

HIGH SCHOOL

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**FAITH  
AHEAD**  
(risk required)

**IN THIS  
ISSUE:**

- Today's Bible Study:** Faith Steps (Heb. 11:23-28)  
**Discussion Features:** In the Beginning... Creation v. Evolution  
Biology 101  
**Quiet Time:** Hebrews 11:1



# IN THE BEGINNING... CREAT

**H**idden within a remote sandstone cavern in the wilderness of New Mexico's Gila National Forest are cliff dwellings, the remnants of homes of the Mogollon people that lived 700 years ago. The dwellings are made out of the natural rock that is indigenous to the area and blend perfectly into the surrounding cliff. Yet how do we know that these structures weren't formed naturally? No one alive today actually witnessed its formation. In fact, radiometric dating of the rocks would suggest that the structures are millions of years old. How then can we profess to know that humans actually built these structures? The answer is obvious. There appears to be design that sets it apart from the 'random' shape of the surrounding rock. Ultimately, the design intends the recognizable purpose of a dwelling place. It is this design and purpose that points to a 'designer', the Mogollon people. Clay pots, woven baskets, tools and other artifacts that litter the surrounding area provide additional evidence to support an intelligent designer for the construction of these dwellings. Much like these cliff dwellings, our universe displays incredible design yet many in modern science refuse to see it as the handiwork of God. This has led to a battle of worldviews over how life began and **ground zero is our public school classrooms.**



ion V.

**Evolutionists and Creationists both use the same evidence, but their conclusions are vastly different.**

# EVOLUTION

**Our faith tells us there is only one Truth...**

There are really only two choices for explaining the beginning of all things. Either God exists and He created everything or there is no God, so natural processes must explain how life began. Evolutionists and Creationists both use the same exact evidence from nature to support their views on the origin of life and the universe. Why then do they have such stark and contrasting theories on how life began? Simply, they use different premises as starting points in their investigations. Creationists begin with the Word of God, “Logos” as the intelligent beginning of all things with a divine purpose. Evolutionists rely on the miracle of chance that is ultimately devoid of purpose and meaning.

It’s not likely that any credible scientist today would assert that the cliff dwellings occurred from random acts of nature, denying the involvement of intelligent designers. It may sound silly, but many in the field of evolutionary biology actually begin their investigation of life this way. Imagine

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**T**he Hebrews were having a population explosion, and it was making the pharaoh of Egypt nervous. What if these people, who worshiped a different God than the Egyptians, joined Egypt's enemies during a war? Pharaoh acted quickly and made the Hebrews slaves.

But the more God's people were oppressed, the more their numbers grew. Outraged, Pharaoh ordered that every Hebrew boy should be drowned immediately after birth.

It would have been bad news for a newborn boy named Moses had not his mother acted in faith (see Exodus 1:22—2:2). Let's look more closely at these faith steps, including the ones Moses took as his faith in God increased.

# Faith

**1.** Read Hebrews 11:23-28. Look at verse 23 again. What prompted Moses' parents to defy the king's edict?

Growing up in Pharaoh's court, Moses learned to read the great literature of Egypt. He must have known about Egyptian customs and sacred myths. He was educated to become someone great in Pharaoh's court.

But Moses also learned the history

of his own people. He learned about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Moses never forgot. Though his mind had been filled with Egyptian facts, Moses was still a Hebrew. And his God was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**2.** Why did Moses refuse to be called a prince and refuse to receive the pharaoh's treasures? (Heb. 11:24-26)

## LESSON SCRIPTURE

### Hebrews 11:23-28

<sup>23</sup>By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

<sup>24</sup>By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy

the pleasures of sin for a short time. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

<sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

# steps

**3.** What kept Moses from buckling under Pharaoh's anger? (Heb. 11:27)

**4.** Each of Moses' steps, taken by faith, cost something. What did it cost Moses to step out in faith? (Heb. 11:25-26)

In the long run, what did Moses gain?

• Verse 23

• Verses 24-26

• Verse 27

• Verse 28

**5.** Skim today's Scripture passage and underline the phrase "by faith" every time it appears. Write a sentence to summarize the point you think the writer of Hebrews wanted to make about faith.

having to always begin an investigation with the premise that no intelligent interaction can be involved. All things must begin by random chance. Unable to see the plain evidence that confronts them, they look for alternative explanations that do not involve intelligence. Sadly, this viewpoint is taught exclusively in many of our public schools. In science classes across America, the beginning of our universe and the origins of life are seen as nothing more than random acts of chance. With no basis for giving existence meaning, students are left with more questions than answers.

Many theories that were once mainstream evolutionary dogma are now debunked myths. H.B. Kettlewell's peppered moth (*Biston betularia*) experiment, an example most often cited as 'proof' of evolution, was found to be a hoax. French Anthropologist Marcellin Boule's Neanderthal Man, the 'Piltdown Man' of Sussex, England, and Harold Cook's

## High School Biology 101

Your science teacher will be very surprised when you start asking questions about evolution and the creation of the universe. See if she can answer the following questions:

Teacher presents...

**Theories:** *Origin of the universe/How did the universe begin?*

**Statement:** *The universe is mostly space, some energy and some matter (subatomic particles, atoms and molecules). Matter is organized into galaxies of stars, sun stars with planets, moons, asteroids and comets organized into solar systems. The universe originated from the explosion and expansion of a tiny speck of highly compressed matter (all matter in the universe) 15 to 20 billion years ago...The Big Bang Theory.*

**Student Questions:**

- From where did all the matter in the universe come?
- How is it possible for a Big Bang explosion (causes chaos and disorder) to result in an ordered universe?
- Why does all of the geological evidence (coal and oil formation, volcanic activity, continental plate tectonics, fossilization, rock cycle and mountain building) indicate a young Earth? <10,000 years old. Example: Mt. St. Helen's eruption, 1980

Teacher presents...

**Theories:** *Origin of life on Earth/How did life begin?*

**Statement:** *Life originated on Earth 3.5 billion years ago from an interaction of energy with inorganic molecules (non-living) by spontaneous generation (chance).*

**Student Questions:**

- What environmental conditions in the early Earth would be favorable for life to begin...CO<sub>2</sub> with ultraviolet radiation; oxygen with oxidation; water with hydrolysis; lightning with megavoltage?
- What is the probability for the first protein, RNA or DNA molecules to synthesize (organize) outside a living cell? Which molecule evolved first?
- How did the first living cells organize from molecules? Note: Cell Theory: all cells divide only from pre-existing living cells.

'Nebraska Man' were once all thought to be the 'missing link' between man and apes are now just missing. Even beneficial mutations, the very core of evolution, are so exceedingly rare and statistically insignificant, that no evidence has ever been found to lead to an information-gaining mutation that could benefit a species.

Truly, evolution leaves more questions than answers. How did life really begin? How did DNA and DNA replication evolve? How did cells evolve? How did sexual reproduction evolve? How did bones evolve? How did the nervous system evolve? How did learned behavior evolve? How come we can't find any transitional species in the fossil record? The list goes on and on. From an evolutionary standpoint, one can never be sure what the explanation will be from one moment to the next. The 'truth' of evolution is ever evolving. The Bible however, has stood the test of time for over four thousand years and has never changed its story. In the beginning God created.

Written by T.J. Reyes, youth minister and credentialed science teacher.

Teacher presents...

**Theories:** *Biological Evolution/How did new species evolve?*

**Statement:** *Through a series of genetic mutations and natural selection, new species of life evolved over 3.5 billion years on Earth.*

**Student Questions:**

- Why are there neither transitional forms of life nor any new species in the fossil record?
- How did life on Earth evolve, when the fossil record reveals only mass extinctions of life (90%)?
- dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago, why does some dinosaur bone marrow contain viable DNA? DNA experts insist that DNA cannot exist in natural environments longer than 10,000 eras.
- Why do Inca tombstones have detailed images of dinosaurs?
- Why have all fossils of higher primates been either 100% human or 100% ape, with no common ancestors?



Robert Phillips

- Why are the age of the Earth and the age of fossils determined by the unreliable radioactive  $\frac{1}{2}$  life dating method?

Problems: Original percentage of radioactive and non-radioactive rock components unknown; radioactive decay rate is affected by environment and not constant; sample rocks become contaminated over time with other minerals

**Note:**

**Ape Skulls**

- 1/3 cranial capacity of human skulls
- posterior foramen magnum
- radical sloped forehead (pitches head forward)

**Human Skulls**

- vertical forehead
- ventral foramen magnum

Written by Charles E. Vicker, public High School AP Biology teacher for 36 years.

# quiet time

## » mon

Hebrews 11 is the Bible's hall of fame for men and women of faith. Look through the chapter and read about some of these heroes of the faith. How do these people's stories illustrate faith as defined in Hebrews 11:1?

## » tues

Design a bookmark. Use brightly colored construction paper and cut out the letters F-A-I-T-H and glue them to the bookmark. Write Hebrews 11:1 at the bottom.

## » wed

Using a dictionary and thesaurus, create an acrostic from the word "faith." For example, Fidelity, Assurance, Involvement, Trust, and Holding. Now it's your turn.

## » thurs

Read Matthew 6:25-34. Trusting God means taking Him at His Word and believing His promises. Write a cure for worry, based on these verses and Hebrews 11:1.

## » fri

Read John 20:24-29. Meet the original "Doubting Thomas." But even Thomas's doubts turned to faith when he saw Jesus. List some doubts you might have about a specific relationship or situation. Ask the Lord to help you trust Him to guide your actions and decisions.

## » sat

Read Hebrews 11:1. Think of the people you trust. Why do you trust them? Could these people ever let you down? Now, what about God? Write a prayer, expressing your trust and confidence in God, who will never disappoint you.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

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# HS

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Lesson 1