

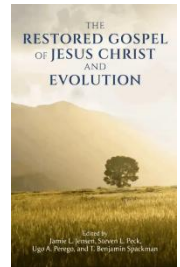
Evolution Outdated ! Handouts by R. Nathan Richardson, [RichardsonStudies.com/Creation](http://RichardsonStudies.com/Creation)  
Dr. Robert Wright's Review of 2025 LDS Evolutionist Book,  
"The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ & Evolution"

by Peck, Jensen, Perego, Spackman

- Read the whole book at <https://lifesciences.byu.edu/the-restored-gospel-of-jesus-christ-and-evolution>
- Their website <https://biology.byu.edu/reconciling-evolution/> promotes "proactive" evolution teaching and the highly secular "Biologos" website.
- Page 9 says a "literalist interpretation of the Creation as told in Genesis" is "a theory with absolutely no scientific evidence"
- See Dr. Robert Wright's essay responding to claims of the 2025 book: <https://www.afloodofhope.com/post/review-the-restored-gospel-of-jesus-christ-and-evolution>

### Big Issues

**BAD NEWS ->**



- Claims **common ancestry with apes about 7 to 8 million years ago**.
- It reinterprets **Genesis and the Fall non-literally** to accommodate **deep time and pre-Adamite humanoids**.
- One proposed reconciliation treats **Adam as the first humanoid advanced enough to covenant with God rather than the literal first man created from dust**.
- Its core claims rest on scientifically untenable assertions, logical fallacies, and selective data presentation.
- It **ignores** robust peer-reviewed evidence of genetic degeneration.
- It overstates genome similarity.
- It misrepresents fossil intermediates.
- It equates adaptation with evolution. This is precisely the equivocation that **obscures the absence of new genetic information**.
- This is not rigorous science, but a **compromise driven by academic and financial pressures** to gain **secular acceptance** rather than stand as a light in a world that **demands conformity to naturalism**.

### Deceptive Genetics Claims

- Chapters such as "Wonderful Forms of Life Have Been and Are Being Evolved" (Kummer and Jensen) **define evolution broadly** to include natural selection, mutation, and allele shifts (for example, *antibiotic resistance and skin pigmentation*). These are presented as proof of ongoing evolutionary change. This is **deceptive rhetoric**. Peer-reviewed analyses show such changes involve **sorting, loss, or minor shuffling of pre-existing genetic information within created kinds**. **No novel, functional information is generated**. John C. Sanford's foundational work on genetic entropy demonstrates that **mutations overwhelmingly degrade genomes over time**. **Natural selection cannot prevent the accumulation of near-neutral deleterious mutations**. This leads to **inevitable decline** rather than upward evolution.
- The book's examples **fit the Biblical model of rapid post-Flood adaptation from Ark-derived genetic richness (high initial heterozygosity followed by bottlenecks)**. They do **not support Darwinian transformation**. Claiming these as evolution is classic **equivocation** designed to imply common descent without evidence of the required information increase.

### The Macro / Micro Evolution Fallacy

- The volume **dismisses the micro/macro distinction**. It asserts macroevolution is simply the large-scale result of many microevolutionary events differing only in scale.
- This is a scientifically bankrupt assertion **refuted by information theory and empirical limits**. Peer-reviewed modeling (for example, Sanford's Mendel's Accountant simulations) shows that even with generous parameters, **populations cannot accumulate the millions of coordinated mutations needed** for new complex systems.
- **Instead, genomes decay**. **Mutations are overwhelmingly deleterious or neutral**. **Beneficial ones are rare and trivial**.
- **No peer-reviewed study has documented the origin of a single new functional gene or protein fold via unguided processes**. This is precisely what macroevolution demands.

### More Genetics: Human Evolution Claims

- The book's treatment of human evolution (Bybee's chapter) is particularly weak.
- It cites **outdated 98 percent** human-chimp similarity. Recent full-genome comparisons, accounting for indels, **structural variants, and non-aligned regions**, reveal only about **85 percent** overall similarity. This is devastating to common-ancestry claims.
- The alleged *chromosome 2 fusion* (supposed evidence of human-chimp divergence) has been **refuted**. The **purported fusion site is a functional promoter** in the DDX11L2 gene. The **alleged cryptic centromere lacks expected telomeric repeats or inactivation signatures**. Peer-reviewed genomic data show it is **not a fusion scar but designed sequence**.

### More Genetics: Why Adam from Humanoids Doesn't Work

- The volume's concordist or theistic-evolution framing, that Adam and Eve may have been pre-Adamite humanoids advanced enough for covenant relationship while bodies evolved, lacks any empirical support and **contradicts genetic data**.
- Human **genetic diversity is far too low for a multi-million-year evolutionary history**. It fits a **recent origin from a small founding population (Noah's family) with rapid post-Babel diversification**.
- Pre-Adamite populations would **require unobserved massive genetic bottlenecks and impossible mutation rates without genetic entropy** overwhelming the lineage.
- The hypothesis also **fails to explain the sudden appearance of fully modern human behavior, art, and technology** in the archaeological record with **no evolutionary precursors**.

### Fossil Claims

- Fossil claims fare no better. The book **implies a smooth progression** from ape-like ancestors.

- In reality, **after 150 plus years** of searching, paleoanthropologists have **only fragmentary remains** (fewer than 2,000 specimens) with **no clear intermediates**. Note: And their ‘specimens’ are merely tiny fragments of a highly questionable nature.
- **Proposed links are routinely reclassified as fully ape or fully human.**

### Dogmatic Intolerance

- Jamie L. Jensen, a co-editor and frequent contributor, explicitly argues that mere **knowledge of evolutionary science is insufficient**. She **insists on full acceptance** of evolution, often framing **resistance** or literal creation views as **problematic**. Her research and writings in connection with the book reveal a **non-tolerant** stance that **pressures** religious students toward **acceptance rather than allowing informed disagreement**.
- Jensen and collaborators state that conflation between knowledge and acceptance contributes to a “knowledge gap” between Judeo-Christian and non-religious people. They treat acceptance (not just understanding) as the desired outcome. One paper title and abstract emphasize “**Offering alternatives to biblical literalism may be the key to increasing the public’s acceptance of evolution.**” This **directly implies that biblical literalism must be undermined or replaced to achieve acceptance**.
- Jensen’s lab uses the “predictive Factors of Evolution Acceptance and Reconciliation (pFEAR) Instrument” to **predict and increase evolution acceptance** among religious students. The **goal is not neutral education** but measurable shifts toward acceptance. A related paper notes that “Role model, compatibility, and knowledge lead to **increased evolution acceptance,**” yet **frames knowledge as a tool that must culminate in acceptance**.
- Jensen promotes a “reconciliation approach” explicitly designed to help religious students “remain faithful” while **increasing their acceptance of evolution...** This approach **goes beyond presenting facts**. It actively works to remove perceived conflict and **foster acceptance**.
- Jensen’s position reveals a non-tolerant view: **knowledge alone is deemed insufficient if it does not lead to acceptance** of *macroevolution and common descent*. **Dissenting views** (such as young-earth creation or strict literalism) are **treated as barriers to be overcome** through reconciliation strategies **rather than respected as legitimate alternatives**. This intolerance **aligns with broader academic pressures but contradicts scientific humility**, which should **allow open inquiry and disagreement based on evidence**. It also **pressures students of faith to conform rather than critically evaluate the data**.

### Eroding Doctrinal Foundations

- The book also **contradicts clear and repeated statements from past prophets and First Presidency declarations of The Church** of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The 1909 First Presidency statement titled “The Origin of Man” explicitly declares that Adam was the first man of all men and the primal parent of our race. *It rejects the idea that man developed from lower orders of the animal creation as theories of men*. The 1925 statement affirms the same position.
- Yet **the book promotes or accommodates precisely these rejected ideas through theistic evolution, common descent, and suggestions of pre-Adamite populations or Adam as an advanced humanoid** selected from an evolving group. It **attempts to soften these statements** by placing them in historical and scientific contexts in Spackman’s chapter.
- This undermines their doctrinal authority. Strong teachings against evolution by President Joseph Fielding Smith and Elder Bruce R. McConkie are similarly **downplayed or reinterpreted**. These leaders affirmed no death before the Fall as **fundamental doctrine** and rejected human evolution. President Gordon B. Hinckley also reaffirmed belief that Adam was the first man of the human race.
- The book’s framework effectively **erodes these prophetic declarations** in favor of evolutionary accommodation for academic acceptance.

### Financial & Career Incentives to Push Evolution

- A particularly revealing aspect of the book and its authors’ work is the **direct financial linkage between promoting evolution and external grant funding** received by the BYU College of Life Sciences. ... For example, in 2020 a team led by Bybee and Jensen received a **2.3 million dollar NSF grant** to study the evolutionary history of dragonflies and damselflies (odonates), including mapping their genealogy and building databases **centered on evolutionary narratives**. The College maintains dedicated grant specialists, budget templates for NSF and NIH proposals, and internal matching funds (up to 5,000 dollars or more in some cases through programs like Grants on the Edge) awarded specifically to faculty who successfully obtain external grants. This creates a **clear incentive structure that rewards alignment with evolutionary orthodoxy**.
- This is not incidental. Federal agencies like the NSF **explicitly prioritize proposals that incorporate evolutionary perspectives**, as seen in programs such as Leveraging Innovations From Evolution (LIFE). BYU Life Sciences faculty who **teach or publish on evolution gain access to these resources**, enhanced research infrastructure, student mentoring funds, **and career advancement**. Internal college grants further supplement successful external recipients. This **ties departmental budgets and prestige directly to evolutionary framing**. The book itself emerges from this environment, where **reconciling the gospel with evolution facilitates continued eligibility** for such funding streams.
- These financial realities expose a **strong motive for compromise**. In a **competitive** academic landscape, rejecting macroevolution **risks losing grants, publications, and institutional support**. Promoting theistic evolution allows BYU scientists to **maintain funding flows while appearing faithful**. Yet this **prioritizes worldly resources over empirical rigor and scriptural consistency**. Scripture calls believers to be a light in the world (Matthew 5:14-16), **not to conform for financial or academic gain**. The volume exemplifies how grant-driven incentives can **subtly shape theological and scientific output, subordinating truth-seeking to institutional self-interest**.

### Broader Implications

- The volume **ignores genetic entropy’s implications** for deep time.
- It **assumes natural selection creates information** (contradicted by decades of data).
- It **treats Genesis as non-historical ancient cosmology**. Scientifically, this is indefensible: **soft tissue in dinosaur fossils, high mutation loads, and the absence of observed upward evolution** all align with a **young creation and rapid adaptation** model.
- The book’s harmony is **one-sided**. **Science must be accommodated while Scripture is reinterpreted**.
- In sum, this volume **does not advance knowledge**. It propagates scientifically **questionable claims to justify evolutionary acceptance for institutional and professional gain**.
- **True science**, observation, testing, and falsification, **reveals adaptation within kinds, genomic degeneration, and no mechanism for macroevolution**. The data overwhelmingly **support Biblical creation: fully functional kinds from the start, with designed adaptability expressed rapidly after the Flood**.
- Readers should reject this book’s **narrative** and test its claims against rigorous, peer-reviewed **evidence rather than academic consensus or funding pressures** (1 Thessalonians 5:21). BYU’s promotion of such material, tied as it is to evolution-linked grants, **prioritizes worldly approval and financial benefits over scientific truth and scriptural fidelity**.