

SCIENCE & FAITH

IS GENESIS HISTORY OR LEGEND?

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church

October 13, 2018

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GORDON
COLLEGE



BIOLOGOS 
Voices

BIOLOGOS



I love this guy! **Francis Collins.**

We agree on a lot.

Science and faith are compatible.

He is one of the top scientists in the US.



Let's Talk About Trees

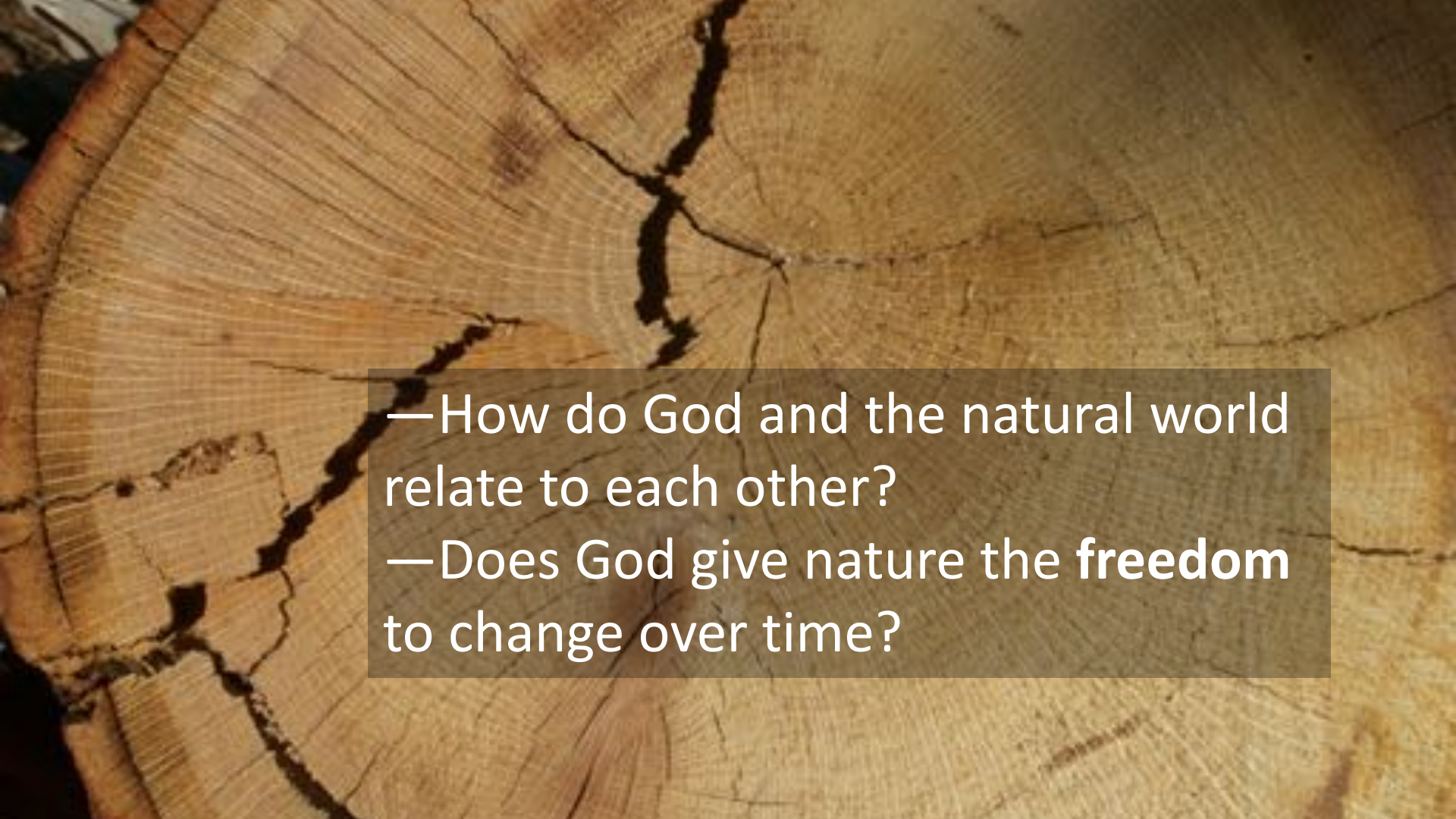
I like trees...











—How do God and the natural world relate to each other?
—Does God give nature the **freedom** to change over time?



“Stay connected to me.” -Jesus

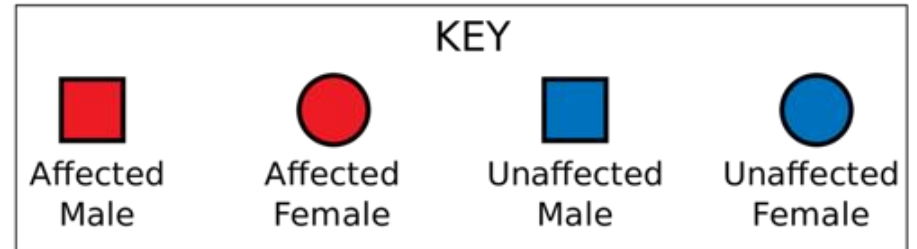
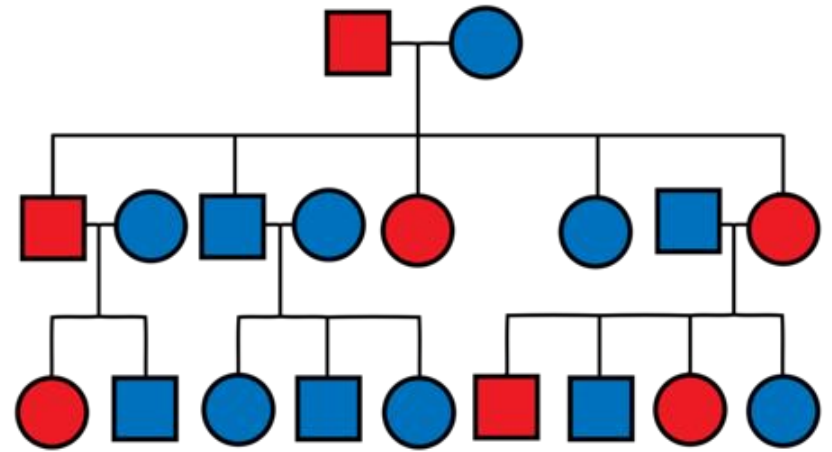
Science is limited.

Science only asks questions
about how the natural
world works.

Genetics - Heredity



Jack Hills, a young man with dimples...



Cells...

Cells are related to each other by common ancestry.

The immune system →
Your entire body...

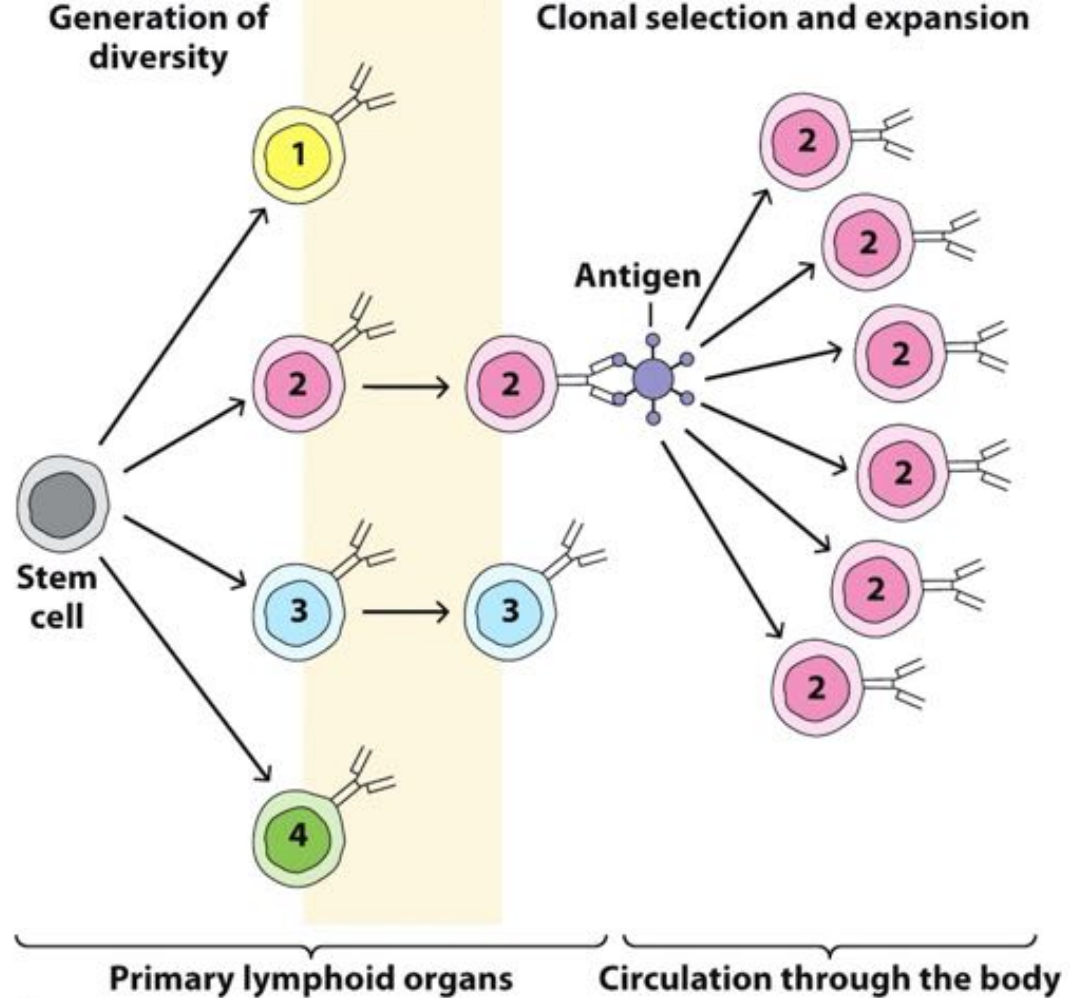
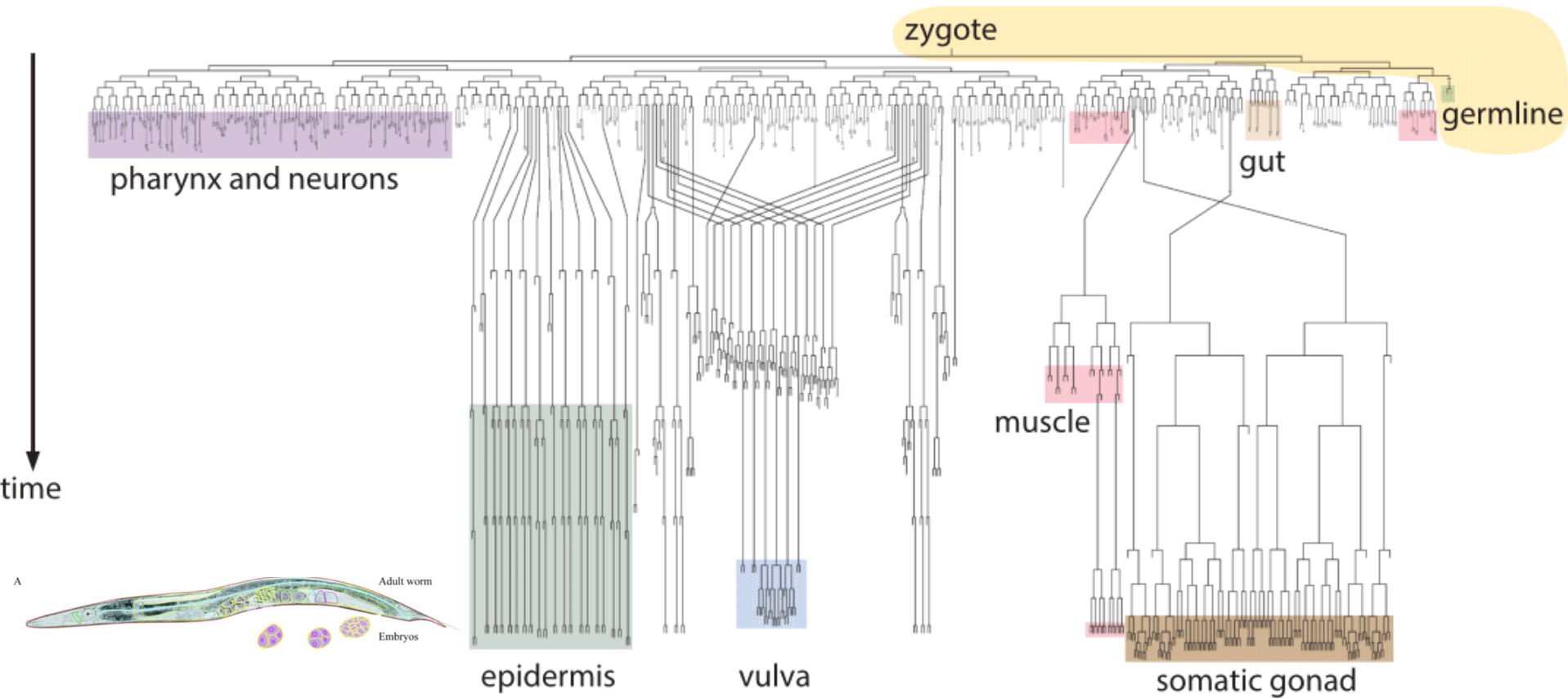


Figure 1-7
Kuby Immunology, Seventh Edition
© 2013 W. H. Freeman and Company

This work originally done by light microscopy in the 1970's... amazing!



Darwin wrote:

“I think...”



The big idea:

Common ancestry of living forms

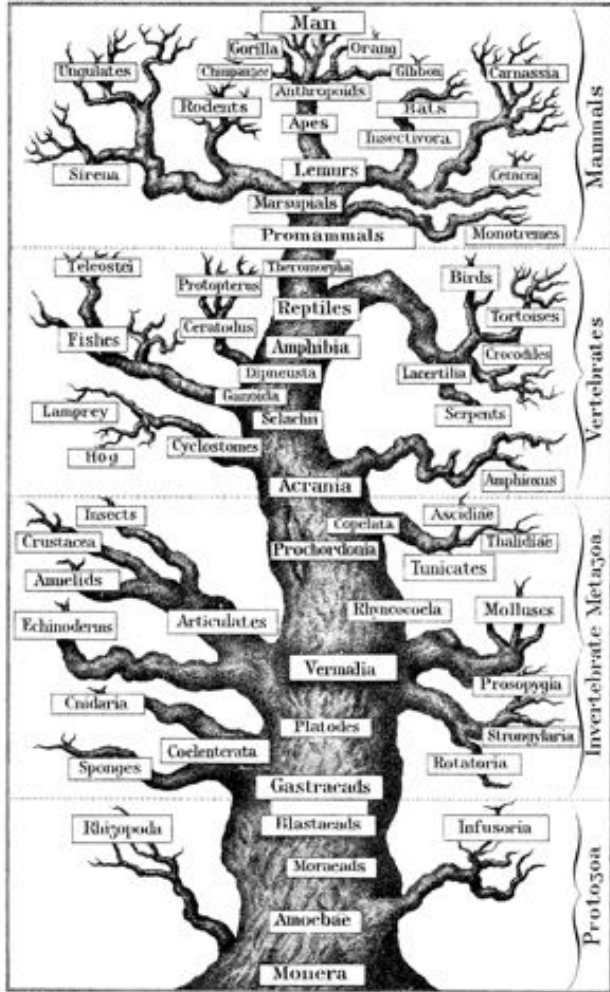
Offspring vary compared to parents

A mechanism:
“Natural Selection”

Genealogical Tree of Humanity.

The Evolution of Man V Ed.

Pl. XX



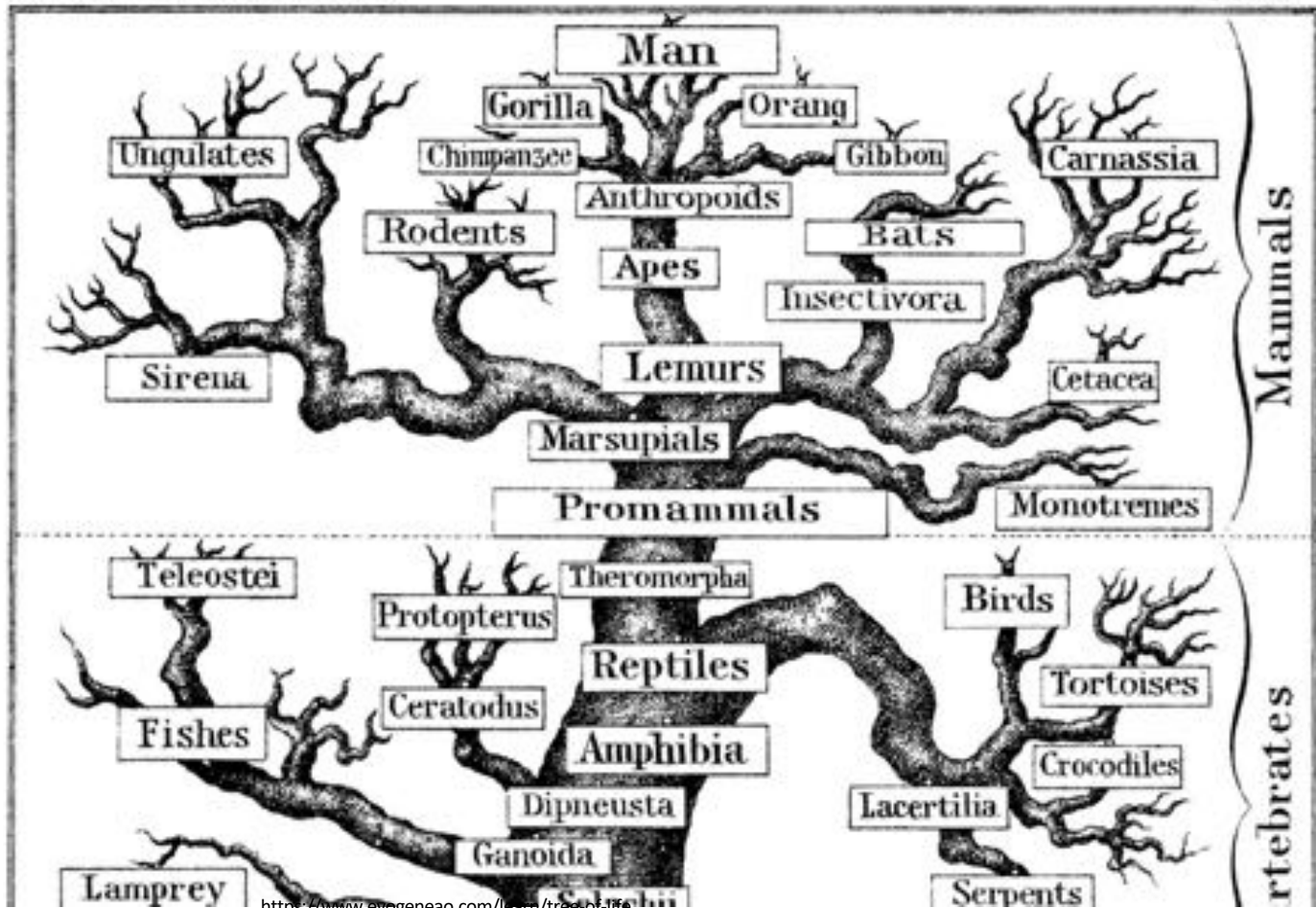
Here's a tree done by Ernst Haeckel (1834-1919)

...but we have learned a LOT since 1879 when this was published

Genealogical Tree of Humanity.

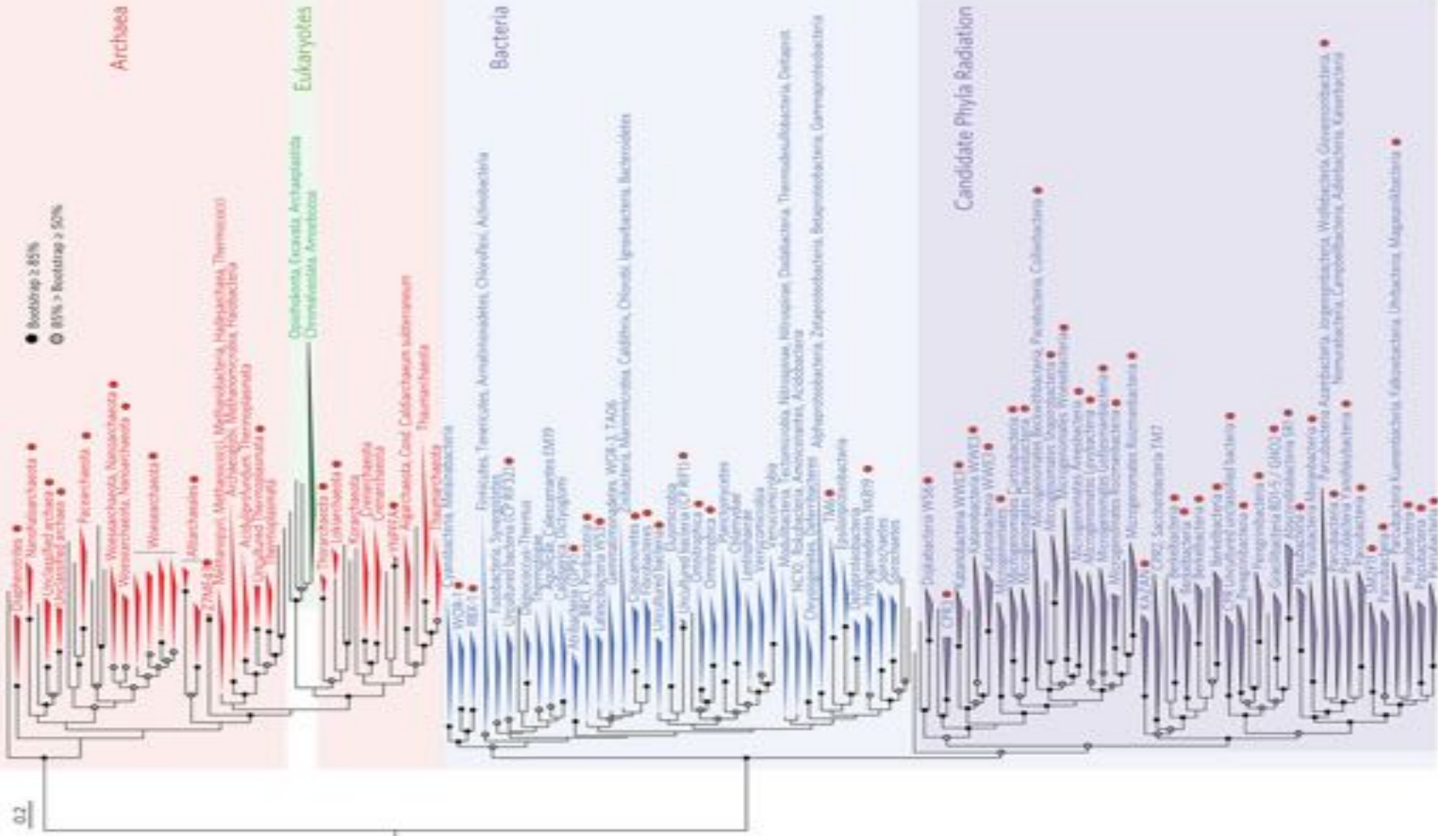
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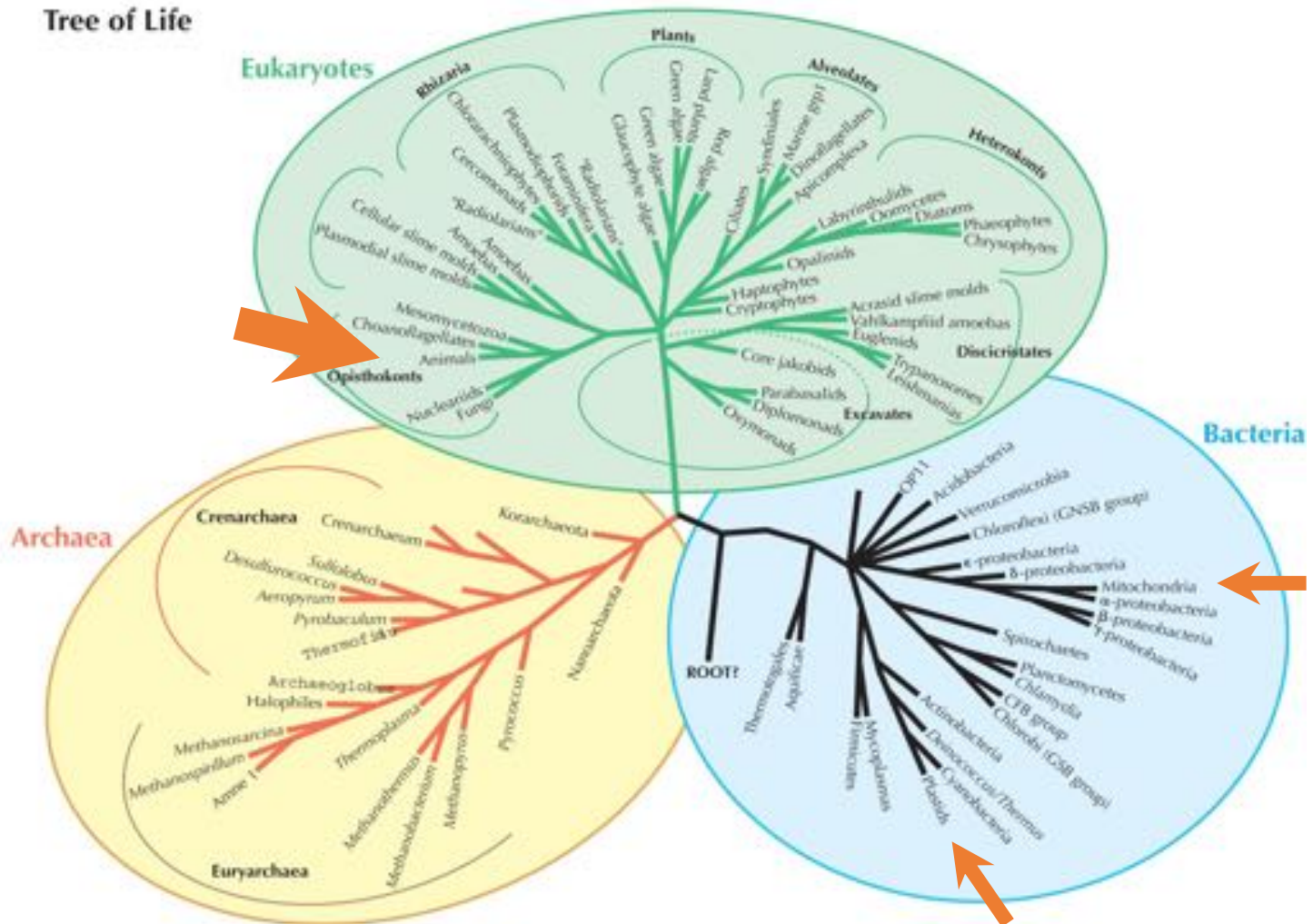


Why did Haeckel put "Man" at the top?

0.2



Tree of Life



Historically, some Christians have had trouble accepting the picture science presents about the history of life, the universe and everything.



>100,000 LY across

100-400 billion stars

Over 100 billion other planets

By ESO/S. Brunier

Genesis

The Beginning

1 In the beginning^a God created^b the heavens^c and the earth.^d ²Now the earth was^e formless^e and empty,^f darkness was over the surface of the deep,^g and the Spirit of God^h was hoveringⁱ over the waters.

³And God said,^j "Let there be light," and there was light.^k ⁴God saw that the light was good,^l and he separated the light from the darkness.^m ⁵God calledⁿ the light "day," and the darkness he called "night."^o And there was evening, and there was morning^p—the first day.

⁶And God said,^q "Let there be an expanse^r between the waters^s to separate water from water."^t ⁷So

1:1 *Ps 102:25;
Pr 8:23;
Isa 40:21; 41:4,
26; Jn 1:1-2 ^{over}
21,27; Ge 2:3
^{ever} 6; Ne 9:6;
Job 9:8; 37:18;
Ps 96:5; 104:2;
115:15; 121:2;
136:5; Isa 40:22;
42:5; 51:13;
Jer 10:12; 51:15
^dGe 14:19;
2Ki 19:15;
Ne 9:6; Job 38:4;
Ps 90:2; 136:6;
146:6; Isa 37:16;
40:28; 42:5;
44:24; 45:12,18;
Jer 27:5; 32:17;
Ac 14:15; 17:24;
Eph 3:9;
Col 1:16;
Heb 3:4; 11:3;
Rev 4:11; 10:6
1:2 *Isa 23:1;
24:10; 27:10;
32:14; 34:11
/Isa 45:18;
Jer 4:23 *Ge 8:2;

expanse of the sky to give
on the earth." And it was
¹⁰God made two great light
the greater light^r to govern
day and the lesser light to
govern^t the night.^u He also
the stars.^v ¹⁷God set them in
expanse of the sky to give
on the earth,^w to govern the
day and the night,^w and to separate
light from darkness. And
God saw that it was good.^x ¹⁸And
there was evening, and there
was morning^y—the fourth
day.
²⁰And God said, "Let the water teem
with living creatures,^z and let
birds fly above the earth across
the expanse of the sky."^{aa} ²¹And
God created^b the great creatures
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moving thing with which

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What does the bible say about the origin of the first human beings?

וַיִּצְרֵם יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאָדָם עֹפָר מִן־הָאֲדָמָה וַיִּפַּח בְּאַפָּיו נִשְׁמַת חַיִּים וַיְהִי הָאָדָם לְנֶפֶשׁ חַיָּה:

Genesis 2 Interlinear

5397 [א]	639 [א]	5301 [א]	127 [א]	4480 [א]	6083 [א]	120 [א]	853 [א]	430 [א]	3068 [א]	3335 [א]
niš-maṭ	be-'ap-pāw	way-yi-paḥ	hā-'ā-dā-māh,	min-	'ā-pār	hā-'ā-dām,	'eṭ-	'ā-lō-hīm	Yah-weh	way-yi-ṣer
נִשְׁמַת	בְּאַפָּיו	וַיִּפַּח	הָאֲדָמָה	מִן־	עֹפָר	הָאָדָם	אֶת־	אֱלֹהִים	יְהוָה	וַיִּצְרֵם 7
the breath	into his nostrils	and breathed	the ground	of [of] the dust	man	-	God	the LORD	And formed	
Noun	Noun	Verb	Noun	Prep	Noun	Noun	Acc	Noun	Noun	Verb



2416 [א]	5315 [א]	120 [א]	1961 [א]	2416 [א]
ḥay-yāh.	le ne-peš	hā-'ā-dām	way-hi	ḥay-yīm;
חַיָּה:	לְנֶפֶשׁ	הָאָדָם	וַיְהִי	חַיִּים
living	a being	man	and became	of life
Adj	Noun	Noun	Verb	Adj

This is the moment when God makes man a living being... (a soul? Needs interpretation!)

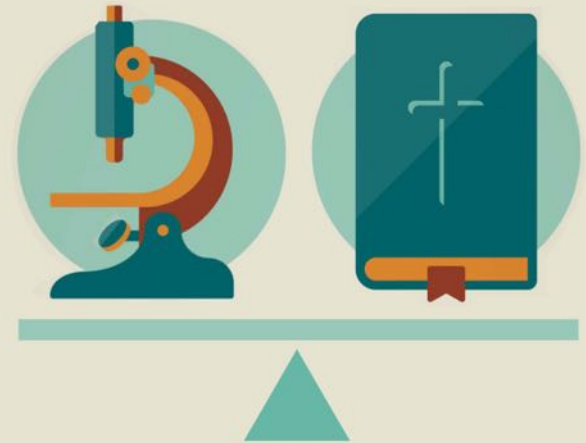
Here's one modern translation of Genesis 2:7

“The LORD God took some soil from the ground and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing.” (CEVU06)



“Live and learn”

Thank you!

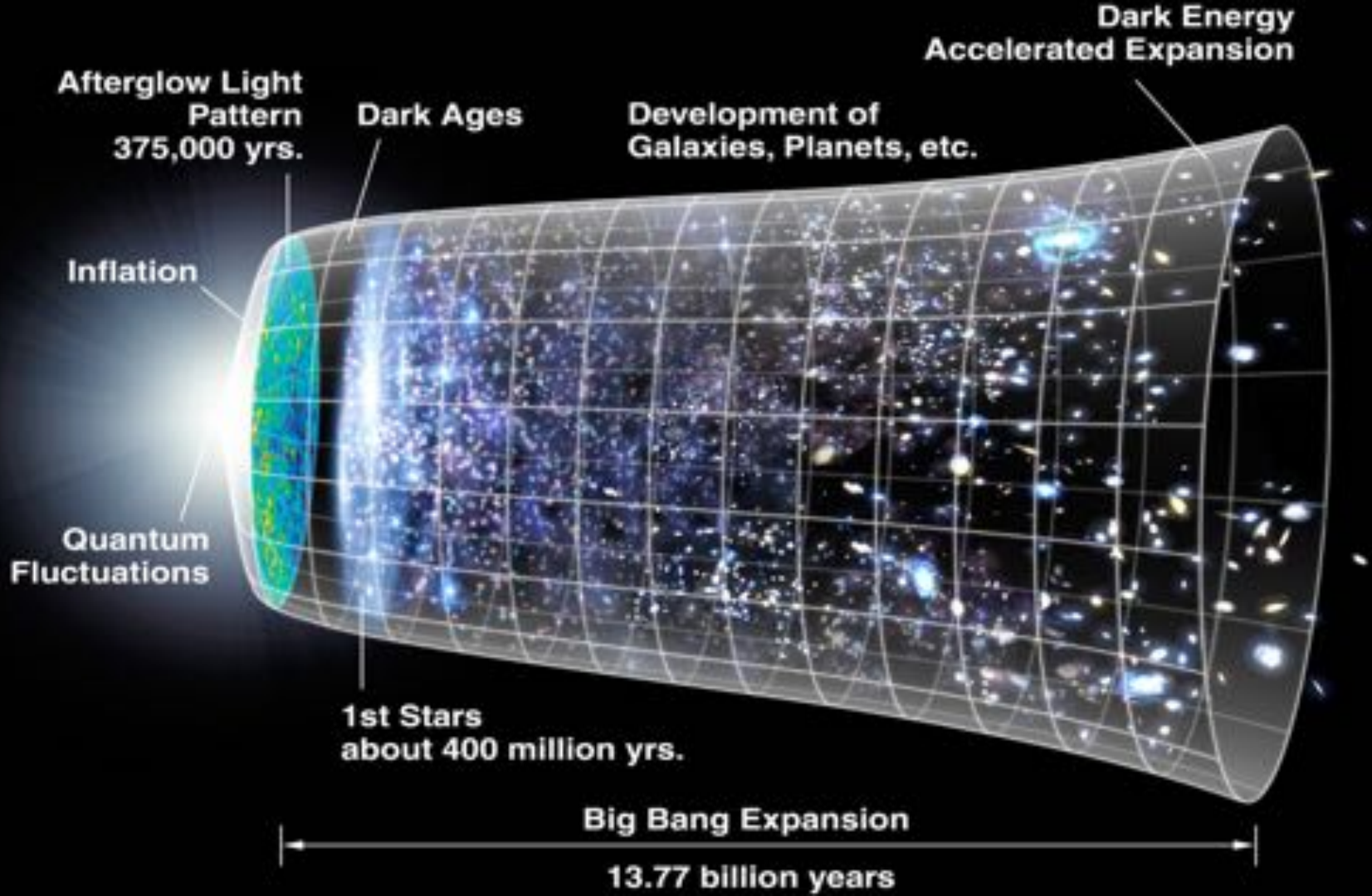


Science has truths
Theology has truths
Both are important

craig.story@gordon.edu

Some rapid fire
thoughts very BIG
Questions

Origin of the universe?



How were humans made?



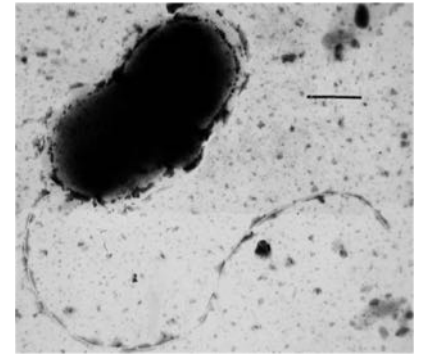
Art by ATELIER DAYNÈS;
PHOTOGRAPH: S. ENTRESSANGLE

Adam and Eve?



Origin of Life?

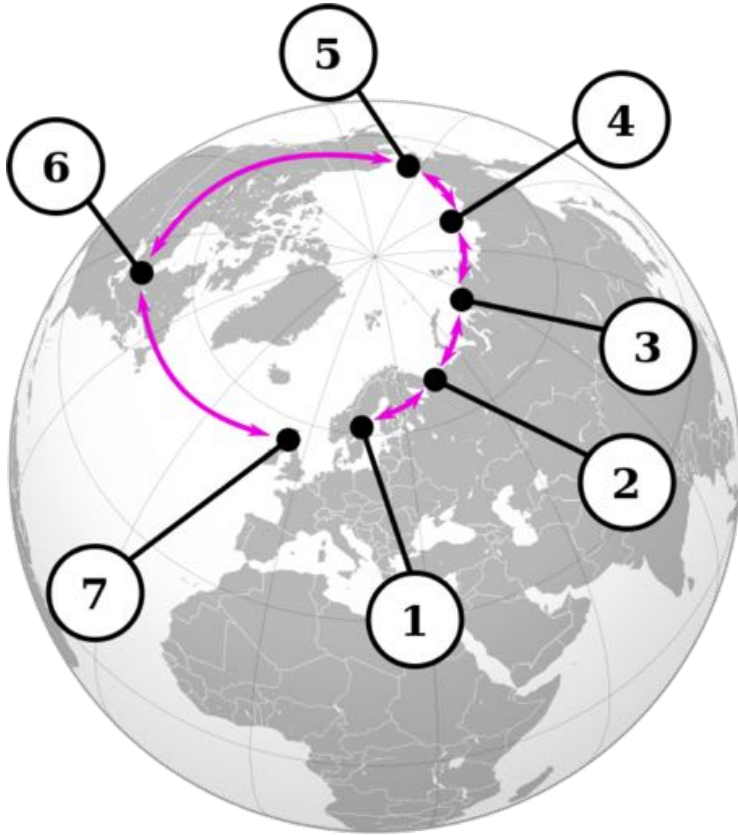
For their current study, Sutherland and his colleagues set out to work backward from those chemicals to see if they could find a route to RNA from even simpler starting materials. They succeeded. In the current issue of *Nature Chemistry*, Sutherland's team reports that it created nucleic acid precursors starting with just hydrogen cyanide (HCN), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and ultraviolet (UV) light. What is more, Sutherland says, the conditions that produce nucleic acid precursors also create the starting materials needed to make natural amino acids and lipids. That suggests a single set of reactions could have given rise to most of life's building blocks simultaneously.



Could life have kindled in that common pool? That detail is almost certainly forever lost to history. But the idea and the “plausible chemistry” behind it is worth careful thought, Deamer says. Szostak agrees. “This general scenario raises many questions,” he says, “and I am sure that it will be debated for some time to come.”

P.S. God did this!!

Speciation?



What IS a species? How long does speciation take?

In this example, it turns out that the origins of the two different gulls does not actually fit the model at left...

Science deepens my
awe and wonder of
the Creator.

Why does the universe exist
at all?

What is the nature of the
fabric of space-time?

Why is the universe so
enormous?

