Romans 1

The Prophecy, Proof, Partnership, Power & Purpose of the Gospel
The Penalty, Progression, Perversion, Product & Plunder of Sin

Paul the apostle not only authored Romans, but also is also the author of more New Testament books than any other writer. As was the custom in his day, he clearly identified himself in the opening line of his letters: “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God” {1:1}.

As we take a quick glance at the author’s biography. Paul, or “Saul” as he was known before his conversion to Christ, was a Jew, but a Jew who was also a Roman citizen. His mother was Jewish and his father was Roman. He was born in the region of Cecilia, in Tarsus, modern Turkey, near the Mediterranean Sea. His stature as a Roman citizen gave him rights not enjoyed by other Jews of the day. He could travel freely and did not experience the oppression and subjugation, which the Jews in Israel did. He was also highly educated, spoke several languages and was a student of the most famous Jewish rabbi of the day: Gamaliel. His devotion to the Law of the Old Testament was widely known. He was a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin, had been circumcised on the eighth day in accordance with the Law, was a Pharisee and was in his own words, “a Hebrew of Hebrews” {Phil. 3:5}.

In other words, Paul was a rising young “star” in Israel, zealous to promote adherence to the Old Testament. But then this rising young star of Judaism came crashing to the earth. He had an experience, which changed his life {Acts 9:1-22} – and ours, as he yielded himself to God and became a mighty messenger of His Truth!

There have been several key books that have forever changed the world:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Era</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mein Kampf</td>
<td>Adolf Hitler</td>
<td>Nazism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Das Kapital</td>
<td>Karl Marx</td>
<td>Communism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Origin of Species</td>
<td>Charles Darwin</td>
<td>Darwinism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All three of these books sought to explain either (a) the problems with man [who’s to blame], (b) how it got that way [what went wrong] and/or (c) offer or imply a solution [how to ‘fix it’]. People have tried to use these books to understand and explain human behavior, improve the condition of mankind and present a blueprint for achieving a utopian society. But the teachings of all three of these books have led literally to the death of millions of people. They have not adequately explained the problems with man, how it got this way or come close to providing any answers in solving the problems in the world. Not a very illustrious track record.

But there is another book that transformed a man who in turn changed the world:

Romans, Apostle Paul {Spiritual Transformation}

The study of Romans converted Martin Luther, a Catholic monk, from a futile life of Works to a new life of Grace. As a result of his ‘protestings’ over the evils of the institutionalized church and his persistence for Truth began the ‘Protestant’ reformation that is still being experienced in Christendom today.

Therefore, out of these four, ONLY the letter of Romans correctly and completely addresses the issue of man’s corrupted nature—sin, presents the solution and satisfies mankind’s deepest need for peace, forgiveness and salvation—reconciliation with the Creator.
“The Prophecy of the Gospel”
1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,
The Roman believers would probably have known about the great King David through their study of history, so Paul’s mentioning of a Jewish King to Gentile Christians would not have been a mystery to them. It is interesting to note that about 13 years after Paul wrote this letter [70 AD], the Roman General Titus Flavius marched into Jerusalem and destroyed it, leveled the Temple, killed over one million Jews and dispersed the surviving Jews to the four corners of the earth.

“The Proof of the Gospel”
4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

What is the Significance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?
• Justified by His resurrection. {Rom. 4:25}
• If Jesus Christ is not raised, we are still ‘dead’ in our sins {1 Cor. 15:17}

Proof of Authorship [Romans 1:1-3]
• Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) Matt. 16:13-17; John 20:30,31; 1 John 4:1-3; Heb. 12:1,2
• Jesus is Word of God, the Way, Truth & Life & the Word of Truth John 1:1-5; 14:6; Ja. 1:18

Proof of Authority [Romans 1:4]
• Jesus had power to lay down His Life & Take it up again. John 10:17-21
• Jesus gives us the power & responsibility of proclaiming the Good News Matt. 28:18-20

Proof of Authenticity [Romans 1:4]
• Jesus was raised from the dead according to the scriptures: Psalms 16:8-11; Acts 2:22-36; 13:32-41
• Jesus resurrection puts the stamp of approval on our salvation: 1 Cor. 15:12-20
• By His resurrection Jesus is in the position of fulfilling the Davidic Covenant & bringing salvation to all peoples: 2 Sam. 7:8-16; Psalms 89:3,4; Isa. 9:6,7; 55:1-11; Heb. 13:20,21.

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1 The Greek word used here is aphorizo which means to set a boundary, to mark or set apart.
2 Titus latter became an emperor of Rome succeeding his father, Vespasian, reigning from June 24, 79 AD to September 13, 81 AD. As Roman emperor he was referred to as Titus Flavius Caesar Vespasian Augustus. Exactly two months after he became emperor the Roman Empire suffered a catastrophic natural disaster when the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted and burned the city and around 16,000 inhabitants of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the resort communities around the Bay of Naples in over 9 feet of lava and ash. Titus Flavius died from a plague and his reign was cut short.
3 This is called the “Diaspora”.
4 The Greek word used here is horizo; the gospel is the horizon of our salvation.

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Romans Chapter 3  
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NOTE: The teaching of the resurrection was a radical concept for the Gentiles. A heathen inscription in Thessalonica read, “After death no reviving, after the grave no meeting again.” For an Biblical example of this, see Paul’s debate with the Greek philosophers on Mars Hill, Athens in Acts 17:18-34; note especially vv.18-19.

“The Partnership of the Gospel”

[7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, 10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. 11 For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—12 that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. 13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. 14 I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. 15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome also.]

Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that they are “beloved of God”, they are ‘saints’—“set-apart ones” to be witness to the Truth. How were they called to be set-apart? Paul gives us the answer in another letter to a different group of Christians, those in Thessalonica:

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.—1 Thess. 1:9-10

Paul then gives his customary greeting, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.

This speaks of God’s loving kindness towards believers the essence of which is stated by Jeremiah in his daily journal we call ‘Lamentations’:

Through the LORD’S mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.—Lam. 3:22-23

Paul’s desire was to be with the Christians in Rome so that he could minister his spiritual gifts of teaching and exhortation among them [as he did for those in Colossae]. He was not saying that he wanted to come to give them spiritual gifts for he understood quite well that only the Holy Spirit could do that {ref. 1 Cor. 12:1-11}.  

5 That is to share his spiritual gifts with the believers in Rome.
6 The Greek word used here is sumparaklaleo which is a form of the name of the Holy Spirit, Comforter. To come along side and provide comfort and encouragement. By adding “sum” Paul is saying that this comfort will be mutual fellowship in being together.
7 The Greek word used here means “passionately predisposed”.
8 The phrase “preach the Gospel” is the word we get our words “eulogy” & “evangelize” from. It means to speak well of or good words about. That is, the message of salvation in Jesus Christ are the good words bringing comfort and joy.
His longing was for them to be encouraged in their faith by his teaching and example because they were at the source of state sanctioned idolatry (Roman pantheon of gods, Greek gods, far eastern gods and Caesar himself).

Paul says he is “…..a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.” He was saying he was a debtor to both the “civilized” Romans and all others [non-Romans] whom the Romans considered “barbarian”. To a Roman, everyone who was not of Roman in actuality or mindset was a ‘barbarian’.

“The Power of the Gospel”

16 For I am not ashamed9 of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power10 of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

This harkens back to the angelic announcement the night that Jesus Christ was born:

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger”. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”—Luke 2:10-14

What exactly is the Gospel? Perhaps nowhere is it summarized any better than by Paul in his letter to the Christians at Corinth:

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures….”—1 Cor. 15:1-4

Jews & Gentiles (Greeks) are Contrasted: For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom—1 Cor. 1:22

“For Jews request a sign…..”—1 Cor. 1:22a.

Signs ➤ Matt. 12:38-41; 16:1-4

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You”. But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of

9 The Greek word used here carries with it the idea of the complete absence of public shame and humiliation in sharing the Gospel. Paul was not embarrassed or self-conscious about the good news of Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.
10 The Greek word used here means “force” or “energy” to make something happen. We get our English word “dynamite” from it.
Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here”…….Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah”. And He left them and departed.

Because the Jews seek signs, the crucifixion of Jesus is a “stumbling stone”.

“…..but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness—1Cor. 1:23a.

“…..and Greeks seek after wisdom…..”—1 Cor. 1:22b.

Wisdom ➢ 1 Cor. 1:30-31

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the Lord”.

Because the Gentiles seek wisdom, the crucifixion of Jesus is “foolishness”.

“…..but we preach Christ crucified, ……… to the Greeks foolishness—1Cor. 1:23b.

But to those who are saved it is the POWER OF GOD! (Rom. 1:16)

“…..but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God!”—1 Cor. 1:24

Why does Paul say to ‘for the Jew first and also for the Greek’? Because (a) God began the work of redemption through the Jews [they were given the Law and prophets], (b) He still considers them His ‘Chosen People’ and (c) the Gospel started with a Jew—Jesus Christ and in a way Paul is saying that they have “first dibs” on it! Refer for example to Rom. 2:9-10; 3:1-2.

Paul had not yet been to Rome—but his hearts desire was to go there and strengthen the faith of the believers there through the ministry that God had given him.

“The Purpose of the Gospel”

17  For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

11 The Greek word used here carries with it the idea of being made equitable and correct with God, acceptable to Him. How? Through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ was paid the price of sin and our “sin debt” is stamped “paid in full”. Sin = death; blood = life. The life of the flesh is in the blood.
This is one of three places in the New Testament that Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted:

- Romans 1:17 where “the just” is stressed (who)
- Galatians 3:11 where “shall live” is stressed (what)
- Hebrews 10:38 where “by faith” is stressed (how)

This righteousness is imparted by God’s grace through faith and the process is summarized by Paul in Rom. 10:8-11:

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame".—Rom. 10:8-11

But now, ironically because of the Gospel, there is no more a distinction!

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”—Rom. 10:12-13

In summary of vv.16-17: It is (A) God’s power that saves and (B) the Gospel of Christ reveals the righteousness of God

“The Penalty of Sin”

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

God’s wrath toward sin those who engage in it is just and evident, if people will truly look. Since everyone has been created in God’s image {ref. Gen.1:26} and has been given an innate understanding that there is a God {ref. Eccl. 3:11}; deep down they know the truth. It is only suppressed by those whose pride will not allow them to agree with God concerning their sinful condition, repent and confess and be saved. We will see that because of this all are without excuse.

“The Progression of Sin”

[For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts (imaginations), and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed]

12 To behold fully, distinctly seen, to see thoroughly.
13 The Greek word here means to “exercise the mind”, to “comprehend”.
14 The Greek word here is anapologetos and it literally means without a defense, without an apology or excuse; i.e., they don’t have a “leg to stand on”. Before God they have no defensible argument.
15 The Greek word here is dialogismos (dee-al-og-is-mos’) and it refers to reasoning power, logic, dialog and the imagination.
animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.]

[Refer to Examples from Eternity in Their Hearts]

Materialistic Evolution is the Modern Embodiment & Expression of a Futile Mind

Verse 21 says; because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts (imaginations), and their foolish hearts were darkened.

In our modern time this progression of idolatry and rejection of God finds its embodiment and expression in the teaching of Macro-Evolution\(^\text{16}\). The Bible has a lot to say about false ideas and knowledge and we, as Christians are supposed to “contend for the faith”. In Jude 1:3 we are told that our faith in Jesus Christ is in conflict with the prevailing worldviews and we are to strive to promote it.

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly\(^\text{17}\) for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense\(^\text{18}\) to everyone who asks you a reason\(^\text{19}\) for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear ..... -- 1 Peter 3:15.

And to Timothy Paul writes:

\(^{16}\) Here we must distinguish between two kinds of evolutionary ideas: macro-evolution teaches that bacterium eventually turn into a whale given random chance and enough time; micro-evolution teaches that animals and plants can vary within their own species but no new DNA or information is generated (also known as adaptation). Adaptation has been demonstrated through breeding of dogs, cats, cows, horses and sheep, macro-evolution or just “evolution” had not been demonstrated. Today it appears that it is not even possible.

\(^{17}\) Contend earnestly [1864 epagonizomai (ep-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee) ] to struggle for, earnestly contend. Literally, to agonize all over.

\(^{18}\) Defense or answer [627 apologia (ap-ol-og-ee'-ah) ] a plea (“apology”); answer (forself), give a speech defense; a reasoned statement or an argument.

\(^{19}\) Reason [3056 logos (log'-os) ]something said (including the thought); by implication a topic (subject of discourse), also reasoning (the mental faculty) or motive; by extension, a computation; specifically (with the article in John) the Divine Expression (i.e. Christ): of speech, a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea, what someone has said, a word, the sayings of God, decree, mandate or order, used of the moral precepts given by God, what is declared, a thought, declaration, aphorism, a weighty saying, a dictum, a maxim, discourse, doctrine, teaching, anything reported in speech; a narration, a narrative, reason, cause. Ground. A Greek philosopher named Heraclitus first used the term Logos around 600 B. C. to designate the divine reason or plan which coordinates a changing universe. This word was well suited to John's purpose in John 1.
Romans Chapter 3

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. – 1 Timothy 6:20,21

What form does this “thoughtful futility” take. It has been around for thousands of years of man’s history. Here are some specific examples:

**Ancient Examples:**

**Spontaneous Generation or Abiogenesis**

Spontaneous generation refers to the theory that certain forms of life, such as flies, worms, and mice, can develop directly from nonliving things, such as mud and decaying flesh. This theory dates to prehistoric times and was widely accepted for thousands of years.

The ancient philosopher Anaximander of Miletus (550 BC) taught that life first generated by materialistic processes from sea slime. However, this idea failed to explain the issue of organic design. Why does the universe appear to be ordered and designed to function so well together? Laws of Mathematics/Physics?

Empedocles (450 BC) was one of the first to appreciate this problem when he realized that the phenomenon of adaptive complexity required a specific naturalistic explanation. Empedocles proposed that the fantastic shapes of organic and inorganic objects was the result of the continual, random flux of matter. Everything that exists was generated by the purely chance interaction of all possible combination of elements.

**Other Ancient Learned Fallacies:**

**Nature of the Earth in Space**

The ancient Egyptians believed that the earth was support on four gigantic stone pillars as described in their writings.

The ancient Greeks were no slouches when it came to music, architecture, poetry, literature, philosophy and science. They excelled in every area, were civilized and by the ancient world’s standards very sophisticated. Many cultures adapted or emulated the Greeks. But many Greeks of the day believed that the earth was supported by a Titan named Atlas who carried the earth on his shoulders.

The ancient Hindus in India had a more complex understanding of the earth. They believed that the earth was supported on the backs of four huge elephants, these elephants in turn are standing on the back of a gigantic sea turtle that is swimming through space.

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20 Falsely [5581 pseudonumos (psyoo-do’-noo-mos)] untruly named, falsely so called.
21 Knowledge or “science” [1108 gnosis (gno’-sis)] the act of knowing, i.e. (by implication) knowledge, science. Knowledge signified by general intelligence, understanding. True science is open-minded and goes wherever the investigation proceeds – it follows a recipe whereby everyone gets the same results. Materialistic science is prejudiced in that it automatically assumes no external (supra-natural) force(s) acting in the material world. Therefore, a whole range of valid explanations is eliminated from consideration.
22 Matter of fact, that is the meaning of the name Baalzebub, “Lord of the flies”, the ancient dung god.
The Word of God is not a scientific textbook, but where it speaks of this world, whether physical or biological, it is totally accurate. Here is what the Bible says about the earth:

*He stretches out the north over empty space; he hangs the earth on nothing.*

-- *Job 26:7*

**The Shape of the Earth**

Many learned men used to believe that the earth was flat and if you sailed to the edge you would fall off into oblivion. The ancient Greeks did believe the earth was a sphere – but one that was supported by Atlas.

Again, here is what the Bible says:

*It is He who sits above the circle*\(^{23}\) *of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.* – *Isaiah 40:22.*

**The Number of Stars**

The Greek astronomer Hipparchus (180?-125? B.C.) discovered the precession (movement) of the equinoxes. The ancient Roman writer Pliny the Elder wrote that Hipparchus, excited by the appearance of a new star, studied earlier observations and noticed that the stars shifted eastward. He explained this shift by a slow forward motion of the equinoxes.

Hipparchus’ study of precession was probably based on a more general study of the stars. He may have drawn up the first catalog of the stars, showing their brightness and position. He was also concerned with plotting the relative motions of the sun and moon as accurately as possible. His work led to some important improvements in both solar and lunar theory. For example, he distinguished between two different lengths (tropical and sidereal) of year. From his observations of the unequal length of the year’s four seasons, he derived a better account of the apparent movement of the sun. This account and Hipparchus' improved theory of lunar motion enabled him to predict eclipses more accurately.

However, Hipparchus was not infallible. In about 150 B.C. he counted and cataloged the number of stars as he was mapping the heavens. The result of his “scientific” investigation? He claimed that there were 1022 stars, no more, no less.

About 300 years later, another astronomer, Ptolemy (100?-165? A.D.) built upon the work of Hipparchus and also counted the number of stars. He is known as one of the greatest astronomers and geographers of ancient times. He made his astronomical observations in Alexandria, Egypt, about A.D. 150. Ptolemy's observations and theories are preserved in a 13-part work entitled *Mathematike Syntaxis*\(^{24}\), or Mathematical Composition. This work was so admired that it became known as the Almagest, meaning the greatest.

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\(^{23}\) The Hebrew word “circle” here refers to an object which is circular all around, i.e., a sphere or ball!  
\(^{24}\) In the Syntaxis, Ptolemy rejected the idea that the earth moves. He pointed out that the earth is spherical and claimed that everything in the universe moves either toward or around the earth's center. For example, heavy objects fall in straight lines toward the earth's center. And, according to
Ptolemy's system of astronomy was accepted as authoritative throughout Europe until 1543. That year, the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus formulated his theory that the earth is a moving planet. Copernicus showed that Ptolemy's system was based on questionable assumptions and arguments.

I would maintain that an evolutionary viewpoint leads to many questionable assumptions and arguments throughout the development of science.

Ptolemy devoted two parts of the Syntaxis to a catalog of the stars. He described a mathematical arrangement of the stars and gave the celestial latitude and longitude, as well as the magnitude (brightness), for each of them. This catalog included 1,026 stars grouped into 48 constellations – 4 more stars than Hipparchus counted.

However, Ptolemy accepted the tenants of astrology and his serious treatment of that subject helped to spread belief in astrology as a scientific field.

About 1400 years after Ptolemy in 1609, a young medical student made lenses to build his first crude telescope (he learned to do this because he built his own microscopes). His name was Galileo (1564-1642), an Italian astronomer and physicist, has been called the founder of modern experimental science. Galileo made the first effective use of the refracting telescope to discover important new facts about astronomy. He also discovered the law of falling bodies as well as the law of the pendulum. Galileo designed a variety of scientific instruments. He also developed and improved the refracting telescope, though he did not invent it.

When Galileo turned his telescope to the night sky he was amazed by what he see. Beyond the stars that one could see with the naked eye, there were thousands upon thousands of more stars!

Modern, high powered and computer driven telescopes have shown that more and more stars exist. Today, it is believed that there are at least 400 billion stars in the universe. Has science determined the total number of stars in the universe? No! There are only estimates. We have come a long way from the certainty that only 1022 stars exist in the comos. But again, what does the Bible say?

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Ptolemy, the moon, sun, planets, and stars move around the earth at various rates of speed. Ptolemy believed that the stars were fixed points of light in a rotating sphere. Against this background of stars, Ptolemy traced the motions of the planets and worked out a theory for each of them. He stated that the planets are much closer to the earth than the stars, but are farther away than the moon. Ptolemy developed his system of astronomy largely from the ideas of the Greek astronomer Hipparchus.

In 1589, Galileo was appointed professor of mathematics at the University of Pisa. This position required him to teach courses in astronomy on the basis of the Greek astronomer Ptolemy's theory that the sun and all the planets revolve around the earth (see PTOLEMY). Preparing for these courses deepened Galileo's understanding of astronomical theory. In 1592, he took up duties as professor of mathematics at the University of Padua, where he spent the next 18 years. Observing the planets and stars with his telescope he saw clear evidence that many of Aristotle's and Ptolemy's claims about the heavens were false. During this time, he became convinced of the truth of the theory, proposed by the Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, that all planets, including the earth, revolve around the sun. In 1613, Galileo wrote a letter in which he tried to show that the Copernican theory was consistent with both Catholic doctrine and proper Biblical interpretation.
“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, .....” -- Jeremiah 33:22.

The point of all this is that science does not have all the answers, the Bible being infallible should be trusted over “popular” science.

Recent Examples:

Changing Science
About 120 years ago the French Academy of Science, which had a disdain for the Word of God, published a pamphlet with 51 *incontrovertible* scientific facts that the Bible is in error. Today, there is not a reputable scientist who believes in even one of these so-called *incontrovertible* scientific facts. Praise God that the Bible did not agree with any of those 51 scientific “facts”.

Biogenesis
The theory of spontaneous generation was challenged by scientific experiments, such as those performed by the Italian biologist Francesco Redi in 1668. Redi demonstrated that maggots (the young of flies) did not appear in meat from which adult flies were excluded. Previously, many scientists had believed that flies developed from decaying meat. Up until the late 1700’s some scientists still believed that mice were generated in piles of rotting garbage.

The theory of spontaneous generation was largely abandoned in the mid-1800’s. By actual experimentation, the great French scientist Louis Pasteur disproved this false theory of spontaneous generation, also known as abiogenesis. Pasteur’s discoveries led to the development of the cell theory of the origin of living matter. The cell theory states that all life originates from preexisting living material. This is called “biogenesis”.

The term biogenesis has also been used in reference to the biogenetic (or recapitulation) theory. This theory, which was popular during the late 1800’s, stated that "ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny." This statement means that during its ontogeny—that is, during its development in the embryonic stage--each organism recapitulates (repeats) various stages in its species’ phylogeny (evolutionary history). Scientists disproved this theory in the early 1900’s.

What the encyclopedia article fails to mention is that the original drawings of embryonic stages, by a German zoologist named Haeckel\(^{26}\), that supposedly shows that each animal, during its growth as an embryo, repeats the changes its ancestors underwent were found to be faked. Yet these pictures still appear in many modern biology textbooks.

However, this false idea of spontaneous generation (abiogenesis) carried over into modern times. Note the following quotes from the Grolier’s and World Book encyclopedias:

\(^{26}\) Haeckel, Ernst Heinrich, pronounced HYN rihk (1834-1919), a German zoologist, became known for his theory of recapitulation. This theory, no longer held by most zoologists, states that each animal during its growth as an embryo repeats the changes its ancestors underwent. For example, if a land animal had ancestors that lived in water and used gills, then each embryo of that animal continues to develop gills as did its ancestors, even though the gills may be lost during later embryonic development.
“Although it is now known that all present life on Earth is the result of the reproduction of preexisting life (biogenesis), many scientists accept a modified theory of spontaneous generation to explain the origin of life itself. The theory holds that billions of years ago LIFE originated in the oceans as the result of spontaneous aggregations of dissolved organic molecules, which in turn arose from inorganic chemical reactions energized by ultraviolet light, electrical discharges, and heat.” -- *Grolier's Encyclopedia* (1998)

Today, most scientists believe that spontaneous generation took place at least once--when certain chemicals came together to form the first simple living organism more than three billion years ago. Scientists are examining the theory that the first forms of life gradually came into being from lifeless matter millions of years ago. This process is not thought to be occurring in nature today, since conditions on the earth no longer favor such chemical combinations. In addition, any simple organisms that did form in this way would almost certainly fail to compete successfully against more complex existing organisms. However, laboratory experiments since the mid-1900's have showed that many molecules found in living organisms can be synthesized (produced artificially). Most biologists believe that it will eventually be possible to produce simple forms of life in the laboratory”. – *World Book Encyclopedia* (1998)

**Comment**: It is quite easy to form these proteins and molecules in the laboratory, but it is quite another to generate life forms capable of reproducing. This is because even a single cell is incredibly complex. Also, they are saying in the same breath that *abiogenesis* – spontaneous generation has never been observed or known to happen but it must have happened at least once. Why?!

I have news for them: It will never happen because only God can create life from organic and in-organic material. The Law of Biogenesis has never been observed to be violated, life is always observed as originating from pre-existing life.

By the way, cloning is not spontaneous generation – the clone has come from “live” cells. Cloning demonstrates biogenesis confirming that life comes from life. Evolution cannot have occurred simply because life cannot spontaneously spring from non-life\(^{27}\)!

Here’s what Michael Denton, a professor of microbiology whose specialty is molecular biology, says about a "simple cell". He is neither a Christian nor believer in creation\(^ {28}\).

“Perhaps in no other area of modern biology is the challenge posed by the extreme complexity and ingenuity of biological adaptations more apparent than in the fascinating new molecular world of the cell ..... to grasp the reality of life as it has been revealed by molecular biology we must magnify a cell a thousand million times until it is twenty kilometers in diameter and resembles a giant airship large enough to cover a great city like London or New York. What we would then see would be an object of unparalleled complexity and adaptive design. On the surface of the cell we would see millions of openings, like the port holes of a vast space ship, opening and closing to allow a continual stream of materials to flow in and out. If we were to enter one of these opening we would

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\(^{27}\) Of course, macro-evolution also violates the 1\(^{\text{st}}\) and 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) Laws of Thermodynamics developed by Sir Issac Newton, who was a devout Christian. Matter and energy can be neither created or destroyed and a system left to itself will decompose to it's lowest energy state.

find ourselves in a world of supreme technology and bewildering complexity ....... Is it really credible that random processes could have constructed a reality, the smallest element of which, a functional protein or gene, is complex beyond our own creative capacities, a reality which is the very antithesis of chance, which excels in every sense anything produced by the intelligence of man?”

Lamarck, Chevalier de (1744-1829), was a French biologist and botanist. He was one of the first scientists to propose a theory for biological evolution. Lamarck was also a founder of invertebrate paleontology (the study of prehistoric animals without backbones).

From his work in botany and zoology, Lamarck concluded that plants and animals change their forms to adapt to their environment, and that these changes are then passed along to their offspring. These ideas influenced Charles R. Darwin in his development of the theory of evolution. Lamarck’s theory was disproved by discoveries in genetics in the early 1900’s, when it was shown that acquired characteristics of an organism could not be genetically transmitted to its offspring.

**Horse Sequence**

Perhaps many of you remember seeing a picture or diagram in your biology books showing the evolutionary development of the horse from the Eiohippus to the modern horse. This sequence has been falsified by new evidence of fossils found in the pacific northeast. The fossils of all the supposed horse ancestors are found in geological strata that are completely out of sequence with the nice picture of small horses evolving into larger ones.

**Scopes Trial**

It may also surprise many people that all the evidence presented at the Scopes Trial as support for evolution has since been disproved. Examples include:

*Neanderthal Man*

Now know to have a brain capacity that exceeded modern man, crafted and used tools, had a spoken language, record keeping, buried dead with religious significance. Bones indicate he may have been diseased suffering from rickets (vitamin D deficiency). Found in Europe and lived in caves during the Ice Age. Totally human individuals.

*Java Man (Homo Erectus)*

Consisting of an ape skullcap, human thigh bone & two teeth scattered over 50 feet! However, more human bones were found closer to the thigh bone, complete with tools and other evidence they were humans. So which bones do you put with which bones? It depends on whether you are an evolutionist or creationist.

*Piltdown Man*

This was the cornerstone of Scope’s evidence. Part human skull and part ape jaw. Found in 1912 and in 1953, admitted to be a fraud! These were modern human bones doctored to look old, the ape’s teeth had been filed to make them look more human. The skull of a human had been attached to the jaw of an ape.
**Australopiethecus**

3 1/2 foot tall creature, 40% skeleton remains with no skull but ape-like lower jaw. Today, these remains have been dismissed as those of a young ape.

**Nebraska Man**

Additionally, the evidence for Nebraska Man was not introduced at the Scopes Trail, but had been in the press three years prior to the trial. From a single tooth an ape-like man was drawn. This “tooth” was later discovered to be from an extinct type of pig!

**Box score on fossils related to the evolution of man:** 2 humans, 1 ape, 1 pig and 1 hoax.

**Modern Examples:**

**Cold fusion** was the rage for a while. Scientists believed the problem of harnessing fusion for power generation had been solved. But “cold” and “fusion” are mutually exclusive terms. This was of course confirmed when no other lab in the world could reproduce the result. It wasn’t cold fusion after all.

**Butterfly Effect:** New Age ideas have spawned many new theories in the area of global weather patterns. One such theory is called the “butterfly effect”. This theory states that a butterfly flapping its wings in the Amazon jungle will eventually affect the weather in New York city. You say, “No self respecting scientist can believe that nonsense!” Well I work with a highly intelligent and respected engineer who believes just such a theory!

**Ozone Hole:** Most people do not know because either (1) they are not told or (2) they don’t research it, that the problem of the ozone hole over Antarctica is overstated. The ozone hole expands and contracts cyclically over the year so that at certain times of the year its almost closed. So why is such a big deal made over it? Because scientists want to stay in business and they need money for their research. NO!

**Global Warming:** This is another scientific boondoggle. There is no clear-cut, reliable scientific data that says we are in an out-of-control global warming trend. If one includes sulfur dioxide in the simulations, a global cooling trend is actually predicted by the data. It appears that the temperatures of the oceans and air fluctuate normally over the centuries. So get a global catastrophic effect, one would need something like a global flood!

**Origins & The Cosmos:**

Perhaps no one has promoted the cause of naturalism with a religious fever more than the late astronomer Dr. Carl Sagan. On his award winning series *Cosmos* on PBS he looked more like a televangelist than a scientist. One has only to read Sagan’s books or listen to his lectures to realize that naturalism29 was his religion.

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29 Naturalism is the belief that the natural world and law is all that exists, only that which we can experience with our five senses is exists, there are no supernatural causes. Therefore, macro
The opening line in his book *Cosmos*\(^{30}\), his book based on the television series, Sagan begins with his trademark phrase; “The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be” Here, Sagan is offering a substitute liturgical forms.

Ever since the early church, Christians have sung the Gloria Patri: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end." Sagan is clearly offering a substitute liturgy, a cadence to the cosmos. Sagan capitalizes on the word *Cosmos* just as religious believers capitalize the word *God*. But he mockingly describes God as "an outsized, light-skinned male with a long white beard, sitting on a throne somewhere up there in the sky, busily tallying the fall of every sparrow."\(^{31}\)

Here is a sampling of some of Carl Sagan’s other quotes: "A universe that is infinitely old requires no Creator"\(^{32}\). "we are, in the most profound sense, children of the *Cosmos*"\(^{33}\) “Some part of our being knows this (*i.e.*, the cosmos) is from where we came. We long to return ....... Our ancestors worshiped the Sun, and they were far from foolish ..... does it not make sense to revere the Sun and the stars?”\(^{34}\)

It is noteworthy that John opens his gospel up with these words; “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. Sagan would substitute the word “cosmos” for the Greek word “logos” here for to him the cosmos was deity! Even more interesting to note is *John 1:10*: “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him”. The word used here in the Greek for “world” is “*cosmos*”! The cosmos was made by Him, Jesus Christ – the living *Word*, but the cosmos did not know Him! Carl Sagan considered himself (and all of us) a part of the Cosmos, but he did not acknowledge the author of the cosmos or recognize its designer! Yet he was believed and respected for his “scientific” knowledge and teachings by millions of faithful followers.

**Personal Examples:**

**Richard Feynman**: Nobel prize winner in 1965 for quantum electro-dynamics. Helped solved the Challenger shuttle explosion mystery. Believed that Christians are “deluded” and called himself the “devil”. (Personal conversation).

**Vaughn Zidell**: Degree in astrophysics, self-described *Epicurean*, co-worker at Aerojet, Azusa during the late 1980’s wrote me this personal note when he left the company:
Dear Klaus,
You and I are probably searching for the same thing. My conversations with you have always been valuable to me—why else would I start my day with you so often? I really appreciate your genuineness (sp?). You almost make me wish you were right!

Take care, Rapturely yours,
Vaughn

The Word of God is not a scientific textbook, but where it speaks of this world, whether physical or biological, it is totally accurate.

Has materialistic science changed because it has moved towards truth? That's one viewpoint – but materialistic science is in reality constantly changing because it is imperfect and has NOT STARTED WITH THE TRUTH. It believes that all there is to life is what you can see, smell, hear, touch or taste. God's Word has remained the same because God is the same “yesterday, today & tomorrow”!

“The Perversion of Sin”

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

“The Product of Sin”

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

“The Plunder of Sin”

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. (NKJ)

Here Paul is commenting on the “Plunder of Sin” in that not only does sin affect the person sinning, it causes those that sin to become self-perpetuating by promoting and approving of sin so that others are caught up in the self-same disobedience and slavery to sin. Sin takes men captive and the spoils belong to Satan.

35 Refer to John 3:18-21.
Note a similar condition described in Jeremiah 5:30,31

“An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?   (NKJ)

Why was this happening? Jeremiah 2:13 tells us:

“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water. (NKJ)

Psalm 50:16-23:
But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes. “Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver: Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.” (NKJ)

John 3:18-21:
“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” (NKJ)

When a person is no longer content with sin, he or she is ready to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Timothy 2:24-26 tells us:

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.