

# Faith Of Our Youth

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## Did God Use Evolution?

by Ariel & Anita Bown

**G**od created the world, but how? Did it take one week as is stated in Genesis one or did it take millions of years through an evolutionary process as many people, Theistic Evolutionists, would like to believe. Why do people prefer Theistic Evolution over one week creation? Either belief takes faith. Which faith is harder to believe?

Children growing up in our school system are no longer given the opportunity to hear both sides. Evolution is presented as fact without a balancing viewpoint. Our churches may not be providing the balancing viewpoint, either, so, where is the challenge for our young people to think? Believers in God, old and young, may compromise the truth due to ignorance as they are exposed to Evolution because they are not firmly grounded in a literal seven day creation.

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) proposed the idea that the Christian religion was a disconnected and unreal thing. He believed that there is no eternal, abiding, objective truth. He watered down the truth of the gospel. The response of the people over time was similar to the reaction of the Eagle told in the Eagle Story published by Basic Life Principles. Briefly told, the story is about an eagle who swoops down to his usual fishing spot and notices a large rock that had never been there before. Since it was something new, it was to be suspect of danger. He flew over it without stopping, and alighted on the top of a dead tree nearby. After a piercing scrutiny, he was convinced that the rock was a provision for his convenience. He sailed down and

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## As Bold as I Wanna Be

by Eric Owens

**T**he gray skies were thick and oppressive as it started to rain. A cold wind blew, swirling brush and debris down the near-deserted city street. From her window, she saw stormclouds lurking on the horizon ...creeping... deepening. Ever darker, ever imminent.

We really don't know what the weather was like, and it's immaterial-- for these were the conditions of her heart that day. The forecast: gloom and despair for an entire nation. A woman, if barely, with the weight of her and her people's destruction hanging in the balance. Waiting. Biding time for the inevitable, they prayed for a miracle. There was one hope... alone, Esther would have to approach the king.

We know the story to this point. The evil Haman plots the death and genocide of the righteous Jew, Mordecai, and those of his kind-- all because he would not pay an unrighteous man the honor of a king. Under false pretenses, the Medo-Persian ruler Xerxes has agreed to the obliteration of the Hebrew people in his land. Silver in the quantity of 375 tons is offered as bounty to those willing to carry out the plan. Poor Esther! There was less than a month to reverse a deadly decree that had gained widespread support. What a quandary. What poor odds.

The penalty for approaching the king without being summoned: certain death. The only exception to this rule was in the event that the royal scepter was extended in greeting.

It had been some time since the king had called for Esther. Perhaps this was not a good sign. Perhaps she had unknowingly displeased him. Perhaps he had already

discovered that she was one of the "conniving Jews." Perhaps. But there was no other way.

Though she was tentative from the onset, there probably is no greater Old Testament example of boldness exhibited than that of this young Jewess. Standing in the inner court enshrouded in her royal robes, Esther stood naked to the consequences that would soon befall her. "And if I perish, I perish," she is quoted as saying.

What was her drive? What gave her hope? What convinced her that she could make a difference-- to the point of changing the face of history, as she and her people knew it? There were several things that undoubtedly crossed Esther's mind as she prepared to meet the king.

Knowing that she had been chosen already, above all others, to become the queen of a vast empire must have given her certain faith. The man she was about to see was the one that had hand-picked her. Esther was the bride of the king. She had already gained acceptance once; and believing this, she approached the threshold of the king's hall to await the signal of access.

Esther's faith was rewarded. As the golden scepter rose by the king's hand, Esther stepped forth with increasing confidence to touch it. "I have obtained favor!" The queen MUST have been relieved to have made it this far. But she hadn't made her request, yet.

She was assured that she could have up to half of the kingdom. Hmm. I wonder how much kingdom 375 tons of silver would buy. Esther must have wondered, too.

The Jewess put the king off twice before finally pleading her case. There could be several reasons why this is so.

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perched upon it. Then he saw a large fish lying on the grass. He considered again. The wise Eagle peered suspiciously everywhere. Everything was as it should be. So he hopped down, clutched the fish in his sharp claws, and was about to fly away when he caught sight of another fish, and yet another. But across the lake, the sharp eyes of a cunning trapper studied every move which the Eagle made. This trapper had been offered a large sum of money to capture an eagle alive. He was a crafty and experienced trapper, and he knew that this wise monarch of the sky would not be snared any ordinary means. The trapper repeated this scenario until the Eagle was no longer suspicious and then he added a net for the unsuspecting bird and then after the bird found the net to be no threat the bait was set and the bird was caught. People and unsuspecting Christians have been caught similarly by the trap of theistic evolution set by the wily and motivated trapper, Satan.

The early chapters of Genesis were frequently referred to by every New Testament writer and Jesus Christ Himself. If one believes in Jesus, he must also believe what he says. In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus refers to the creation of the world several times. He stated God created male and female, and how a man is to cleave to his wife and they become one flesh. He tells of the righteous Abel as well and of Noah and the flood. In Acts 14:15 Paul and Barnabas refer to the creation as fact. Acts 17:24 states, "The God who made the world and everything in it, is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us." Paul again refers to creation in Romans 1:20, stating "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Theistic Evolution is an attempt to limit God's power in the creative process giving God extra time perhaps to think how he is going to form life. Man tends to think of the limitations of his own mind and abilities and has difficulty conceiving of the idea that God has no such limitations. II Peter 3:3-5 states, First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's

word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water."

Other writers refer to the creation as if the recorded events in Genesis were commonly accepted. Timothy in I Timothy 2:13 says, "For Adam was formed first, then Eve." chapter 4:4 "For everything God created is good." There are references to the events in Genesis in James, in I and II Peter, I John, Jude and Revelation.

The writers of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, James and Jude, have all referred to the events surrounding creation. As one reads verse after verse one realizes that the authors could not help referring to the truth of creation or referring to the early chapters of Genesis.

Theistic Evolution has many theories that begin with the uncritical acceptance of various aspects of evolution and then reinterprets Genesis to force it to accommodate evolution. Most of these reinterpretations of Genesis contradict other parts of Scripture.

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Supposedly, Genesis contains two conflicting creation accounts. It does contain two descriptions, the first is chronological, while the second is from man's perspective. Even Christ, who in a single sentence mentioned both descriptions, knew that they referred to the same creation event. Evolutionist claim matter proceed mind. Genesis 1-2 says the creator, using supernatural events, brought forth the heavenly bodies, the earth and life. Paul, the apostle supports Genesis in telling the Corinthian church that God gives all things, seeds, animals, birds, man and even heavenly bodies like the sun, moon and stars the kind of body that he has determined. In Colossians 1:16, 17 it says "For by him (Christ) all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities. All things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together." God's mind definitely preceded matter.

It has been said that space, time and matter are eternal, that time existed before things were created. Yet, we know that there was a beginning. Time began at the

Creation. Evolutionists say the earth slowly formed in the presence of sunlight. Genesis 1:2 - 3 states on the first day, the earth was formed in darkness. Soon afterwards, but before the sun and stars were made, light was created. Have you heard the claim that the earth initially had a hot, molten surface? That millions of years later, water-chemically locked in the earth's interior-oozed out. Gen 1:2 tells readers that the earth had a liquid water surface on the first day; therefore, the earth was relatively cool at the beginning. Evolutionists believe the present is the key to the past; that, presently observable natural processes explain all past events. This principle, called uniformitarianism, underlies much of geology. That is a false theory. I believe the Biblical recording of the events where God has worked suddenly, as He did during the Creation, the fall, the flood and the dispersion at Babel. No natural process on the earth approaches the flood in its extent, power, destruction, and duration.

A common theory we have all heard is that the first animals were microscopic, single-celled creatures. Genesis 1:20-21 allows no such interpretation. "And God said, 'Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.'"

One could be easily swayed to consider the possibility that the six creation "days" were really six ages, but if one thinks about it, to survive, plants need the sun and animals—especially insects. They were all created within three days of each other. Had it taken much longer, plants could not have survived. Evolutionists claim all organisms have a common ancestor. Therefore, there were continuous transitions among all plants and animals. However, the Bible states in Genesis that there are permanent discontinuities between the many different "kinds" of life. Each kind will produce after itself. They also claim many plants and animals became extinct before man evolved, yet Adam named all the different kinds of cattle, birds, and beasts of the field.

They say, no one established the seven-day week. It was culturally derived. Mark 2:27 tells us that God established the seven-day week for man's benefit. It reminds us of his activity and rest during the creation week. Another way some may rationalize theistic evolution is to say that the genealogies listed from Adam to Joseph contain many gaps. Each gap may span centuries. However, the genealogies from Adam to Joseph are tightly linked since each patriarch's age is given when the next named patriarch was born. Therefore, more time cannot be inserted between patriarchs.

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