



Six Days

The Age of the Earth and the Decline of the Church

KEN HAM

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Introduction

For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle? (1 Corinthians 14:8)

In a world that is increasingly in rebellion against God and in a society where the authority of the Word of God is being eroded out from under us, the Church stands as a light in the darkness. God's people are called together to share the gospel and love of Jesus Christ with the world — using the Word of God as their foundation of wisdom and knowledge.

With the Scriptures, we can speak with authority about the issues of our age, just as Christ spoke with authority to those to whom He ministered:

And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. (Mark 1:22)

But, readers, the Church has a problem. There is an uncertain sound coming from many in the Body. How can we be discerning? Think about it! When many Christian academics, Bible scholars, and church leaders and pastors are asked what they believe about Genesis, they will likely offer one or more of the following responses:

“There is a gap of millions of years between the first verses of Genesis.”

“We don't know what the days of Genesis mean.”

“The Flood was a local event. Fossils are probably millions of years old.”

“God used evolution to create Adam and Eve.”

“Genesis 1 is a poem.”

“Genesis is not about our origins.”

“Adam and Eve weren’t real people.”

“Genesis 1 represents the temple, not material origins.”

This is just a short list. The point is, there are several positions (which I assert are compromise positions) on Genesis that permeate the Church today. And all these views have one thing in common — they try to accommodate what secularists believe about origins, particularly the idea that the earth is millions of years old.

Most children in Christian homes attend public schools where, by and large, their textbooks and lectures give our young people a very specific history. Here is what they are almost always taught as fact:

The universe began with a big bang 15 billion years ago. The stars formed 10 billion years ago. The sun formed 5 billion years ago and the molten earth 4.5 billion years ago.

Water formed on the earth 3.8 billion years ago. And over millions of years, life formed from nonlife and then evolved to fish, then amphibians, to birds and mammals, then ape-like creatures, and then man — a process involving death over millions of years.

Secular museums, documentary programs on television, secular professors at universities, most public school textbooks — they all give the same basic view of origins. They are unified. They have a very certain message.

And these ideas are not just taught in the science classroom! A new history curriculum is being piloted in schools across the country, and its distinctive is that it does not just teach recorded history from a secular perspective — it supposedly starts at the “beginning,” some 13 billion years ago.¹

Secularists insist they know what happened in the unobservable past. They claim to know the true history of the universe. They believe and preach their worldview with zeal.

But Christians have the benefit of a very specific history that has been revealed to them by Someone who was there at the beginning and throughout

1. Stephen Beale, “New Gates History Curriculum Closes Young Minds to God,” *Crisis Magazine*, <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2013/new-gates-history-curriculum-closes-young-minds-to-god>.

history — and that Someone does not lie. This specific history is revealed to us in the first chapters of the first book of the Bible — Genesis. Yet many believers are not sure what God said in Genesis! And the reason they are not sure is because they have been influenced by the secular views of origins. As a result, many Christians, including Christian leaders, have adopted secular beliefs about origins and reinterpreted God’s Word in Genesis in an attempt to get them to “fit” together.

No wonder there is a mass exodus of young people from our churches! They begin to doubt the Bible in Genesis, based on the compromised teachings of church leaders (or the absence of biblically based apologetics), reject it as God’s Word, and then leave the Church. The Bible declares, “For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” (1 Corinthians 14:8). The Church does not have a unified view on origins, because so many want to be unified around man’s beliefs in evolution and/or millions of years — instead of being unified on what God’s Word teaches so clearly in Genesis.

In many sectors of Christian academia and in many churches, there is an uncertain sound being blared. Young people and adults are hearing and often heeding this uncertain sound about the accuracy of the Bible from its very start. They are being taught that parts of the Bible are untrustworthy, that death, disease, and suffering have always been in the world, and thus that God has called obviously bad things “very good.” They are being taught to accept man’s ideas and to reinterpret God’s Word. The result is that many Christians are not really sure about what they believe regarding origins (and thus what they believe about the first eleven chapters of Genesis), because they have been taught that they cannot trust the Bible at the beginning.

What’s more, even parts of the modern-day homeschool movement are being impacted by such compromise. An article in *The Atlantic* declared, “Evangelical Homeschoolers Embrace Evolution.”² The writer explains that while the majority of homeschooled students are part of Christian families, “a growing number of their parents are dismayed by these textbooks [that teach a young-earth perspective].” I have even seen reports from Christian school teachers who have embraced an old earth or theistic evolution in their

2. David R. Wheeler, “Old Earth, Young Minds: Evangelical Homeschoolers Embrace Evolution,” *The Atlantic*, March 8, 2013, <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2013/03/old-earth-young-minds-evangelical-homeschoolers-embrace-evolution/273844/>.

science and Bible courses! How has such compromise become so common in the Church, and how is it now even beginning to invade what were once very conservative sectors, such as homeschooling?

What has happened is that many Bible scholars and Christian leaders are no longer reading Scripture in the first chapters of Genesis to glean answers from it, known as *exegesis*. Instead, they are reading man's ideas *into* Scripture, a problem known as *eisegesis*. In many instances, man's fallible view of origins (based on evolution and millions of years) has been given authority over the Word of God. And it is the views of these compromised scholars, who train our pastors, and then these compromised pastors, who teach church attendees, that have resulted in these doubts being filtered down to many Christian families.

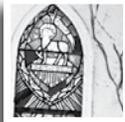
In the midst of the Church's wavering on origins, the secular world is speaking with authority and unity, leading many unsure believers astray as they authoritatively indoctrinate them to believe their secular views!

God has given us a very specific history from the Old Testament to the New Testament. This history is the foundation of all doctrine, including the gospel (in Genesis 3). It is the true history of the world that tells us where we all came from, what our problem is (sin), and what the solution is — salvation through Christ.

When people begin to understand the foundational nature of Genesis, they typically come to realize the importance of taking God at His word in the first 11 chapters of Genesis. This book is about how the Bible is intended to be read (exegesis, not eisegesis), and about how compromise on Genesis has become so rampant in the Church today — leading to a generational loss of believing in biblical inerrancy and authority. I pray that this book challenges the minds and hearts of pastors, laypeople, scholars, and students alike. My prayer is that as a result of this book, many more Christians (including Christian leaders) will speak with authority and give that “certain sound” concerning God's Word beginning in Genesis.

Although this book is written with many examples from the US and specific examples from the United Kingdom, it is just as applicable to our whole Western world. The Church and culture in the West are suffering from the same basic problems — and they need the same basic solution!

Chapter 1



Shepherds Leading the Sheep Astray

Once, after I had spoken at a conference, a man walked up to me and said, “Thank you for your stand on the Word of God.” At this point, he burst into tears, saying, “Your teachings and materials saved my sons. Years ago, what you taught about Genesis influenced me, and I was able to be a godly influence on them. Thank you.” He had apparently never heard someone teach about biblical creation, about taking Genesis in a straightforward way — as it is meant to be taken. Another couple approached me and asked, “Do you know of any churches in our area that hold to a literal Genesis and a young earth? We can’t find one, and our current pastor refuses to teach these things.” In fact, I get that question at almost every conference.

The Church is reaching a crisis point. Really, the Church has already reached it — and we are witnessing the tragic results of compromise on the authority of God’s Word. More and more pastors, church leaders, and Bible scholars are choosing either not to take a stand on Genesis or to teach some form of evolution and/or millions of years in their churches, Sunday schools, or college courses. Many of them will unfairly characterize biblical creationists as people who deny the value of what they term as “science.” Others try to convince those who sit under their teachings that Genesis is symbolic or somehow millions of years can be fit in, or that God really did use evolution to create the universe.

What has happened is that many in our churches, including many of our young people, do not understand the connections between the gospel and the history presented in Genesis chapters 1–11. They do not comprehend that every major doctrine, like marriage, sin, why we wear clothes, and so on, is founded ultimately in the Book of Genesis. Many pastors and church leaders do not bother to teach Genesis anymore, saying, “It doesn’t matter,” or “It’s a secondary issue.” It is not uncommon to hear Christian leaders claim that as long as we believe that God created, it does not matter how or when He did it. The literal history of Genesis 1–11 is under attack — and the attacks are coming from within the Church!

The Genesis 3 Attack of Our Day

What we are seeing in the Church today is not very different from the temptation in the Garden of Eden. We read in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 that God, in His goodness, created a “very good” world and placed the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve, in the garden. They were to tend and keep it (Genesis 2:15), and to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28). Adam and Eve were given everything they could ever need, including access to every tree in the garden:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat. (Genesis 2:16)

But God also gave Adam a command, the one prohibition in the garden:

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. (Genesis 2:17)

Now, if you have read Genesis — and I hope you have! — you know that Adam and Eve broke that command. While working in the garden, Eve encounters the serpent, who is Satan (2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:14; Revelation 12:9). In fact, it’s very interesting what transpired between Eve and the serpent that day:

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst

of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” (Genesis 3:1–3)

In that first verse, Satan casts doubt about God’s Word. He asks, “Did God really say . . . ?” (NIV), thus questioning the trustworthiness of the plain meaning of God’s command. Eve explains what God commanded, though she adds the bit about not even being able to touch the fruit. The serpent’s attack continues:

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:4–5)

Here, Satan casts doubt on the truthfulness of God’s Word. When He gave Adam the command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, God very clearly said that if he did, he would “surely die.” There is no question about what God meant — if Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they would eventually experience death. But Eve is deceived by the serpent’s twisting of God’s Word, and she and Adam eat from the one tree God had forbidden them to — an event known as the Fall of man. And as a consequence, sin and death entered the once-perfect “very good” world.

When I read the account in Genesis 3, I am struck by the fact that the attack on the Word of God has not changed. Even today, about 6,000 years later, we are seeing man question the authority of Scripture, calling into question the trustworthiness and truthfulness of what God has said — especially in Genesis 1–11. When it comes to the creation account in Genesis 1–2, we hear the same question: “Did God really say . . . ?” When we talk about a literal Adam and Eve and the Fall, the question crops up: “Did God really say . . . ?” When the account of Noah and the Ark is brought up, the Genesis 3 attack is not far behind: “Did God really say . . . ?”

You see, the Apostle Paul warns readers in 2 Corinthians 11:3 that “as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” The Apostle Paul knew that Satan would attempt to use the Genesis 3 attack on us just as he did to Eve, because he wants us to disbelieve the Word of God.

I have talked about creation and evolution/millions of years for nearly 30 years, because evolutionary ideas are one of the main forms of the modern-day Genesis 3 attack. The idea of long ages (i.e., millions and billions of

years) I believe is the major Genesis 3 attack of our day. But these beliefs of evolution and/or millions of years speak to a deeper issue that involves an attack on Christianity. The real attack is on the authority of Scripture. For this reason, I do not want Answers in Genesis (AiG) to be known as just a “creation ministry.” Answers in Genesis is an evangelistic *biblical authority* ministry dedicated to calling the Church back to the Word of God. Our focus cannot be simply evolutionary ideas or millions of years, because those are just fruits of the deeper problem: the loss of regard for the authority of the Bible. Thus, we also specialize in creation and biblical apologetics to deal with this attack on the authority of God’s Word.

When sinful man believes the lie that God’s Word cannot be trusted, he has effectively declared that he knows better than God. When sinful human beings believe the lie that God’s Word is not authoritative, they put themselves in a position of authority over God, disregarding and even rewriting His Word. Our culture is answering the question “Did God really say . . . ?” with a resounding “No!” Those who question His Word are denying the full authority and accuracy of the Bible from its very first verse. This has had devastating effects on our culture and on the Church.

The Consequences of Compromise

In 2009, we published *Already Gone*, detailing data as to why around two-thirds of young people are leaving the Church in America by the time they reach college age. For the research behind the book, Answers in Genesis contracted with America’s Research Group to find out why these two-thirds are walking away from the Church. Britt Beemer, who heads America’s Research Group, and his team created a study composed of questions such as, “At what age did you begin to really question contents in the Bible?” Of the two-thirds who have left the Church, 40 percent had started to question the Bible by the end of middle school, and another 45 percent by the end of high school.

Another question asked was, “If you don’t believe the Bible, when did you first have doubts?” The results were the same: Of the two-thirds, 40 percent first had doubts by the end of middle school, and another 45 percent by the end of high school.

The research revealed that we are losing these kids at a young age. They are starting to doubt (the Genesis 3 attack) the Bible at a young age. Why? What is really going on? To summarize it, by and large in our churches and

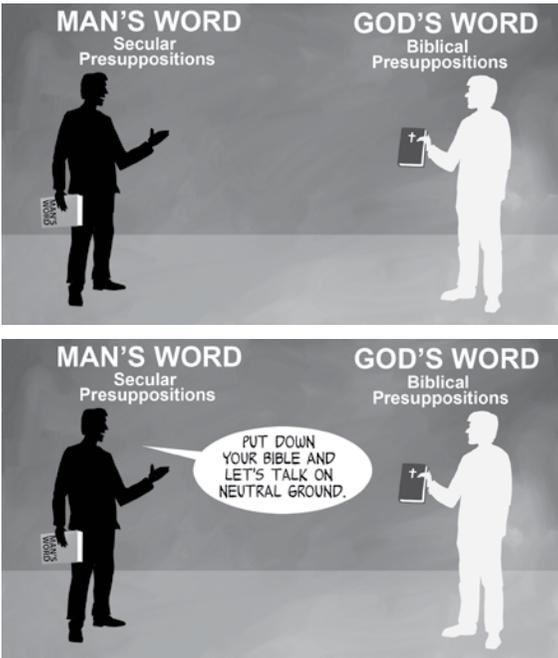
in our Christian homes, what we tend to do is teach Bible stories. What do I mean by “Bible stories”? Jonah and the big fish, feeding the five thousand, the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys, Jesus on the Cross, Noah and the Ark, Adam and Eve, and so on.

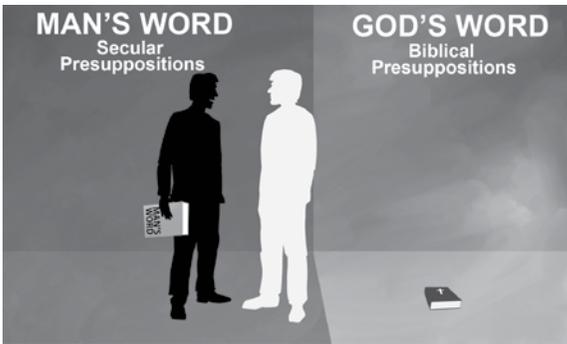
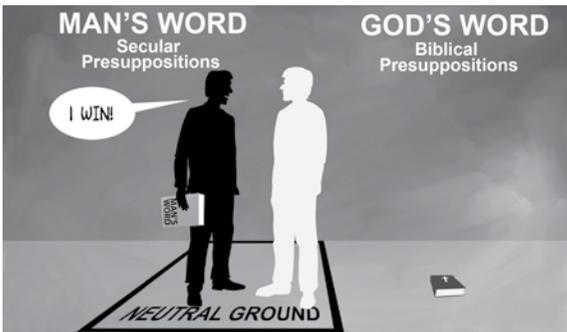
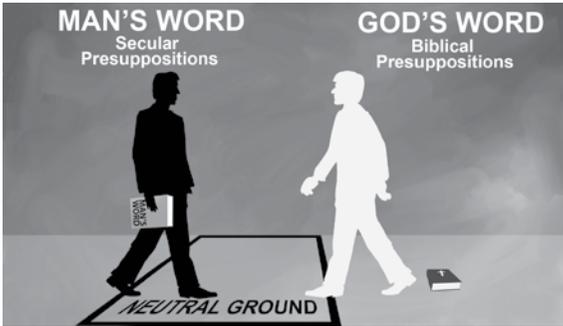
I believe all these accounts are true — so what is wrong with teaching them? It is the way we teach them. For instance, many people use the word *story* in reference to these accounts. But what has the word *story* come to mean today? Fiction. And yet we say, “Children, let me tell you a story. I’m going to tell you a wonderful Bible story.” The children get the idea that they get “stories” at home or church — but what they are taught at school is real! Now around 90 percent of these children from church homes attend public schools.

Even though there is a minority of Christian teachers as missionaries in the public education system, as I was, the schools have by and large thrown out God, the Bible, prayer, and biblical creation. They teach evolution and millions of years as fact. Biology textbooks claim that scientists can explain the whole of reality by natural processes — a universe and all it contains came into existence without God. That is naturalism, which is atheism.

Many people, including Christians, have this idea that when we do not argue using the Bible, we are on “neutral” ground. But it is not neutral. Christ

Himself explained, “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad” (Matthew 12:30; Luke 11:23). We are either for Christ or against Him. We either walk in the light, or we walk in darkness. Because of a “neutral ground” mentality, what is happening is students have the idea that they are taught real history at school and on television, but they are





taught religious “stories” at home and in church. At the same time, many parents think what their students are taught at public school is neutral — but in reality if it is not for Christ, then it is against Him. Christians need to wake up to the fact there is no neutral position and their students are really being indoctrinated into an anti-God religion in the public schools.

Another thing America’s Research Group found was that most churches and most Christian homes do not teach apologetics. Most Bible colleges, most seminaries, and most Christian colleges do not teach apologetics. What do I mean by that? We can have all

the knowledge in the world, but if we are not prepared for where the culture is and to answer their skeptical questions, then the culture will likely have more influence on us than we will on it.

The word *apologetics* comes from the Greek word *apologia*, which means an “answer” or a reasoned defense. First Peter 3:15 tells us, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” We have to teach our children how to answer the basic questions of the age. We have to prepare ourselves and generations of children with solid training in apologetics, but instead we mostly teach “stories” in our Christian homes

and churches. We might teach great doctrine. We might have great amounts of knowledge. But if we do not know how to defend our faith, we are not going to survive in the world. And sadly, Christians for the most part simply are not teaching apologetics to their children.

But if the Church is not teaching apologetics, then who is? Actually, the public school system and television shows are. They offer evidence for why the Bible is not true, for millions of years, for the big bang, for why there never was a global flood, and on and on. In fact, they do such a great job that they can put it on educational television stations, where they can communicate their brand of apologetics to the layman, to the average person. And to our children (and many parents) it can sound very convincing.

Readers, most of the Church is not doing what the secular world is doing — teaching students apologetics to defend the beliefs they teach them. We can become very proud of our knowledge and our doctrines, but if we do not know — if our children do not know — how to defend the faith, what is going to happen? It will be as Psalm 11:3 says:

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

We have, as a result, trained up generations who have been led by the world to doubt and disbelieve the Word of God. Now we are suffering the consequences.

What Is Being Taught in “Christian” Colleges?

A particular area of concern within the Church is Christian colleges, Bible colleges, universities, and seminaries. Sadly, many of these educational institutions cannot be trusted to teach a message that is consistent with Scripture’s account of the Creation, Fall, and Flood.¹

In June 2011, *Christianity Today* concentrated on the fact that increasing numbers of Christian academics — Christian scholars in America — no longer believe in a literal Adam and Eve.² In 1987, when my book *The Lie* was first published, I argued that if the Church does not stand on the authority of the Word of God beginning in Genesis and if it continually starts to add millions of years to Genesis or embraces theistic evolution,

1. For a detailed analysis of what is being taught in these Christian institutions, see Ken Ham and Greg Hall, *Already Compromised*, with Britt Beemer (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2011).

2. Richard N. Ostling, “The Search for a Historical Adam,” *Christianity Today*, June 2011, p. 23–27.

eventually the Church will give up Genesis all together. Today, that is exactly what is happening.

John Schneider, retired professor of religion at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is quoted in *Christianity Today* as saying that Eden “cannot be a literal description of how things really were in the primal human past.”³ Daniel Harlow, professor of religion at Calvin College was also quoted in the article:

Harlow proposed that understandings of the Fall may need to be “reformulated” and the church must be willing to “decouple original sin from the notion that all humans descended from a single pair.”⁴

Once believers “reformulate” their understanding of the Fall, there is no gospel message. Why are humans sinners? Where did we come from? What exactly is the gospel all about?

Baker Publishing Group in 2012 published the book *The Evolution of Adam* by Peter Enns. Enns, former fellow with BioLogos and a theistic evolutionist, writes, “Evolution demands that the special creation of the first Adam as described in the Bible is not literally historical.”⁵ As far as evolution is concerned, Enns is correct — evolutionary ideas were intended to explain the world without God. So of course there is no room for a literal Adam.

But the Bible demands that Adam is literally historical. In a lecture at Westmont College, a Christian college in Santa Barbara, California, Enns put forth a view that has become typical of many Christian colleges across the nation:

I’m just giving you my opinion. Who knows if it will change in the years to come. I’m still thinking about it. All the Jesus stuff and all the sin and death stuff are still real, but personally I don’t need a historical Adam to make all that happen.⁶

3. Ibid., p. 26.

4. Ibid.

5. Peter Enns, *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible Does and Doesn’t Say about Human Origins* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2012), p. xvi.

6. Enns, “Lecture: Erasmus Lecture — Peter Enns, Feb. 9, 2011,” WestmontTV (YouTube channel), http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36T3tbygQgA&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1.

At this point, I would ask, if we do not have a historical Adam, but we still believe in sin, then what exactly is *sin*? Where did it come from? Why are we sinners? Enns's assertion undermines the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And he is not the only professing Christian making these claims!

Tremper Longman III, professor of religious studies at Westmont College, explained in a presentation why he believes Adam is not a historical figure:

My understanding of Genesis 1 and 2 as high style literary prose narrative, leads me to conclude that it's not necessary that Adam be a historical individual for this text to be without error in what it intends to teach.⁷

What happens when professors begin teaching generations of students in Christian colleges that there is no literal Adam and Eve and no literal Fall? What happens when the Church embraces evolution and/or millions of years? I would suggest that the majority of young people (and research shows it is at least two-thirds) will walk away from the Church by the time they reach college age.

In fact, Longman commented on what Westmont College is teaching its students about the Bible:

It's equally important to send a message to the youth in the church that the Bible is not at odds with what they are learning in their biology classes about evolution in school.⁸

That is what this Westmont College professor (and presumably other professors at this college) is telling their students. In fact, that is true of most Christian colleges. It is true of many churches and church leaders. We have already done the research on that and published it in the ground-breaking books *Already Gone* and *Already Compromised*.⁹

Another Christian college professor and former president of BioLogos, Dr. Darrel Falk, who teaches biology at Point Loma Nazarene University in

7. Tremper Longman, "What Genesis 1 and 2 Teaches (and What It Doesn't)," YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iL88e5fVArU>.

8. Ibid.

9. For more information, see Ken Ham and Britt Beemer, *Already Gone*, with Todd Hillard (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009) and Ken Ham and Greg Hall, *Already Compromised*, with Britt Beemer (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2011).

San Diego, California, shared what he would tell a student who asked him about the age of the universe:

The age of the universe is around 13 billion years old. And I would talk to them a little bit, and I would say that the age of the earth is 4.3 billion years old. I've got various books I can refer them to, and I would go through and say, "Here's the kind of data that shows the age of the universe." And I would kind of lead them through that process that the role astronomy that demonstrates so clearly how old the universe is. The age of the rocks, which tells us how old the earth is. And how these are two totally different ways of looking at age. One of them involves looking at stars and using some instruments and ways of measuring it which have absolutely no relationship whatsoever to the age of rocks. And I would say, "Here's what it says. It says it's 14 billion years old."¹⁰

These are professors in Christian universities — and they are not even willing to defer to Scripture when responding to students about the creation account. Notice what Dr. Falk says he would tell his students: He would look at sinful man's fallible dating methods and say, "Here's what it says." He does not even mention biblical authority here.

And what is happening as a result? Students are walking away — statistical research establishes this is so. There is a whole series of videos on the Internet of people — many young people — telling their "de-conversion" stories. One young man explained that a lack of apologetics training in his youth led to his "de-conversion":

How I became an atheist. I was born into a Christian family and indoctrinated growing up as a kid. That next year was freshman year of high school and I started learning about evolution in my biology class. That's where I realized I had never seriously questioned or thought about my religious beliefs. So as I learned about evolution and started thinking philosophically about it, I realized that there couldn't be a God. So I became an atheist.¹¹

10. Darrel Falk, "How Old Is the Universe?" Test of Faith, <http://www.testoffaith.com/resources/resource.aspx?id=328>.

11. "How I Became an Atheist," YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJTjpWgc-jXE&feature=BFa&list=PL0B322B60D6CF6308> (accessed May 2012).

Sadly, this is typical of the testimonies we hear today. Many of the leading atheists in America will say that they were brought up in Bible-believing homes — church homes, in other words.

Losing Our Foundation

President Barack Obama, before he was elected, made a statement about our country. He made a similar statement in his first inaugural address, in his book *The Audacity of Hope*, and even to the president of Turkey. President Obama claimed:

We are no longer a Christian nation, at least not just. We are also a Jewish nation and a Muslim nation and a Buddhist nation and a Hindu nation and a nation of non-believers.¹²

President Obama's statement rings true (but sadly he champions this change): whatever we once were as a nation, we are no longer. Most of the founding fathers — not all, but most of them — were Christians who built their thinking on the foundation of the authority of the Word of God. That is why Christian absolutes permeated the nation. But if we do not build our thinking on God's Word, there is only one other foundation — man's word. There are only two religions in the world. We can start with God's Word or man's word (that was really the battle that began in Genesis 3). When we build our thinking on man's word and abandon God's Word, then things will be as they were in the Book of Judges:

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. (Judges 21:25)

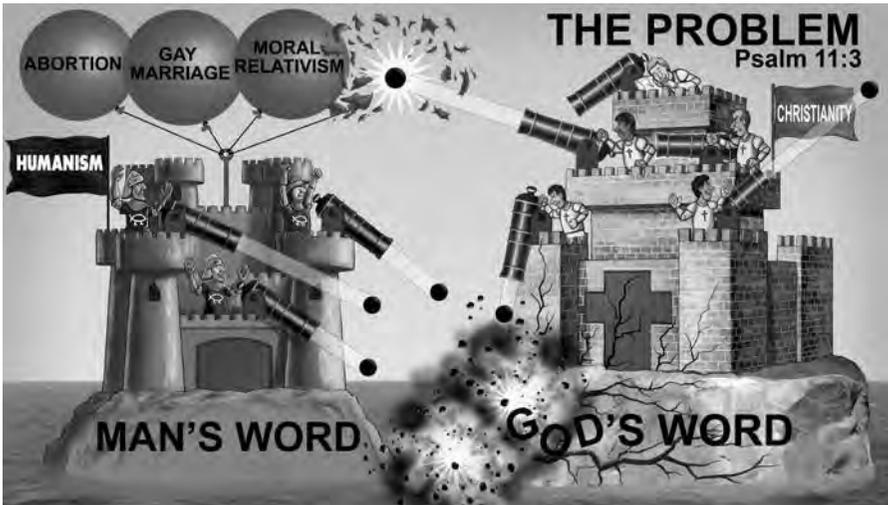
We would expect to see moral relativism pervading the culture — and that is exactly what we are seeing today.

There has been a battle ever since Genesis 3. The battle is one of world-views, between God's Word and man's word. Between moral absolutes and moral relativism. Christianity is based upon God's Word because God is the ultimate authority. But the culture has given up God's Word — and it has not just been given up in the culture but also in parts of the Church. Actually, we could say the spiritual state of this nation currently reflects the spiritual state of the Church!

12. President Barack Obama, "Obama: We Are No Longer a Christian Nation," YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmC3IevZiik>.

When we add man's word to God's Word, our starting point is no longer God's Word — it becomes man's word, because now fallible ideas have been inserted into the infallible Word. And that is what many churches are teaching the coming generations to do. If we remove the foundation of the absolute authority of the Bible, we will see the collapse of Christian morality and increasing moral relativism. I believe we are seeing much of that played out in our culture before our very eyes.

Here is how I explain it in my book *The Lie: Evolution/Millions of Years*:



On the left, we see the foundation of man's word. The castle built upon it represents the secular humanistic worldview. Out of this worldview come the social issues (gay marriage, abortion, and so on) we have been discussing. On the right, we see the foundation of God's Word, and built upon that is the castle representing the biblical worldview (doctrines, gospel, and so on). As part of the foundation of God's Word is attacked (by both the secularists and Christians who compromise God's Word with evolution/millions of years), the structure starts to collapse. On the Christian structure, the cannons are either aimed at each other, aimed nowhere, or aimed at the social issues.

Many might even agree to fight against such issues as abortion, gay marriage, sexual immorality, pornography, and so on. But if we attack only at the level of these issues and not the motivation for their popularity, we are not going to be successful. Even if the laws are changed in our society

to outlaw abortion and gay marriage, the next generation, which is more secularized, will simply change the law again. One really cannot legislate morality — such is dependent on their hearts and minds. If the Church wants to be successful in changing society's attitudes toward abortion and gay marriage, it is going to have to fight the issue at a foundational level.

It is important to understand that these moral issues are really the symptoms — not the problem. This does not mean that one should not deal with these moral issues, but the battle cannot be fought only at the symptom level. Christians in the United States have spent millions of dollars trying to change the culture (deal with these social issues), but it has not worked. Why not? Because the Bible does not say to go into all the world and change the culture. The Bible gives a different command:

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:19–20)

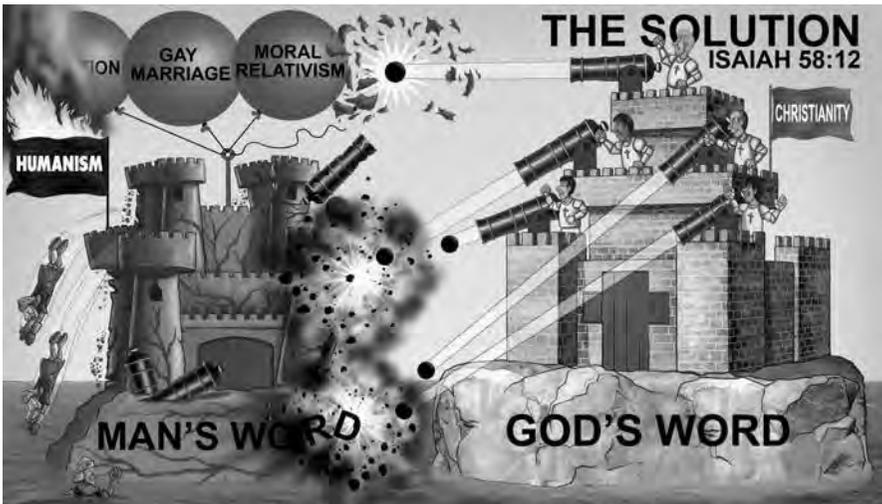
The point is, it is hearts and minds that change a culture. Proverbs 23:7 says clearly of man, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

The secularists certainly understand this. Because the majority of students from church homes are enrolled in the secular education system, these students are being indoctrinated by the world in secular ideas. Churches in the main have concentrated on trying to teach young people the message of Jesus and Christian doctrines — while the education system has been changing their thinking from starting with God's Word to making man's word the starting point. Over time, the student's worldview changes to a secular one, and the more this happens, the more such people cease being light and salt — and the culture changes.

Christians think the battle is with the culture and the moral issues — but ultimately the battle is a foundational one concerning God's Word versus man's word. The majority of Christian leaders, according to our experience and research, have in some way compromised Genesis with the evolutionary/millions-of-years beliefs of the day — thus contributing toward

this change in the foundation of the next generation. This is also why many Christians do not understand the battle — because in reality, they have been helping the enemy.

Christians are fighting a war, but they do not know where to fight it or how to aim their guns. This is the real problem. If we want to see the structure of secular humanism collapse (which any thinking Christian must), then we have to re-aim the cannons at the foundation of man's word. It is only when the foundation is destroyed that the structure will collapse. In other words, we need to raise up generations who will stand boldly, unashamedly, and uncompromisingly on the authority of the Word of God. They need to know what they believe and why they believe what they do. They also need to be taught how to defend the Christian faith against the secular attacks of our day (taught general Bible and creation apologetics). This second “castle diagram” illustrates the solution.



The world has attacked God's Word, but that is nothing new. In fact, it started in Genesis 3. There have been many ways the Genesis 3 attack has manifested itself down through the ages. In the first century, there was a particular attack on Christ — on who He is and what He accomplished on the Cross. At the time of the Reformation, there was an attack on justification by faith.

But what is new is the Genesis 3 attack of our age (involving the teaching of evolution and/or millions of years) has particularly been an attack on the first 11 chapters of Genesis — and even much of the Church has succumbed

to that attack. Some in the Church say they do not need the first 11 chapters of Genesis, but that they will keep the rest. But just like a building, if you do not have the whole foundation, the structure will collapse.

As the moral fiber of our culture begins to collapse, many say, “Woe is me! Look at the *problems* in the culture. Abortion! Same-sex marriage!” Church, we have to stop calling them the “problems.” They are not the problems — they are the symptoms. They are the symptoms of a deeper problem. Think about it: we spend millions of dollars of Christians’ money in America trying to change the culture. But has it worked? No. And why not? The Bible does not say, “Go into all the world and *change the culture*.” It says to go into all the world and preach the gospel and make disciples (Matthew 28:19–20).

Scripture also reminds us that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). Readers, hearts and minds change a culture. But what we have done as God’s people is handed generations of children over to the world. Instead of capturing their hearts and minds and teaching them about origins and the history given in the Bible, young people in the Church have been taught to question God’s Word in Genesis. They have been told to just trust in Jesus (whatever that means to them), without receiving any training in apologetics or any answers to their questions. But for many, parents and Christian leaders allowed the world to capture their hearts and minds and rebuild their thinking from a different foundation. Now we see a change in the worldview of the culture because there has been a change foundationally. The battle is not at the issue level — the battle is at the foundation level.

Imagine what would happen if Christians started to raise up generations of children who know what they believe and why they believe what they do. Imagine if the young people in our churches built their thinking on the Bible, knew how to answer the skeptical questions of this age, and could go out and preach with authority because they believed the authority from which it comes. Imagine generations who knew how to deal with the symptoms and the foundational problem. Church, we could change the world. God would change America, Australia, the United Kingdom, Europe — the world.

I believe the solution to America’s problem (and, in fact, our Western nations) has to do with the Church. If the problems are in the Church, then the solution begins in the Church:

. . . if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

I would suggest that unless Christian leaders and academics in this country who have compromised on God's Word (and the majority of them have) get on their knees before a holy God and repent of that sin of compromise, we are not going to see a change in this nation. The shepherds have led the sheep astray. Not all of the shepherds, but many of them. And without the foundation of the absolute authority of God's Word, the Church will be weak and will not produce much good fruit.