



Who is BioLogos?

- The [history of BioLogos](#) as an organization.
- [What we believe and what we do.](#)
- The [BioLogos Basics Video series](#). A series of short, snappy videos which present an overview of BioLogos views which are central to the science and faith dialogue.
- The BioLogos Resource Centers were recently developed to house some of the best materials we can offer, grouped by specific needs. They are the [Pastor Resource Center](#), [K-12 Education Resource Center](#), and the [Small Groups Resource Center](#).
- The [BioLogos Daily Blog](#) is seen by thousands daily. Check out some recent articles [here](#) or search our archives [here](#).

About Dr. John Walton

John Walton is professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College (IL) and an editor and writer of Old Testament comparative studies and commentaries. Throughout his research, Walton has focused his attention on comparing the culture and literature of the Bible and the ancient Near East. He has published dozens of books, articles and translations, both as writer and editor. Dr. Walton also currently serves on the BioLogos [Advisory Council](#). Other related books by Dr. Walton include: *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2 – 3 and the Human Origins Debate* (March 2015), *The Lost World of Scripture: Ancient Literary Culture and Biblical Authority* (2013), and *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament: Introducing the Conceptual World of the Hebrew Bible* (2006).

Supplemental Resources

General Resources

- Dr. Walton often refers to Genesis 1-2 throughout the early portions of the book. It might be helpful to print this passage [here](#), so that it can be viewed easily while reading.
- Walton's "Origins Today: Genesis through Ancient Eyes" DVD; free to access [here](#). Dr. Walton uses four sessions to talk through many topics discussed in the book. Also interspersed throughout the video are Q & A sessions with Phil Vischer, and "In My Own Words" segments where Dr. Walton shares from his personal background and experiences.

Here is a short outline of the topics:

- Introduction: How do we think about the Bible and come to understand what it has to say?
- Session 1: Biblical Authority and Hermeneutics, Genesis 1-3. God's purpose is carried out through human authors.
- Session 2: The Bible and Science, How Does God's Work in the World and Science Relate? His point here is that there is no new scientific revelation in the Bible.
- Session 3: Genesis 1, Ordering the Cosmos as Sacred Space – the House Becomes a Home.
- Session 4: Understanding Adam & Eve, Archetypes of Humanity.
- Conclusion: "These things we are talking about are important for the church." Dr. Walton is concerned about how faith and science issues are effecting: marginalization of scientists who are believers, evangelizing, and young people leaving the church.
- Dr. Walton spent the first seven months of 2013 traveling around the United States and fifteen other countries lecturing on Genesis 1 - 3. In this 3-part series, "[Reflections on Reading Genesis 1-3: John Walton's World Tour](#)," we read John's reflections on his travels and the insights he gained from many conversations in churches and on campuses.
- Endnotes for each "proposition" are listed beginning on page 174 of *The Lost World of Genesis One* and are worth investigating to uncover further sources on important topics touched on in each chapter.

Short Videos Featuring Dr. Walton:

- [Understanding Genesis](#) (2:43) Dr. Walton reminds us that we have to approach Genesis for what it is, which is an ancient text. And this text was not written with our language or with our culture in mind.
- [Defending the Authority of Scripture](#) (3:01) Walton discusses how Genesis should be read. He states, “What the Bible does offer us is a theology of material origins. It tells us that whatever there is, God made it. But that is a different thing from saying Genesis offers us a scientific narrative.”
- [Understanding the Creation Narrative in Context](#) (1:30) Walton points out that while modern people are inclined to think of creation in terms of material origins, ancient people did not think this way.
- [Science and the Scripture](#) (1:23) Walton discusses the problem of trying to integrate ancient scripture with our modern worldview.
- [On Myth and Meaning](#) (3:09) Walton talks about ancient myth and how we might better understand it if we think about its intended functionality.

Intro., Propositions 1-3:

- Get a sense of Walton’s general argument in *The Lost World of Genesis One* by reading his article (from 2009) entitled, [“Reconciling Science with Scripture”](#). He writes, “Those who take the Bible seriously should ask the question, “What are the truths of Scripture that I should be prepared to defend?”
- Alister McGrath speaks on the importance of going beyond surface readings both in Scripture and in the natural world in this short video, [“An Enriched Creation.”](#)
- In Denis Lamoureux’s article, [“The Ancient Science in the Bible”](#), he elaborates on implications of his view that, “Holy Scripture features an ancient science of the structure, operation, and origin of the universe and life.”
- How should we read and understand Genesis? This short video [“What is Genesis 1 Communicating?”](#) features N.T. Wright. Wright draws a parallel to a Beethoven symphony, saying the notes are very important but there is much more happening than that (2:30).
- Doesn’t evolutionary creation contradict a plain reading of the Bible? See this short video produced by BioLogos, [“What about the Bible?”](#) (2:27)
- Several scholars comment on Genesis 1 in this video clip (11:46), [“The Book of Genesis”](#), which is excerpted from the larger documentary, [“From the Dust”](#).

Propositions 4-6:

- See Dr. Walton’s article, [“Interpreting Adam, An Interview with John Walton”](#) in which he elaborates on his view of Adam & Eve as archetypes. This article is part of a series of BioLogos posts which discuss the 2013 book *Four Views on the Historical Adam*. View the entire series [here](#). Various authors wrote for the series, including Deb Haarsma, C. John Collins, Jim Stump, and Dennis Lamoureux.
- Dennis Venema, BioLogos Fellow of Biology, discusses humanity’s creation in “the image of God” in this article, [“Evolution and the Christian, part 2: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.”](#)

- How have some of the most prominent Christians in history-- Origen, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, and Calvin-- understood the opening chapter of Genesis? See this 3-part series, "[Pre-Modern Readings of Genesis 1](#)" by Dr. Sujin Pak (Duke Divinity School). Pak specializes in the history of Christianity and the history of biblical interpretation.
- Against the backdrop of scientific developments on human evolution, Christians bring questions about what it means to be human, to be made in the image of God, and about how sin entered the world. Benno van den Toren writes in his article, "[Not All Doctrines are Equal](#)," that for him personally, it helps to appropriately understand how to rate his doctrinal commitments "knowing they all aren't equally central to my faith."

Propositions 7-10:

- From the Common Questions section of the BioLogos website, see "[How was the Genesis account of creation interpreted before Darwin?](#)" and "[What factors should be considered in determining how to approach a passage of scripture?](#)"
- In Joseph Lam's article, "[Biblical Creation in its Ancient Near Eastern Context](#)" he discusses understanding Genesis 1 in light of its ancient Near Eastern background and claims that when we do so, "we come closer to the actual truth-claims of the text."
- David Buller draws from Walton's work as he discusses how temples were described in the ancient Near East in this article, "[To Serve and Preserve](#)".

Propositions 11-13:

- To what extent, if any, does Genesis 1 concord with modern scientific investigation? Walton's answer is essentially "none." This, he says, was not its intent. In August 2009, concordist Dr. Vern Poythress (Professor of New Testament at Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) offered his response to Dr. Walton's perspective in an article which appeared in *World Magazine*. [This article](#) from 2010 is Dr. Walton's response to Dr. Poythress.
- For concordists, the temptation is to interpret every Bible verse to match the current scientific picture. For non-concordists, the temptation is to interpret every Bible verse that appears to disagree with science as figurative. Read more in this article, "[Comparing Interpretations of Genesis 1](#)" by Deb Haarsma and Loren Haarsma.
- See Ted Davis' articles, "[Science and the Bible: Concordism](#)", and "[Science and the Bible: The Framework View](#)" which were part of Dr. Davis' extensive series of articles on Science and the Bible. The entire series can be viewed [here](#).

Propositions 14-16:

- Sociologist Jonathan Hill recently completed research on beliefs of Americans on issues of human origins. This Dec. 2014 BioLogos article, "[The Recipe for Creationism](#)" describes some of his results and includes links to two other articles, one by *Christianity Today*, and one by *The Atlantic*, which also discuss his findings.
- In this short video (1:50), "[God Revealed in Creation](#)," Pastor Daniel Harrell discusses how we can worship God by understanding the world around us as revelations of His character.

- [“Evolution and Original Sin, by Robin Collins, Part 4: Paul and the Fall: The Historical/Ideal View of Romans Chapter One”](#) article by Robin Collins and Ted Davis. Christians have usually constructed a doctrine of the Fall with one eye on Genesis and the other eye on Romans, especially chapter five. However, in the opinion of Robin Collins, “It is primarily in Romans 1, not in Romans 5, that Paul gives his account of the ‘Fall’ of human beings.” Original sin and the Fall of Adam and Eve pose some challenges to proponents of evolutionary creation, both at the level of theology and also at the level of biblical interpretation. BioLogos does not endorse any one response to those challenges: our view is that the church deserves a serious, pluralistic conversation about evolution and original sin. This article includes a list of other articles on the topic worth reading.
- [“B.B. Warfield, Biblical Inerrancy, and Evolution”](#) article by Mark Noll. Dr. Noll describes the legacy of the American theologian B.B. Warfield. Warfield developed a powerful and enduring legacy in American evangelicalism for his belief that the Bible communicates revelation from God entirely without error. Warfield was also a cautious proponent of the possibility that God could have brought about life through evolution.
- A five-part series of posts, [“Scripture, Evolution and the Problem of Science”](#) by Kenton Sparks. Sparks aims to “rethink the nature of the conflict” between the theory of evolution and God’s word in this five part series. To accomplish this, he looks at the interpretative methods used by Augustine and Calvin when reconciling scientific and scriptural understanding. He then highlights the Biblical principle that nature reveals God’s truth.

Propositions 17, 18, Summary and Conclusions:

- An article by Dr. Walton on dealing with disagreements on these matters among Christians, [“On Being Right or Wrong”](#). He writes, “We should be slow to accuse another of discarding the authority of Scripture, and therefore denouncing them, just because they interpret Scripture differently than we do.”
- Ted Davis, BioLogos Senior Fellow for the History of Science discusses both methodological naturalism and metaphysical naturalism in this [article](#) which appeared as part of a series of three articles on Intelligent Design. What do the terms mean and why are they important?
- BioLogos grantee, Lee Camp, recently published an article about his Nashville “Tokens Show” which combined music, interviews, cultural analysis and conversation. The topic of this particular performance? The historic Scopes Trial of 1925, a legal battle over control of public education on the teaching of evolution. Read Camp’s article [here](#), and for more background on the Scopes trial and its effects that are even felt today see Ted Davis’ article, [Science and the Bible: Theistic Evolution, Part 5](#).
- In this two part series, [“Christian Education and its Shortcomings”](#), educators Brian Eisenback and Ken Turner share their thoughts about how the educational system is failing students when it comes to evolutionary theory.
- Read about the experiences of people who have wrestled with evolution and Christian faith in this series of articles entitled, [“Evolving: Evangelicals Reflect on Evolution.”](#) What influenced their views on science? How did they hold fast to their relationship with God?
- Richard Dahlstrom, senior pastor of Bethany Community Church in Seattle, Washington, draws on *The Lost World of Genesis One* in a sermon entitled, “Gloriously Functional”. Watch a portion (6:38) of his sermon [here](#).