

the rock



CHANCE

OR

CHOICE?

CHOICE

- 4 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. Psalm 33:9
- 3 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth" Acts 17:24
- 2 Through him all things were made. . . . John 1:3
- 1 In the beginning God created . . . Genesis 1:1

CHANCE

- 4 There's a missing link somewhere that explains it all!
- 3 That God stuff doesn't make sense. It isn't logical.
- 2 All living things developed over the years from simpler life-forms.
- 1 A great explosion millions (or billions) of years ago was the start of this world.



A nice name for an argument is a debate. You and other teens probably get into “debates” with your parents about what you can or can’t wear or how long you can stay out or about sharing the responsibilities of the home. If you have brothers or sisters, surely you have “debates” with them every now and then (like every day!).

One of the issues that people have argued (oops, I mean debated) about for centuries is how the world and the things in it came to be. These debaters can be divided into at least two sides. One side believes that the world and the things in it happened by *chance*, the other side believes that things have come together by God’s *choice*.

Have you ever thought about the question, “Where did it all come from?” Someone may respond, “Who cares? Why does it matter? What’s the big deal anyway? We’re here now, so let’s make the best of it!”

Well, that’s the easy way out, and it does really matter if we believe that things came to be by *choice* or by *chance*. It’s like having two paths before you. If you start down the chance path, it leads to nowhere. Sooner or later you walk into nothingness and confusion. It’s easy for the

person who selects the chance path to go in circles that lead nowhere fast.

Believing that the world and its inhabitants came into being by God’s choice doesn’t give one total insight into the varied details of how things originated. However, what is understood makes one feel secure enough to continue walking that path—one that ultimately points to an all-wise Creator.

Have you ever gone into a dark stairwell—pitch dark, no sunlight, no electric lights, no flashlight, no oil lamp, no light whatsoever? There’s a kind of helplessness that goes along with those situations. On the other hand, if you go into that same darkness and have a handrail to hold on to, the feelings of helplessness decrease.

Below are two paths that seek to answer the “Where did it all come from?” question. Check both out. Realistically, which is the better one to follow? Make the *right* call!

Faith in God is our handrail in the darkness. Though we may not be able to understand everything that we want to, we do need to hold on to what God says in His Word about “Where did it all come from?”



GOD

made it

ALL

• In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
• Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

• And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
• God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. • God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

• And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.”

• God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

• And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so.

• Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so.

• And there was evening, and there was

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

● SELECTED VERSES FROM GENESIS

morning—the third day.

• And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,

• And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

• And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.”

• And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

• And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so.

• Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”



BIBLE
QUESTIONS
FOR
TEAM

A

Bible
Study

1. What was the last thing God made?
2. Why do you think God made this last out of all His creation?
3. In what ways were humans more special than God's other creations?
4. Think of seven words that describe God, write them down, and then read them to the rest of the class.
5. Circle the words describing God that could also describe humans. Explain how these words relate to Genesis 1:26.
6. Each team member: Describe one unique way you are made in the image of God.

BIBLE
QUESTIONS
FOR
TEAM

B

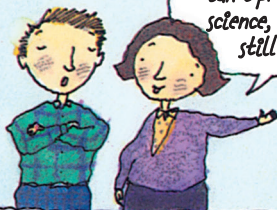
1. According to the first four words of Genesis 1:1, what existed "in the beginning"?
2. What did God do during the first day of Creation?
3. What did God do during the sixth day of Creation?
4. How did God create light? What does this creative act reveal about the Creator?
5. The three people who live closest together should answer this question: What does being created in God's image mean?
6. Each team member: Describe one unique way you are made in the image of God.



Conversation Overheard

I never assume anything is true. I prove it by the scientific method.

What about love? You can't prove it with science, but it's still there.



Love is different from the questions science can answer.

Then you admit there are questions science can't answer?

Okay, I admit it. But evolution is different. There's evidence for it.



Evidence that man came from the ape?

Right.

And that the ape came from the fish?

Simplified, but true.

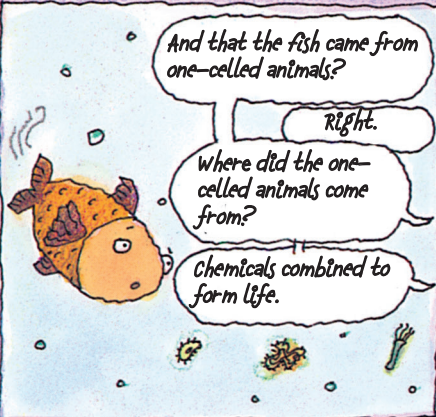


And that the fish came from one-celled animals?

Right.

Where did the one-celled animals come from?

Chemicals combined to form life.



Where did the chemicals come from?

The earth. And it probably came from an explosion of a larger planet.

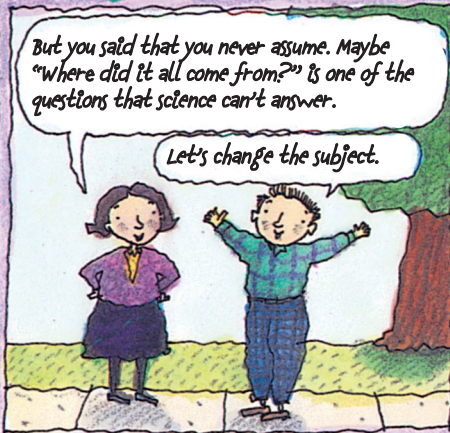
Where did that planet come from?

It was just there. We have to assume ...



But you said that you never assume. Maybe "where did it all come from?" is one of the questions that science can't answer.

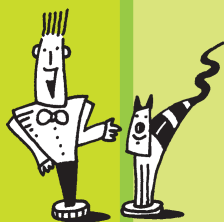
Let's change the subject.



the ROCK

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every day devos

Awesome GOD

But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. Jeremiah 10:12

If you think God's creation is awesome, just think how much more awesome God Himself is!

MONDAY Read Psalm 19:1, preferably sitting outside in your yard or in a park. Take some time today to notice God's creation around you. Write a poem to praise God for His creativity and power.

TUESDAY Come up with as many adjectives (descriptive words) as you can to describe God's power. Use these words in a prayer to give God glory.

WEDNESDAY Look at Jeremiah 10:12. When you read the action words—made, founded, stretched—what images come to your mind? Draw a picture or write a song using these images.

THURSDAY Read Jeremiah 10:12 again. How does knowing that God created the heavens and earth make you feel about Him?

FRIDAY Read Genesis 1:2a. What pictures come to mind when you read the words "formless and empty"? Now picture the light, sky, seas, and so on, appearing as God speaks them into existence. Thank Him for creating the earth.

SATURDAY If you can, get up early and take a walk outside. Take time to notice little things that you might normally pass by. Sing a praise hymn that talks about God's creation.