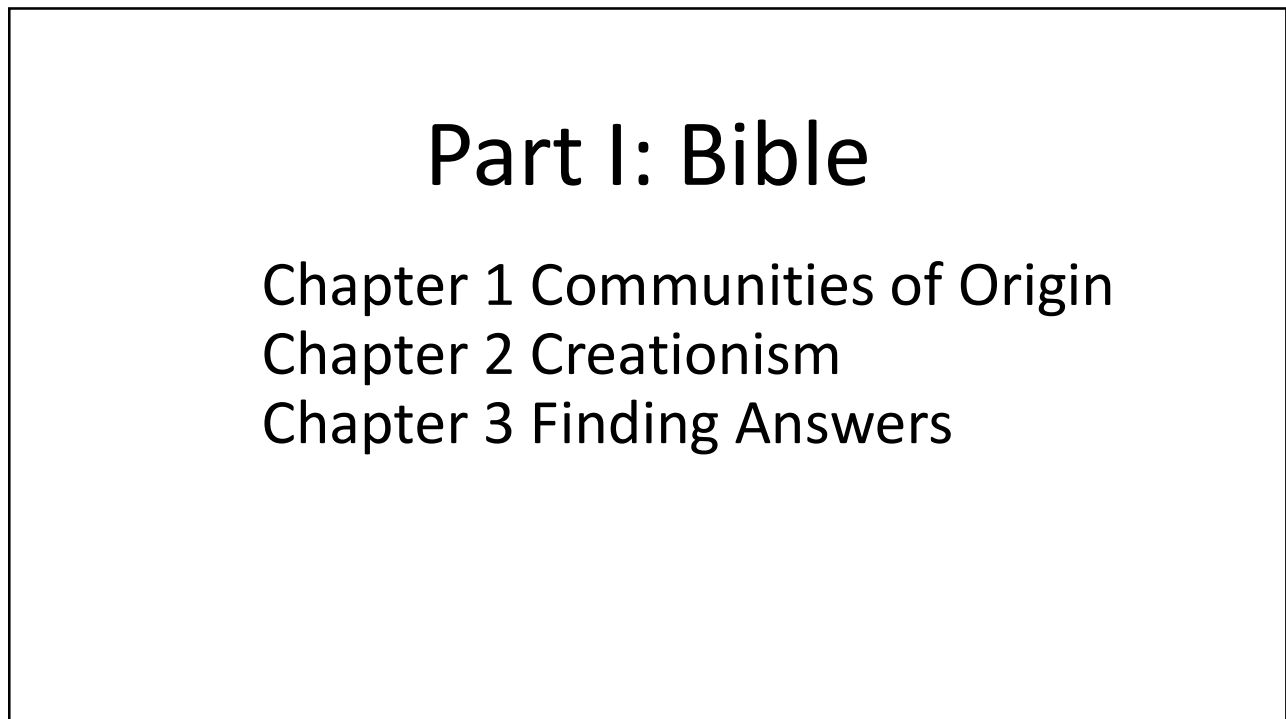


1



2

## Chapter 1 Communities of Origin

- Stump reviews his upbringing in a fairly religious Midwest town
- I was amazed how closely my background aligned with his
- Very similar amounts of time in church, no real struggle with biblical interpretation
- If the Bible says it, we believe it, that settles it
- Evolution was an evil concept, but very much in the background
- Teachers didn't push it too hard
- I did give a presentation in a class in high school about creation
- I don't think the teacher agreed with me but he didn't challenge me in front of the class

3

- Stump basically thinks people in the US were sheltered from changing ideas about evolution
- A well known survey was published in 2006 by the prestigious journal Science. Researchers compared the acceptance of evolution in America and in thirty-three countries in Europe. The only country that had a lower public acceptance of evolution than the United States was Turkey.
- A PEW survey of 20 countries in 2019 showed that Christians are less likely to accept evolution in all twenty countries. But the gap between Christians and the religiously unaffiliated was larger in the US than in any other country.

4

- Evolution is much more accepted in other parts of the world
- Stump thinks a turning point was the Scopes trial in Tennessee in 1925.
- Officially, John Scopes was prosecuted for teaching evolution in violation of a Tennessee law that had recently been passed.
- People in the US had to choose between believing the Bible or believing modern science
- The question became political
- In other countries, the trial and public reaction were viewed with puzzlement and incredulity

5

## Chapter 2 Creationism

- Creationist and creationism have taken on a more specific meaning in the science and religion community.
- Stump thinks the turning point was the publication of the book *The Genesis Flood* by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris in the 1960s
- The terms are typically used for two varieties of people who don't accept that humans and other living things have evolved
- "Old Earth creationists" don't accept evolution (especially of humans), but they generally accept the physical sciences, like geology, physics, and cosmology.
- "Young Earth creationists" reject not only the evolutionary conclusions of the life sciences but also the dating conclusions of the physical sciences.

6

- Creationist arguments
- 'in-between' creatures, crocoduck
- 65% of American adults believe humans have evolved
- 36% of white evangelicals believe this
- Pew question: From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that humans evolved over time, or do they not generally agree about this?
- 46% of America's white evangelicals think scientists generally agree that humans have evolved over time.
- 54% think scientists do not think scientists agree on evolution
- When Pew asked the scientists themselves whether humans evolved over time or have persisted in their present form, 98% said humans have evolved.

7

## Chapter 3 Finding Answers

- Answers in Genesis (AiG) was founded in America in 1994 by an Australian, Ken Ham, to provide "answers to questions surrounding the book of Genesis, as it is . . . the most-attacked book of the Bible."
- The most recent attraction built by Answers in Genesis is a theme park called the Ark Encounter.
- The ark replica is 300 long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high.
- They used 20 inches for a cubit making the replica 510 feet long
- Impressive, but it highlights the challenges facing the creationist argument

8

*“As Jim and I made the long drive back to northern Indiana, we agreed that the most striking feature of the Museum is its insistence on answering everything. Every possible question or mystery is defeated by a clear, simple presentation of the Bible’s message. Over and over, the Museum is insistent that the worldview presented by Answers in Genesis can answer all of life’s questions with different combinations of the same short, snappy, unassailable one-liners.”*