

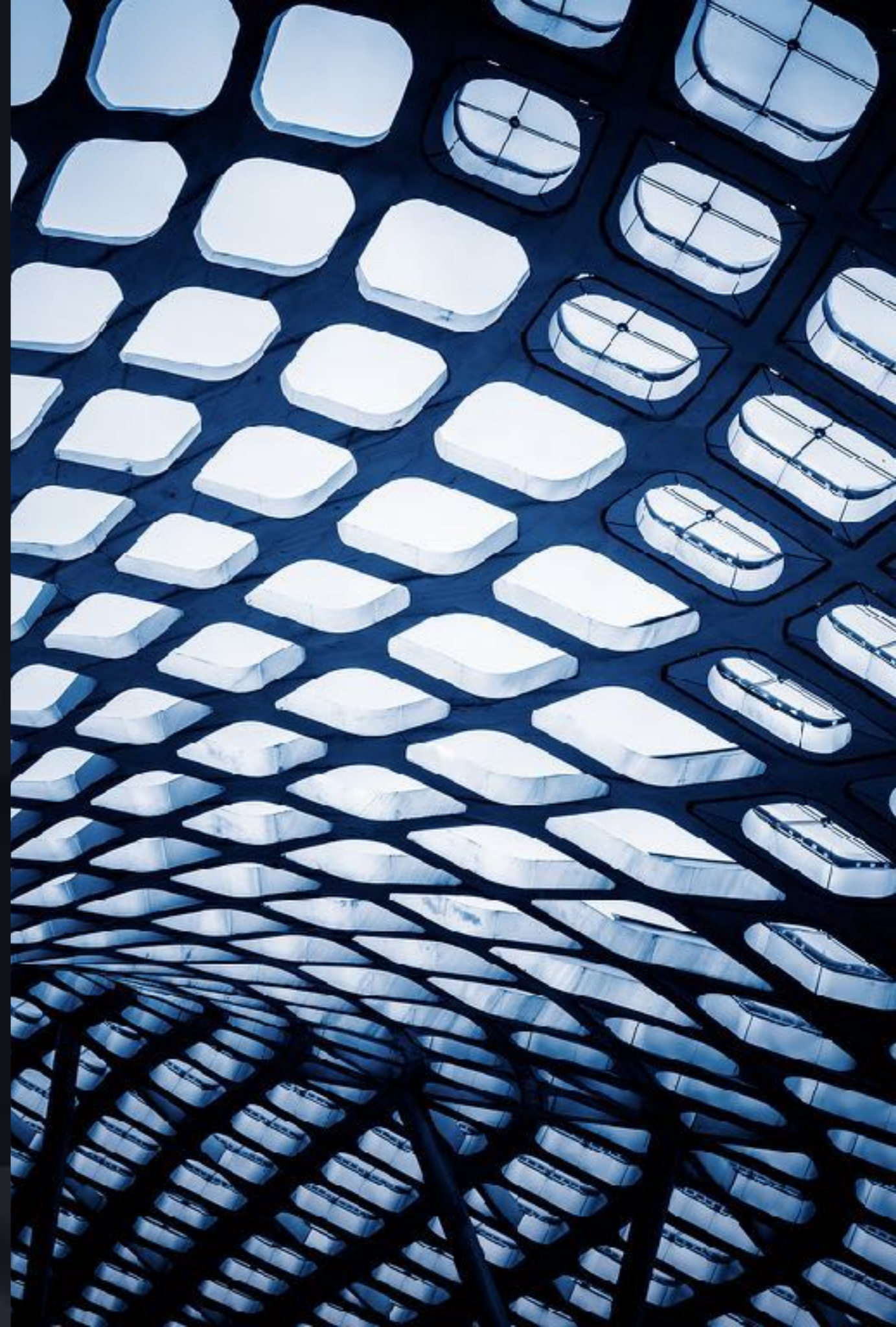
The Sacred Chain: How Understanding Evolution Leads to Deeper Faith

Introduction and Chapter 1: Communities of Origin

Evolution and the Church

An Exploration

- General Plan
- Introduction
- Ch 1: Communities of Origin



General Plan

General Plan and Purpose

Why study Stump's Evolution?

- Though I believe we are all on a similar page about justifications for Evolution, I want to explore the integration of this reality with our biblical and Christian interaction. I may be assuming too much.
 - This book recalls a life interacting with the scriptures and science.
 - This book is not a deep read, though the personal changes of Dr. Stump are worthy of observation. How did he manage the transformation brought by scientific fact interacting with theological justification.
 - Draw a useful foundation as categorical belief (caveats!)

General Plan and Purpose

Why study Evolution?

- This aspect of our study is just the cover story, not trivial, but not my end game.
- I want to explore:
 - the “How” of Creation
 - evolutionary ethics
 - a possible biography of sources on evolution
 - Stump’s interaction with the keystone figures of the book: Lewis, Roy, Chesterton, Redwoods, Helen Keller, and Simone Weil.

General Plan and Purpose

Two Books of God's Word

- First Book: the Bible and our testimony (since we're Christians)
- The Wesleyan Quadrilateral
 - what it is?
 - strengths
 - weaknesses
 - a necessary adjustment. . .

General Plan and Purpose

Two Books of God's Word

- Second Book: Nature (since we're Humans)
 - The Scientific Method
 - strengths (Teach Your Child Science, Michael Shermer)
 - weaknesses
 - a necessary humility

Introduction

Conflict not resolved,
review of Parts 1-5



Stump's conflict

Introduction

Stump's Conflict

- Boardroom Scene
- The Crime
 - "I do not believe faith is so fragile."
 - Forced out of a job, and "students would not be able to learn from a professor who openly affirmed the scientific consensus on evolution." 2

Introduction

Stump's Conflict Resolved

- Working for BioLogos already so Stump had a home to go to.
- Francis Collins
 - National Institute of Health, job
 - *The Language of God*, Collins' conversion
 - "BioLogos was founded to spread that message of harmony to others: You don't have to choose between well-established science of our day ... and authentic Christian Faith." 3

Introduction

Overall Conflict

- Stump was tired of seeing students give up faith when it seemed to contradict the Bible when he learned from his “own experience that a better understanding of evolution could actually lead to a deeper and more authentic faith.” 3

“It’s tantalizing to suggest that there could be more going on in the evolution of our bodies than science alone can describe and that science places parameters on the development of our spiritual lives.”

Stump pg 6

Book parts

Introduction

A book in 5 parts

- Part I: the Bible
 - The challenges to reading reality from the Bible
 - Deeper faith with C. S. Lewis
- Part II: Time
 - God's priorities in deep time
 - Origin stories as newspaper accounts
 - Deeper faith with Arundhati Roy and C. K. Chesterton

Introduction

A book in 5 parts

- Part III: Species
 - “Do we really differ *in kind* from all other creatures, or is it only a difference *of degree*? 9
 - Finding faith among the redwoods
- Part IV: Soul
 - What about the Soul if the body is a product of evolution?
 - Deeper faith with Helen Keller

Introduction

A book in 5 parts

- Part V: Pain
 - “Why is there pain and suffering in a good world created by God?”
 - Deeper faith with Simone Weil
- Purpose of the book
 - Conceptual clarity through life narratives
 - Is there more to the story than science can tell?
- End matter

Chapter 1. Communities of Origin

Conflict not resolved,
review of Parts 1-5



Contextualizing Stump

Communities of Origin

Our roots tell something about us

- Evolution wasn't a topic in High School science classes, College with a Science Education major, or "a topic in the science curriculum of my local community"
- Social studies teacher gave reasons to reject evolutionary theory. What?
- That was Stump's community, and many of ours.

State the problem

Communities of Origin

State the problem

- Stump thinks the problem comes from the veneration of the Bible, not a “veneration of what the Bible bears witness to.” 17
- Doesn't the Bible say that God created the heavens and the earth in 6 days? How old is the earth?
- A “plain reading” of the Bible obviously contradicts modern science. 18

Communities of Origin

Statistics

- I think the statistics are important, but once you read a wide variety of them the general picture emerges that though accepting or rejecting evolutionary theory has been held in the USA as fairly equal except in the last 15 years, where acceptance of evolution has achieved over 50% adoption.

Communities of Origin

Question

- Which comes closer to your view?
 - *“Humans and other living things have evolved over time.*
 - *“Humans and other living things have existed in their present form since the beginning of time.” 21*

“We have the purpose of preventing bigots and ignoramuses from controlling the education in the United States.”

Clarence Darrow quoted by Stump pg 23

Communities of Origin

Rationale

- The appearance of the Darwin's Theory of Evolution came on the scene at a time of the Civil War.
- "So right at the time of a very deep division in our country, there was a new, counterintuitive idea from the sciences. Our culture, distorted by the Civil War, exaggerated cultural differences and bundled them together in ways that didn't necessarily have to be" with science on one side and the Bible on the other.