

An exceptional companion to Paul Myrant's book, *The Challenge of Evolution*, this study guide will enable the reader to consider the arguments with precision and thoroughness. Whether used in a group or individual study, the guide will help solidify the topics and prepare the reader to confidently engage in healthy discussion concerning the existence of God.

PAUL MYRANT

Can an intelligent person believe that God created the earth in six days and that the universe is just thousands of years old? In today's postmodern atmosphere, is it rational to believe in God, objective truth, and moral absolutes? Atheistic evolution, with its reliance on philosophical naturalism as a major presupposition, wants to say that mere chance is the only explanation for the universe. Yet, is this true? Should Christians be forced to abandon their faith just because their college textbook tells them to do so?

is there a
CREATOR?

what is **HE** like?

With the onslaught of the "New Atheism," it is high time for Christians to know what they believe and why they believe it. When modern philosophers and scientists mock faith, ignore the Creator, and reject the authority of the Word of God, Christians need to be armed with the proper tools in order to combat such philosophies.

how did He create
the **UNIVERSE?**



Paul Myrant, a graduate of Talbot Seminary, received his Master of Arts degree in biblical studies. He and his wife, Jan, have been married for 31 years. They have four children and three grandchildren. He has served as a senior pastor, teacher, and coach for over three decades. Paul's wide range of experiences and interactions with people has prepared him to understand and address the complexities of creationism and evolution.

The Challenge of **EVOLUTION**



Is There a Creator?
What is He Like, and How
Did He Create the Universe?

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter One
Is There a Creator?

1. Does belief in God's existence affect the manner in which a person lives? If so how?

2. What is a self-evident truth?

3. What are innate beliefs? Give an example.

4. Name one-way religion has influenced and promoted atheism.

5. How have some scientists and educators failed the basic moral principles of their professions?

6. What positive contributions has religion made on society?

7. Briefly refute two of the false assumptions listed on pages 27- 29.

a. _____

b. _____

8. What does Postmodern teach about truth?

9. (a) Who was primarily responsible for this postmodern belief? (b) What statement did he make that propagated this popular belief?

a. _____

b. _____

10. Is the scientific method the only way to discover truth? Name three other methods.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Chapter Two
The Challenge of Scientific Atheism

1. How does scientific atheism describe those who believe in a Creator/God?

2. Describe the scientific method.

3. What is Intelligent Design,

4. Name three Christian scientists and summarize their ideas concerning a Creator.

a.

b.

c.

5. Describe the differences between science and philosophy?

6. What is Naturalism?

7. What is a miracle?

8. How does Richard Dawkins define a miracle?

Chapter Three
The Logic for a Creator

1. Someone or something is eternal; what are the three possibilities?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Why is it necessary for something to be eternal?

3. Briefly describe the Big Bang theory.

4. Ultimately the universe is either _____ or _____, there is no other option.

5. Is it logical to believe in an uncaused universe? Why?

6. Does an uncaused universe fit with the reality we see in our everyday live? Give an example.

Chapter Four
The Nature of Matter

1. Name the three overlapping issues surrounding creationism and evolution
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Finish the following sentence: "The discovery of a Creator begins with... _____"

3. Why is the existence of matter of primary importance in discussing creation and evolution?

4. Who said, "As long as the universe had a beginning, we can suppose it had a Creator."

5. Define matter.

6. What are the two kinds of matter?_

7. What three aspects of matter demonstrate its design?
 - a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

8. What does a “functional universe” mean?

9. Why is it necessary to have a functional universe?

10. According to Dawkins, what would cause natural selection to create a functional universe?

11. Explain the importance and function the following elements play in earth’s environment: Sun, water and soil.
a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

12. Even if structured matter were eternal, what else would be required?

Chapter Five
The Cause and Design of Matter

1. Describe the problems with the "Random Chance Theory."

2. Define the theory of "Natural Selection."

3. Give several reasons Natural Selection cannot work without the direct aid of a Creator.

a.

b.

c.

4. What is the difference between micro and macro-evolution?

5. What is a species?

6. Is there evidence of transitional forms from species to another?

7. What is the significance of this to the evolutionary thesis?

9. Discuss the origin and survival of life in a hostile environment.

10. Does Natural Selection have any possible explanation for the existence of structured matter?

11. Discuss the viability of evolutions' "spark of life."

Chapter Six
Meaning and Value: Evidence for a Creator

1. What makes humans unique from animals?

2. Define Soul, and explain why it creates difficulty for Natural Selection?

3. What does the author mean by animated dirt?

4. Considering the vast number of objects and beings in the universe, what give them objective value?

5. Define "nihilism"

6. What is the relationship of nihilism to evolution?

7. Clarify the relationship between Natural Selection and the value of human life.

8. What gives human life value?

Chapter Seven
Morality: Evidence for a Creator

1. There is a universally recognized need for society to be governed by high moral standards; how does the existence of a Creator answer this need?

2. Define the following words:

a. Objective:

b. Subjective:

3. What being, person or group of people has the ultimate right to judge or make the final decision concerning right or wrong?

4. Why can those kinds of decisions not be subjective?

5. Apart from a Creator is there any "objective" moral standards? _____ Explain:

6. What is the logical conclusion of atheistic evolution?

7. Is there any reason to be kind or good except for self-preservation if there is no Creator? Explain.

8. Name some of the provisions God has given to benefit His creatures.

9. What was Isaac Newton's attitude towards the Creator?

Chapter Eight
There is a Creator

Review the eight concepts we learned in the first section of the book.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. What is more reasonable that the universe and life with all of its complexity came into existence on its own for no apparent reason or purpose, or that there is a eternal being who created it all for His purpose?

10. In 100 words or less, state why you believe in a Creator? You cannot use your faith or religion in this argument

Something else to consider - extra credit

1. Is this logic used in this book based on western civilization or does is it apply to all cultures? Defend your answer.

Chapter Nine
The Creator is Eternal

1. Where did the Creator come from?

2. Why is this, the only possible answer?

3. Could aliens be responsible for the creation of all life and the universe?

4. Define the word immanent.

5. Define the word transcendent.

6. Whom do these words describe?

Chapter Ten
The Creator is Powerful and Intelligent

1. Define power as it relates to the eternal Creator?

2. What is the distance of the sun from the earth, and how long would it take to travel there in the space shuttle?

3. What is the distance of the Pleiades star cluster from earth, and how long would it take to travel there in a space shuttle?

4. Cite the distance of the Milky Way from the earth in light years

5. Define a star and cite the estimated number of stars in the universe.

6. Discuss the possibility of humankind creating a star or a tree.

Chapter Eleven
The Creator is a Just Person

7. What does the variety of life forms in the universe tell us about the Creator?

8. Suggest five things in human beings or the universe that point to complexity and intelligence on the part of the Creator.

- a.

- b.

- c.

- d.

- e.

1. Define a person.

2. Can the Creator be a person even if God does not have a human body?

3. In what ways do we judge?

4. What is it about judgment that no human being desires?

5. Conversely, what about judgment do we desire?

6. What gives the Creator the moral authority to judge?

Chapter Twelve
The Creator is Good

1. Name the four options as to the Creator's nature.
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

 - c. _____

 - d. _____

2. Why do we reject the idea that the Creator is evil, or schizophrenic?

3. What is a good argument against the existence of two Creators?

4. Discuss the concept of free will

5. Define shared accountability?

6. What is the role of human choice in the overall suffering of humankind?

Chapter Thirteen
The Creator is a Communicator

1. In what way does the author believe that the Creator has obligated Himself to humankind?

2. Finish the following sentence: "If the Creator is good and going to judge mankind someday then He must communicate..."

3. Give three beliefs that most major religions share in common
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

 - c. _____

4. Give the six reasons the author believes the Bible is different from other religious books.
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

 - c. _____

- d. _____

 - e. _____

 - f. _____

-
5. What is the significance of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible?

Chapter Fourteen
The Biblical Record of Creation

1. Discuss the changes between many modern scientists and the men who pioneered the field of science.

2. List the six primary teachings about creation from the biblical record as discussed on pages 139-140

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

3. Is it possible to know, for certain, how the Creator made the universe? _____

4. So: Why does it matter from a biblical perspective _____

5. Why is faith required?

Chapter Fifteen
The History of Evolution

1. Discuss the effect the failings of the church may have had on the creation evolutions debate

2. Discuss the influence Hutton had on Lyell; Lyell had on Darwin; and Darwin had on Wellhausen.

3. What effect does anti-supernaturalism have on faith in the biblical record?

4. Define Uniformity.

5. Define Naturalism.

6. Define Catastrophism.

7. What is the significance of Peters' prophecies on the modern issue of evolution and creationism?

8. How has the conflict between Copernicus, Galileo and the church, affected the long-term attitudes between science and religion, especially for many church leaders?

9. Give six reasons to interpret the word day as a 24 hour period.

a.

b.

- c. _____

- d. _____

- e. _____

- f. _____

10. List four verifiable scientific facts found in Genesis chapter one.

- a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

- d. _____

Chapter Sixteen
The Challenge of Time; The Age of the Universe

- 1. What is the difference between evolution and adaption?

- 2. What is the greatest challenge to biblical account of creation?

- 3. Does the age of the earth really matter, if so why?

- 4. On what assumptions is the age of the earth based?
 a. _____

- b. _____

- c. _____

- d. _____

5. What are some weaknesses in the “Omphalos Hypotheses”?

6. Briefly define the theory of an “Accelerated Natural Process.”

Chapter Seventeen
The Challenge of Time: The Age of the Rocks

1. Explain why you must accept either creationism or evolution by faith.

2. Is it a scientific fact that the universe is billions of years old?

3. What types of rocks contain radioactive matter?

4. What is the basis for radiometric dating?

5. According to the author, explain the fundamental problems with radio metric dating techniques.

a. The rate of decay

b. Accelerated Decay
