

**Beginnings – ORIGIN** *(Where did we come from?)*

- **Only Two Choices**
- **Realize the Significance**
- **Is it Faith or Science?**
  - LAB - Lookable, Accessible, Breakable
- **Guess at the Evidence**
- **Inspect the Evidence**
  - Universe = "Decay"
  - Age of the Earth = "Can't Say"
  - Origin of Life by Chance = "No Way"
  - Evolution of Species and Man = "Lacks Genes and Tweens"
- **No Compromise**

DON'T - Death, Order of Creation, Names in genealogies, Ten Commandments refer to seven-day week

**Intent of Life – LIFE** *(Why are we here?)*

- **Love - GOD and MAN**
- **Increase - GROW**
- **Faithfulness - Time, Talent, Treasure**
- **Eternity – Past, Present, Future**

**Authority – POWER** *(Who's in charge?)* A God Who is:

- **Personal and Loving**
- **Omnipotent**
- **Wise and All-Knowing**
- **Everywhere and Eternal**
- **Righteous and Reliable**

**Standards – RULES** *(What are the rules?)* God's rules are:

- **Revealed supernaturally, not derived by reason**
- **Universal and apply to everyone, everywhere, all the time**
- **Loving**
- **Enforced**
- **Steadfast**

# Where Did We Come From?

## Beginnings - A Question of O.R.I.G.I.N.

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Our first big question is “where did we come from and how did we get here?” Are we here for any reason? Are we an insignificant blob of matter that is the result of millions of accidents over billions of years? Do we have a Creator? Is there really a Force that will be with us in our battle against the Death Star and the evil Galactic Empire (for those of you who saw the Star Wars movies)?

To guide us through our discussion of this question we’ll use the acrostic “O.R.I.G.I.N.” so we can organize and remember the major points. We’ll have other acrostics to outline supporting points. The major points in this discussion are:

- Only Two Choices
- Realize the Significance
- Is it Faith or Science?
- Guess at the Evidence
- Inspect the Evidence
- No Compromise

## O - Only Two Choices

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How many possible answers are there to the question of our origin? It may seem that there are a lot of different answers floating around in the world. But from a broad perspective there are actually only two:

1. **Either God created all of space, time, the universe, us, and everything else just as He said in the Bible, or...**
2. **We don’t know for sure!** (It could have been evolution, natural processes, aliens, cosmic forces, etc.)

If you think I’ve oversimplified the options, remember the basketball illustration from the introduction. What knowledge would be required to answer the question of where we come from? I’m not talking about a guess, I’m talking about knowing the answer to the question. We can only know for sure where we came from if there was a reliable witness who recorded what happened. If you don’t think there were any witnesses then you’ll have to be content with your guesses or someone else’s guesses. If you think God is a reliable witness to what He did then it would be foolish to believe any other explanation.

Other non-biblical religions have stories about origins or creation, and some of them have similarities to the biblical account. But the Bible is the book whose writings claim to have been directed and inspired directly by God, the Creator. This means that it claims to be an eyewitness account rather than a “story” or legend (see the “Revealed” discussion in the RULES chapter).

Right now you might be thinking that the question of origins falls into the realm of science and that I’m ignoring proven scientific facts. Be patient. We’ll talk about science after our next point.