

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Real Meaning Of Christmas

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas?

For many people, Christmas is a time of sorrow. They don't have the extra money to buy presents for their children, family, and friends.



Many are saddened at Christmastime when they think of their loved ones who will not be able to come home for various reasons. Turkey dinners may be only a wish and not a reality for some.

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing

ing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story (history) is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.

Jesus was born so one day the price could be paid for the things we have done that are wrong. The Bible says that all have sinned. We are all born with a sin nature. We do things that do not please God. Through the sins of Adam and Eve, we have all inherited that sin nature. We need to have that removed. The only way is through Jesus. Jesus came so He could die on the cross for ALL of our sins. If we believe that Jesus died for our sins, we can ask Him to come into our hearts and forgive us. Then, we are clean and made whole. We can know that heaven is a place where we can go to when this life is over.

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." I John 1:9

We can truly be happy at Christmas! No matter what may be happening, we can know that we are His children. We then become sons and daughters of God. Heaven will be our home one day.

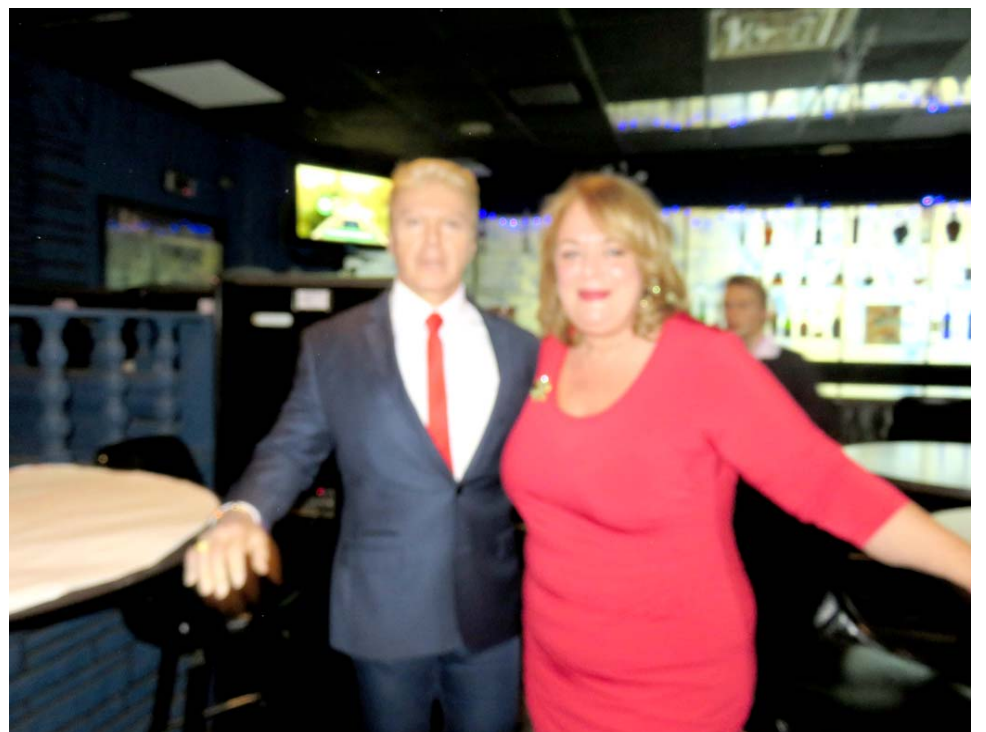
Look at Christmas in a new way this year. This is the year to invite Jesus into your heart. You will then have a "Merry Christmas." The joy and peace you will receive will last all year as you look to God for all your needs to be met.



Από τον επιτυχή Σπαρτιατικό χορό για τα 80 χρόνια ζωής του Συλλόγου. Από Αρ.: Δημήτρης Πολυμενάκος, Μπία Ανταμς και ο τσαίρμαν Σωτήρης Βεγάκης.



Από Αρ.: Νίκος Φλώρος, Τάσος Αριανάς, Σωτήρης Βεργάκης, Μάρθα Καρακίτσου, ο τιμηθείς Γιώργος Σκλαβούνης, Γεωργία Μένεγα, Σπύρος Χόρτης, και ο δικηγόρος Ηλίας Παλιβός.



Από το Χριστουγεννιάτικο Πάρτυ και επίδειξη Μόδας της Παραγωγού Σύλβιας στο κέντρο Τζουλιέν. Εδώ ο τραγουδιστής Λυκούργος Κανάρης και η Γιάννα του Parthenon Restaurant.

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ΕΥΤΥΧΕΣ ΤΟ ΝΕΟΝ ΕΤΟΣ**

Creation or Evolution

By Dr. Louis Palivos

The Greek Philosophers

Hesiod, circa 800-1000 B.C., wrote Theogony, and tells of how:

"Long before the gods appeared in the dim past, uncounted ages ago, there was only the formless confusion of Chaos brooded over by unbroken darkness. At last, but how no one even tried to explain, two children were born to this shapeless nothingness."



Note how there was no creation, but eternal matter. Beings "Night", "Erebus", "Gaia", "Eros" and "Tartarus" somehow evolved and created Light and Day. Hesiod also

wrote of the Titan's, the second level gods. He followed with the Cyclops and Hecatonchires. Later, he tells of the Twelve Olympian gods, the Dodekatheos, who waged war against the Titans.

Thales of Miletus, circa 640-546 B.C., asked what is the ultimate nature of reality? The gods would be replaced by the fundamental phenomena of nature. Nature was a self-sufficient orderly universe and developed on impersonal lines. Thales thought the underlying substance of everything was water.

Anaximander, circa 611-547 B.C., suggested that land animals were originally developed from fish. The universe is constantly being built-up and then destroyed and re-created. Nothing is ever annihilated and nothing ever comes into existence out of nothing.

Anaximenes, circa, 585 – 528 B.C., reduced all finite things to Air, "that which is our soul and constitutive principle also holds the universe together."

From Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes, we get the principles:

- A) Ex nihilo nihil fit, that is, out of nothing comes nothing and what is real cannot disappear; and
- B) Evolution, that is, out of the simpler elements the more complex were made. Change is everywhere.

Anaxagoras, circa 500 B.C., introduced the idea that a force, "Nous", was producing order into the universe and dominated the interaction of the basic elements.

Pythagoras, circa 580-495 B.C., declared that "things were numbers". The cosmos was a harmony of numbers.

Democritus, circa 460-360 B.C., declared that all things were ultimately reducible to minute particles he called "atoms," and "there are only atoms and the

void."

Heraclitus, circa 535-475 B.C., stated that existence is perpetual change. It is not mere "being", it is "becoming."

Socrates, circa 469-399 B.C., Plato, circa 422-347 B.C., and Aristotle, circa 384-322 B.C., believed in a Supreme God and in Creation.

Indian, Egyptian and Babylonian Cosmogonies

But who preceded Hesiod and Thales?

The Egyptian book, "The Pyramid Text," circa 2500 B.C. and later, "The Book of Knowing the Evolution of Ra and of Overthrowing Apep", circa 312 B.C., states that "I came into being from primordial matter and I appeared under the form of multiple things... I made everything that was made." This being boasts of creating itself!

The Babylonian cosmogony, circa 1800-1600 B.C., Enuma Elish, states "that all things have evolved out of water, then in the midst of this watery chaos, two gods came into existence, Lahau and Lahamu." It may be that Enuma Elish is the oldest model of cosmogony used by subsequent authors outside of the Bible.

The Vedic Cosmogonies in the Hindu Scriptures go back to circa 1200 B.C., which state that in the beginning, "there was only darkness and unmanifested water."

There are numerous other cosmogony accounts: Pelasgians, Chinese, Japanese, Apache, Mayan, Maori and Mali. The common thread to all these accounts is that they are "creation myths" or "evolution myths," which appear to have a common origin. In short, the common thread to these creation stories is extremely similar in that the universe of space, time and matter already existed and changes.

The Biblical Cosmogony

What book pre-dates all the above accounts? It is the Old Testament account of Genesis. Conservative scholars date the account of Genesis to circa 4000 B.C.



"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." Gen. 1:2. Genesis Ch. 1:2-21 has an account of the six days of the Creation of : light, firmament, dry land and vegetation, luminaries, birds and fishes, animals and man, respectively.

Genesis, Greek, for "origin" gives us the most true, accurate and reliable story of origins, ex nihilo, "out of nothing," as follows:

(Continue p. 6)



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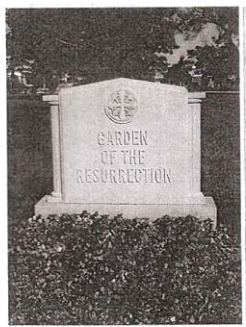
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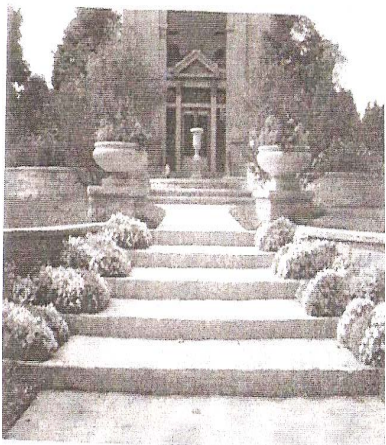
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ΕΥΤΥΧΕΣ ΤΟ
ΝΕΟΝ ΕΤΟΣ 2016**



Creation or Evolution

(From p. 2)

Origin of matter, space and time. Origin of order and complexity. Origin of the solar system. Origin of the atmosphere and hydrosphere. Origin of life. Origin of man and animals. Origin of marriage. Origin of evil. Origin of language. Origin of government. Origin of culture. Origin of nations. Origin of religion; lastly, the origin of the chosen people, the Hebrews.

The Genesis account of Creation refutes all of man's false philosophies as follows:

- Atheism is defeated; because, God created the universe.
- Pantheism is defeated; because, God is transcendent to what He created.
- Polytheism is defeated; because, one God created all things.
- Materialism is defeated; because, matter had a beginning.
- Dualism is defeated; because, God was alone when he created.
- Humanism is defeated; because, God, not man, is the ultimate reality.
- And, Evolution is defeated; because, God created all things.

In Genesis, it must be noted that the Hebrew word for day, "yom", according to the overwhelming of both Hebrew and Greek scholars, does not mean periods of time, but the boundary of a 24 hour day.

Evolution

Evolution means that all life on earth and perhaps on other planets, evolved from non-living matter, has progressed from simple to more complex forms in time, and randomness (chance) ; hence, macroevolution and not microevolution or minor changes as within kinds, illustrated in the cross-breeding like dogs. Evolution has deep roots in the past creation myths.

However, modern evolutionary growth owes its gratitude to Charles Darwin's book, "The Origin of Species by Natural Selection, subtitle, the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life," dated 1859, and Alfred Russell Wallace. Both these men coined the key component of Evolution, that is, Natural Selection, by which the fittest kinds survived and passed on their mutations. However, after thousands of successive fruit fly generations and bacteria generations, no new species can be "generated" for either the fruit fly or the bacteria.

Since Darwin's and Wallace's invention of Natural Selection, the magic mechanism for evolution, scientists have looked at millions of fossil records, but no fossil evidence seems to corroborate that there is even one transitional species. On the contrary, the fossil record indicates that species are being extinguished.

Evolution does not appear to validate itself when considered with the sciences of random variation, experiments in laboratory with amino acids, computer information theory, design theory, abiogenesis, molecular evolution, probability factors, the First

and Second Law of Thermodynamics, cosmogony, chance, chirality, Chaos Theory, the Archaeopteryx fossil and other scientific laws.

For example, of great interest, Marcel P. Schutzenberger calculated the probability of evolution based on mutation and natural selection and concluded that it was "not conceivable"; Because, the chance was zero.

In essence, since the evidence for evolution and its spin-offs, Darwinism, neo-Darwinian, punctuated equilibria, or non-Darwinian, is utterly lacking but scientists continue to believe in evolution, then, a reasonable person must conclude that their belief is based on a philosophical basis and not on evidence or that no evidence has yet been found.

Did Jesus Regard Genesis as Real History?

If Jesus was and is both the Creator God and a perfect man, then His pronouncements must be given great consideration. Jesus referred directly to details in each of the first seven chapters of Genesis fifteen times. For example, Jesus referred to Genesis 1:26-27 when He said in Mark 10:16, "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female." Man was created male and female "from the beginning of creation," not after millions of years. In the very next verse, Jesus quotes directly from Genesis 2:24 when He said, "For

this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and the two shall be one flesh." Jesus refers to Noah and/or the destructive global Flood. "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Matt. 24:37. Jesus spoke about Noah's flood, "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, the flood came and took them all away." Matt. 24:38-39. Both of these passages refer to Genesis Ch. 6,7 and 8. Jesus refers to Abel, the first martyr, "...from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah..." Matt 23:35. This passage refers to Gen. Ch. 4. In another passage, Jesus refers directly to the Genesis creation. "For in those days there will be tribulation such as not been from the beginning of creation



(Continue p. 26)




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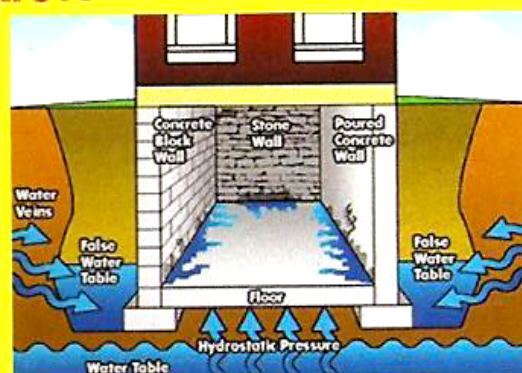
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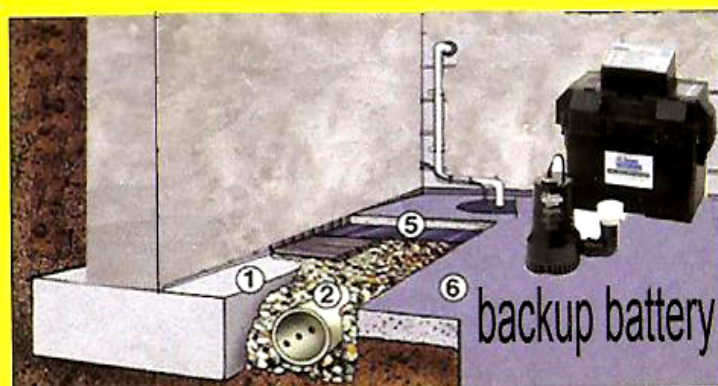
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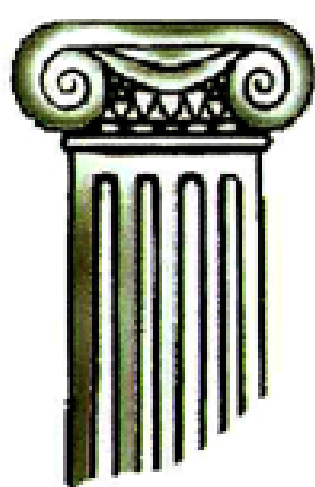
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Lesson 1: A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the doorbell rings. The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs. When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next-door neighbor. Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you \$800 to drop that towel.. 'After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob, after a few seconds, Bob hands her \$800 and leaves. The woman wraps back up in the towel and goes back upstairs. When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks, 'Who was that?' It was Bob the next door neighbor,' she replies. 'Great,' the husband says, 'did he say anything about the \$800 he owes me?'

Moral of the story: If you share critical information pertaining to credit and risk with your shareholders in time, you may be in a position to prevent avoidable exposure.

Lesson 2: A priest offered a Nun a lift. She got in and crossed her legs, forcing her gown to reveal a leg. The priest nearly had an accident. After controlling the car, he stealthily slid his hand up her leg. The nun said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?' The priest removed his hand. But, changing gears, he let his hand slide up her leg again. The nun once again said, 'Father, remember Psalm 129?' The priest apologized 'Sorry sister but the flesh is weak.' Arriving at the convent, the nun sighed heavily and went on her way. On his arrival at the church, the priest rushed to look up Psalm 129. It said, 'Go forth and seek, further up, you will find glory.'

Moral of the story: If you are not well informed in your job, you might miss a great opportunity.

Lesson 3: A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.' 'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world.' Puff! She's gone. 'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Coladas and the love of my life.' Puff! He's gone. 'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office after lunch.'

Moral of the story: Always let your boss have the first say.

Lesson 4: An eagle was sitting on a tree resting, doing nothing. A small rabbit saw the eagle and asked him, 'Can I also sit like you and do nothing?' The eagle answered: 'Sure, why not.' So, the rabbit sat on the ground below the eagle and rested. All of a sudden, a fox appeared, jumped on the rabbit and ate it.

Moral of the story: To be sitting and doing nothing, you must be sitting very, very high up.

Lesson 5: A turkey was chatting with a bull. 'I would love to be able to get to the top of that tree' sighed the turkey, 'but I haven't got the energy.' 'Well, why don't you nibble on some of my droppings?' replied the bull. They're packed with nutrients.' The turkey pecked at a lump of dung, and found it actually gave him enough strength to reach the lowest branch of the tree. The next day, after eating some more dung, he reached the second branch. Finally after a fourth night, the turkey was proudly perched at the top of the tree. He was promptly spotted by a farmer, who shot him out of the tree.

Moral of the story: Bull Shit might get you to the top, but it won't keep you there.

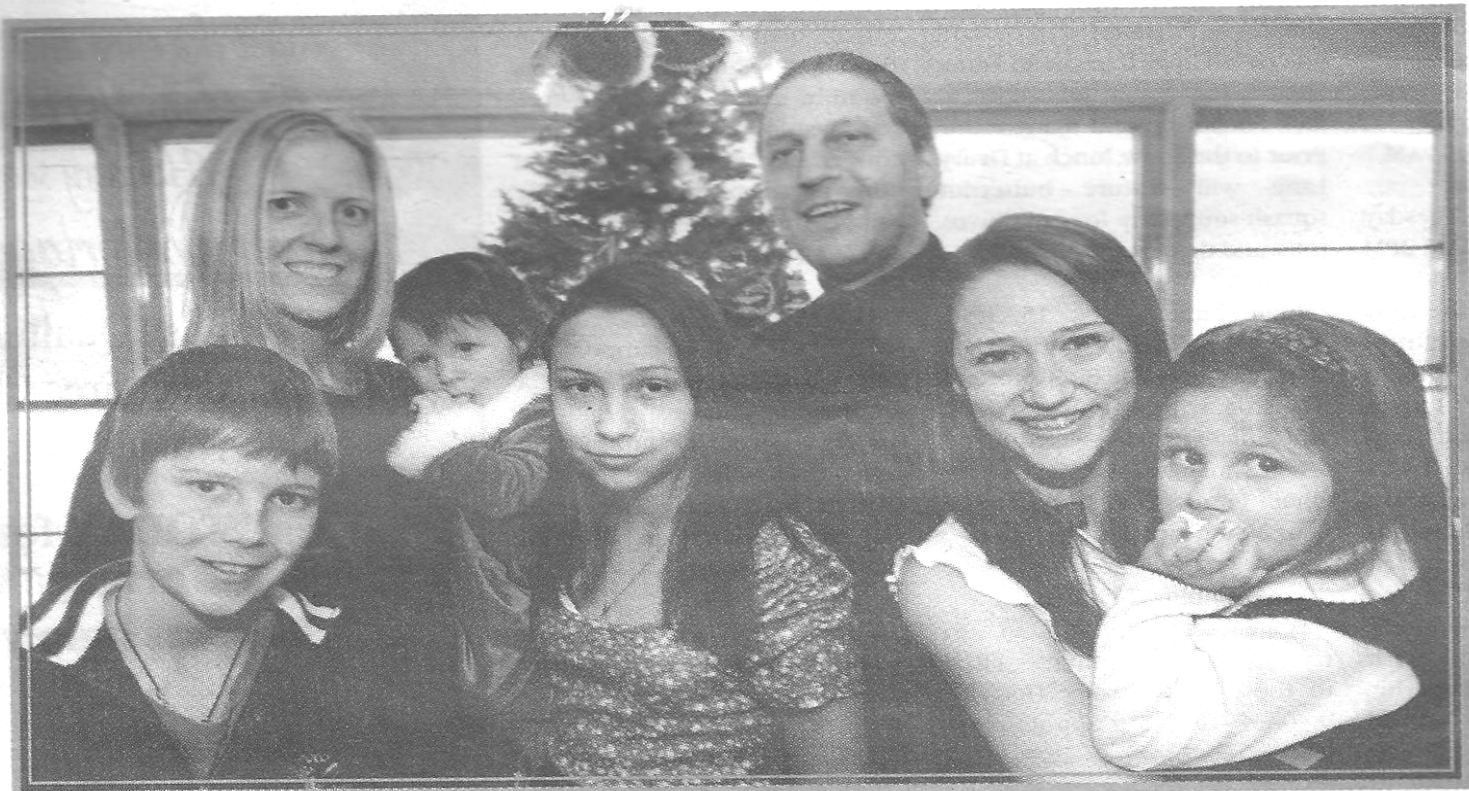
Lesson 6: A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold the bird froze and fell to the ground into a large field. While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on him. As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, he began to realize how warm he was. The dung was actually thawing him out! He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy. A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate.. Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him.

Morals of the story: (1) Not everyone who shits on you is your enemy. (2) Not everyone who gets you out of shit is your friend.. (3) And when you're in deep shit, it's best to keep your mouth shut!



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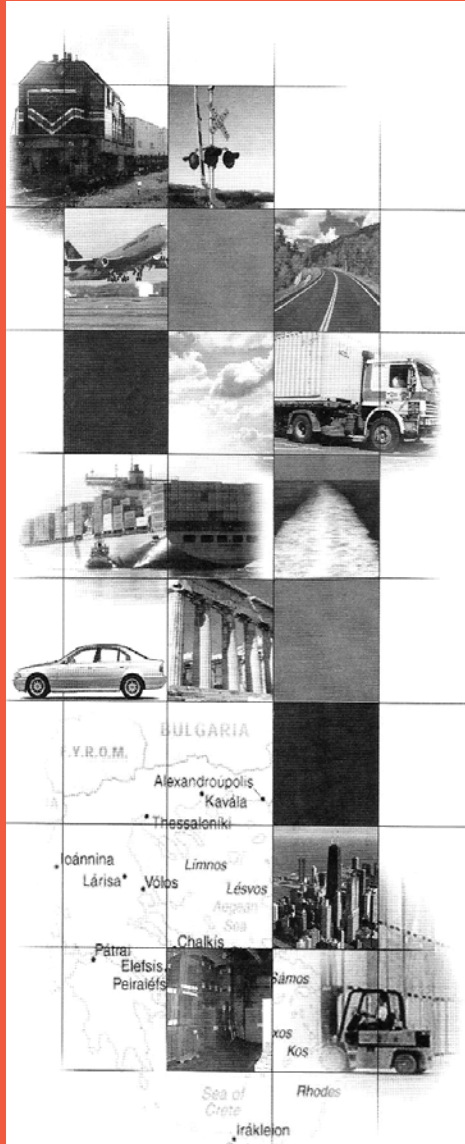
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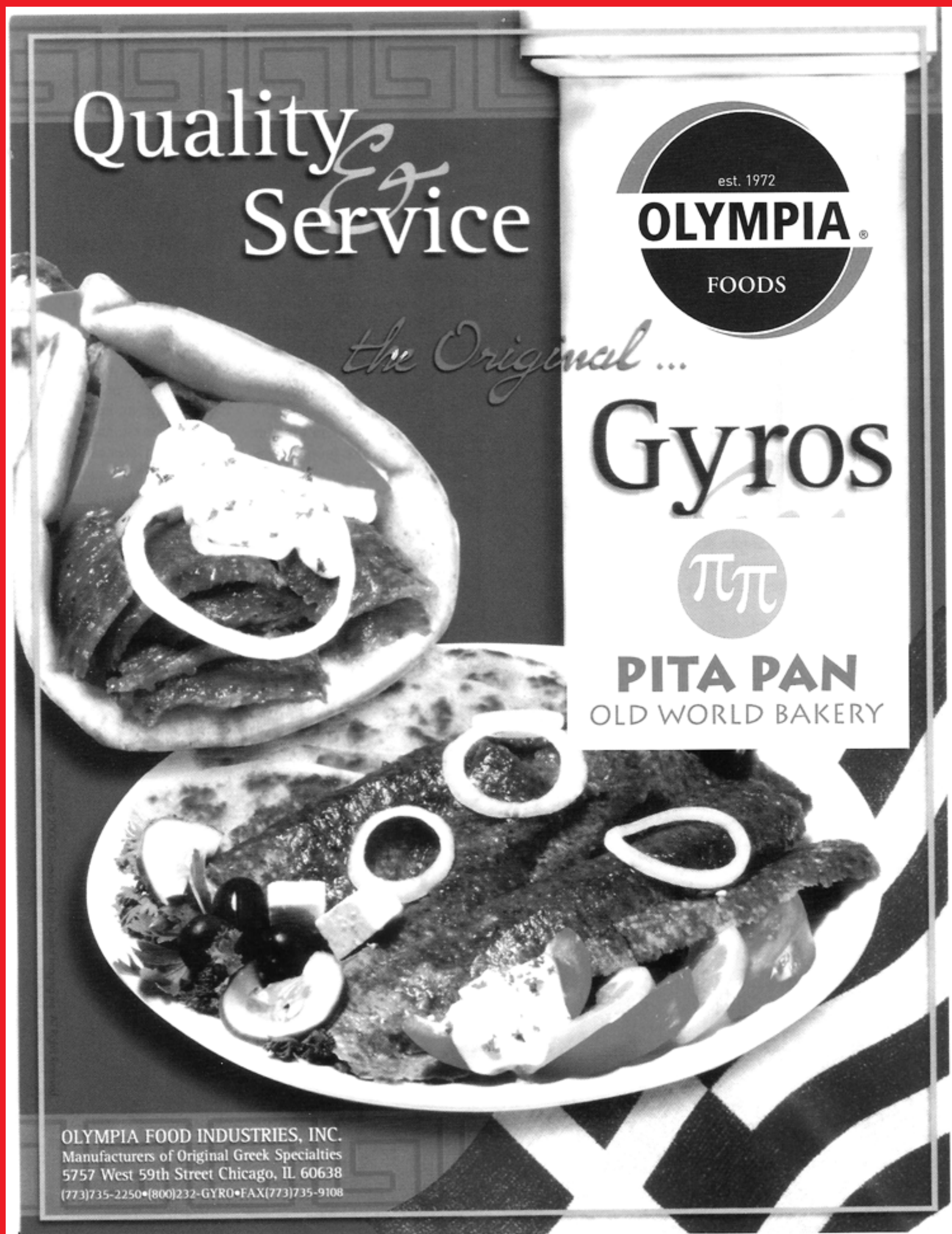
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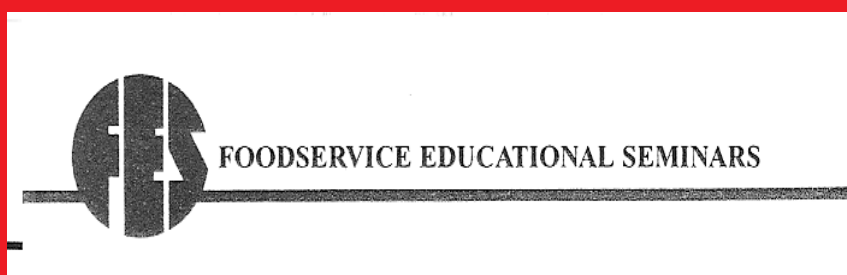
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Creation or Evolution

(From p. 7)

which God created...” Mk. 13:19.
In short, to use a legal word, Jesus Christ authenticated the Genesis account as literal history.

The Orthodox Fathers

St. Basil wrote, in the Hexaemeron, “a horse begets a horse, a lion a lion, and an eagle an eagle and continues to preserve each of the animals by uninterrupted succession until the consummation of the universe.”
St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote, “the first man... was molded by Christ himself.”
St. Cyril of Jerusalem calls Adam “God’s first-formed man” but Cain the “first-born man.”
St. Athanasius stated, “the first-created man was made of dust like everyone, and the hand which created Adam then, is creating new and also always those who come after him.”
St. John of Damascus wrote, “The earliest formation of man is called creation and not generation.”
St. Ephraim wrote, “No one should think that the Creation of Six Days is an allegory; it is likewise impermissible to say what seems according to the account, to have been created in the course of six days was created in a single night.” St. Ephraim understood the six days account of Creation to be six literal days.
St. Nectarios of Pentapolis expressed his righteous anger against those who try to “prove that man is an ape from which they boast that they are descended.”
Numerous godly fathers coherently articulated that there was a literal Creation in six days and that the Genesis account is not an allegory but a literal narrative history.

How did God Create?

Did Adam and Eve each have an omphalos, that is, a navel? Did the trees have rings to indicate years of growth? Did the light from space travel billions of years?
The answer to the above three questions is No! God created Adam and Eve, and they were not born with navels. The trees were created, and they did not have rings. The light was created in transit, and it did not travel billions of years. God created everything not with “apparent of age” but with “functional maturity.” If God had created man, trees and light to have “apparent age”, then, God would have deceived mankind. God cannot lie, “even before time began.” Titus 1:2.
What would a traveler infer going back to Creation and seeing Adam and Eve at the eve of Day 6 of creation? That Adam and Eve were adults, 20-30-40 years old? Actually, they were only one day old, but were mature adults. The animals were one day old and were mature animals. The trees were four days old and were mature trees. God’s creation had “functional maturity.”
Who was the First Evolutionist?

It is extremely difficult to understand how a super created being, Lucifer/Satan, who according to the Prophet Ezekiel, Ch. 28, was “full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty” and “perfect in thy ways from the day that thou was created,” could rebel against its Creator. However, what evidence did this being have of the Creation Story? This being had the Creator’s word. Did he trust the Creator’s



story? It is very plausible that Lucifer/Satan believed that both he and the Creator were somehow evolved out of the primeval chaos with God preceding him; and that God and Lucifer/Satan were both the same kind of beings, as well as, the other angels. Therefore, a well-planned rebellion against God just might bring victory to Lucifer/Satan to rule the universe! It is therefore reasonable to suggest that Lucifer/Satan was the first evolutionist.¹
Please consider and weigh the above; because, St. Peter warned us, “They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the Word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by means of water.” 2 Pet. 3:5. Also, St. Paul warned us, “For since the Creation of the world, His invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made. Even His eternal power and Godhead so that they are without excuse.” Rom. 1:20.

¹ For further reading: Dr. Henry M. Morris, The Genesis Record; Fr. Seraphim Rose, Genesis and Early Man: the Orthodox Patristic Understanding; Jonathan Sarfati’s book, The Greatest Hoax on Earth? (Refuting Dawkins’ book, The Greatest Show on Earth: The Evidence for Evolution) ; and Philip E. Johnson, Darwin on Trial.

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