

# Do science and religion oppose each other?

## Yes

- Evangelical Christians (literalists) believe that if science and the Bible contradict each other, then science is wrong
- God revealed His truth through Holy Scripture, for all time
- Science gives us an accurate picture of the world whereas religion tells us nothing. The world may appear to have been designed, but this is an illusion



## No

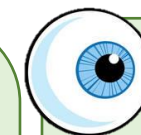
- There is no conflict because science tells us *how* the world was made and religion tells us *why*
- Albert Einstein said, "*The more I study science, the more I believe in God.*"
- The fact of evolution or the Big Bang still cannot prove that God did not cause the first reaction, or inspire the first development



- The fact that the world is so beautiful and well-ordered gives us strong evidence of a creator God
- The complexity of life could not have come about by itself. There must be a divine mind behind creation
- The argument from Intelligent Design says that some life cannot have come about through random evolution. They cannot have come about by chance, therefore there must be an intelligent designer.
- William Paley – the human eye is perfectly formed to enable a being to see. It cannot have come about by chance, therefore it must have been designed.



# Was the world designed?



Although life looks like it includes design, the human eye, for example, has evolved from other, less complex eyes in other species

- Richard Dawkins argues that the world might appear to have been designed, but it can be explained by Darwinian natural selection



# Christian Creation

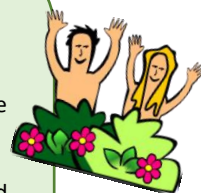
## Genesis 1:

- God created the earth over six days
- God rests on the seventh day
- Humans are the peak of God's creation, made in His image
- God gives humans a unique status as God's stewards on the earth
- *And God said, "let there be light", and there was light. (Genesis 1:3)*
- *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26)*



## Genesis 2:

- God made Adam, before the animals, and placed him in the Garden of Eden to live in Paradise
- Adam is formed from the dust of the ground and the breath of God (symbolising the human soul), making him the son of the earth but also a child of God
- To give Adam a partner and companion, God created Eve out of one of Adam's ribs.



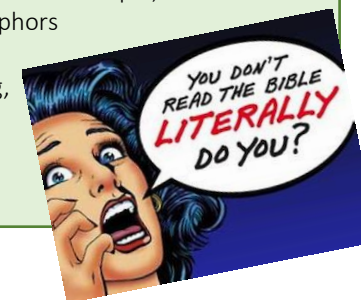
## Creationism is the belief that all life was made by God

- The Bible is the inspired word of God; it is unlike any other piece of human writing.
- However, the way in which humans interpret the Bible varies. For example:
  - **Old Earth Creationism:** God must have created the world, but creation took place millions of years ago. The seven days of creation refer to periods of time, not 24 hour days.
  - **Young Earth Creationism:** The world was created by God, in seven actual days, and this happened less than 10 thousand years ago
  - Many evangelical Christians are Creationists. They refer to the Bible as 'God-breathed', meaning that it has come directly from the mouth of God: Every word is true and accurate.



**Literal Christianity:** Literal Christians believe that the Bible should be understood word-for-word. They are also Creationists and believe that the creation of the world happened EXACTLY as it is described in the Bible.

**Liberal Christians** believe that people should be free to understand the Bible in whatever way they choose. For example, some stories should be understood more like metaphors or symbolic stories. They are still true because the stories still carry meaning, even if they don't refer to actual historic events.

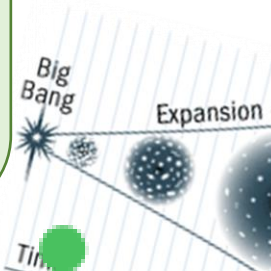


# Where did life come from?

- There is a divine mind behind all life
- God knows all people before their birth and has a plan and a purpose for all living beings
- "You knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139)



- Life comes from life
- Life is a result of blind chance
- "Man at last knows that he is alone in the unfeeling immensity of the universe, out of which he only emerged by chance. Neither his destiny or his duty have been written down." (Jacques Monod)



# How did the world come to exist?

- One, all-powerful creator God is the source of all life
- The Bible tells of the creation story in Genesis
- Literal Christians believe that the events in Genesis happened exactly as it is written in the Bible
- Liberal Christians believe that there is some room for interpretation surrounding the stories in the Bible. They are myths which carry deep, symbolic meanings.
- The Biblical creation stories, for some liberal Christians, are complimentary to and are true alongside scientific theories such as the Big Bang
- Literal Christians however see Darwinian evolution as an attack on their beliefs as it implies that life has developed by chance. Also, if humans have evolved from animals, then there is no special place for the human 'soul'.
- Literal Christians see the Big Bang Theory as denying God's power. Also, even if scientists can prove the Big Bang, we are still left with the question of: what caused the Big Bang? Literalists argue that it was God.



**Charles Darwin:** Life has arisen through the slow, natural process of evolution and therefore the earth must be millions of years old. The 'survival of the fittest' is evolution by natural selection – those best suited to their environment.

The **Big Bang Theory** (1965) states that the universe had an origin around 14 billion years ago. The universe began from a 'singularity', which expanded and particles and atoms started to appear. This led to the formation of stars and planets. Most scientists believe that the universe will continue expanding, becoming bigger and colder.



# Creation

