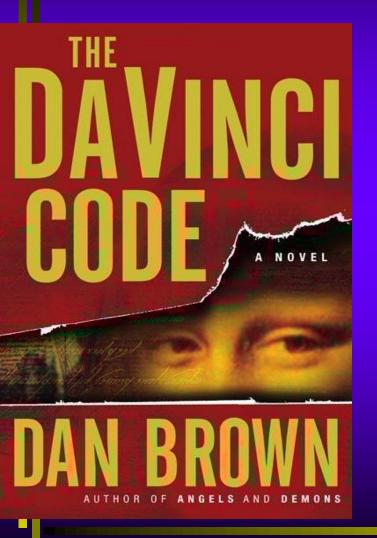
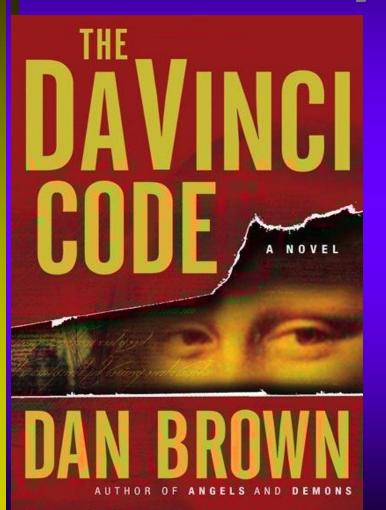
The Bible: Are There Any Errors?

DaVinci Challenge to The Reliability of the Gospels



"The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God Man created it as a historical record.... The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great" (231)

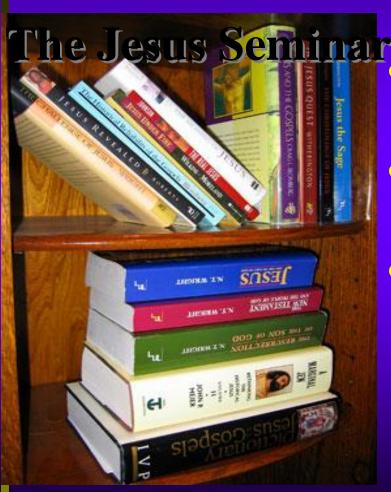
DaVinci Challenge to The Reliability of the Gospels



"Many have made a trade of delusions and false miracles, deceiving the stupid multitude...." (231).

"Almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false (234-235).

A. The Jesus Seminar: Doubts Most of the Gospels



82% is not authentic

16% more is doubtful

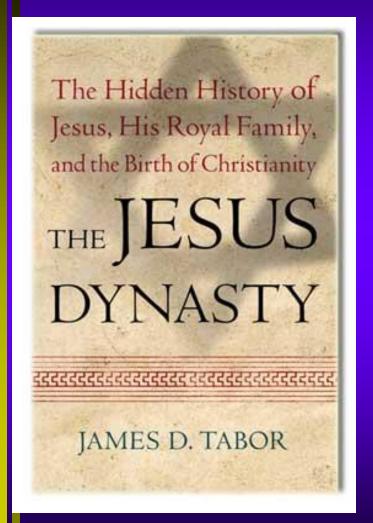
98% total is in doubt

C. Bart Ehrman: Doubts NT Manuscripts



"And these [NT Ms.] copies all differ from one another, in many thousands of places....
These copies differ from each other in so many places that we don't even know how many differences there are."
(Misquoting Jesus, 10, 12).

D. James Tabor: No Miracles in Bible



The Gospels have errors and contradictions (237). Miracle stories are not true including the Virgin Birth and resurrection because "Women do not get pregnant without a male ever" (233) and "Dead bodies don't rise-not if one is clinically dead—as Jesus surely was after Roman crucifixion and three days in a tomb" (234)

- The Bible: Errors? No!
- Bible Critics: Errors? Yes!

Three Reasons the Bible Cannot Err

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

Reason One: God the Father

- God cannot err.
- The Bible is the Word of God.
- Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

The Thesis: The Bible Which is the Word of God Cannot Err.

The Logic:

The Bible Which is

the Word of

God Cannot Err.

lf...

God Cannot Err

Then...

The Word of God cannot err

And if... The Bible is the Word of God

Then... The Bible cannot err.

The only alternatives:

Deny: "God cannot err."

OR

Deny: "The Bible is the Word of God."

OR both

Jesus said: "Your Word is truth." (Jn. 17:17)

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The psalmist said: "The sum of your word is truth." (119:160)

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The psalmist said: "The sum of your word is truth." (119:160)

Paul said: "Let God be true...." (Rom. 3:4)
"The God who cannot lie." (Titus 1:2)

Jesus said: "Your Word is truth." (Jn. 17:17)

The psalmist said: "The sum of your word is truth." (119:160)

Paul said: "Let God be true...." (Rom. 3:4)
"The God who cannot lie." (Titus 1:2)

Hebrews says: "It is impossible for God to lie." (6:18)

And The Bible is the Word of God

Jesus said so:

"If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken." (Jn. 10:34-35)

"Laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the traditions of men..., making the word of God of no effect through your traditions" (Mk. 7:8, 13).

Paul said so:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God...." (2 Tim. 3:16)

"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect."

[Rom. 9:6]

What Scripture Says, God Says GOD SAYS... SCRIPTURE SAYS...

Gen. 12:3 Gal 3:8

Ex. 9:16 Rom. 9:17

SCRIPTURE SAYS...

Gen. 2:24 Matt. 19:4-5

GOD SAYS...

Psa. 2:1 Acts 4:24-25

Psa. 2:7 Heb. 1:5

Psa. 16:10 Acts 13:35

Psa. 95:7 Heb. 3:7

Psa. 97:7 Heb. 1:6

Psa. 104:4 Heb. 1:7

Isa. 55:3 Acts 13:34

Isa. 6:9 Acts 28:25

They are interchangeable

What Scripture Says, God Says

GOD SAYS... SCRIPTURE SAYS...

Gen. 12:3

"Now the Lord said to Abram" "The Scripture...preached ...to Abraham...saying"

Gal 3:8

What Scripture Says, God Says

GOD SAYS...

Gen. 12:3

"Now the Lord said to Abram"

SCRIPTURE SAYS... GOD SAYS...

Gen. 2:24

"[Author of Genesis] said,... a man shall leave his father and mother...."

Isa. 6:9

"[Isaiah wrote], "Go to this People and say...."

SCRIPTURE SAYS....

Gal 3:8

"The Scripture...preached ...to Abraham...saying"

Matt. 19:4-5

"He [God]...said, '...a man shall leave his father and mother...."

Acts 28:25

"The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet.... saying, 'Go to this people and say....

Therefore...

- 1. The Bible is the Word of God.
- 2. God cannot err.
- 3. Hence, the Bible cannot err.

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- 2. Jesus affirmed the Bible is the Word of God.

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- 4. But the Word of God cannot err.

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- Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God.
- 4. But the Word of God cannot err.
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- 6. Scientific accuracy (Mt. 19:4-5; Jn. 3:12)

Jesus affirmed the Bible has:

- 1. Divine authority (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10)
- 2. Indestructibility (Mt. 5:17-18)
- 3. Unbreakability (Jn. 10:35)
- 4. Ultimate supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 5)
- 5. Historical reliability (Mt. 12:40; 24:37-38)
- 6. Scientific accuracy (Mt. 19:4-5; Jn. 3:12)
- 7. Factual inerrancy (Mt. 22:39; Jn. 17:17)

The Painful Dilemma for Bible Critics:

- 1. If Jesus is the Son of God...
- 2. Then the Bible is the Word of God.

The Painful Dilemma for Bible Critics:

- 1. If Jesus is the Son of God...
- 2. Then the Bible is the Word of God.

And...

- 1. If the Bible is not the Word of God...
- Then Jesus is not the Son of God.

A Bad Argument:

- 1. The Bible is the words of human beings.
- 2. Human beings err.
- 3. Therefore, the Bible errs.

The Bad Premise:

- 1. The Bible is the words of human beings.
- 2. Human beings err.
 - 3. Therefore, the Bible errs.

The Error:

Human beings do not always err.

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 And...
- Human beings did not err when moved by God who cannot err (2 Peter 1:20-21).

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- Human beings did not err when moved by God who cannot err (2 Peter 1:20-21).
- "God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick."

Jesus said: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost . . . shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (Jn. 14:26)

Peter said: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21)

Luke wrote: "God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." (Acts 3:21)

A Good Analogy:

The Living Word

(Savior)

Divine Nature

Human Nature

One in Person

Without Sin

The Written Word

(Scripture)

Divine Nature

Human Nature

One in Propositions

Without Error

```
Jesus "was without sin" (Heb. 4:15);
      "had no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21);
      "was without blemish or defect" (1 Pet. 1:19);
      "is righteous" (1Jn. 2:1)
       "is pure" (1 Jn. 3:3).
Likewise,
The Bible "is God-breathed" (2 Tim. 3:16);
          "is out of the mouth of God" (Mt. 4:4);
          "is perfect" (Psa. 19:7);
          "is flawless" (Prov. 30:4):
          "cannot be broken" (Jn. 10:35).
```

The Logic of the Argument:

1. The Spirit of Truth cannot utter error.

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- The Bible is the utterance of the Spirit of Truth.

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- The Bible is the utterance of the Spirit of Truth.
- 3. Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

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- "...not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but [in words] which the Holy Spirit teaches...." (1 Cor. 2:13)

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- "All scripture [writing] is given by inspiration of God...." (2
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- The Bible is the utterance of the Spirit of Truth.
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Conclusion: The Bible Cannot Err Because:

- The Bible is the Word of God, and-
- 1. God cannot err.
- 2. Therefore, the Bible cannot err.

Reason One: God the Father cannot err.

Reason One: God the Father cannot err.

Reason Two: God the Son cannot err.

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Reason Two: God the Son cannot err.

Reason Three: God the Holy Spirit cannot error.

Reason One: God the Father cannot err.

Reason Two: God the Son cannot err.

Reason Three: God the Holy Spirit cannot error.

Therefore, an attack on the Bible is an attack on:

Reason One: God the Father cannot err.

Reason Two: God the Son cannot err.

Reason Three: God the Holy Spirit cannot error.

Therefore, an attack on the Bible is an attack on: The authenticity of God the Father

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Reason One: God the Father cannot err.

Reason Two: God the Son cannot err.

Reason Three: God the Holy Spirit cannot error.

Therefore, an attack on the Bible is an attack on:
The authenticity of God the Father
The authority of God the Son
The ministry of God the Spirit
In short, it is an all-out attack on the Triune God!

A Helpful Comparison:

Study of Science

Many Difficulties

Assumed Explainability

Many are explainable

Continued Research

Study of Bible

Many Difficulties

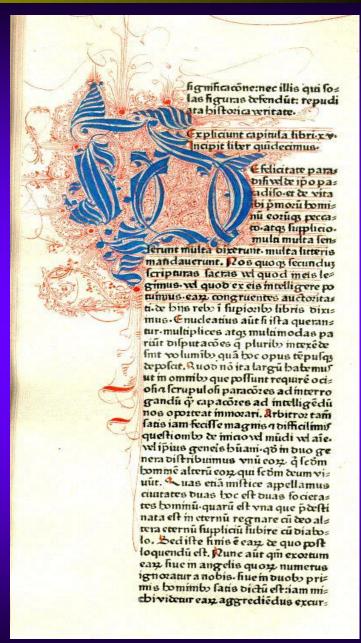
Assumed Explainability

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Continued Research

St. Augustine's Dictum:

"If we are perplexed by any apparent contradiction in Scripture, it is not allowable to say, The author of this book is mistaken; but either [1] the manuscript is faulty, or [2] the translation is wrong, or [3] you have not understood." (Augustine, Reply to Faustus 11.5



The Errors of the Critics

"The Bible is without errors...

But the critics are not.

Error # 1 of the Critics: Confusing Our Fallible *Interpretation* with God's Infallible *Revelation?*

The Bible cannot be wrong, but— Our interpretation of it can be wrong.

The Bible is infallible, but—we are not!



General Revelation (= no conflict =) Special Revelation

(Facts of Science) (Facts of Scripture)

GOD

General Revelation no conflict Special Revelation

(Facts of Science) (Facts of Scripture)

Views of Scientists conflict Views of Theologians

Error # 2 of the Critics: Assuming that the Unexplained is not Explainable.

- Science once had no explanation for meteors, eclipses, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, or how the bumblebee could fly.
- All these are now explained.
- More will be explained in the future.
- THE SAME IS TRUE OF BIBLE DIFFICULTIES!

Example: The Inscription on the Cross:

Matthew- THIS IS JESUS _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- Matthew- THIS IS JESUS _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Mark _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- Matthew- THIS IS JESUS _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Mark ______*THE KING OF THE JEWS.*
- Luke THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- Matthew- THIS IS JESUS _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Mark ______*THE KING OF THE JEWS.*
- Luke THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- John _____JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

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- Mark _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- Luke THIS IS _____THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- John _____JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<u>COMPLETE:</u> THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Note:

- Each has the essential part of it.
- All together gives the whole statement.

Example # 1:

Matthew (28:5) said there *was one* angel at the tomb.

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Resolution: Wherever there are two, there is always one. It Never Fails!

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John (20:12) said there were two angels there.

Resolution: Wherever there are two, there is always one. It Never Fails!

Note: Matthew did not say there was only one angel there.

Example # 2

Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."

Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

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Matthew (27:5): Judas "hanged himself."

Acts (1:18): "...falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out."

Resolution: Sometime after hanging himself, his body was discovered, the rope cut, and the body fell on sharp rocks and it burst open.

Error # 5 of the Critics: Forgetting That the Bible Uses Non-technical, Everyday Language

- The Bible was written for the common man in common language.
- It uses everyday, observational language.
- This is not unscientific; it is merely prescientific.

Illustrations: It speaks of the sun "standing still" (Josh. 10:12) and the sun "rising." (Josh. 1:16)

But even contemporary meteorologists speak of "sunrise" and "sunset."



No scientist says: "Honey, look at the beautiful earth rotation!"

Things the Bible records but does not approve.

Satan's lie (Gen. 3:4; cf. John 8:44);

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- David's Adultery (2 Sam 11);

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- Solomon's Polygamy (1 Kings 11:1);

- Satan's lie (Gen. 3:4; cf. John 8:44);
- David's Adultery (2 Sam 11);
- Solomon's Polygamy (1 Kings 11:1);
- ♣ That Fools say "There is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

Error # 7: Forgetting That Only the Original Text, Not Every Copy of Scripture, is Without Error

Ahaziah was 42.

(2 Chrn. 22:2)

Solomon had 40,000 stalls.

(1 Kings 4:26)

Ahaziah was 22.

(2 Kings 8:26 KJV)

Solomon had 4,000 stalls.

(2 Chrn. 9:25)

Note Several Important Things:

- 1. These errors are found only in copies, not in the originals.
- 2. They are rare.
- 3. They affect no doctrine of Scripture.
- 4. We usually know which one is correct by the context.

What if you received this message?

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"
Would you collect the money?

What if you received this message?

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"
"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

And if you received this message, you would have no doubt!

"Y#U HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"
"YO# HAVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"
"YOU #AVE WON TEN MILLION DOLLARS"

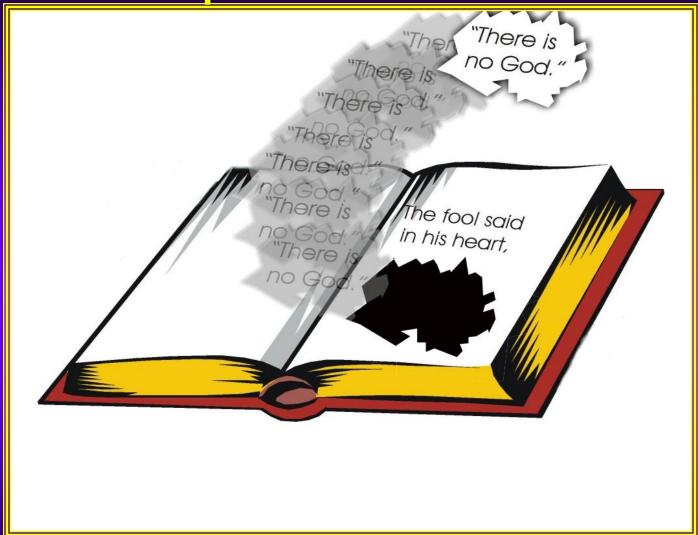
Note:

- 1. Even with mistakes, 100% of the message comes through.
- 2. The more errors, the more sure you are of the message.
- 3. The Bible has many less errors in the copies than this message has.

Error # 8 of the Critics: Failing to Understand the Context of the Passage

An old adage: "A text out of context is a pretext."

For Example



The Bible says "there is no God." (Psa. 14:1)
The Context: The "fool" said this.

Other Examples of a text out of context:

The Bible says: "The mustard seed...is the smallest of all seeds." (Mt. 13:31-32)

But science says it is the orchid seed.

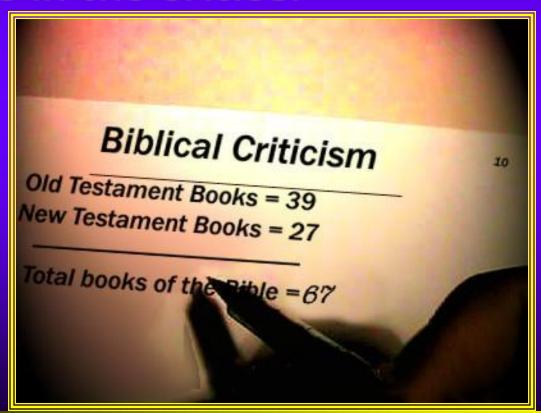
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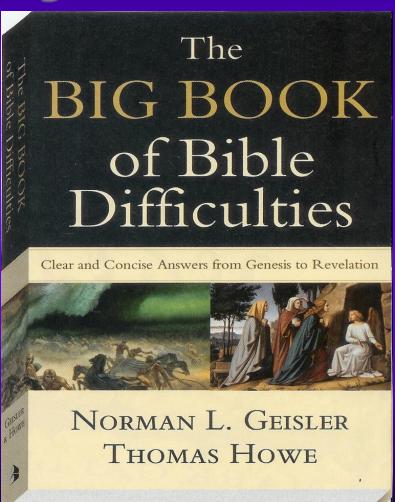
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The Context: However, the mustard seed was the smallest one "which a man took and sowed in his field" (Mt. 13:31), not the smallest in the world.

No one has ever demonstrated an error in the Bible, but—
We have seen that there are many errors in the critics.



For 800 More Errors of the Critics, See *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties*.



Mark Twain said: It is not the part of the Bible I don't understand that troubles me the most. It is the part of the Bible I do understand that troubles me the most.

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Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

We should not criticize the Bible;

We should let the Bible criticize us!

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Turning the Logic Right Side Up:

We should not criticize the Bible;

We should let the Bible criticize us!

"For the word of God is alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword...and is a discerner (Lt. critic) of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12)

Problem: In Matt. 10:9-10 says "Do not take...a staff [for your journey]" but Mark 6:8 says to "take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff...."

Answer: Mark declares that should take nothing except a staff which a traveler would normally have. Whereas, Matthew says they are not to acquire an extra staff. In short, travel light. Don't even take "two tunics" (Mt. 10:10).

C. But theistic evolution is contrary to a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-3

- 1. Adam was created from dust and he returned to it (2:7,19).
- 2. Eve was made from Adam's rib (2:21-24).
- 3. God created every living thing (1:21).
- 4. God created new forms of life (1:24).
- 5. Each form of life produced its own kind (1:21, 22, 24).
- 6. God made man in His image and likeness (1:27).
- 7. God told them to have children (1:28) and they did (Gen 4).*
- 7. Man could speak a language from the beginning (3:3,10).
- 8. Man had intellectual ability to name things from the very beginning (2:19-20).
- 9. Man had moral capacity and responsibility from the very beginning (2:16-17).
- 10. Man had the ability to reproduce from the beginning (1:28).
- *This is contrary to some theistic evolutionist's claim that Adam an Eve were names to represent a collective goup.

Are the Two Compatible?

- A. Basic Evangelical Doctrines are based on a Literal Interpretation of Scripture, e.g.,--
 - 1. The Fall of Man (Rom. 5)
 - 2. The Virgin Birth (Mt. 1)
 - 3. The Death of Christ (Mk. 15)
 - 4. The Resurrection of Christ (Lk. 24)
- B. The Literal Interpretation demands the historicity of Genesis 1-3 (shown above).
- C. But theistic evolution is contrary to a literal interpretation of Genesis 1-3 (shown above).
- D. Therefore, theistic evolution is inconsistent with an evangelical understanding of Scripture.

Problem: Genesis says the sun was not made until the fourth day (Gen. 1:14-19). Yet there was "evening and morning [light]" from the first day (1:2-5) on.

Answer: First, there was light from the first day when God said, "Let there be light" (1:3) and there was "morning." Second, there was light from the first day, but the light holders (sun, moon, and stars) did not become visible until the fourth day (just as we can see that it is light on a foggy day but can not see the sun).

Problem: Genesis 1 and 2 give two contradictory creation accounts.

Answer: First, they are not contradictory but complementary. Genesis one give the outline and chronological order, showing the creation of animals. Genesis 2 give a more topical and detailed account leading up to the naming of the animals. Second, in Genesis 1 the animals are created before man. But in Genesis 2 they are named after man is created. It does not say they were created after man was. It simply says Adam named the animals which God had already created (Gen 2:19).

Problem: Genesis 4:16-17 says Cain had a wife and children. But there was no one else to marry, since there was only Adam, Eve, and Cain left (after he killed Abel).

Answer: First, Adam and Eve had "other sons and daughters" (Gen. 5:4). Second, Adam lived for 800 years after he started to have children. You can have a lot of children in 800 years! So, there were many other women to marry. Third, it was not yet forbidden to marry one's sister or cousin—a law that came much later because of possible genetic deformities.

Problem: Biblical authors held the false view of ancient times that the atmosphere was not basically empty but was a solid dome. Job says God "spread out the skies" like "a cast metal mirror" (37:18). Indeed, the Hebrew word for "firmament" (ragia) (Gen. 1:16) is defined in Hebrew dictionary as a solid object Answer: First, the root meaning (etymology) of

Answer: First, the root meaning (etymology) of raqia was solid object, but meaning is not determined by origin but by usage. For example, "board" was originally a solid plank but now can refer to a non-physical unity among a group of persons—a board of Elders.

Second, ragia means to beat out or spread out, as metal is thinned out when beaten. It is correctly rendered "expanse" (cf. Ex. 39:3; Is. 40:19 NIV, NASB). Second, Isaiah 42:22 says God "stretched out the heavens like a curtain" which fits with the idea of an expanding universe. Third, the Bible speaks of rain as falling through the sky (Job. 36:27-28) which is not possible through a solid object. Fourth, birds are said to fly "above" the earth and across the face of firmament (Gen. 1:20) which is not possible if the sky is solid. Finally, Job does not say the skies are a metal mirror, but only like one in their strength (endurance). This should not be taken any more literally than saying God is like a strong tower (Prov. 18:12).

Second, the Bible does not use modern technical categories but those useful for an average observer who could see by this chewing motion whether it was an unclean animal or not. The Bible employs the same observational language when it speaks of "sun rise" and "sun set."

Problem: Matt. 8:5 says the "centurion came to Him entreating Him...." But Luke 7:6 says "the centurion sent friends" to speak to Jesus.

Answer: Both are true; the centurion spoke through his representatives just as the Secretary of State speaks for the president as his official representative.

Problem: Leviticus 11:5-6 says the rabbit chews the cud, when science has proven it does not.

Answer: First, rabbits do not chew the cud in the modern technical sense (of ruminants which usually have four stomachs), but they do have a chewing action that looks similar. They practiced refection (chewing their droppings). **Even the famous scientist Linnaeus** originally classed rabbits as ruminants because of their similar chewing motion.

Problem: Mark 2:26 says Abiathar was high priest instead of Ahimelech who was the high priest at the time of David (1 Samuel 21:1–6).

Response: First, a few early manuscripts omit the phrase "in the days of Abiathar" which would resolve the problem.

Second, Mark may have given the name of the more famous of the two, who, may have been an assistant to his father at the time, as Eli's sons were to him (1 Sam. 4:4).

Third, it only says "in the *days* of Abiathar" (v. 26), which need not imply he was high priest at the time. So, it may have been during his *time* but not during his *tenure*.

Fourth, Greek scholar A.T. Robertson said that "It is possible that both father and son bore both names as was not uncommon (1 Sam. 22:20; 2 Sam. 8:17; 1 Chrn. 18:16).

Fifth, the word "time" or "days" is not in the Greek. It is literally epi Abiathar, "upon Abaiathar" and could be a Greek idiom meaning "in the passage about Abiathar, the high priest" (cf. Mark 12:26). This was a customary Jewish way of indicating the section of the Old Testament where a desired incident could be found" (see Bible Knowledge Commentary, 114) since there were no chapter divisions at that time.

Further Problem: Jairus told Jesus in Matthews 9:18 that his daughter was dead. But in Mark and Luke Jairus told Jesus that she was only "at the point of death" (Mk 5:23 cf. Lk. 8:42).

Response: 1) First, there is no contradiction here since while he "was still speaking, someone from Jairus's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead" (Lk. 8:49). 2) After that it was correct to say, as Jairus did (Mt. 9:18) that "my daughter has just died." Matthew did not say Jarius said anything that he did not say. He merely combines the two parts of the conversation, thus stressing the point that the girl had actually died by that time. This is an acceptable literary practice called collation.

2. Jesus (and is apostles) confirmed Genesis 1-11

- **1.** Creation of the universe (Gen. 1)—Mk. 13:19; John 1:3; Col. 1:16
- Creation of Adam and Eve (Gen. 1-2)—Mk. 10:6; Mk. 13:19; 1 Tim.
 2:13; 1 Cor. 11:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:45
- 3. God resting on the seventh day (Gen. 1)—Heb. 4:3-4
- 4. The marriage of Adam and Eve (Gen. 2)—Mt. 19:4-6; Mk. 10:7-8; Eph. 5:31; 1 Cor. 6:16
- 5. The temptation of Eve (Gen. 3)—1 Tim. 2:14; 2 Cor. 11:3
- 6. The disobedience of Adam (Gen. 3)—Rom. 5:12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
- 7. The sacrifices of Abel and Cain (Gen. 4)—Heb. 11:4
- 8. The murder of Abel by Cain (Gen. 4)—Mt. 23:35; 1 Jn. 3:12; Jude 11
- 9. The birth of Seth (Gen. 4)—Lk. 3:38
- 10. The translation of Enoch to heaven (Gen. 5)—Heb. 11:5
- 11. Marriage before the flood (Gen. 6)—Lk. 17:27
- 12. The Flood and destruction of mankind (Gen. 7)—Mt. 24:39
- 13. The Preservation of Noah and his family (Gen. 8-9)—1 Pet. 3:20; 2
 Pet. 2:5
- 14. Noah's son Shem and his descendants (Gen. 10)—Lk. 3:35-36
- 15. The Birth of Abram (Abraham) (Gen. 11)—Lk. 3:34