

Evolution and the demise of the once-Christian 'West'

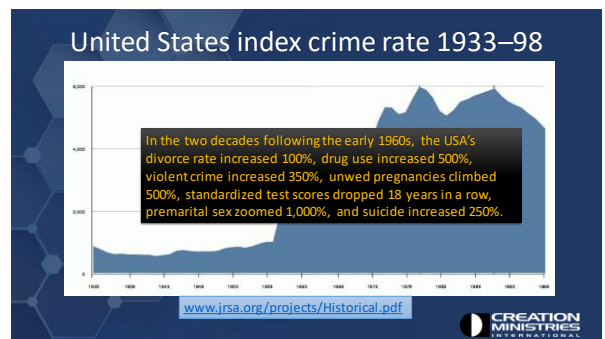
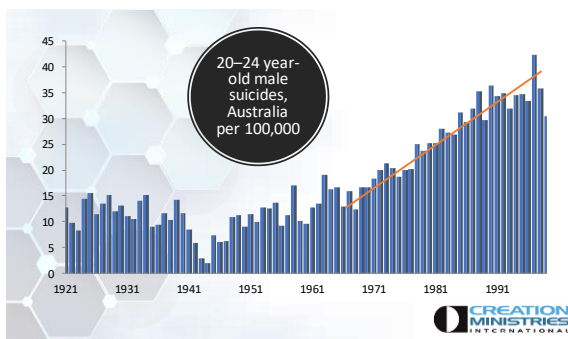
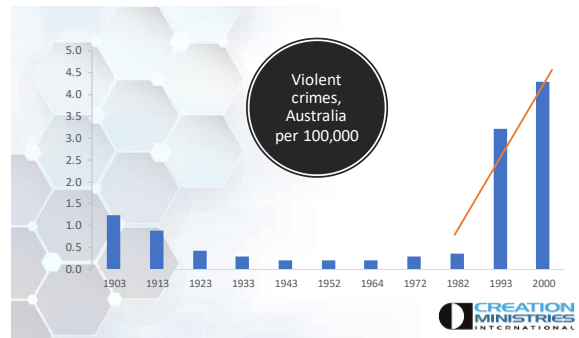
Dr Don Batten
B.Sc.Agr.(Hons I), Ph.D.

CREATION
SUPERCONFERENCE
END - 5TH OCT 2018, SUNSHINE COAST, AUSTRALIA

CREATION
MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL

1. Demise of the west! Evidence?

CREATION
MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL



2. What happened?



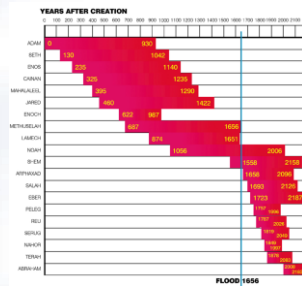
The Seven C's of biblical history

Creation Curse Catastrophe Confusion Covenant Christ Consummation



About six thousand years

The time-line of history from the Bible (Genesis 5 and 11)



Noah's Flood explained the rocks (in Bible timeframe)

"The great catastrophe of Noah's Flood was long seen as the explanation for most of the phenomena of the rocks, especially the fossils they contain."

—Derek Ager (Prof. of Geology, University College of Swansea) in: Hallam, A., *Planet Earth*, Rigby Ltd., p. 185, 1977.



CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Rogue #1: Flood erased!



"The past history of our globe must be explained by what can be seen to be happening now."

—James Hutton (1726–97) *Theory of the Earth*, quoted in A. Holmes, *Principles of Physical Geology*.

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Rogue #2



Charles Lyell
(1797–1875)

- Vigorously promoted Hutton's ideas.
- Scorned catastrophes (Flood).
- Geology secularized (no Bible).
- Strongly influenced Darwin.



3. Church responses

- Gap Theory (Thomas Chalmers 1814)
- Day-age (Hugh Miller mid 1800s)
- Framework hypothesis 1920s
- Cosmic temple (John Walton) ~2010

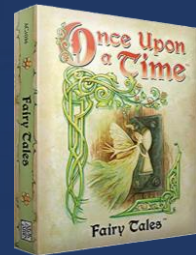
They ditched the timeframe of the Bible!



4. Theological (Gospel) consequences



Once upon a time...?



*A long time ago
in a galaxy far,
far away....*



The importance of history

"Our Christian faith is based entirely upon history....It is quite unique because it is teaching which is based upon history... Our Christian faith is entirely different [to Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.]. It calls attention to facts...."





—Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, What mean these stones?
Sermon preached 12 Nov 1977. *Evangelical Action*
2002(6):17–24.





The importance of history

“...the garden of Eden...Do you remember the history of the flood? That is fact. That is history. Then God gave a new start... Tower of Babel...Abraham...the facts about our Lord”

—Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, What mean these stones? Sermon preached 12 Nov 1977. *Evangelical Action* 2002(6):17–24.



IS GENESIS HISTORY?

Schaeffer: *The great evangelical disaster*

“Unless the Bible is without error, not only when it speaks of salvation matters, but also when it speaks of history and the cosmos, we have no foundation for answering questions concerning the existence of the universe and its form and the uniqueness of man.”



—Francis Schaeffer, *The great evangelical disaster*: 1934–1984. Banner of Truth, p. 46, 1984.

Schaeffer: *The great evangelical disaster*

“Nor do we have any moral absolutes, or certainty of salvation, and the next generation will have nothing on which to stand.”


—Francis Schaeffer, *The great evangelical disaster*: 1934–1984. Banner of Truth, p. 46, 1984.


Accepting ‘deep time’ leads to →

“If Jesus as a finite human being erred from time to time, there is no reason at all to suppose that Moses, Paul, John wrote Scripture without error. Rather, we are wise to assume that the biblical authors expressed themselves as human beings writing from the perspectives of their own finite, broken horizons.”

—Kenton Sparks, “After Inerrancy: Evangelicals and the Bible in a Postmodern Age”, *BioLogos.org*, 2010.



**God the Son
(Jesus) was
mistaken?!**

Jesus: "What I say,
therefore, I say as the
Father has told me."
John 12:50



**God the Father
was mistaken?!**

God speaking: "For in **six
days** the LORD made heaven
and earth, the sea, and all
that is in them, and rested
on the seventh day."
Exodus 20:11



5. Social consequences



Bad ideas
have bad
consequences!



Evolution
makes atheists

**"Evolution is the
greatest engine of
atheism ever invented."**



—Provine W.B., "Evolution: Free will and punishment and
meaning in life." From his 1998 'Darwin Day' address, Darwin
Day website, University of Tennessee Knoxville TN, 1998.




Australia: growth of atheism



Source: ABS Censuses of Population and Housing






"You can see we no longer really believe in God, because of all the CCTV cameras keeping watch on us."

—British atheist A.C. Grayling in an interview with *The Guardian's* Decca Aitkenhead, 3 April 2011.

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Atheism: no morality

"The long and short of it is that I became convinced that atheism implies amorality; and since I am an atheist, I must therefore embrace amorality ... I experienced my shocking epiphany that religious fundamentalists are correct; without God there is no morality."




—Joel Marks, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, U. of New Haven; *An Amoral Manifesto*, 2010.

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

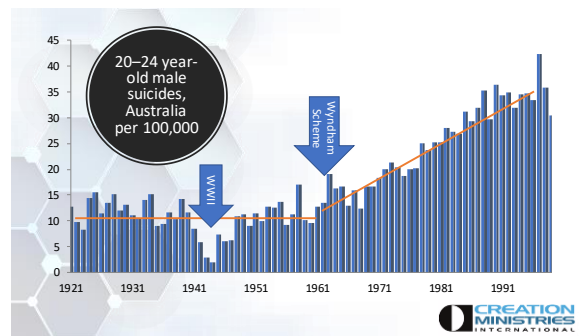
Crime statistics, USA, 1933–98

"Evolution ... was barely mentioned in school textbooks as late as 1954 ... After Sputnik [1957] ... the study of evolution was suddenly in all the schools."

—Richard Lewontin, Harvard Univ., *Scientists Confront Creationism*, W.W. Norton, NY, p. xxv, 2008.



CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



Churchgoing and mental health

2003 Dartmouth Medical School Study:

Churchgoing protects significantly against mental illness

Sydney *Sun-Herald*, 16th November 2003:

"As churchgoing slumped, so did children's emotional wellbeing ... a staggering 20% have mental health problems ... [this] has developed since WW2"

www.smh.com.au/opinion/church-and-family-can-save-kids-20031116-gdhsj.html

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

The UK?

Sociologist Christy Davies: **the first half of the 1800s British society was marked by high level of crime and violence, which dropped dramatically in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Throughout that period the attendance at Sunday Schools rose steadily until 75% of the nation's children were enrolled by 1888. Since then the attendance has fallen off with a corresponding increase in crime and disorder.**

New Life, 1 Oct 2011, p. 14; How to heal a broken society?

Bruce Rayment, Cranbourne, Vic

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

What
changed
England into
a pagan
nation?

"... I myself have little doubt that in England it was geology and the theory of evolution that changed us from a Christian to a pagan nation."

—F. Sherwood Taylor, *Geology changes the outlook, in Ideas and Beliefs of the Victorians*, Sylvan Press Ltd, London, p. 195, 1949. (one of a series of talks broadcast on BBC radio).



(Curator, Museum of the History of Science, Oxford).



"We have forgotten God"

Hosea 8:14 ... Israel has forgotten his Maker

Abraham Lincoln (1863) "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own." (USA, Civil War)

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened." (USSR's troubles)



6. We live in
exciting times!

- Growing appreciation that 'something is wrong'.
- Never more evidence for the true history of the universe (cf. the Bible)!
- Never been more resources!



Never more ways to spread the message!



- Share *Creation* magazines (subscribe for friends)
- Share the digital magazine!



Spread the message!

- Share *Creation.com* witnessing cards

creation.com/big-questions



Spread the message (social media)!



- Share articles from *Creation.com* on social media, email etc.
- Share videos (over 700!) with friends on social media.

