**Origins 101-13**

**Unanswered Questions--Biblical Foundations**

Script

1. Before watching this presentation, you are encouraged to watch *3-Step Conflict Resolution,* which summarizes a portion of the book *Choose You This Day* by Leonard Brand and Richard Davidson
2. Origins 101—Unanswered Questions
3. This three-step conflict resolution model suggested by Leonard Brand and Richard Davidson in *Choose You This Day* illustrates how apparent conflicts between scientific evidence and evidence from Scripture have been and continue to be resolved by more research and study. This process often takes considerable time
4. In the meantime, while continued study happens, what do we do with unanswered questions?
5. Worldview affects EVERYONE and has a lot to do with how people handle unanswered questions.. Most people—including both creationists and evolutionists--are unwilling to abandon a worldview just because of unanswered questions.
6. Let’s say there are data that suggest a specific interpretation. / There may be data missing or there may be conflicting data that leave us with unanswered questions.
7. The bridge that continues to connect us to our interpretation, even in the face of unanswered questions, is faith. Faith in what?
8. Our worldview. It’s possible that some people might be willing to abandon their worldview when they don’t have all the answers. But those who have chosen their worldview after careful analysis aren’t likely to give it up that quickly. If they believe strongly enough in their worldview, they are more likely to bridge the gap with faith and continue to look for the missing evidence.
9. For example, a scientist with a biblical worldview will look for explanations of data that are consistent with events described in the Bible.
10. While a scientist with a naturalistic worldview will consider only natural explanations of the data because those would be consistent with his/her worldview.
11. Let’s look at a specific example—the age of the rocks and fossils found in the geologic column
12. Conflicting evidence exists. If you haven’t already, we recommend watching the Geologic Column B series. Episodes 12-15 describe the process of radiometric dating and how the radiometric dates of the volcanic rock within the geologic column seem to indicate that it is many millions of years old.
13. In contrast, / other data described in episode 11 of the Geologic Column B series suggests that the geologic column was formed in a much shorter time span.
14. A scientist with a naturalistic worldview sees that radiometric dates are consistent with the geologic column being laid down over many millions of years / but can’t explain how the flat contact between certain layers could remain flat and free from bioturbation for the millions of years of supposed exposure. / Because he has confidence in his naturalistic worldview, / he exercises faith, and continues to interpret the data in a way that is consistent with that worldview even though unanswered questions remain.
15. A scientist with a biblical worldview sees that flat gaps and lack of bioturbation are consistent with the geologic column being laid down relatively quickly during the flood / but can’t explain why the radiometric dates of the volcanic rocks within the geologic column are measured in millions of years instead of thousands. / Because he has confidence in his biblical worldview, / he exercises faith, and continues to interpret the data in a way that is consistent with that worldview even though unanswered questions remain.
16. Why would someone put that sort of confidence in the Bible? / Several lines of evidence provide a strong foundation for believing in the authority of Scripture:
17. More copies of biblical manuscripts exist than any other piece of classic literature, with remarkable consistency between them, as demonstrated by the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
18. There is an impressive internal consistency among the 66 books, even though they were written by over 40 different writers, over more than 1,500 years.
19. Solid evidence that the Bible is the inspired word of God is available from archaeology, history, and fulfilled prophecy.
20. Perhaps one of the most compelling reasons to believe in the Bible is the evidence of changed lines.
21. Because the Bible is the inspired word of God, we do not need to fear that honest investigation will disprove it
22. The Bible is the standard against which all the elements of our belief system must be assessed
23. While there is a body of data from biology, geology, and many other fields that is consistent with creation and the flood, we believe in them primarily because of the Bible
24. It is our faith in the Bible that forms a bridge between the data we have already and the interpretations that are consistent with our worldview.