of salvation to the whole world in the Gospel.



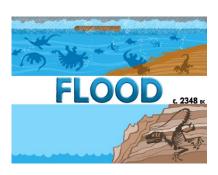
SLIDE 94 So when we build our thinking on the truth of God's Word, then we understand that death, suffering, disease, animals eating each other, thorns and thistles are not part of God's original plan, but are an intrusion into God's plan that came AFTER SIN. And we understand that the immense fossil record came AFTER SIN also. *Page 21*



SLIDE 95 But when we look at places like the Grand Canyon, we and our children have more questions that need answers: "How could all of these layers have been laid down after Adam sinned?"



SLIDE 96 A secular scientist will claim it would take a whole lot of time and a little bit of water to cause this. But now that we wear our Biblical glasses, we realize that a little bit of time, and a whole lot of water (from Noah's flood), has created this canyon.



SLIDE 97 A global flood would explain the immense fossil beds that we find, because animals and plants have to be buried quickly to be fossilized, and we find billions of fossils all over the earth. But, if there really was a world-wide flood, what would we expect to find?



SLIDE 98 We'd expect to find:

Billions of dead things,
Buried in rock layers,
Laid down by water,
All over the earth. Without any missing links.
And that's exactly what we find!



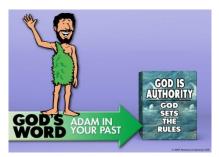
SLIDE 99 But what about all of the sedimentary layers in the Grand Canyon pastor, the scientists tell us that it's absolute fact that it took millions of years to lay down those layers. So how can you say they've all been laid down in the last 4500 years? Well to answer that, here's a beautiful picture of Mt. Saint Helens before it erupted in 1980.



SLIDE 100 When Mt. St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980, catastrophic processes created this canyon, 1/40th the size of the Grand Canyon, and laid down sedimentary layer, after sedimentary layer in just a matter of hours. Do you begin to see how solid of a foundation God's Word really is?



SLIDE 101 But pastor, scientists tells us petrification takes millions of years? Once again, they're wrong. This petrified ham, from a museum in New Zealand was found in a village that was covered by volcanic ash. This ham only took a few years to fossilize. You don't need long periods of time for fossilization, you just need the right conditions of mineralized sediment, which you would have had during a world-wide flood, when the whole earth's crust erupted.



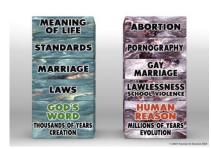
SLIDE 102 This picture is actually the bottom line as to why the 'creation versus evolution' topic is so important. Since God's Word is the truth, it is therefore authoritative in every area of our lives. God does set the rules for our lives, because He loves us. He sets the rules so that we don't hurt ourselves and others with sin, but so that we enjoy His gifts

with maximal pleasure. It's because God is creator that He defines reality. He tells us what life is supposed to look like, and what it's not supposed to look like. He tells us where we came from, whose we are, why we're here, and where we're going. And when we lost the way, He sent Jesus to die for us!



SLIDE 103 But when you believe in Evolution, you are saying that you had apes for your ancestors, And when whole generations are taught by the 'so-called' scientific fact that they're just animals, that there's no truth or absolute authority, that there is NO God to whom they're accountable that death is a normal part of life, and when you die you

cease to exist, but there's no judgment, so you might as well just enjoy the journey, with no consequences, then why should we be surprised when we see the last 2-3 generations doing whatever they want with sex, marriage, babies, drugs, crimes, rioting, and turn away from church. Evolution is a "religion" – a false religion – and many of those rioting in our streets, wanting to destroy our nation, are doing so with "religious fervor".



SLIDE 104 When we start with God's Word as our foundation, we have meaning, purpose, and value in life. We have a basis for laws and Christian morality. We know Who's we are, Where we came from, Why we're here, and Where we're going. We know that death entered the world because man tried to be God, and sinned, and the wages of

that sin is death. But we know that just as God killed an innocent animal to cover Adam and Eve's sinful nakedness with garments of skin, He also killed His innocent little lamb Jesus, to wash away our sins and cloth us with the robe of Christ's righteousness. <u>Pg 23</u>



SLIDE 105 In this picture, notice that the termites of Evolutionary thinking are eating away at the foundation of God's Word, and creation, based upon the truth of Genesis. As a result, our Western world – as well as in America – we are witnessing the crumbling and collapse of the Christian worldview, and increasing moral relativism, like we read in

the book of Judges where it says, "*Everyone did what was right in their own eyes*." But the real cause is foundational - there has been a change from building one's thinking in every area of our lives upon the authoritative, life-giving Word of God; to many building every area of their thinking upon man's opinions, and the evolutionist in white lab coats. This change has occurred in our courts, our government, our schools, and sadly, even in many churches over the last 60 years.

When Christians allow (or even teach) that you can't trust Genesis because the scientists say so, you already changed the foundation in your child's life from God's Word to man's Word. And if the parents, scientists, teachers and pastors tell the kids that they can reinterpret God's Word concerning the history, geology, biology, astronomy of Genesis, where the problem of sin and death entered the world, then why should we be surprised when they no longer trust the solution to the problem, which is Jesus death on the cross – that God introduced the death of a substitute – His Only Son – so that mankind could be redeemed all the way back to Adam and Eve.



SLIDE 106 So let me close with two more illustrations.

These two castle diagrams really sum up the situation. The Castle on the right is built on the foundation of God's Word. And the Bad News of mankind's fall into sin and death, and accountable to the God Who created us, is the foundation

for the Good News of Jesus Christ, our Savior, Whose blood sets us free to be children of God again.

But the Castle on the left is built on the foundation of man's opinion and evolution. The castle built upon this foundation is a secular castle - where man's ideas reign supreme. Evolution is <u>THE</u> key Genesis 3 attack that we're facing today.

However, many Christians have supported this attack by claiming that Genesis 1-11 is not important. They tell us we don't need Genesis 1-11, just believe in Jesus, and we'll be fine. Since evolution is not a direct attack on the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection, they think it's not a big deal. But they don't understand that by being an attack on the authority and trustworthiness of God's Word - from which we get the Gospel - it is an attack on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the castle on the right, we see a pretty good picture of the church today. One Christian is sleeping, and not taking the battle seriously. Another Christian is shooting at a fellow Christian. One of them is shooting himself in the foot, one Christian is shooting in the opposite direction of where the real battle is, and finally one Christian is aiming his attack on the moral issues like abortion and gay marriage, and we should be doing that -but that's not enough! Those are not THE foundational problem. Those are the symptoms of the problem. Millions of dollars and time and effort have been spent fighting these moral issues, but we're still losing. WHY?

Because we're trying to change the culture by changing laws and leaders, rather than trying to change the culture by changing hearts and minds with the Word of God. Our culture has changed from the bottom up, and as a result, you can't change it from the top - down!

Generations of kids have had their hearts and minds convinced that another foundation different than God's Word is the truth. And given a different foundation those Christians are building a different worldview, and we are reaping the consequences.



SLIDE 107 The way to truly fight the enemy we're facing is seen in this Castle diagram; where one Christian is aiming his attacks on the moral issues, while the rest of the Christians are aiming their attacks on the foundation of Evolution and Mans' Opinions.

When you have a solid Biblical foundation, built on the truth of Creation and God's Word, then you know what sin is – it's self-chosen rebellion against God. It's also that sinful nature we inherited from our first parents Adam and Eve. We also know why there is death in the world: "The Wages Of Sin Is Death."

The Bible tells us that we've all sinned, because we're all descendents of Adam, and because we all sin daily. And then the Bible goes on to say that your sins and mine separate us from the Lord, just as Adam and Eve lost their place in paradise with God. And we would have been separated from God and Paradise for all eternity, BUT....

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON - AN INNOCENT SACRIFICE, JUST AS HE GAVE ADAM AND EVE, TO DIE ON A CROSS, AND TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN. AND RATHER THAN TELLING GOD HOW HE CAN OR CAN'T FORGIVE US. WE TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD WHEN HE SAYS THAT CHRIST'S DEATH HAS FORGIVEN US!

For 'While we were still sinners. Christ died for us." The fact that God would put His own Son on the cross for six hours to die for us, is much more amazing and incredible than God creating the whole world in 6 days. For in those first 6 days all God had to do was to speak the Word, and the His powerful Word created everything very good.

But on Calvary's Cross, God had to permit His Word made flesh - His Very Son - to be snuffed out in death, so we could be declared VERY GOOD again, AND WE ARE!

As a result, God promises everyone: "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in Your heart that God raised Him from the dead. You will be saved."

God won't force that forgiveness on anyone, but He gives it to everyone. When Christ died the Whole world was forgiven. And when Christ rose the whole world was set free from death. You can reject your acceptance if you really want to, but why would you? For, in Christ God has recreated you, and declares you VERY GOOD again, and He promises you that in Jesus you will live forever, with Him, in paradise once more; and He wants everyone to take Him up on the deal. Amen.