

Title	Why Most Scientists Believe in Evolution and Long Ages
Topic/Field	Social science and humanities
Target audience	General
<p>This talk answers a perennial question raised by those considering the biblical (young earth) creation position. If the YEC position is correct and well-evidenced in nature, why does it seem that most scientists believe in long ages and evolution? Inquiring unbelievers often pose this question, and believers are often troubled by it.</p> <p>The first section of the talk examines what a scientist actually is. The classic image is of a person without biases who only believes things based on demonstrated evidence, not authority, and who vigorously tests all hypotheses and assertions. The reality is, scientists, like everyone else, mostly just believe what they were taught. Most of what any scientist 'knows' is accepted based on authority, and he or she firmly (and often unconsciously) holds an interpretive framework (presuppositions, world view) which greatly influences how one interprets evidences. Evidence doesn't speak for itself; it is interpreted within a framework. But that doesn't mean we should blindly accept a certain set of presuppositions. Regarding YEC and evolution, we should check which framework is better supported by the evidence.</p> <p>Long ages and evolution are actually part of an ancient worldview which predates what we call modern science by at least 2,000 years. This worldview was eradicated in Europe by the rise of Christianity, but consciously revived during the Enlightenment. The originators and current active promoters of long ages and evolution were and are motivated by an atheistic / materialistic worldview. Evolution is their religion.</p> <p>The talk next examines the historical development of the revival of long ages and evolution in three areas: geology, biology, and (time permitting) astronomy. In geology, Buffon, Hutton, and Lyell are covered. Their anti-Christian bias and, in some cases (especially Lyell), explicit desire to refute the Bible are noted. In Biology, the groundwork laid by Lamark, Cuvier, and Erasmus Darwin (Charles Darwin's grandfather) are examined. Charles Darwin did not discover evolution; he inherited it.</p> <p>Next Charles Darwin's own anti-Christian biases are exposed.</p> <p>Finally (time permitting), in astronomy, LaPlace's atheistic bias is exposed. The faulty ideas of his nebular hypothesis (which are still widely taught) are briefly refuted. Next Edwin Hubble's biases against an appearance of design are discussed, showing how these influenced his model of an expanding universe.</p> <p>The talk seeks to avoid the dual pitfalls of pure presuppositionalism, which devolves into a fideistic, unprincipled choice of assumptions, and pure evidentialism, which ignores the importance of pre-existing mental frameworks, and particularly the Bible's authority as the Word of God.</p>	
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## **Curriculum Vitae**

Due to residence in a creative access country, for security reasons we do not share those details.