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with Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross

THE HEAVENS DECLARE

How the Bible and Creation
Tell the Same Story



Covina, CA

NOTES

Chapter 1: Debunking the Conflict Narrative

1. Jerry A. Coyne, *Fact Versus Faith: Why Science and Religion Are Incompatible* (Viking, 2015), xii.
2. Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene* (Oxford University Press, 30th Anniversary Edition, 2006), 330.
3. Sam Harris, “Science Must Destroy Religion,” January 2, 2006, samharris.org/blog/science-must-destroy-religion.
4. Wikipedia, s.v. “Standing Up in the Milky Way,” last modified June 21, 2025, 12:45 (UTC), en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standing_Up_in_the_Milky_Way.
5. Gary B. Ferngren, ed., *Science and Religion, A Historical Introduction* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002).
6. Ferngren, *Science and Religion*, 108.
7. Ferngren, 10.
8. Ferngren, 7–8.
9. Bible Hub, “Shem,” accessed December 16, 2025, biblehub.com/hebrew/8034.htm.

Chapter 2: Biblical Foundation of Modern Science

1. Christian Reformed Church, Belgic Confession, Article 2, accessed December 16, 2025, crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/belgic-confession/#toc-article-2-the-means-by-which-we-know-god.
2. Kenneth Richard Samples, *Without a Doubt: Answering the 20 Toughest Faith Questions* (Baker Books, 2004), 187–200.
3. Technically, we should use the Judeo-Christian worldview because Judaism and Christianity share the worldview. Since we are specifically discussing Christianity in this work, we will use the Christian worldview for readability.
4. See Samples, *Without a Doubt*, 191–196, for a more complete description of how the Judeo-Christian worldview grounds these conditions and why it is the only worldview that does.
5. You can also see the influence of these Judeo-Christian worldview features in the Nolan Principles developed by the Committee on Standards in the UK as it sought to restore integrity and remove corruption from the government. See “Lord Nolan” at *Independent*, January 26, 2007, independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/lord-nolan-433700.html.
6. Hugh Ross, *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is* (Baker Books, 2008), 154–163.

Chapter 3: Why Christians Disagree About Science

1. Answers in Genesis, “Age of the Earth,” April 8, 2026, answersingenesis.org/age-of-the-earth/.
2. Jonathan Sarfati, “Refuting Evolution Study Guide,” April 8, 2026, creation.com/en-us/articles/how-old-is-the-earth; Creation Ministries International, “What We Believe, A Creationist Statement of Faith: Fundamental Biblical Christian Beliefs,” April 8, 2026, creation.com/en-us/pages/what-we-believe.
3. John D. Morris, “How Old Is the Earth According to the Bible?,” Institute for Creation Research, April 8, 2026, icr.org/article/how-old-earth-according-bible/.
4. Although we’re focused on the biblical text here, it’s worth noting that this understanding is reinforced by the absence of scientific evidence for any new creation miracles during human history, suggesting that God has indeed been resting from his creative work ever since he created Adam and Eve.
5. There are YEC people and organizations that justify YEC from the length of the Genesis days and the relative completeness of the Genesis genealogies alone. The lack of pre-fall animal death is an inference from the mandate of herbivory for man, beasts, and birds (along with the language of the curse), rather than an explicit requirement of Scripture. Additionally, there are historical examples of people (like Augustine) who do not see carnivory as against God’s character.
6. Hugh Ross, *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is* (Baker Books, 2008), chaps. 6, 10–12.
7. DTS Mosher and Turpin Libraries, “Records of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy,” April 8, 2026, library.dts.edu/Pages/TL/Special/ICBI.shtml.

Chapter 4: Did the Universe Begin?

1. To investigate biblical inspiration and inerrancy in more depth, see DTS Mosher and Turpin Libraries, “Records of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy,” library.dts.edu/Pages/TL/Special/ICBI.shtml; Joseph R. Miller, *Set Apart: How Genesis Stands Alone* (RTB Press, 2024); and Hugh Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy: A Scientific Defense* (RTB Press, 2024).
2. For one readable source about the actual events, see History Works, “Isaac Newton, Newton’s Scientific Discoveries,” accessed December 16, 2025, creatingmycambridge.com/history-stories/newtons-apple-tree/. For the actual account, see William Stukeley, *Memoirs of Sir Isaac Newton’s Life* (1752), 15, http://royalsociety.org/ttp/ttp.html?id=1807da00-909a-4abf-b9c1-0279a08e4bf2&type=book&_ga=2.243449797.1115929948.1704188280-1209525634.1700154565.
3. Ramban (Nachmanides), *Commentary on the Torah*, trans. Charles B. Chavel (Shilo Publishing House, 1971), 23–24; Hugh Ross, “What Does the Bible Say About the Big Bang?,” *Today’s New Reason to Believe* (blog), Reasons to Believe, February 6, 2020, reasons.org/explore/blogs/todays-new-reason-to-believe/what-does-the-bible-say-about-the-big-bang.
4. Edward L. Wright, “Age of the Universe,” University of California, Los Angeles, April 8, 2026, astro.ucla.edu/~wright/age.html; Sasha Warren, “The Hubble Constant, Explained,” UChicago News, UChicago Explainer Series, April 8, 2026, news.uchicago.edu/explainer/hubble-constant-explained; Hugh Ross, *A Matter of Days: Resolving a Creation Controversy*, 2nd ed. (RTB Press, 2015), 145–160.

- Technically, trace amounts of lithium and beryllium existed but in incredibly small quantities—roughly a billion times less abundant than that of hydrogen and helium.
- Sir Fred Hoyle, “The Universe: Past and Present Reflections,” in *Engineering and Science* (November 1981): 12, calteches.library.caltech.edu/3312/1/Hoyle.pdf.
- For more details on how the current understanding of big bang cosmology actually points to a beginning, see Jeff Zweerink, *Escaping the Beginning? Confronting Challenges to the Universe’s Origin* (RTB Press, 2019).

Chapter 5: Is Earth Rare?

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- L. Paul Knauth and Martin J. Kennedy, “The Late-Precambrian Greening of the Earth,” *Nature* 460, no. 7256 (August 6, 2009): 728–732, doi:10.1038/nature08213; Paul K. Strother et al., “Earth’s Earliest Non-Marine Eukaryotes,” *Nature* 473, no. 7348 (May 26, 2011): 505–509, doi:10.1038/nature09943.
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Chapter 6: Do Aliens Exist?

- Hugh Ross, *The Creator and the Cosmos*, 4th ed. (RTB Press, 2018), 53–55.
- Jianpo Guo et al., “Probability Distribution of Terrestrial Planets in Habitable Zones Around Host Stars,” *Astrophysics and Space Science* 323 (October 2009): 367–373, doi:10.1007/s10509-009-0081-z.
- Hugh Ross, “Are Humans Alone in the Cosmos?,” *Religions* 16, no. 12 (2025): id. 1589, doi:10.3390/rel16121589.

Chapter 7: How Did Life Begin on Earth?

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- Fazale Rana and Hugh Ross, *Origins of Life: Biblical and Evolutionary Models Face Off* (NavPress, 2004), 47.
- Rana and Ross, “Questions, Questions—Always Questions,” in *Origins of Life*, 21–28.
- Paul Davies, *The Fifth Miracle: The Search for the Origin and Meaning of Life* (Simon & Schuster, 1999), 18.
- Idan Ben-Barak and Philip Bunting, *We Go Way Back: A Book About Life on Earth and How It All Began* (Roaring Book Press, 2023).
- Fazale Rana, “Prebiotic Chemistry and the Hand of God,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), Reasons to Believe, January 16, 2019, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/prebiotic-chemistry-and-the-hand-of-god.
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- Fazale Rana, *Fit for a Purpose: Does the Anthropic Principle Include Biochemistry?* (RTB Press, 2021), 316.
- Fazale Rana, “Ribosomes: Manufactured by Design, Part 1,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), Reasons to Believe, November 1, 2017, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/ribosomes-manufactured-by-design-part-1.
- Dave Rogstad, “Little Motors, Big Designer,” Reasons to Believe, January 18, 2008, reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/little-motors-big-designer.
- Martin G. L. van den Heuvel and Cees Dekker, “Motor Proteins at Work for Nanotechnology,” *Science* 317, no. 5836 (July 20, 2007): 333–336, doi:10.1126/science.1139570.
- Hugh Ross, *Navigating Genesis: A Scientist’s Journey Through Genesis 1–11* (RTB Press, 2014), 38.
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Chapter 8: Can Evolution Explain Life’s History?

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- Philosophical naturalism, a related concept, *does* take a position, insisting there is nothing supernatural, no reality beyond the universe, and no God. As astronomer Carl Sagan said on the opening page of his book *Cosmos* (Ballantine Books, 1985), “The cosmos is all that is, or ever was, or ever will be.”
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- Morris Goodman, “Reconstructing Human Evolution from Proteins,” chap. 8.4 in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Human Evolution*, ed. Steve Jones et al. (Cambridge University Press, 1992), 307–313.
- Shannon J. Hackett et al., “A Phylogenomic Study of Birds Reveals Their Evolutionary History,” *Science* 320, no. 5884 (June 27, 2008): 1763–1768, doi:10.1126/science.1157704.
- Fazale Rana, “Birds Terrorize Evolutionary Biologists,” Reasons to Believe, August 13, 2008, reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/birds-terrorize-evolutionary-biologists.
- Caroline Parins-Fukuchi, Gregory W. Stull, and Stephen A. Smith, “Phylogenomic Conflict Coincides with Rapid Morphological Innovation,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA*, 118 (May 3, 2021): e2023058118, doi:10.1073/pnas.2023058118.
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- Fazale Rana, “Q&A: Why Would an Infinite Creator Employ the Same Designs?,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), Reasons to Believe, December 21, 2016, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/q-a-why-would-an-infinite-creator-employ-the-same-designs.

11. Fazale Rana, “Archetype or Ancestor? Sir Richard Owen and the Case for Design,” *Reasons to Believe*, December 1, 2013, reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/archetype-or-ancestor-sir-richard-owen-and-the-case-for-design.

Chapter 9: Plot Twists in the Fossil Record

1. Sue Dykes, “Does Evolution Explain the Fossil Record?,” in Anjeanette Roberts et al., *Thinking About Evolution: 25 Questions Christians Want Answered* (RTB Press, 2020), 157.
2. Eugene V. Koonin, “The Biological Big Bang Model for the Major Transitions in Evolution,” *Biology Direct* 2, no. 21 (August 20, 2007), doi:10.1186/1745-6150-2-21.
3. Hugh Henry and Dan Dyke, “Does Psalm 104 Affirm Progressive Creation?,” *Voices* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, November 11, 2021, reasons.org/explore/blogs/voices/does-psalm-104-affirm-progressive-creation.
4. Hugh Ross, “Earth’s Biodiversity Benefits All Life,” *Today’s New Reason to Believe* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, December 21, 2020, reasons.org/explore/blogs/todays-new-reason-to-believe/earth-s-biodiversity-benefits-all-life.
5. Fazale Rana, “God Is . . . An Artist,” talk given at the “God Is . . .” Conference (Grace Church STL, Maryland Heights, MO, November 4, 2022).
6. Fazale Rana, “Q&A: Why Would an Infinite Creator Employ the Same Designs?,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, December 21, 2016, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/q-a-why-would-an-infinite-creator-employ-the-same-designs.

Chapter 10: We Are Sons and Daughters of Adam and Eve

1. Hugh Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy: A Scientific Defense* (RTB Press, 2023), 173.
2. The theological discussion of the *imago Dei* is too complex to adequately address here. For a more complete discussion, see “The Case for the Image of God,” in Fazale R. Rana with Kenneth R. Samples, *Humans 2.0: Scientific, Philosophical, and Theological Perspectives on Transhumanism* (RTB Press, 2019), chap. 6.
3. Dual revelation is the historic belief that God has revealed himself through both his Word (Scripture) and his world (nature), and, when rightly understood, these two revelations will always agree (Job 12:7–10; Psalm 8, 19:1–4, 97:6, 104; Romans 1:18–20).
4. Peter Enns, *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible Does and Doesn’t Say About Human Origins* (Brazos Press, 2012), ix, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 173.
5. Dennis R. Venema and Scot McKnight, *Adam and the Genome: Reading Scripture After Genetic Science* (Brazos Press, 2017), 145, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 174.
6. Deborah Haarsma, “Evolution, Adam and Eve, and the Image of God,” pt. 4 of 5 in “Discussing Origins: BioLogos, Reasons to Believe, and Southern Baptists,” posted February 2, 2015, transcripts of “A Conversation on Origins” (panel discussion, 66th annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, San Diego, CA, November 19–21, 2014), biologos.org/series/discussing-origins-biologos-reasons-to-believe-and-southern-baptists/articles/evolution-adam-and-eve-and-the-image-of-god.
7. N. T. Wright, “Excursus on Paul’s Use of Adam,” in John H. Walton, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2–3 and the Human Origins Debate* (IVP Academic, 2015), 177–178, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 174.
8. William Lane Craig, *In Quest of the Historical Adam: A Biblical and Scientific Exploration* (Eerdmans, 2021), 378–380, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 176.
9. Walton, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, 169, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 174.
10. Venema and McKnight, *Adam and the Genome*, 187, quoted in Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 174.
11. Hans Madueme, “Some Reflections on Enns and The Evolution of Adam: A Review Essay,” *themelios* 37, no. 2 (July 2012), thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/some-reflections-on-enns-and-the-evolution-of-adam-a-review-essay/?queryID=d68490777d701de01e87e4fa4685d7bd.
12. Fazale Rana, “A Signature for Creation,” Carl F. H. Henry Center for Theological Understanding, April 24, 2019, henrycenter.tiu.edu/2019/04/a-signature-for-creation/.
13. Ross, *Rescuing Inerrancy*, 174.
14. Tia Ghose, “Genetic ‘Adam’ and ‘Eve’ Uncovered,” *yahoo!news*, August 1, 2013, yahoo.com/news/genetic-adam-eve-uncovered-180706860.html.
15. Fazale Rana, “Were They Real? The Scientific Case for Adam and Eve,” October 1, 2010, reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/were-they-real-the-scientific-case-for-adam-and-eve, and Fazale Rana, “Conservation Biology Studies Elicit Doubts About the First Human Population Size,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, April 26, 2017, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/conservation-biology-studies-elicited-doubts-about-the-first-human-population-size.
16. For more details, see Fazale Rana, “Cave Art Tells the Story of Human Exceptionalism,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, February 5, 2020, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/cave-art-tells-the-story-of-human-exceptionalism.
17. For some of these examples and how they are disputed, see the resources in Fazale Rana, “Are Perforated Shells Evidence for Neanderthal Symbolism?,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, March 28, 2018, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/are-perforated-shells-evidence-for-neanderthal-symbolism, and Fazale Rana, “Do Neanderthal Cave Structures Challenge Human Exceptionalism?,” *Reasons to Believe*, June 16, 2016, reasons.org/explore/publications/articles/do-neanderthal-cave-structures-challenge-human-exceptionalism.
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19. See Fazale Rana, “When Did Modern Human Brains—and the Image of God—Appear?,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), *Reasons to Believe*, November 14, 2018, [reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/when-did-modern-human-](https://reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/when-did-modern-human-brains-and-the-image-of-god-appear)

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22. Thomas Suddendorf, *The Gap: The Science of What Separates Us from Other Animals* (Basic Books, 2013), 2–3, quoted in Fazale Rana, “Animals Are Intelligent But Are Humans Exceptional?,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), Reasons to Believe, April 12, 2023, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/animals-are-intelligent-but-are-humans-exceptional.

Chapter 11: Behind the Curtain on Human Origins

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4. Fazale Rana with Hugh Ross, *Who Was Adam? A Creation Model Approach to Human Origins*, 2nd exp. ed. (RTB Press, 2021), 161–162.
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6. Rana with Ross, *Who Was Adam?*, 159–167.
7. Fazale Rana, “Differences in Human and Neanderthal Brains Explain Human Exceptionalism,” *The Cell’s Design* (blog), Reasons to Believe, September 19, 2018, reasons.org/explore/blogs/the-cells-design/differences-in-human-and-neanderthal-brains-explain-human-exceptionalism.
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9. Sue Dykes, “What About the Genetic Similarity Between Humans and Chimps?,” in Roberts et al., *Thinking About Evolution*, 168.

Chapter 12: Does Archaeology Support the Bible’s Reliability?

1. We don’t have original documents of the Bible. However, Christians and Jews have invested a great effort in determining which books belong in the Bible and in ensuring their reliable transmission. Bible scholar F. F. Bruce has written two excellent books describing this research: *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (InterVarsity, 2000) and *The Canon of Scripture* (InterVarsity Academic, 1988).
2. Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict: Life-Changing Truth for a Skeptical World* (HarperCollins, 2017), 52–63.
3. Kurt Aland and Barbara Aland, *The Text of the New Testament: An Introduction to the Critical Editions and to the Theory and Practice of Modern Textual Criticism*, trans. Erroll F. Rhodes (William B. Eerdmans, 1987), 29.
4. This is commonly known as the Pentateuch. Moses could not have been responsible for all of Deuteronomy since the last chapters record his death.
5. If Genesis in its original form was produced after Moses’s lifetime, God’s inspiration would apply to the person(s) who produced that document.
6. For a description of the Cyrus Cylinder, see britishmuseum.org/collection/object/W_1880-0617-1941.
7. Two good resources that investigate the archaeological discoveries discussed in this chapter and many others not mentioned are Titus Kennedy, *Unearthing the Bible: 101 Archaeological Discoveries That Bring the Bible to Life* (Harvest House, 2020) and McDowell and McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*.
8. Joseph Zias and Eliezar Sekeles, “The Crucified Man from Giv’at ha-Mivtar: a Reappraisal,” *Israel Exploration Journal* 35 (1985): 22–27.
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Chapter 13: Noah’s Flood

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5. Hugh Ross, *Noah’s Flood Revisited: New Depths of Insight from Science and Scripture* (RTB Press, 2025), 101–117, 159–206.
6. For an example, see Andrew A. Snelling, “Noah’s Lost World,” *Answers Magazine* April–June 2014, accessed April 22, 2026, answersingenesis.org/geology/plate-tectonics/noahs-lost-world/.