



# VOLUME 2

STEWARDING SCIENCE FOR GOD'S GLORY

CREATION CONFERENCE



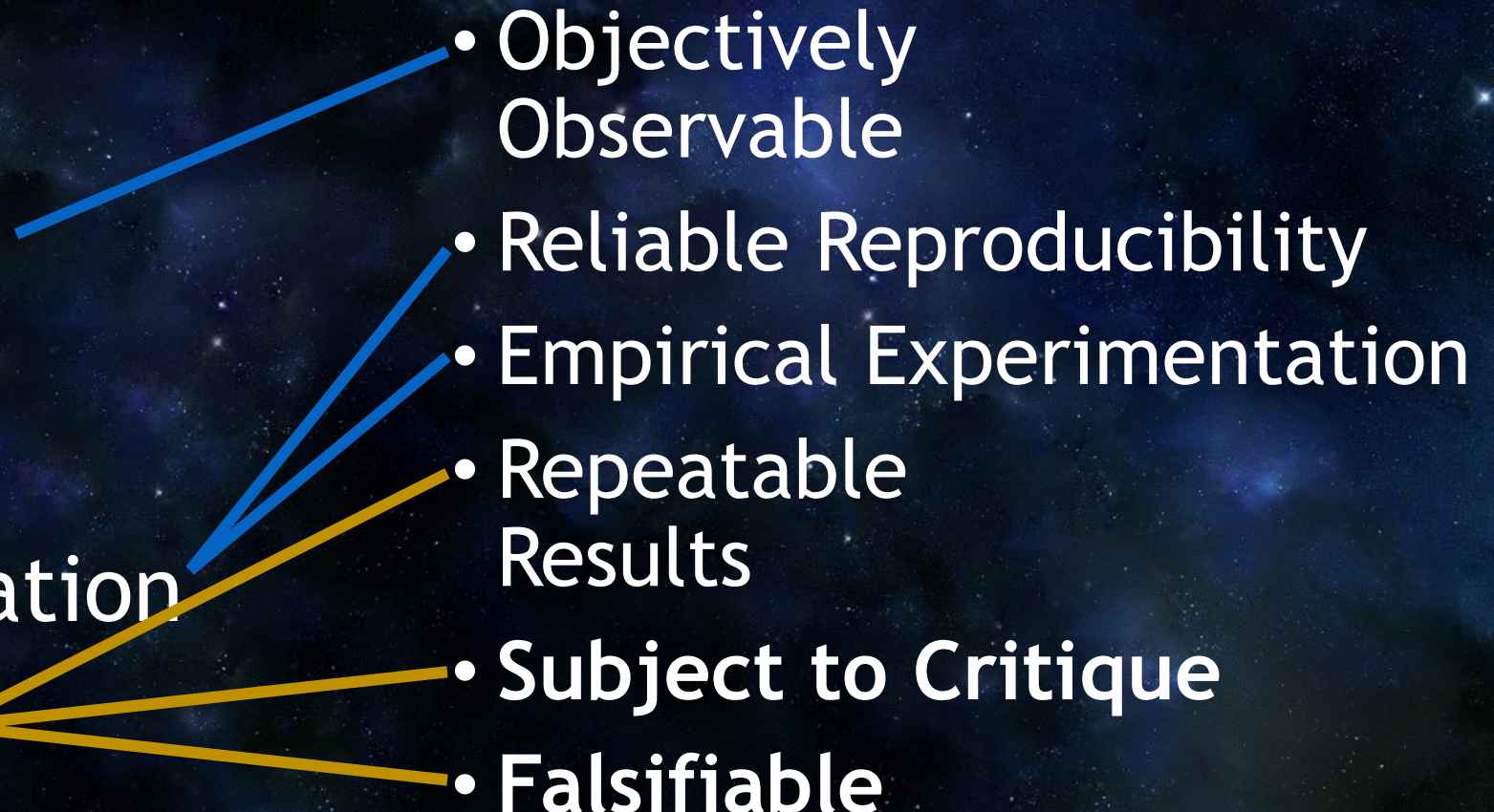
# SCIENCE

The Systematic Means of Studying Creation



# METHODOLOGY OF SCIENCE

# SCIENTIFIC METHOD

1. Problem
  2. Observation
  3. Hypothesis
  4. Deduction
  5. Experimentation
  6. Conclusion
- Objectively Observable
  - Reliable Reproducibility
  - Empirical Experimentation
  - Repeatable Results
  - Subject to Critique
  - Falsifiable
- 

# SCIENTIFIC METHOD

1. Problem
  2. Observation
  3. Hypothesis
  4. Deduction
  5. Experimentation
  6. Conclusion
- Subjectively Perceived
  - Subjectively Purported
  - Subjectively Presumed



# PSEUDOSCIENCE

A pretended or spurious science; a collection of related beliefs about the world mistakenly regarded as being based on scientific method or as having the status that scientific truths now have. — *Oxford English Dictionary*



**Laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques for the explication of such events and processes. Instead one constructs a historical narrative, consisting of a tentative reconstruction of the particular scenario that led to the events one is trying to explain.**



Laws give way in Darwinism... [Evolution] cannot be reduced to the laws and theories of the physical sciences.

Ernst Mayr, Evolutionary Biologist





**Our theory of evolution has become one which cannot be refuted by any possible observations. Every conceivable observation can be fitted into it. No one can think of ways in which to test it. Ideas either without basis or based on a few laboratory experiments carried out in extremely simplified systems, have attained currency far beyond their validity. They have become part of an evolutionary dogma accepted by most of us as part of our training.**



# LIMITATIONS OF SCIENCE



The status of being “scientific” is so desired today that the word science has been inflated to the point that it is assumed that science knows it all and can tell us anything. Our society has come to assume that the source of all knowledge is science; once a thing is established as being scientific, it moves beyond debate and becomes an article of faith.



There is no quicker way for a scientist to bring discredit upon himself and upon his profession than roundly to declare - particularly when no declaration of any kind is called for - that science knows, or soon will know, the answers to all questions worth asking, and that questions which do not admit a scientific answer are in some way non-questions or “pseudo-questions” that only simpletons ask and only the gullible profess to be able to answer.

Sir Peter Medawar, Nobel Laureate



Traditionally these are questions for philosophy, but philosophy is dead. It has not kept up with modern developments in science, particularly in physics. As a result scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge.

Stephen Hawking, Physicist



I fully agree with you about the significance and educational value of methodology as well as history and philosophy of science. So many people today, and even professional scientists, seem to me like someone who has seen thousands of trees but has never seen a forest. A knowledge of the historic and philosophical background gives that kind of independence from prejudices of his generation from which most scientists are suffering. This independence created by philosophical insight is, in my opinion, the mark of distinction between a mere artisan or specialist and a real seeker after truth.

Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist



Philosophy is the only rational knowledge by which both science and nature can be judged. By reducing philosophy to pure science man has ... abdicated his right to judge nature.



Science is powerless to answer questions such as ‘Why did the universe come into being?’ ‘What is the meaning of human existence?’ ‘What happens after we die?’

Francis Collins, Physician-Geneticist





# OPERATIONAL SCIENCE

1. Cannot know the ultimate meaning of things (life)



We are living now, not in the delicious intoxication induced by the early successes of science, but in a rather grisly morning-after, when it has become apparent that what triumphant science has done hitherto is to improve the means for achieving unimproved or actually deteriorated ends.

Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy* (1945)



Since the time of Galileo, scientists have admitted, sometimes explicitly but much more often by implication, that they are incompetent to discuss such matters. The scientific picture of the world is what it is because men of science combine this incompetence with certain special competences. They have no right to claim that this product of incompetence and specialization is a complete picture of reality. As a matter of historical fact, however, this claim has constantly been made.



In recent years, many men of science have come to realize that the scientific picture of the world is a partial one—the product of their special competence in mathematics and their special incompetence to deal systematically with aesthetic and moral values, religious experiences and intuitions of significance.

Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy* (1945)



# OPERATIONAL SCIENCE

1. Cannot know the ultimate meaning of things (life)
2. Cannot know history
3. Cannot know origins
4. Cannot know the reason why
5. Cannot say what ought to be



[Aesthetic and religious instincts are] tributary forms in helping the reasoning faculty towards its highest achievements.

You are right in speaking of the moral foundations of science, but you cannot turn round and speak of the scientific foundations of morality ... every attempt to reduce ethics to scientific formulae must fail.

Albert Einstein



Ethical values lie outside the scientific realm.

Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize-winning Physicist



The first point to make about Darwin's theory is that it is no longer a theory but a fact ... Darwinianism has come of age so to speak. We are no longer having to bother about establishing the fact of evolution.

Sir Julian Huxley, Evolutionary Biologist





We completely reject the theory of evolution.

Sir Ambrose Fleming and Louis Agassiz



Even if all the data point to an intelligent designer, such an hypothesis is excluded from science because it is not naturalistic.



We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, **in spite** of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises...**in spite** of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a **prior commitment**, a commitment to materialism...Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, **for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.**

Richard Lewontin, Evolutionary Biologist



Evolution is unproved and unprovable. We believe it only because the only alternative is special creation, and that is unthinkable.

Sir Arthur Keith, Anatomist and Anthropologist



It is absolutely safe to say that if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane (or wicked, but I'd rather not consider that).

Richard Dawkins, Evolutionary Biologist



Let me say that the conclusion I have come to is this: the law of Christ is incompatible with the law of evolution as far as the law of evolution has worked hitherto. Nay, the two laws are at war with each other; the law of Christ can never prevail until the law of evolution is destroyed.

Sir Arthur Keith, Anatomist and Anthropologist



Evolution is promulgated as an ideology, a secular religion—a full-fledged alternative to Christianity, with meaning and morality. I am an ardent evolutionist and an ex-Christian, but I must admit that in this one complaint—and Mr. Gish is but one of many to make it—the literalists are absolutely right. Evolution is a religion. This was true of evolution in the beginning, and it is true of evolution still today ... Evolution therefore came into being as a kind of secular ideology, an explicit substitute for Christianity.



# Humanist Manifesto (1933)

- **FIRST:** Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created.
- **SECOND:** Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as a result of a continuous process.





## “15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense”

- *Opponents of evolution want to make a place for creationism by tearing down real science, but their arguments don't hold up*
  - By John Rennie on July 1, 2002, *Scientific America*
- **Evolution is unscientific because it is not testable or falsifiable. It makes claims about events that were not observed and can never be re-created.**



## “15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense”

- This blanket dismissal of evolution ignores important distinctions that divide the field into at least two broad areas: microevolution and macroevolution. Microevolution looks at changes within species over time—changes that may be preludes to speciation, the origin of new species.
- **Equivocation:** shifting from one meaning of a word to another within an argument



## “15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense”

- Macroevolution studies how taxonomic groups above the level of species change. Its evidence draws frequently from the fossil record and DNA comparisons to reconstruct how various organisms may be related.
- Converse Accident (Hasty Generalization): Drawing a generalization from too few specific examples.



## “15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense”

- Evolution could be disproved in other ways, too. If we could document the spontaneous generation of just one complex life-form from inanimate matter, then at least a few creatures seen in the fossil record might have originated this way. If superintelligent aliens appeared and claimed credit for creating life on Earth (or even particular species), the purely evolutionary explanation would be cast in doubt. But no one has yet produced such evidence.
- **Begging the Question:** Merely assuming what one is attempting to prove.



## “15 Answers to Creationist Nonsense”

- It should be noted that the idea of falsifiability as the defining characteristic of science originated with philosopher Karl Popper in the 1930s. More recent elaborations on his thinking have expanded the narrowest interpretation of his principle precisely because it would eliminate too many branches of clearly scientific endeavor.
- Circular; “No True Scotsman”: Defines a term in a biased way to protect his argument from rebuttals