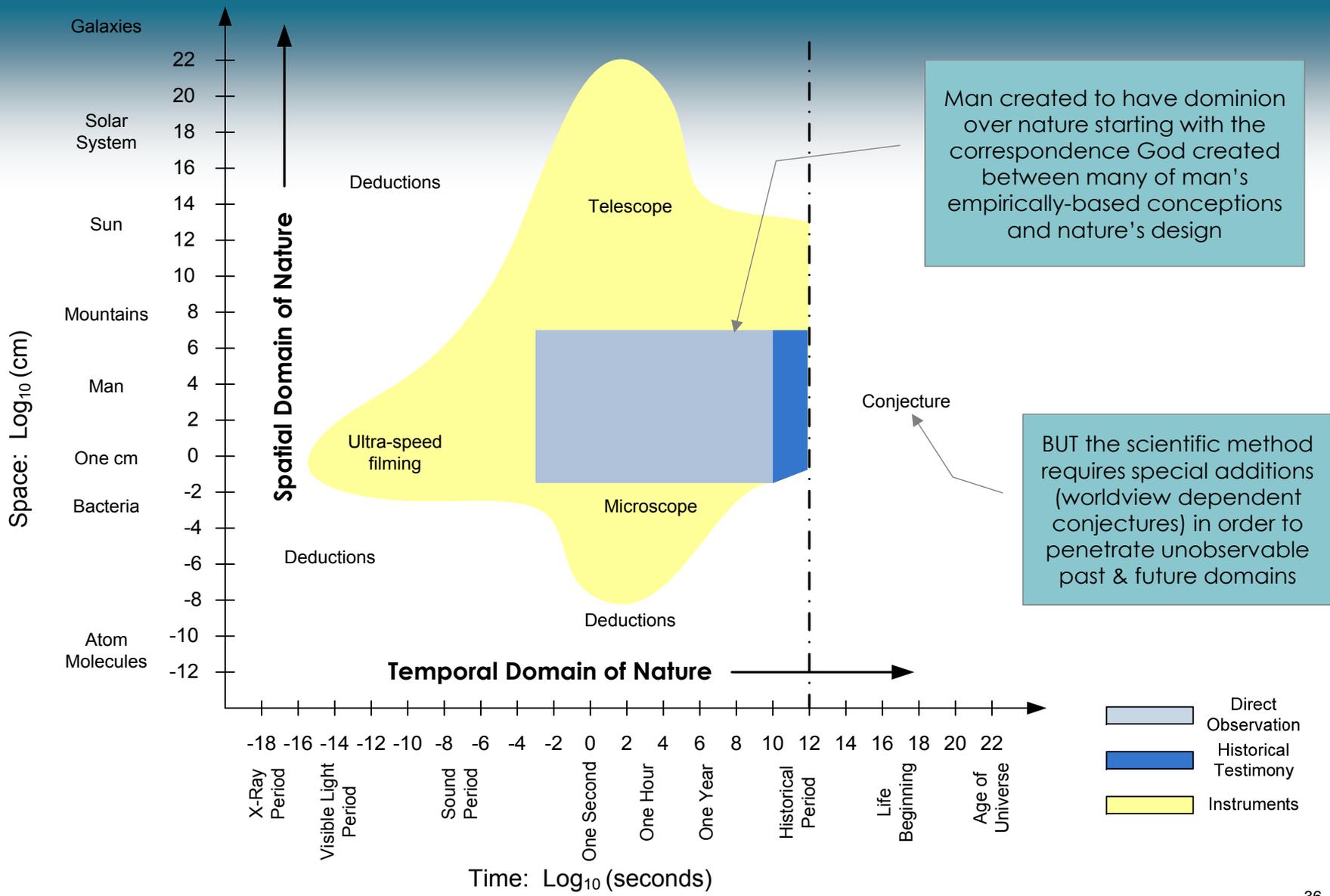


What Effects Does
Evolutionary Theory Have
Upon Modern Agendas?

Beth Haven Creation Conference

May 14, 2017

Limits of empirical knowledge



Shall I bow to my Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

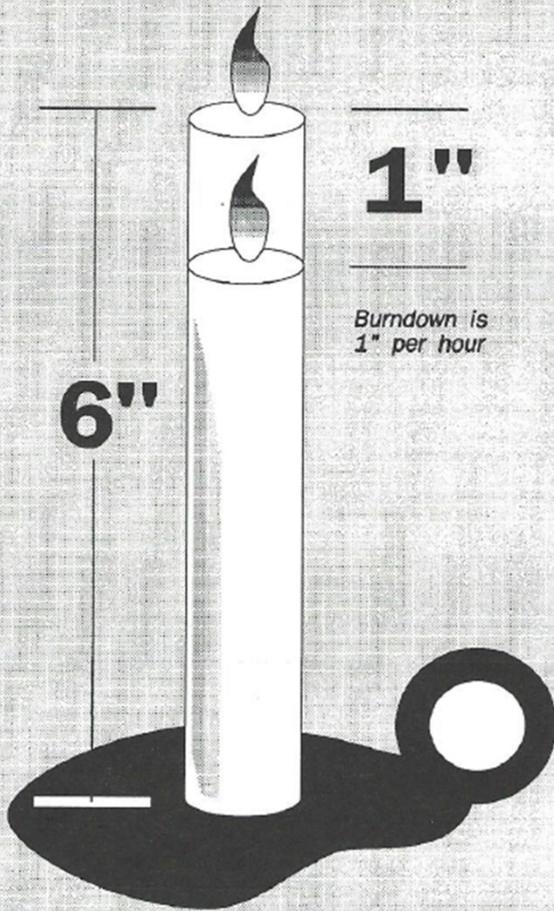
- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

A candle "clock"

THE BURNING CANDLE

When was the candle lit?



Starting length (in)	Burn rate (in/hr)	Burn duration (hr)	Measured length now (in)
↓	↓	↓	↓
L_e	$[L/t]$	T	L_m

$$L_e - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

Solving for burn duration. . .

$$\frac{[L_e - L_m]}{[L/t]} = T$$

Uniformitarianism decoded

Lyell used the term “Uniformity” as purposeful equivocation in 1830

S. J. Gould first exposed the equivocation in 1980—150 years later!

Different meanings	Explanation
Uniformity of law	Presupposition of all science
Uniformity of process kinds (actualism)	Past processes no different from presently observed processes
Uniformity of process rates (gradualism)	Processes common to past and present have same rates

Problems of uniformitarianism acknowledged by the “Establishment”

“It can be said that the geologists’ knowledge of the past is based upon pretheoretical assumptions, often of a metaphysical nature, not susceptible to logical or empirical proof. In a certain sense, they are the products of the geologists’ imagination.”

Gadi Kravitz in *Rethinking the Fabric of Geology* (2013), 21

Intelligent Design movement thinks that naturalism began with Darwin

“I myself would adopt [young-earth creation] in a heartbeat except that nature seems to present such strong evidence against it. . . . In our current mental environment, informed as it is by modern astrophysics and geology, the scientific community as a whole regards young-earth creationism as untenable.”

William A. Dembski, *The End of Christianity: Finding a Good God in an Evil World* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2009), 55.

“Most scientific evidence sets the age of the world at billions of years.”

Norman L. Geisler, *Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999), p. 272

Problems with Old Earth Creationism

1. Hermeneutics of special revelation must yield to naturalistic/uniformitarian interpretations of general revelation.
2. Genealogies compromised—death and suffering before the fall; flood has to be local; Jesus and apostles erred in affirming Genesis; physical resurrection can't be explained by a gradual natural process.
3. Engage in “straw man” fallacies about “young earth” creationists—we use “flat earth” hermeneutics, claim “old earth” people aren't saved, claim “yom” never used figuratively, etc.

Consequences for personal relationship to the Lord

Personal Creator	Nature is all there is
Eternality	Deep Time
Omnipresence	Impersonal Universe
Omnipotence	All powerful Nature
Sovereignty	Fatalism & hyper-regulatory state
Love	Sentimental deity & total dependency upon other people's love