

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, Orders 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**

G - Guess at the Evidence

Before we start looking at scientific evidence for our origins let's answer the question "what would we expect to see?". This helps focus our attention on the important points. We can't inspect the past but we can look at evidence today to see whether it supports what we think happened in the past. We will:

1. Guess what evidence we should see if a theory is true
2. Examine the available evidence
3. Conclude whether the evidence supports the theory

Remember that we can't prove or disprove either theory, but we can test our personal belief system against the available evidence.

If the biblical account of Creation is true then the available evidence should fit the theory of Creation. If Evolution is true then the available evidence should fit the theory of Evolution.

Expectational versus Evidential

I'm going to label this concept of inspecting the evidence based on predetermined guesses as an **"expectational"** approach. That means we establish expectations for what evidence we should find for a particular model or theory (based on its acknowledged "bias") and then evaluate the evidence to see how well it fits. In scientific terminology our "expectational" approach is similar to proposing a theory or hypothesis and then conducting experiments to see if they support our theory.

A less effective approach (and particularly inappropriate for a study of the past) is the "evidential" approach where we try to show how we can derive the correct model solely from our intellectual review of the evidence existing today. In other words, the evidential approach says that an objective look at the "facts" will lead us to truth.

The evidential approach usually just leads to argument since our inevitable presuppositions (bias) affect even how we interpret the evidence. For example, when examining common characteristics of two creatures, a creationist sees a "common Designer" while an evolutionist sees a "common ancestor". They see the same "facts," but because of their bias they will arrive at different interpretations and different conclusions.

Although many well-intentioned people try to use the evidential approach to convince evolutionists of the truth of creation, this concept has two major flaws:

1. The evidential approach incorrectly elevates "reason" as the highest authority since we're saying that our reason will lead us to truth. As we discussed in the introduction, our reason is hopelessly inadequate because it is finite AND because the whole ball of knowledge is so vast.

2. All “facts” are interpreted by our bias, so there is no such thing as a truly “objective” look at the evidence.

What We Expect to Find

The table below summarizes what each belief system would generally “expect” we’d find in the evidence:

If Biblical Creation is true ...	If Evolution is true ...
<p>If we believe God created the world as described in the Bible we would expect to find evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A sudden complete creation of the universe, the world, and all living things• A time of creation within the last 6,000 to 10,000 years (based on Bible genealogy)• A worldwide flood that wiped out most life on land• No fossils indicating that one species of life evolved into another – God made each creature and “kind” fully formed	<p>If we believe that the world and all creatures were created by evolution we would expect to find evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A very slow formation of the universe and the world• A very slow development of life on earth spanning billions of years• Progressive complexity of fossilized creatures – the oldest fossils would be very simple life forms and complex life forms would not have appeared until millions of years later• Transitional fossils that show one species of life evolving into another species

Now that we know what we're looking for, let's look at the evidence. Again, we’re not trying to prove or disprove either theory. We’re simply seeing which theory about the past is most consistent with the evidence we can observe today.