

INSIDE
THE
**NYE
HAM**
DEBATE



Is Creation
a viable
model...

Revealing Truths
from the Worldview
Clash of the Century

KEN HAM &
BODIE HODGE

Endorsements

In the never-ending battle for truth, here is a “Gatling gun” for those who are fighting the good fight. This publication is like a “roaring lion” that should help silence the never-ending chattering “chimps of evolutionary believers.” I love Ken Ham’s love for the truth. He is uncompromising and headstrong — two virtues that are highly commendable when it comes to issues that govern the eternal destiny of this and future generations.

We don’t want to win the argument. We want to win the lost to Jesus Christ. This book helps you do that. This publication should put a “smooth stone into your sling” and help you to run toward the enemy, without fear. In a world where evolutionary dreamers stand behind the curtains of true science, Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge pull the curtains away.

Ray Comfort

Founder and President/CEO of Living Waters

Publications. He is a best-selling author and was co-host with Kirk Cameron of the award winning television program “The Way of the Master.”

The Ham/Nye debate, and this follow up book, represents a most vivid illustration of the intellectual and spiritual chasm separating naturalistic materialism and Biblical Christianity as explanations of the origin of everything that exists. In a remarkable moment of candor that night, I remember Mr. Nye being asked, “How did matter come to exist?” “I don’t know,” he replied. Thank you, Mr. Nye, for your honesty. And thank you Ken Ham for giving the answer based on good science AND the divine revelation of the answer to this question in God’s Word. What is our authority, is what is at stake in this debate. Is it man’s ideas or the truth revealed in the Bible? Thanks, Ken, for not only helping the Church answer the scientific questions at stake in this debate, but doing so completely committed to the authority of Scripture for every question of life.

Greg Hall

President of Warner University

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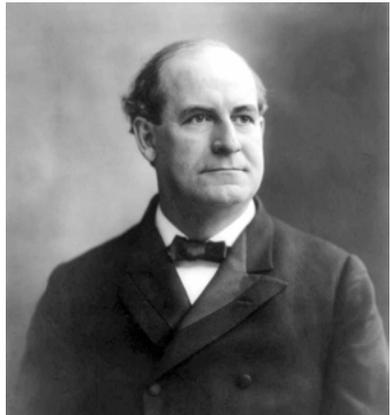
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Introduction

Historically, there have been a number of famous debates in the US. One such series of debates — played out in Illinois in 1858 — involved Mr. (and later President) Abraham Lincoln and Mr. (and later Senator) Stephen A. Douglas (who were running against each other for senate), and focused on slavery. These published debates were a focus, on a national scale, for the presidential campaign in 1860. The debates set the stage for the freedom of slaves in the years to come and for the vicious civil war in the US.

Another (world) famous debate that occurred in the US was the Scopes Trial in 1925 in Tennessee. This debate, although technically won by the creationists, set the stage for a takeover of the education system by evolutionists and the removal of Christianity from schools and culture in the years to come. The decline of creationism occurred because the leading Christian defender, Mr. William Jennings Bryan, failed to totally trust the Bible's early pages in Genesis and allowed for secular long-age geology rather than a belief in six literal days of creation to permeate his thinking. He also couldn't answer basic questions like, "Where did Cain get his wife?" This sent shockwaves to the American people, who were predominantly



William Jennings Bryan

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Christian at the time. If this leading Christian (Bryan) didn't trust the early pages of the Bible and couldn't adequately defend the Christian faith against the questions of the humanist lawyer, why should anyone trust any of it?



Dr. Duane Gish

Many may recall the series of debates between Dr. Duane Gish and hosts of evolutionists from the 1960s to the 1990s that reignited the creation vs. evolution battles on a scholarly level. The landmark book *The Genesis Flood* by Dr. Henry Morris and Dr. John Whitcomb really began the modern biblical creationist movement that eventually spurred these debates. The overwhelming winner of these debates was Dr. Gish, whose systematic discussion of origins and science from a creation perspective seemed unstoppable. He became known as the world's foremost creationist debater.

Then there was the great debate over the existence of God in 1985. This high-profile debate showcased leading atheist Dr. Gordon Stein and leading Christian philosopher Dr. Greg Bahnsen, who followed Dr. Cornelius Van Til's philosophical groundbreaking work in returning to the Bible to develop a biblical apologetic method. After years of Nietzsche's mantra ("God is dead") that filled philosophical circles, it was this debate that woke America back up to the idea that "God doesn't stay dead"! Dr. Bahnsen's Christlike devastation of the atheistic position and defense of Christian theism was nearly flawless.

Though many other debates could be mentioned here, we will now transition to a debate that stormed the world and is being dubbed "The Debate of the Century," or "Scopes II." In a near reversal of roles, the secular evolutionist's control of the state schools, media, museums, and creation has come under attack. This debate had nearly five million live viewers from over 190 countries around the world (only 195 countries exist today) and as of the publication of this book, it is conservatively estimated that nearly 15 million people have viewed the debate!

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The agreed-upon debate topic was:

“Is creation a viable model of origins in today’s modern scientific era?”

This debate was essentially on the topic of evolution, creation, science, and origins... The debaters were Mr. Bill Nye, “the science guy,” and Mr. Ken Ham, “the observational science man,” president and founder of the *Creation Museum* and *Answers in Genesis*. This debate centered on origins (Nye’s position: *evolutionary naturalism*, versus Ham’s position: *biblical creation*) and authority (Nye’s position: *man is the ultimate authority*, versus Ham’s position: *God and His Word are the ultimate authority*). The shockwaves from this incredible debate are still being felt.

How the debate became a reality

In brief, Mr. Nye produced a YouTube video with BigThink.com on August 23, 2012, claiming that “teaching creationism was not appropriate for children.” Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis scientists Dr. Georgia Purdom and Dr. David Menton responded to his video with their own on YouTube.

As these video debates went viral on the Internet, hosts of people began posting their thoughts in article and video formats. Finally, *Associated Press* reporter Dylan Lovan was talking about the issue with Mark Looy, the chief communications officer at Answers in Genesis. Mr. Looy threw out the option of a formal debate between Bill Nye and Answers in Genesis instead of their going back and forth on YouTube. Dylan Lovan communicated this to Mr. Nye. After much discussion and negotiation, Bill Nye and Answers in Genesis signed a contract with an agreement for a debate between Bill Nye and Ken Ham.

As I understand from the media, Mr. Nye was to be paid an undisclosed amount of money for his appearance. Furthermore, Mr. Nye insisted on metal detectors being set up for the debate. A number of well-known personalities, agreed to by both parties, were considered to be the moderator. Eventually, Tom Foreman of CNN agreed to moderate the event.

Why am I in a position to respond to the debate?

First, I was in a privileged position to be able to see what I believe to be the debate of the century. Yes, I was in Legacy Hall at the Creation

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Museum to watch the live debate between Mr. Bill Nye and Mr. Ken Ham as they presented their respective cases.

But I was also in another unique position. I work at Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum with Mr. Ken Ham as a speaker, writer, and researcher dealing with both scientific, biblical, and historical topics. Furthermore, I'm in the even more peculiar position of being Ken Ham's son-in-law. I met and married Mr. Ham's eldest daughter after coming to work for the ministry over 10 years ago.

In addition, I have a BSc and MSc in mechanical engineering (attaining a level of engineering that is above Mr. Nye in the same field). I developed a new method of production of submicron titanium diboride (yes, real observational science). I've also worked as a test engineer in industry side-by-side with evolutionists and creationists as together we carried out experimental science to help develop technology.

Some might mistakenly think I helped prepare Mr. Ham for the debate and therefore am going to reiterate those discussions in this response. However, unbeknownst to most, I had nothing to do with Mr. Ham's debate preparation. So, like the many viewers (estimated about 5 million live that evening based on web statistics and now almost 15 million and counting), I was awaiting to see not only what Mr. Nye would say but also what Mr. Ham would present.¹

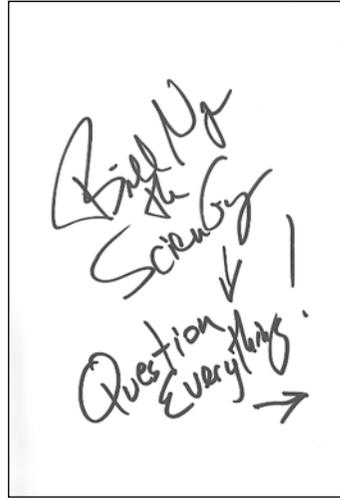
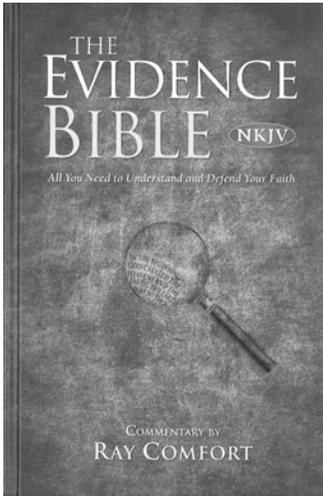
Accordingly, many have asked me to give my unique perspective as one who is on the inside of AiG and the Ham family, but who also, in this instance, was on the outside looking in on the debate. I then asked Mr. Ham to go carefully through the entire book and add in his own insights, personal thoughts, and other information that would make this a unique appraisal of the debate. So even though it is written from my perspective, it also contains a lot of information to help you, the reader, analyze this historic debate. And as Mr. Ham has added extensively to this publication, it is a powerful inside look at an event that I believe will be an historic event in Christendom in this world.

Lastly, I am in another unique position (besides the fact that I am known to wear a bow tie from time to time like Mr. Nye²) to give a response to the specifics of the debate. You see, after the debate, I asked Mr.

1. My only involvement consisted of a predebate show for about 30 minutes with *Creation Today*, hosted by Eric Hovind and Paul Taylor.

2. Mr. Bill Nye is famous for his bow ties.

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Nye for his signature in a copy of *The Evidence Bible* that I had with me. He opened it, signed it, and wrote “Question Everything.” But if I am to question everything, then Mr. Nye is permissively allowing me to question *his claims* in the debate. With this in mind, the bulk of the debate analysis will center on the content of Mr. Nye’s claims, though many of Mr. Ham’s points will be analyzed and expanded as well.

Neither debater had the time they actually needed to rebut and make a case for all points brought up in the debate. So this is where the analysis in this publication becomes important. I certainly feel privileged to be the one to look into the details of this debate for the purpose of checking and writing about the various claims made.

Am I biased?

The truthful answer is *yes*. But so is everyone else. If someone believes they are not biased, then part of their bias is that they have deceived themselves into thinking they are not biased. People are either for Christ or against Him. People either gather or scatter (e.g., Matthew 12:30,³ Luke 11:23⁴). There is nothing wrong in admitting one’s own bias — in fact, it is only right to do so.

3. “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

4. “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”

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Some have asked, “Was your bias for Ken Ham or for Bill Nye”? And my answer is “neither.” I pray that my bias is on *God’s side*, and I’m sure that Mr. Ham’s response would be similar. It is not that *God is on Ken’s side*, but rather *Ken is on God’s side* (consider Joshua 5:13–15⁵).

My bias, I openly admit, is for the God of the Bible, who is absolute, and therefore, the absolute authority on all things.

Religious bias of the debaters

The debaters also held to a working bias in the debate:

- Ken Ham’s operational bias: God and His Word (the Bible) are the supreme authority.
- Bill Nye’s operational bias: Man is the supreme authority.

Naturally, Mr. Ham and I share this same allegiance to God and His Word. This is the same bias to which Christians the world over should be adhering.⁶

Mr. Nye holds to a position that demotes or ignores God as any source of authority. This, by default, places *man* in the position of ultimate authority. His stance is inherently the religion of humanism, where man — collectively or individually — is elevated to a position of being greater than God.

Humanism, like Christianity, has various sects, divisions, or denominations...if you will. Christians vary in their doctrinal stances (variations within different aspects of doctrines like modes of baptism, Calvinism/Arminianism, covenant theology versus dispensational theology, eschatology, and so on) — but share the basic beliefs (one God, a triune God [Christ is God], salvation by faith through grace and not works, the Bible as the authority, and so on). Similarly there are variant humanistic “denominations.”

5. “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, ‘Are You for us or for our adversaries?’ So He said, ‘No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, ‘What does my Lord say to His servant?’ Then the Commander of the LORD’s army said to Joshua, ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’ And Joshua did so.”

6. Those Christians who do not view God and His Word as the supreme authority are infusing humanism into their Christianity. They are basically trying to mix two different religions. But this reveals an issue: how can one trust what Christ said if they do not view Christ’s Word (the Bible) as that ultimate authority and allow for the changing ideas of man to supersede the Bible? It is a point of inconsistency in regard to authority, not salvation.

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Some of these humanistic variants are traditional atheism, new atheism, agnosticism, secularism, “nonreligious,” free-thinkers, and so on. They have variant forms where some claim “no God” (atheism), others say “one can’t know if God exists” (agnosticism), others are passive (traditional atheism), and some are very aggressive in pushing an agenda (new atheism). But they all adhere to man as the authority, collectively or individually, require evolution and naturalism (no supernatural), or materialism (nothing spiritual).

In many cases, a person invested in this humanistic religion may use several of these terms to denote more of the particulars of their professed beliefs such as naturalist, atheist, materialist, humanist, free-thinker, nonreligious, secular, and others. Christians often do the same thing. We are called Christian, theistic, godly, faithful, or even more specific labels like Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Reformed, and so on.

Mr. Nye has stated that he is agnostic⁷ and received the 2010 Humanist of the Year Award from the *American Humanist Association*.⁸ His religion is an open book, just as much as Mr. Ham’s religion is an open book. So the debate was an inherently religious one where two individuals adhering to opposing authorities were going to battle. It was God’s Word versus man’s word, with Mr. Ham representing the godly position and Mr. Nye representing the autonomous human position.

Interestingly, agnostics should be arguing that one cannot know if the God of Bible did create or not, since they argue that one can’t know if the God of the Bible exists or not. In the debate, professed agnostic Mr. Nye argued as though he were an *atheist*, and by his aggressive way of trying to silence any opposition, he was actually demonstrating what the new *atheism* constitutes. I found this religious inconsistency glaring.

Basic debate facts and debaters’ positions

Mr. Bill Nye

Religion: Humanistic; type: Agnostic

Education: Bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering, Cornell University

-
7. S. Zaimov, “Bill Nye Reveals He is Agnostic; Shares Expectations for Ken Ham Creationism Debate,” *Christian Post*, January 23, 2014, <http://www.christianpost.com/news/bill-nye-reveals-he-is-agnostic-shares-expectations-for-ken-ham-creationism-debate-113238/>.
 8. C. Whitt, “Bill Nye to Be Honored as Humanist of the Year,” *American Humanist Association*, April 7, 2010, <http://americanhumanist.org/HNN/details/2010-04-bill-nye-to-be-honored-as-humanist-of-the-year>.

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Believes the age of the earth to be: 4.54 billion years, based on naturalistic and uniformitarian assumptions about rock layers (geologic time scale) and radiometric dating of meteorites (e.g., Patterson, C., “Age of Meteorites and the Earth,” *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, Volume 10, 1956, pp. 230–237)

Believes the age of the universe to be: 13.7 billion years based on naturalistic calculations (e.g., Wright, E., *Age of the Universe*, December, 27, 2012, <http://www.astro.ucla.edu/~wright/age.html>)

Believes in God? Professes agnostic (i.e., can’t know if God exists); in practice and actions, particularly in the debate, Mr. Nye seems to be an atheist (i.e., arguing a position of no God)

Motivation for the debate: “To keep the United States on top technologically”

Ultimate authority: Man

Beliefs:

Astronomical evolution: Big Bang (everything came from nothing)

Geological evolution: millions of years of slow, gradual accumulations of rock layers

Chemical evolution: life came from matter (nonlife), otherwise called abiogenesis

Biological evolution: a single simple life form gave rise to all other life forms down through the ages

Brief biography as given by moderator Tom Foreman

Mr. Nye’s website describes him as a scientist, engineer, comedian, author, and inventor. Mr. Nye, as you may know, produced a number of award-winning TV shows, including the program he became so well known for, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. While working on the *Science Guy* show, Mr. Nye won seven national Emmy awards for writing, performing, and producing the show; [he] won 18 Emmys in five years.

In between creating the shows, he wrote five kids’ books about science, including his latest title, *Bill Nye’s Great Big Book of Tiny Germs*.

Bill Nye is the host of three television series; his program *The 100 Greatest Discoveries* airs on The Science Channel [and] *The Eyes of Nye* airs on PBS stations across the country.

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He frequently appears on interview programs to discuss a variety of science topics. Mr. Nye serves as executive director of the Planetary Society, the world's largest space interest group. He's a graduate of Cornell with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Mr. Ken Ham

Religion: Christian; type: Protestant

Education: Bachelor's degree in applied science with an emphasis in environmental biology from Queensland Institute of Technology; diploma of education from University of Queensland in Brisbane

Believes the age of the earth to be: About 6,000 years, based on six-day creation and the genealogies found in the Bible

Believes the age of the universe to be: About 6,000 years, based on six-day creation and the genealogies found in the Bible

Believes in God? Yes

Motivation for the debate: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible"

Ultimate authority: God, and by extension, the Word of God (Bible)

Beliefs:

Six-day special creation as described in the Bible (origin of matter, time, space, light, and so on)

A literal fall into sin from a perfect creation with Adam and Eve's sin that caused the world to be full of death and suffering, with fallen man needing a Savior

A global flood in Noah's day that was a judgment on sin and laid down the bulk of the rock layers that contain fossils

The Tower of Babel was a real event (after the Flood) that confused the languages and split apart the population. This division resulted in various people groups exhibiting the great genetic variations in humankind. However, all humans are of one race, thus all are related (descended from Adam), and all are sinners in need of the Savior Jesus Christ

Brief biography as given by moderator Tom Foreman

Mr. Ken Ham is the president and cofounder of Answers in Genesis, a Bible-defending organization that upholds the

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authority of the Scriptures from the very first verse. Mr. Ham is the man behind the popular high-tech Creation Museum where we're holding this debate. The museum has had two million visitors in six years and has attracted much of the world's media.

The Answers in Genesis website is well-trafficked, with two million visitors alone last month. Mr. Ham is also a best-selling author and much-in-demand speaker, [with a] daily radio feature carried on 700-plus stations.

This is his second public debate on evolution and creation. The first was at Harvard in the 1990s.

Mr. Ham is a native of Australia. He earned a bachelor's degree in applied science with an emphasis in environmental biology from the Queensland Institute of Technology as well as a diploma of education at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia.

Specific debate points and tactics

Basic and initial comments

The topic: "Is creation a viable model of origins in today's modern scientific era?"

Date: February 4, 2014

Site: Legacy Hall, Creation Museum, Petersburg, Kentucky, US

Coin toss: Ken Ham wins coin toss and elects to go first

Media: Over 70 media on site from all over the world

Live viewers: Approximately five million worldwide; 900 in Legacy Hall

Moderator: Tom Foreman from CNN

The basic debate format⁹:

Moderator's Introduction

Part 1

5-minute opening remarks — Ken Ham

5-minute opening — Bill Nye

9. See Appendix A for the complete transcript.

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Part 2

30-minute case — Ken Ham

Part 3

30-minute case — Bill Nye

Part 4

First 5-minute rebuttal — Ken Ham

First 5-minute rebuttal — Bill Nye

Second 5-minute rebuttal — Ken Ham

Second 5-minute rebuttal — Bill Nye

Part 5

Audience Question and Answers

Moderator's Closing

A few initial comments are warranted to set the stage for the debate. Take note of the title.

The title itself was actually an advantage for Mr. Nye. It placed the emphasis on Mr. Ham to defend the topic of creation and afforded Mr. Nye the luxury of attacking the position of creation. In sports terms, this would be as if Mr. Ham were playing defense for the duration of the debate and Mr. Nye were playing offense. Any sports fan knows that the one playing offense would be in a position to win if they played nothing but offense the entire game.

In reality, due to the nature of the topic, the discussion was not set up as a fair debate. For the debate to be stacked fair from the start, it should have been titled something like: *Creation or Evolution: Which is viable in today's scientific era?*¹⁰ Most viewers likely missed these subtleties. In other words, Mr. Nye was not really required to defend his position but only needed to attack the creationist position to keep to the agreed title.

Mr. Ham was aware of this but told me later that he could still use the debate title to deal with the origins topic in the way it needed to be dealt with — from a worldview philosophical position and an understanding of the real nature of the word “science.” Evolutionists, in contrast, do not want to defend their position but are willing to attack the opposition, which gives them an edge.

10. Consider if the debate topic had been: *Is Evolution a viable model in this scientific era?* This would have been a debate stacked against an evolutionary worldview that would have made the evolutionist play defense and the creationist play offense.

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Mr. Ham likely realized that Mr. Nye would still have to try to defend his position due to the crux of the discussion — origins, which is where creation and evolution converge into natural debate. So Mr. Ham probably agreed to the debate topic knowing it would be skewed against him; that considered, it was very gracious for him to entertain the debate “knowing how the cards were shuffled.”

Second, the grace that Mr. Ham showed to Mr. Nye upon winning the coin toss is also noteworthy. In debate, the one who gets the last comment tends to be the one in the best position (Proverbs 18:17¹¹). Having time to relax a bit more on stage knowing that about half of the attendees may not be on the opposing side also takes the pressure off the person who goes second. On the other hand, the one who gets to go first can “set the stage” for the demeanor of the debate.

But even so, Mr. Ham opted to go first and give Mr. Nye the final say. Sometime after the debate, I asked Mr. Ham why he did something debaters would rarely do — opt to go first and give his opponent the last say. Mr. Ham said that because so many people have never really listened to the biblical creationist position, he determined to go first so everyone (including Bill Nye) would have a clear understanding of this position. Mr. Ham told me it wasn't so much a debate tactic, but it was most important for him to know that the message God had laid on his heart was heard clearly — even if that meant giving Bill Nye a seeming tactical advantage. And as anyone who watched the debate knows, Mr. Ham presented not only the biblical creationist worldview, but also unashamedly and clearly shared the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lastly, Mr. Nye, after the debate revealed his ultimate debate tactic. He commented:

Those of you familiar with creationism and its followers are familiar with the remarkable Duane Gish...His debating technique came to be known as the “Gish Gallop.” He was infamous for jumping from one topic to another, introducing one spurious or specious fact or line of reasoning after another. A scientist debating Gish often got bogged down in details and, by all accounts, came across looking like the loser. It quickly occurred to me that I could do the same thing...I did my best to slam Ken

11. “The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.”

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Ham with a great many scientific and common sense arguments. I believed he wouldn't have the time or the focus to address many of them.¹²

Of course, this is a great misconception of what Dr. Gish actually did in those famous debates. But this is how it has been misconstrued in the *skeptical method* or *skeptical blitzkrieg*, as I call it, which is actually the method used by many secular humanists. This method is actually quite common on skeptical debate boards. They throw a bunch of information out there and hope that it overwhelms the opponent, whether it is true or false. In many cases, hosts of skeptics team up against a person, like a Christian, to try to “bully that person” with attacks. Many times, even if the Christian refutes a claim, the skeptics bring it up again in hopes of continuing to overwhelm the opponent.

Mr. Nye's tactic in the debate was exactly this. He attempted to throw topics out there fast and quick in hopes of not only distracting the audience but also provoking Mr. Ham into taking this bait and getting bogged down in the details of some of the strange and oftentimes inaccurate points that Mr. Nye brought up (as you will read throughout this response).

In some cases, even though Mr. Ham had already addressed something, Mr. Nye brought it up again as though it had not been dealt with. Mr. Nye knew that Mr. Ham couldn't address everything, as the debate was extremely limited by time constraints. Mr. Ham told me later that he could obviously only choose a few items to comment on but also noted that the answers to many (if not all) of Nye's claims were available on the www.answersingenesis.org website. Mr. Ham also said that he believed he should not use the time allocated during the question time to comment on previous points but to honor the person who submitted the question by responding specifically to what was asked.

So Mr. Nye used the *skeptical method*. But Mr. Ham didn't take the bait and stuck to the debate topic. But by sticking with his debate tactic, Mr. Nye failed to address the many points that Mr. Ham brought up or responded to in the debate. So let's get into the specifics of the debate,

12. B. Nye, “Bill Nye's Take on the Nye-Ham Debate,” *Skeptical Enquirer*, vol. 38, no. 3, May/June 2014, http://www.csicop.org/si/show/bill_nyes_take_on_the_nye-ham_debate/.

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and keep in mind that I *do* want to address Mr. Nye's many claims, as I am not limited by time constraints in this publication.



The 5-minute Opening Statements

Ham opening

In brief, Mr. Ham opened by pointing out that biblical creationists can practice the observational science that enables one to build technology and that an evolutionary worldview is not required to do such a thing. He mentioned some scientists who do this very thing from video clips in their own words (e.g., Dr. Raymond Damadian who invented the MRI scanner).

He then pointed out the terms needing to be defined for the debate. (Mr. Nye did not define terms as Mr. Ham did). The three terms from the debate topic that Mr. Ham defined were: *creation*, *evolution*, and *science*. He focused on the meaning of the word science, which has the root meaning of “knowledge.”

Mr. Ham used this definition of “science”:

the state of knowing: knowledge as distinguished from ignorance or misunderstanding.¹

Mr. Ham then discussed the dual nature of science — the major thrust of his entire presentation. He pointed out that science needs to be broken

1. Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, s.v. “science,” <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/science>.

Part 1

into two parts: experimental (observable or operational) science and origins (historical) science. Both creation and evolution involve historical science (beliefs) and observational science (such as the study of genetics, etc.).

Experimental science that builds technology is based on the scientific method. And origins or historical science is the nonrepeatable, nonobservable science (knowledge) dealing with the past, which then enters the realm of beliefs (really, religion).

Mr. Ham used this definition of the scientific method:

a method of procedure...consisting in systematic observation, measurement, and experiment, and the formulation, testing, and modification of hypotheses.²

Mr. Ham summed up with the point that the debate was actually a religious debate over two different worldviews based on two different starting points (God's Word or man's word).

Overall analysis

This was a good opening, considering that the speaker was on the defensive. Mr. Ham started by destroying the idea that creationists cannot be "real" scientists, which is a common claim — and a claim that Mr. Nye had repeatedly made in the media.

Defining terms was also essential because terms have multiple meanings. *Evolution* and *science* are both terms with multiple definitions that can muddy the waters if not clarified up front. Furthermore, it is important to know what the debaters are talking about so they do not "talk past" one another. At least when Mr. Ham gave his presentation, people knew what he meant by words like evolution, science, and creation.

Operational/ Experimental/ Observable science versus Historical/ Origins science

Mr. Ham's main point about the meaning of the word science is crucial. If Mr. Nye admitted that historical science is not observable and repeatable, then he would be opening the door to let the public become aware that evolution is a religion making religious claims about the past and not the type of science that builds technology (i.e., observable and

2. Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. "scientific method."

The 5-minute Opening Statements

repeatable). Mr. Nye would essentially lose the debate right then and there in the eyes of the public.

But Mr. Nye refused to acknowledge the difference between historical and observational science, as to do so would be to admit he had untestable beliefs concerning his view of origins. Mr. Ham admitted his beliefs based on God's Word, but Mr. Nye refused to admit his beliefs based on man's word until the last question of the Question and Answer time.

Here is why this is so significant. In today's education system, the religion of secular humanism, with its foundation of naturalistic evolution based on man's word or man's beliefs about the past [molecules-to-man], is disguised in textbooks, secular museums, and so on by being called "science." But the same word, "science," is used for experimental science that builds technology. Because students aren't taught the difference between historical and observational science, they are brainwashed into thinking that molecules-to-man evolution is the same science as that which built technology — which it is not. It is a bait and switch fallacy (a fallacy in logic).

Here is how Mr. Ham explained it during the debate:

Public school textbooks are using the same word — science — for observational and historical science. They arbitrarily define science as naturalism and outlaw the supernatural. They present molecules-to-man evolution as fact. They are imposing the religion of naturalism/atheism on generations of students.³

He went on to state:

The word science has been hijacked by secularists in teaching evolution to force the religion of naturalism on generations of kids... The creation/evolution debate is really a conflict between two philosophical worldviews based on two different accounts of origins or historical science beliefs.⁴

Observational science is certainly an observable and experimentally wonderful methodological tool with which to build cars, trains, computers, and the other great technology we use today. Sadly, though, so many people are duped into believing that evolution (molecules-to-man) *is also*

3. See Appendix A.

4. See Appendix A.

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science in the same way (bait and switch), and therefore it can remain in the classroom when religion was supposed to be kicked out.

Secularists basically renamed the religious aspect of evolution called “naturalism” as “science,” knowing that most people would not understand the bait and switch used to indoctrinate people in the religion of naturalism or atheism.⁵ Naturalism is a vital aspect of the religion of secular humanism that teaches that autonomous man is the one who determines truth.

Mr. Ham put it this way in his debate presentation:

The word evolution has been hijacked using a bait and switch...the word evolution is used for observable changes and then used for unobservable changes such as molecules to man.⁶

Mr. Ham, by delineating between experimental/observational and historical/origins science, placed Mr. Nye on the horns of a dilemma. Either he had to admit that molecules-to-man evolution is a belief (a religion based on naturalism and materialism) when discussing the past, or he would be forced to show molecules-to-man evolution for the audience to observe. The past clearly cannot be repeated or observed. But if Mr. Nye admitted that evolution, naturalism, and materialism were beliefs about the past, then he would be admitting on a very public stage that tax dollars in the US are being used to impose the religion of naturalism on generations of students and on the public as a whole. As Mr. Ham reiterated twice during the debate:

They [the secularists] present molecules-to-man evolution as fact. They are imposing the religion of naturalism/atheism on generations of students.⁷

Furthermore, Mr. Ham’s opening was perfectly consistent since observable science comes out of a Christian worldview that is built on a literal creation.⁸ One cannot account for the laws of logic or the laws of nature

5. B. Hodge, “Is Science Secular?” Answers in Genesis, May 17, 2013, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/05/17/is-science-secular>.

6. <https://answersingenesis.org/countering-the-culture/bill-nye-debates-ken-ham/>.

7. See Appendix A.

8. J. Lisle, “Evolution — The Anti-science?” in K. Ham and B. Hodge, Gen. Eds., *How Do We Know the Bible is True?* Volume 1 (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2011), pp. 255–262.

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within a naturalistic worldview. Bible-believing Christian Francis Bacon, for example, developed the scientific method. Bacon understood that God set up the laws of logic and nature, and God upholds the world in a particular fashion that makes science possible. We can trust that those same laws won't change and thus can be relied on since the Bible alludes to this in several places (discussed later). Also, Bible-believing Christians developed most fields of science.⁹ That is why Mr. Ham publicly asked Bill Nye this question during the debate:

How do you account for the laws of logic and laws of nature from a naturalistic worldview that excludes the existence of God?

All historical science is wrong, save one

Lastly, I would like to make a *black and white* point: all historical/origins “sciences” are wrong, except one. Only one history really did occur in the past. All the historical sciences (or historical *knowledge*) are wrong, save one. They are all fictional stories but one.

The only one in a position to know the truth about origins is the Creator God who created all things, eyewitnessed it, has always been there, and revealed it to us in His Word as recorded in the Bible. All other forms of historical science are based on man's fallible, imperfect guesses about the past by people who were not there. Therefore, they are arbitrary, next to God's absolute standard.

Nye opening

Ham's story versus mainstream science

Mr. Nye opened with a story about his father that was quite humorous, then transitioned to say that he and Mr. Ham would be debating two stories: one being that of “Mr. Ham's story” and the other of “mainstream science.”

Now I would like to comment on the two things positioned here. First, it is not about *Mr. Ham's story*, but rather about *biblical creation* as revealed in God's Word and confirmed by observational science. There have been godly people (numerous biblical authors, including church fathers and reformers) who held to biblical creation long before Mr. Ken

9. Answers in Genesis, “Which Scientists of the Past Believed in a Creator?” Answers in Genesis, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/home/area/bios/#pastsci>.

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Ham ever showed up on the scene. Mr. Ham is not teaching anything new when it comes to six-day creation. Rather, he's standing on the shoulders of most Bible-believing Christians, including many who came before him.

So why did Mr. Nye take this tack? The answer is that it is *demand*ed by his religion. He is a secular humanist, believing man is the ultimate authority; therefore, he wanted to demote the origins issue from any association with God and place it in the hands of a man. That way it set up the debate for creation as a model established by a man (Ken Ham) as opposed to God. From that perspective, I was actually surprised that he credited it to Mr. Ham rather than to Moses, which would have made much more sense!¹⁰ But that is the nature of fallible man. And as we know, even what Moses (or Paul or the other authors) wrote as recorded in God's Word is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16¹¹).

Second, Mr. Nye inserted a reification fallacy. Instead of trying to play on equal footing (that is, by his own human standard) by then saying the opposing story was "Nye's story," he appealed to what he called "mainstream science's story." The problem is that mainstream science doesn't have stories, conclusions, or ideas. Mainstream science is a methodology. It doesn't speak, nor does it have stories. Instead, *scientists* have stories, conclusions, and so on. In one sense, it is like the methodology of science has been given "life," then has been raised up to an almost "human-like" status; thus, it is a reification fallacy. And of course Mr. Nye included observation and historical science together when he uses the word "science" — but he refused (and still refuses) to acknowledge this.

Really, it was Mr. Nye, representing the ungodly, versus God and His Word. It just so happens that Mr. Ken Ham was representing the position of the godly, which affirms God and His Word.

Changing the topic of the debate by Nye

Mr. Nye then put up a slide that read: *Does Ken Ham's Creation Model hold up? Is it viable?* Of course, this was not the debate topic. But he

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10. I suggest that the reason Mr. Nye did this was to "divide and conquer." Later in the debate, Mr. Nye tried to separate Mr. Ham's understanding of creation from that of other religious people who were fine with an evolutionary worldview. Had Mr. Nye criticized Moses, he would have lost potential support from Christians who may have been fine with Mr. Nye's evolutionary model, but would not have been fine with his being critical of Moses.
 11. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

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was trying to change the topic to be pointed to Mr. Ham as opposed to the biblical position that Mr. Ham espoused. This type of *ad hominem* attack (arguing against the man, as opposed to arguing against the issue at hand) is more common in evolutionary literature than one might initially think.

Confusion of historical science with natural law

Next, Mr. Nye, in the context of *CSI* (the television show), said that Mr. Ham's constructs of observational science vs. historical science don't exist on the show. So Mr. Nye concluded that they don't exist elsewhere but only exist in Ham's model. He then countered by saying that natural laws existed in the past and also exist in the present. Though he agreed that *CSI* is fiction, he also agreed that the clues exist in the present and we have to embrace those.

Just because a TV show doesn't acknowledge historical versus observational science (yet) doesn't mean they don't exist. Not once on *CSI* has anyone ever been able to repeat the past or observe the past. They observe things in the present using observational science (e.g., tests for presence of blood) to try to determine what happened in the past using historical science (e.g., who committed the murder).

If historical science works so well in crime labs, why isn't there a 100% conviction rate, and why have there been false convictions? It's because observational science involves experiments that can be observed and repeated in the present, but historical science involves interpretation with regard to past events that can't be repeated or directly observed.

Furthermore, Mr. Nye revealed that he didn't understand the difference between observational science and historical science. He presumed creationists imply that views about unique events in the past like the Flood of Noah's day mean natural law has changed over time! Then he tried to refute his false accusation that creationists believe natural laws have changed.

The historical science of creationists (beliefs concerning creation, the Flood, Tower of Babel, etc.) has nothing to do with natural laws supposedly changing — that was a fabrication by Mr. Nye. Mr. Nye actually set up a straw man, then tried to rebut it. But anyone who has seen the debate can see that this is not the argument Mr. Ham was making but rather was a straw man fallacy committed by Mr. Nye.

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Creationists agree that natural laws aren't changing. In fact, in his presentation, Mr. Ham challenged Mr. Nye as to how he could believe the laws of logic and nature from a naturalistic view of origins. Mr. Ham explained to Mr. Nye that from his naturalistic perspective, once there was no logic and then there was logic. So according to Darwinian principles, there must have been a half logic, which is completely illogical.

Mr. Ham explained that the Darwinian view is completely illogical because we might be at the point now of only having half logic, so how could Mr. Nye trust his own arguments? However, this was obviously totally lost on Mr. Nye who falsely claimed Mr. Ham believed the laws of logic changed!

Mr. Ham repeatedly challenged Mr. Nye as to how he could explain the laws of logic and nature from a naturalistic view of origins. Here is the exact text of Ken's question to Bill Nye:

How do you account for the laws of logic and laws of nature from a naturalistic worldview that excludes the existence of God?¹²

Natural law

Natural laws exist because God created them and is upholding the universe in a particular way (e.g., Hebrews 1:3,¹³ Genesis 8:22¹⁴).¹⁵ We describe these laws, but we don't really know what makes them work. That is God's realm. We can describe gravity, for example, and define these beautiful laws, developed in large part by young earth creationist Isaac Newton. But what *is* gravity? Hypotheses abound...but simply put, gravity is the *name we give* to the way God upholds certain aspects of His creation.

But there is a big difference between clues about the past that you can observe in the present and being able observe the actual past. This is not dependent on natural law.

12. See Appendix A.

13. "[Jesus] who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

14. "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

15. J. Lisle, "Don't Creationists Deny the Laws of Nature?" in K. Ham, gen. ed., *The New Answers Book 1* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006), pp. 39–46.

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On a semi-technical note, Mr. Nye is actually borrowing from a biblical worldview to make the claim that natural laws will not change in the future. Let me explain. Christians have a basis for such a thing (natural law being consistent in the future), as previously mentioned. But in a secular view, natural laws have changed from the onset of the Big Bang, and they have no way of knowing that in the future the laws of nature might not change again. Christians know that the laws of nature will not change since God, who is not bound by time and knows the future, reveals that to us. As God's Word states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

It is purely arbitrary for the secularist to know anything about the future, let alone that the laws of nature will not change in the future. If they argue that they can know that the future is like the past by looking at the past, then they merely beg the question since they really never answered the question. In other words, they arbitrarily suggest that they future will be the same, but they can't know it within their worldview.

Global Flood and the animals

Next, Mr. Nye claimed that Mr. Ham and his followers have this remarkable view that there was a worldwide Flood that somehow affected everything we see in nature. He claimed the Ark had 14,000 individual animals on it and that every land plant was underwater for a full year. Mr. Nye then asked if this scenario is even reasonable.

Now, to question some of Mr. Nye's claims here: first, it is not just Mr. Ham and his followers, but the Bible states clearly that there was a Flood (e.g., the basis for this truth claim in the first place), and millions of Mr. Ham's *predecessors* also agreed there was a worldwide Flood.¹⁶

It has only been in recent times, about the last 200 years, that people really started questioning a global Flood.¹⁷ This happened in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when secular humanists and deists began with the assumption that rock layers, including fossil-bearing layers, were supposedly laid down slowly and gradually without any catastrophic

16. We even find over 300 flood legends (most discussing a global or universal destruction of nature) that exist in cultures all around the world, past and present. This is to be expected from a biblical creation perspective as the stories were passed down from Noah's descendants and skewed into what they became; but consider... there should be no global Flood legends in the evolutionary scenario.

17. T. Mortenson, *The Great Turning Point* (Green Forest AR: Master Books, 2004).

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processes in the past (i.e., the concept of uniformitarianism). The idea of the past having no significant catastrophes was remarkable, considering the catastrophes we have been able to observe in the last 200 years. Secularists today do realize that there have been catastrophic processes in the past and therefore strict uniformitarianism doesn't work — however, they claim such catastrophic processes happened over millions of years.

Second, Mr. Nye committed a straw man fallacy when he claimed that the Flood affected everything we see in nature. But this is not what any creationist [*that I've ever heard*] claims. It changed the landscape, split continents, affected weather, and judged sin. But laws of nature (e.g., the laws of thermodynamics, gravity, and so on) remained the same, the sun remained, and the moon remained.

I am not sure where Mr. Nye came up with the number of animals allegedly on the Ark. He claimed there were 14,000 animals plus “eight zookeepers,” so he arrived at 14,008 total. With any legitimate research into the subject since the 1970s, one would find numbers closer to about 2,000 (Jones)¹⁸ based on a family level of classification more akin to the word “kind” in Genesis (not in every instance of course, but this was an estimation).

Answers in Genesis researchers, in preparation for exhibits in the life-size Noah's Ark project, suggested that there are around 1000 animal kinds at present. This means 2000 + animals (two of each kind, seven of the clean animals) were needed on the Ark. There was plenty of room for the representative animal kinds plus the eight people from Noah's family on the Ark.

Plants and a global Flood

Mr. Nye also committed a straw man fallacy when he claimed that plants remained underwater for an entire year. Mr. Ham has never stated such a thing to my knowledge and research. Perhaps Mr. Nye tried to deduce this because the Flood occurred over the course of a year (370–371 days depending on rounding and assuming a 360-day calendar that many ancient cultures used), and he assumed that plants remained underwater for that entire time. But most fail to realize that the 370–371 days was the time Noah spent in the Ark, not the duration of the waters being at their highest peak.

18. A.J. Jones, “How Many Animals in the Ark?” in *Creation Research Society Quarterly*, 10, no. 2 (September, 1973).

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But if one neglects the specifics of the Flood, then one might fail to understand that plants were only covered for a short time. The Bible says the “springs of the great deep burst forth,” which triggered the Flood (Genesis 7:11¹⁹). There is no reason to assume the entire earth was covered yet because this does take time, as the account of the Flood proceeds to inform us.

Then the Bible says, “Now the flood was on the earth for forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark...” (Genesis 7:17²⁰), implying the Ark sat on the ground for 40 days before being lifted up. This means that some land was still exposed during the 40 days. The Ark struck the mountains of Ararat on the 150th day.²¹ So again land was likely starting to be exposed from this 150th day onward with a steady decrease of the waters (Genesis 8:3²²).

This means the whole earth was actually covered by water for a maximum of 110 days. Plants and seeds, in many cases, can survive such conditions (e.g., if not buried to be a candidate for fossilization). Some plants can re-root, others can sprout from seed, and so on.²³ Also, many plants would have survived as part of floating log mats. And we must also understand that there have been 4,300 years of processes like natural selection since the Flood — so some plants or seeds that may not survive underwater today may have been able to do so at the time of the Flood. There are many varying factors that could be considered.

I’m surprised Mr. Nye completely forgot the famous olive leaf. Genesis 8:11²⁴ discusses the dove’s return with a freshly plucked olive leaf. This was on Day 278 of the Flood, showing that plants were growing well before Noah exited the Ark about three months later.²⁵

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19. “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.”
 20. “Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.”
 21. Genesis 8:3–4: “And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.”
 22. “And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.”
 23. D. Wright, “How Did Plants Survive the Flood?” *Answers in Genesis*, October 12, 2012, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/aid/v7/n1/how-did-plants-survive-flood>.
 24. “Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.”
 25. B. Hodge, “Biblical Overview of the Flood Timeline,” *Answers in Genesis*, August 23, 2010, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2010/08/23/overview-flood-timeline>.

Reason in a secular view

Mr. Nye then appealed to the crowd and asked if the version of the Flood that he was describing was “reasonable.” This instantly set off red flags to me when I was in the audience. In fact, several times in the debate Mr. Nye asked if things were “reasonable” or stated that he believed certain arguments were “not reasonable.”

Now, in one sense, I do understand the sentiment, as a creationist, asking if a belief or argument is reasonable or not. But I want to address something more disturbing about Mr. Nye’s use of “reason” by *his own professed worldview*.

Mr. Nye is a secular humanist, thus naturalistic and materialistic in his religion. Naturalism (nature is all that there is) and materialism (everything is material, nothing spiritual or immaterial exists), are crucial parts of the religion of secular humanism. In other words, those who hold to a naturalistic and materialistic worldview say that everything is matter. Materialists and naturalists say that there is nothing spiritual, nothing immaterial, and nothing supernatural. All things that exist must be physical from this religious perspective.

But here is the disturbing part: logic, reason, truth, knowledge, and so on are *not material*. They are not physical. They are conceptual or “nonmaterial.” If Mr. Nye (or any other materialist) is consistent in their worldview, then logic, truth, and reason should not exist in their worldview any more than God, who is also nonmaterial (e.g., spiritual; John 4:24,²⁶ Hebrews 11:3²⁷).

So Mr. Nye is actually borrowing from a biblical worldview when he attempts to use logic and reasoning. God is the truth, and logic is a tool. Man was made in the image of a truthful and reasoning God (Genesis 1:26–27,²⁸ Genesis 9:6,²⁹ Isaiah 1:18,³⁰ and so on). So we, as people, are

26. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

27. “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”

28. “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

29. “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.”

30. “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”

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able to use logic and reasoning because the Bible is true.³¹ Mr. Nye obviously does not understand this important point.

The Flood mixture

Mr. Nye, while trying to refute a global Flood, said, “In other words, when there was a big Flood on the earth you would expect drowning animals to swim up to a higher level.” Mr. Nye then said, “If you could find evidence of that, my friends, you could change the world.”

I must first ask, what evidence would be left behind of animals swimming? I’ve seen animals swimming quite often, yet they leave no evidence behind.

But the premise of this claim by Mr. Nye assumes that the Floodwaters were rather tranquil, which would allow animals to easily swim upward. But one doesn’t get that impression from Genesis 6–8. If anything, precious few creatures would be able to do this, and mere tracks would be left as they tried to get higher and higher with subsequent sediment flows continually being laid down at their feet. For example, if an animal were trying to remain at a breathable position, it would need to get to higher ground even as sediment and water were flowing around it. So its only real hope would be to stay above the sediment level, hence leaving some fossil footprints.

Next, Mr. Nye was making the assumption that animals weren’t dead when they were deposited in these layers. Some may have still been alive at the time, but most others were likely dead and transported to where they were buried. By only the 150th day, all the land animals were dead already (Genesis 7:21–23³²).

The rock layers containing fossils, such as those in the Grand Canyon, are evidence of where the animals were buried, not necessarily where the animals that were preserved in them lived nor where they were perhaps

31. People often err when it comes to logic and reason as well, but that is due to the sin in Genesis 3. Due to the fall, men no longer process information properly and are now prone to fallacious thinking; this is why we need to rely on God’s Word to correct us, since God in an infallible source.

32. “And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man. All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died. So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.”

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trying to survive. Consider the immensity of the Flood — that mechanism would transport and deposit creatures in subsequent layers based on many factors. One of those factors is the natural sorting of water, which we can observe on a smaller scale today.

Another is that the creatures living at lower levels would be buried first (shells, for example, are not going to flee to higher ground). At one stage of the Flood, there was *nothing* higher than sea level (Genesis 7:20³³)! Another factor is that various waves that bring in the sediment could be carrying different things, which are laid down in successive layering that sits aloft previous layers.

But even with this, we *do* still find animals that laid down tracks in the Grand Canyon and are found buried much higher. Some animal tracks are found in the Coconino Sandstone (supposedly laid down 260 million years ago) and yet it is the layers above where such animals were actually buried.³⁴

Even the National Park Service website says of these tracks: “Even though no bones have been found, these tracks contain an abundance of information about the animals that made them.”³⁵ This is because the bones are found at higher levels, where secularists are not looking because they have assumed the layers are separated by millions of years. So there is evidence of animals escaping to higher levels, and yet this evidence “did not change the world” as Mr. Nye said it would.

And this brings me to an important point. Mr. Ham knows that interpreting rock layers and fossils in relation to the past involves historical science. He therefore determined that in the debate he would concentrate on ensuring people understood this clearly. He spent time explaining the difference between observational and historical science — and gave examples of different interpretations of evidence based on one’s starting point. Mr. Nye rejected this explanation, but it was not lost on the millions who watched it. Mr. Ham told me later, “In many ways, I

33. “The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.”

34. L. Brand, “Field and Laboratory Studies on the Coconino Sandstone (Permian) Vertebrate Footprints and Their Paleocological Implications,” *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 28 (1979): pp. 25–38, [http://resweb.llu.edu/lbrand/pdf/field_and_laboratory_studies_on_the_coconino_sandstone_\(permian\)_vertebrate_footprints_and_their_paleocological_implications.pdf](http://resweb.llu.edu/lbrand/pdf/field_and_laboratory_studies_on_the_coconino_sandstone_(permian)_vertebrate_footprints_and_their_paleocological_implications.pdf).

35. Fossils, NPS.gov, http://www.nps.gov/grca/naturescience/fossils.htm#CP_JUMP_441243. Accessed February 10, 2014.

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Footprints in the Grand Canyon, and yet the creatures are not buried until a much higher position.

decided I would make sure the media and watching audience understood the real issues, knowing Mr. Nye would probably not listen.”

Religious claims by Mr. Nye: Billions of people do not embrace 6,000-year creation.

There are two points to be made here. First, there are millions of people who do not embrace the notion of billions of years. So Mr. Nye’s arbitrary claim is irrelevant anyway. If Hitler had said that there were millions of people who did not view the Jews as people, would that make it true? Not at all.

Second, you wouldn’t find one person alive before 1956 who said the age of the earth was 4.5 billion years. The idea of the earth having an ancient age is radically new. Furthermore, the idea of millions of years of earth’s history is also relatively new, tracing back about 200 years. Prior to the late 1700s, one would be hard pressed to find any culture that had the age of the earth older than roughly 6,000–9,000 years old.³⁶

36. B. Hodge, “How Old Is the Earth?” Answers in Genesis, May 30, 2007, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2007/05/30/how-old-is-earth>.

Keeping the United States ahead

Mr. Nye then said his concern was to keep the United States of America ahead in regard to education and technology. His heartfelt plea was that we would not move forward if we continued to try to eschew “science” (as he defined it), and to divide it into historical and observational science would basically be a detriment. Mr. Nye kept on insisting that the science that built our technology is the same science that, in his mind, proves molecules-to-man evolution!

However, as stated earlier, this is simply not true. Mr. Nye is just not being honest enough to admit he has certain beliefs that determine how he interprets evidence in relation to the past. He doesn’t want the world to know that molecules-to-man evolution is a belief. To admit it is a belief is to admit he could be wrong!

If Mr. Nye really believed that his evolutionary views are what keeps the United States of America ahead, then he would be entirely for creation being taught in *all other* countries, as that would supposedly make them fall behind. After all, this would be consistent with the mentality of survival of the fittest. And that seems to be what Mr. Nye wants.

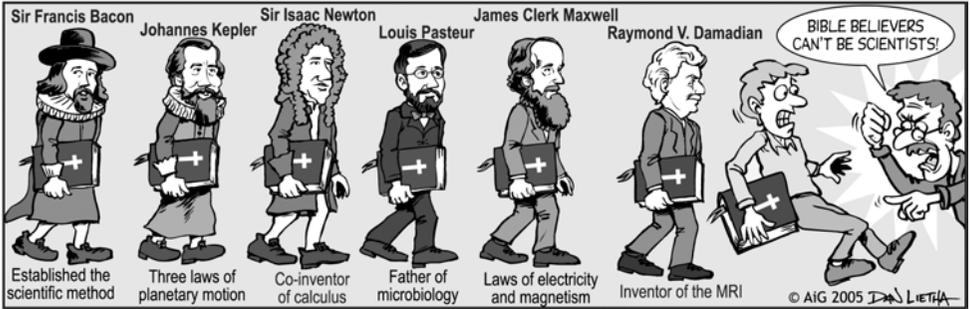
Now, many creationists share Mr. Nye’s nationalism but in a different way. I encourage all people to take pride in their countries, regardless of national past wrongs, wars, and so on. But basically, Mr. Nye, in subtle fashion, wants to put other countries down. We as Christians do not share this limited view but want to see other countries *and* the US thrive scientifically for good.

Our motivation as Christians is to help our fellow man — to teach and educate them about all things, including God and His means of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. This is all part of the dominion mandate as given to man in Genesis 1. But why would Mr. Nye have this motivation here? He wants the US to “remain” on top. But I suggest he is practically playing out his evolutionary beliefs, and his motivation is really that of “survival of the fittest.” Certainly, to be consistent, he would really have to admit that.

Next, Mr. Ham pre-refuted an idea that Mr. Nye holds crucial. Mr. Nye revealed his hand — i.e., that he believes creationists eschew science. Creationists love science, and Mr. Ham showed video clips of four (of the thousands of) biblical creation scientists who are involved in cutting-edge

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scientific research. I was surprised that Mr. Nye would make this claim (that he had made many times prior to the debate), surely knowing about people like Dr. Raymond Damadian (inventor of the MRI scanner) and Dr. Stuart Burgess (inventor of a gear set for Envisat, the largest, very expensive civilian satellite for the European Space Agency), among many other renowned creation scientists.

But let's conduct a brief history lesson here: Bible-believing Christians developed most fields of science. The US was predominantly Christian and creationist in its thinking in the past, but sadly, that has now shifted. It was the creationists who made this nation great and promoted and increased technology. Even the man whose brilliance masterminded the United States of America to space and to the moon, Werner Von Braun, was a young earth creationist.³⁷

Since then, the Bible has been taken out of schools, creation has been taken out of schools, and so on. Maybe one of the reasons the US is falling behind in students' academic scores is because Christianity has by and large been thrown out of public education and replaced with evolutionary humanism! And then we could conduct more of a history lesson and talk about other creationists who were great scientists — such as Isaac Newton, Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, and many more.

The US is now becoming more “evolutionized,” certainly in many ways triggered by the famous Scopes Trial in 1925, but taking more of a full force from 1960 to the present. Now that evolutionists have basically taken over schools, universities, and museums, they have been responsible for educating most of the next generation. This has been happening

37. A. Lamont, “Great Creation Scientists: Werner Von Braun (1912–1977),” *Creation Ex-Nihilo*, March 1, 1994, <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/cm/v16/n2/von-braun>.

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for several decades now, and I assert, this is a major reason we are losing the edge we once had as a nation. Now we are seeing the US go from “being on top” in world technology to it transferring elsewhere — and Mr. Nye wants to blame the creationists?

Issue of authority

Mr. Nye claimed at the end of his 5-minute opening:

So if you ask me if Ken Ham’s creation model is viable, *I say no*, it is absolutely not viable [emphasis added].

Mr. Nye appealed to his own authority: “I say no.” This is key, and this is what the debate was (and still is) really all about — an issue of authority — God’s Word or man’s word. Can a fallible human dictate authority over all others or is God the only One in a position to do that as He is the Creator, the absolute authority? If a person can dictate right and wrong, then there is no such thing as absolute right and wrong, for each person could come up with their own moral code. It reminds me of this verse of Scripture:

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

The more Mr. Nye’s naturalistic view of origins permeates the education system, the more I suggest we will see moral relativism pervading the culture — which is exactly what we see happening already. The religion of naturalism will ultimately destroy a culture! Mr. Nye’s religion is pernicious for any nation.