

Bible Special 06-10-03b

Let's resume our study. We have been looking at the probably primary competitor to Christian faith in our country, which is secular humanism and its explanation for life as we know it, the universe as we know it, which is the naturalistic evolutionary explanation. Evolution happens large and small.

It happens in the physical universe. It happens, you can call it pre-biological evolution. The putting together of simple chemical compounds into greater and greater molecules in terms of complexity until finally you have amino acids and then they magically get popped inside a protein bubble or something and become a protocell in the RNA world and etc, etc.

If you're interested, you can read all about this, you can read all of the arguments, pros and cons. It's a vast ocean of controversy one way and the other with people who are, even on the creationist side, sadly there are a lot of people who don't really understand the issues, who don't argue cogently, who draw wrong assumptions, who try to do things in the political arena that are actually not helpful. And these, of course, become the poster child that secular humanists will hold up and say, so this is representative of Christianity, this is representative of creationism, when it really is not representative, but it helps to make their case.

They'll find some extremist or someone who is, whatever it is, they will find a way to make that representative and typical when it really is not. Well, why did God let this happen? Here's my question. Why is it that God didn't just be more clear? Why doesn't he open a big square window in the sky and stick his face through and say, here I am.

Why didn't he leave Noah's Ark sticking right out of the ice up on Mount Ararat? Why didn't he put things in the fossil record that show nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, nothing, and then fossils of every shape, size, and description, and there's no gradation, there's no microorganisms at the bottom and invertebrates above that, and then lower levels and higher levels. Why did God let the fossils sort out as they have? Why didn't he leave evidence that's open to dispute and that's inconclusive? You can read it either way. Of course, according to the evolutionists, it can only be read one way, but that's not true at all.

There's nothing unscientific, there's nothing illogical or silly about understanding the fossil record, understanding the geological record, understanding the astrophysical record, understanding the genetic evidence that we have around us. You can be just as scientific, you can get just as far in terms of advancements and comparisons and determining what makes things work. The big lie in evolution, hear me now, the big lie in evolution is that if you don't believe that theory of origins, you can't do science in the present.

I read this book by Futuyama, I started reading it, I got through the first few chapters. One of the statements he makes is that evolution is the unifying principle in all of modern biology. If you don't believe in evolution, you can't do modern biology.

This is the purest nonsense. What do you do in biology? Microbiology, what do you do? You go into the cell and figure out, how does this work? How does reproduction take place? How does a small group of cells that form an embryo develop and grow and become a complete organism? What is the nature of behavior? In other words, science deals with the present. What is it that's going on in the present? Let's look at the genes and the genome and the DNA and the chemical processes that take place inside reproductive cells.

Let's take a look at how disease mechanisms work. Let's take a look at how viruses work. It doesn't matter what your theory of origins is.

And they say, oh, but we get such great insight by understanding that these two animals are related. Bats and whales are descended from a common ancestor and so on. Nonsense.

They observe similarities and differences in the genome. Similarities and differences in the structure. It doesn't matter how those similarities and differences arose.

Are they from a common ancestor or are they from a common template that God used to design those creatures? In the present, it doesn't matter. It does not matter. There is no science that you can't do in terms of observation and interpretation and application in the scientific realm that requires you to believe in evolution.

You can get just as far looking at biology, looking at cells, looking at diseases, looking at processes, looking at organs and organisms, looking at genes and genomes and DNA and chemical processes and engines and machines inside the cell and all the rest of it. None of that is defined by where they came from. If there are similarities and differences, okay, fine.

It's a similarity or it's a difference. Your explanation of how that similarity or difference arose doesn't change what you look at in the present. This is a great cloud of smoke, a great squirting sea of ink that evolutionists like to squirt into the water and disappear behind.

They say, oh, you're beclouding science with your creationist drivel and you're anti-intellectual, you're anti-science, you're anti-fact. It is true that there are creationists who are anti-intellectual, just as it's true that there are atheists and materialists who are anti-intellectual. You can find somebody who's anti-something in any group, but the true Christian is unafraid of anything that science turns up.

Why am I reading the latest, greatest arguments in favor of evolution? Because I'm not afraid of what I might find in there. I don't see any threat to my faith. I don't see any worries that my understanding of God and the past and the present and the future as it's revealed in the Word of God is going to be threatened or questioned.

And it's not because I have my head stuck in the sand or because I'm sort of dogmatic and fundamentalist and intransigent and unteachable. It's precisely because I am teachable and flexible and willing to analyze the evidence. And it is no threat to my faith and belief in God.

My belief in God does not rest on scientific evidence, and therefore it's not threatened by scientific evidence. And no thinking Christian should be afraid or worried about looking at everything there is. It's all part of God's universe.

It's part of God's truth. There is nothing to fear in it. And it's a great exercise in discernment.

It's a good exercise for your brain to read the best that the enemy can throw at you, the best that the scientific, secular, humanist, materialist can pitch and find whether it's solid or whether it is erroneous. Sometimes what they say makes good sense. And you say, well, you know, that's really something to think about.

Other times it is very obviously a fallacy. But Jesus said you will know the truth. The truth will make you free.

God's truth opens up doors, opens up opportunities, gives us an enhanced view of life in the universe. It doesn't shut us down and make us some sort of head in the sand, benighted dogmatists. We might need to revisit our understanding of Genesis.

I think people misunderstand when they think that God created the sun and the moon on the fourth day. That's a misunderstanding. And scripture doesn't actually say that.

But the evolutionists love to say, look, your silly scriptures say that there was light on the first day and yet there wasn't a sun, moon, and stars until the fourth day. Well, we noted from the original Hebrew when we went through Genesis, there's nothing on the fourth day that requires that to be the day that the sun, moon, and stars were created. That's when they are spoken of because that's when they became visible.

Well, anyway, I promised you in the first lesson that we were going to get back into God's word because here's the big question. Why didn't God make everything crystal clear? Wouldn't it have just been easier? Wouldn't it have settled all these debates and arguments if God had just put irrefutable, undeniable physical evidence right here on the planet that he exists, that he created the world, he is the originator of life. Genesis chapter 1 is true and here's the fundamental, unarguable evidence that it's so.

It seems as though God has almost gone out of his way to not leave anything like that laying around, doesn't it? And so the scientist gleefully says, ha, there's no proof for your God. There's no proof for your Bible. And indeed, it's almost remarkable that they look and they can't find any archaeology.

They can find archaeology for all kinds of things. Pueblo Indians and South American Incas and ancient Egyptians and all kinds of things, but they can't find the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. They can't find anything that is conclusive in terms of evidence about Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and many of the early biblical stories in Genesis.

It's almost as though somebody went around cleaning up the evidence and making sure that it

would not be found. And the humanist and the scientist gleefully say, aha, see, your Bible is just a bunch of myths. Why did God let that happen? Are they right? Is the Bible really just a bunch of Hebrew myths that were never meant to reflect reality? Here's the thing.

I want to take us back. Back before Genesis chapter 1. Back to the days when God existed and the angels existed. The angels live where God lives.

The angels dwell where God dwells. The angels are the first sentient creatures. Before there were ever any people, before there was a heavens and the earth, God's angels existed and they were thinking, functioning creatures.

They had a civilization. They had a dwelling place. They engaged in commerce.

They did all kinds of things that we just have very sketchy details of. But they were a complete civilization of beings. All of them beheld God's face daily.

There was no problem with evidence of God for them, right? They dwelled in heaven where God is. Saw him every day. Satan had his job.

He got up every morning and went to work in God's throne room. Is there any chance that Satan could not believe there was a God when he is the guardian of God's throne room? He's the second in command, so to speak. Well, what happened? A third of the angels followed Satan in rebellion against God.

They said, we don't like this setup. You've given us free will and guess what? We're saying no. We don't want to be here.

We don't want to be under your authority. We don't want to follow your plan and program. We'd like to do our own thing.

We'd like to separate ourselves from you and be independent. God said, I can't let you do that because there is no life. There is no fruit.

There's no productivity. There's no benefit. There's nothing but misery and squalor and devastation and destruction and carnage separated from me.

The angels said, oh no. Satan said, I can be just like you, God. I can be like the Most High.

I can raise my throne up above the stars of heaven. I can manage the angels. I can rule and we can have an alternate society that's Godless.

God said, look, before I pass, I've already found you guilty of not accepting. I've already found you guilty of rebellion. But before I execute the sentence on you, let me show you why I can't let you go off and live an independent existence.

And God created the heavens and the earth. And God put man on planet earth. And God said,

watch this.

Unlike you, after Adam falls in the garden, God says, I'm not going to walk amongst men. I'm not going to be visible every day. We'll do something different.

So this time, instead of revealing himself to every creature and waiting until such a time as those creatures decided, yes, I'm for him or no, I'm against him. God said, I'm going to do it differently. I'm going to pre-sort human beings.

And we'll find out what they think about me before they ever come up here to dwell with me. Because I don't want them up here for the wrong reasons. We're seeing this in the book of Job.

Why does Job trust God? Satan says, well, it's because of what you give him. It's because of his blessings and the wall of fire that you put around him. If you take away the blessings and the benefits, he'll curse you to your face.

So God says, do whatever you like. Take away his stuff. Well, Job didn't curse God.

Job didn't fall away from his faith. And so Satan comes back and says, well, of course. He'll do anything as long as it doesn't touch his own skin.

You reach down and touch him. And God says, well, you do whatever you want. Just don't take his life.

And so Job is afflicted with sore boils and so on. What's the difference here? Satan still, in the beginning chapters of Job, has full access to God. Sees him, talks with him.

Everything's out in the open. Job is down on earth. And what's the fundamental attribute of Job? He doesn't know what's going on.

He can't see God. He doesn't hear these heavenly conversations. He doesn't see what the angels saw.

He doesn't experience what the angels experience. And in absentia, separated from God, in a material existence, in a material world, he's supposed to choose for or against God, strictly based on the idea, on the testimony of the Holy Spirit, the testimony of God's Word, the testimony of creation. What's God's conclusion? If someone will look for me and choose me and seek after me when I am invisible and hard to find, those are the people that will never rebel against me when they can see me, when they can dwell in the eternal realms.

It won't be like the angels, where they're all here and they can see me, but I don't really know, in a sense. Of course, God knows everything. But who's to say whether any angel is there because he really desires God and wants to serve Him, or he just doesn't want to get hammered? Wouldn't it be great if you could pre-qualify someone for eternal existence with God? Find out if they really love you or not.

I'll give you an example. And there have been books and stories written on this theme. Someone is rich and famous.

They're a prince or a princess in some far-off land. But they come to America and they say, you know, people are always coming up and fawning all over me and making like they love me and so on, but I don't really know if they love me for me or if they're just after the fame and after my money and after the prestige. So what do they do? They disguise themselves and they go around in a humble guise.

And they look to see if someone will be their friend when they're not famous and they're not wealthy and they're not powerful and they're not known to be a prince or a princess. And they hope to find someone who will love them for what they are apart from all of those things. And in most of these stories, somebody finally really loves them and becomes their friend or their ardent admirer apart from all of those things.

And they say, this is the one I know truly loves me. And then this person wonderfully finds that, my goodness, I thought I was falling in love with a pauper and he's really a prince. This humble-looking gal is really this beautiful princess who's in line to be queen.

And it's a wonderful reward for the person who was willing to love that person when they seemed to have nothing. This is an understandable theme to people, isn't it? What do you think God is doing with us? He says, look, I want to find who will seek me. This is the message of Scripture.

And before our time runs out, I want to go to some scriptures. Scripture is replete with references to the necessity for mankind, for you and me, for people on this earth to seek after God. That's the point.

If I give you a truckload of Halloween candy on your way out tonight, are you going to be wandering around seeking any candy? Why should I go seek candy? I've got a whole truckload of it in the garage. It's the lack of a thing. People don't have to seek God if He's peeking through the heavens, right? It's when we feel the need for God that we begin to seek.

Psalms 27, 8, David says, When you said, O Lord, seek my face, my heart said to you, Your face, Lord, I will seek. That is really the theme of this whole investigation. God requires us to look for Him.

You don't look for something that's just obvious. God is looking for people who will diligently seek Him. So, Psalm 27, 8. Psalm 83, 16.

Why do people have trouble in this earth? Why are there people who have problems? Psalm 83 says, Oh my God, these people who are rebellious and so on, make them like whirling dust, like chaff before the wind. As fire burns the woods and as flame sets the mountains on fire. So, pursue them with your tempest and frighten them with your storm.

In other words, make things difficult for them. This is the prayer of the psalmist. Why? Fill their faces with shame so that they may seek your name, O Lord.

Problems ought to cause us to seek God. The evil that's in the world, the difficulties that we face, make a decision point. Where is the answer? Do we look to ourselves? Do we look to fellow humanity? Do we look to human wisdom? Or do we look for God? God is examining the earth to see if there are any who seek after Him.

Let them be confounded and dismayed forever. This is still Psalm 83. Let them be put to shame and perish, so that they may know that you, whose name alone is the Lord, are the Most High over all the earth.

There is a point to difficulties in this life, and that is to drive us toward God. To separate those who will look for God from those who won't. Anybody can draw a conclusion based on overwhelming evidence.

That's not what God is looking for. God doesn't want to put a scientific shut case on the earth and say, nobody in their right mind could possibly get around this evidence. He's looking for people who, in the absence of conclusive evidence, want to find Him, want to understand and know Him.

Isaiah chapter 8 and verse 19. People are going to come and say to you, seek those who are mediums, seek those who are wizards, seek these human beings who pretend to have all the answers. These who whisper and mutter.

When they come and say that to you, should not a people seek their God? Should they go to the dead on behalf of the living? There's a clear choice between those who offer alternatives in the human realm and those who seek after God. Isaiah 55 and verse 6. Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call upon Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man forsake his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord and He, the Lord, will have mercy on him. Let him return to our God for He will abundantly pardon.

Over and over again, it is a test. God did it on purpose. There's not going to be Noah's Ark sitting on Mount Ararat.

There's not going to be the tree of knowledge of good and evil or the tree of life standing in the midst of a garden over in the Middle East somewhere. There's not going to be Moses' ten tablets of the law. And even if there were, there are people who would explain it away and not believe it.

But God has purposely made this an issue to determine what is in our hearts. It's not a matter of science. It is a matter of faith.

It's supposed to be that way. Scientists act like, oh, faith, that's a decrepit inferior system. Not at all.

Faith is the superior system. And that's the way God designed it. Over and over again in Scripture, Hosea chapter 10 and verse 12, Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Seek the Lord. Amos chapter 5 and verse 4, Thus says the Lord to the house of Israel, Seek me and you will live. Seek me.

He doesn't say, well, I'm the sovereign God and I've decided it's time for you to live. There's a condition. What does life depend on? Seeking the Lord.

Zephaniah chapter 1, verses 4 through 6, God says, I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place. The names of the idolatrous priests and the pagan priests, those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops.

In those days, the alternative to faith in God was faith in idols, faith in the stars. That was the pseudo science of the day. Those who swear by Milcom, those who have turned back from following the Lord and have not sought the Lord and have not inquired of Him.

Whether you're talking about unbelievers or you're talking about wayward believers, the issue is always the same. Who is it that's going to look for God? Who is it that's going to seek Him? That's why God has set things up the way they are. It's easy to tell.

Who's seeking God and who's not? Who's willing to believe in Him based on the witness of His Spirit and the witness of His Word? And who refuses and says, I won't believe anything until I get evidence. This is what Israel did when Jesus came. Show us a sign.

Jesus did all kinds of things that they ignored. He healed people and raised people from the dead. And after He had done all that, they came up to Him and said, so when are you going to show us a sign? Ah, come on.

Did you see Lazarus back there in the crowd? Well, but they explained that away. They refused to believe it and they still asked for a sign. That's what science does today.

There's manifest and obvious evidence of God's design and God's creative power, but they don't seek their Maker. They're still saying, show me the scientific evidence for God. I don't see Him when it's all around us.

Zephaniah 2 and verse 3. Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth. To seek God requires humility. If you're proud, what happens? What does James 4.6 say? God resists the proud.

God gives grace to the humble. So, Zephaniah 2.3 says, Seek the Lord, all you meek of the

earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness.

Seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger. Matthew chapter 6 and verse 33.

Jesus said, Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek His righteousness. And all of the other things that people worry about will be added unto you.

Psalms 33 and verse 2. God looks down from heaven upon the children of men. What's He looking for when He looks down at you and me? What's God looking for when He looks at you? God looks down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there are any who understand, to see if there are any who seek God. That's what God is looking for.

Are you a seeker? Am I a seeker? What's the promise? Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you will find. It doesn't say, Well, just open your eyes and you will find.

The evidence is not there for the taking. It is there for those who seek. Acts chapter 17 and verse 27.

God is not worshipped with men's hands as though He needed anything. He is the One who gives life and breath to all things. He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

He has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings. Not evolution. Not blind chance.

God. Why? Verse 27. So that they should seek the Lord.

This is God's purpose in putting man on the planet. Acts 17, 26 and 27. Listen to it.

You don't have to get into the details of every little scrap of scientific evidence. Although there's nothing to be afraid of in doing so. I've done it.

It didn't damage my faith. And I'm not some sort of a blind dogmatist. It just does not compel.

It doesn't compute to a logical open mind. God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth. God has determined their pre-appointed times.

God has determined the boundaries of their dwellings so that they should seek the Lord. In the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him. This is what God is looking for.

Who will feel around until they find Him? Who will seek? He is not far from each one of us. In Him we live. In Him we move.

In Him we have our being. Since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone. Something shaped by art and man's devising.

That is the theory of evolution in a nutshell. It's an artistic shaping. It's a device of men to try to explain away the work of God.

These times of ignorance God overlooked. But now God commands all men everywhere to change their minds. Says Acts 17 verse 30, God commands all men everywhere to change their minds.

To repent. Because He has appointed the day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has ordained. He that has the Son has life.

He that hath not the Son of God hath not life. Doesn't matter what your scientific beliefs are. Doesn't matter how many fossils you've looked at.

The only thing that's going to count on the day of judgment is do you have the Son or not? When God said seek me and live, did we seek? Did we grope after Him and find Him by His grace or not? That's the real issue. The rest of this dispute and the rest of the debate can rage on and ever onward. No one is going to be convinced by evidence or the lack thereof.

What is important for a man to be convinced of is sin, righteousness and judgment. That's what God the Holy Spirit makes clear to each one of us. That's what the Word of God makes clear for each one of us.

God says seek me and you will live. He is not far from any one of us. He has given assurance to all of us by raising Christ from the dead.

It's the singular fact of human history. God has power over death. Well, that's the central issue.

When you think of humanism, you think of evolution. That's the thing to remember. Let's close in a word of prayer.

Father, thank you for the truth of your Word. Thank you for the fulfillment of your promises when we come to you by faith. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth and enable us to glorify you in the days ahead.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.