

# BYU Evolution Advocacy & Days of Creation

## BYU EVOLUTION ADVOCACY

**Steven Peck, a BYU biology professor** made a stirring dogmatic statement in favor of evolution. He said, “Evolution by natural selection is the most important scientific discovery of modern times (I am stoically unapologetic about the lack of equivocation in that statement). The evidences for it are staggeringly abundant, detailed, and scientifically undeniable.” (Steven L. Peck, BYU Professor of Biology, Why Mormons Should Embrace Evolution)

A BYU article celebrates “50 years of evolution teaching at BYU” (<https://lifesciences.byu.edu/magazine/50-years-of-teaching-evolution-at-byu>.) A Bio 420 class in the BYU catalog is about evolution as the “cornerstone of biology:”

The Bean Life Science Museum strongly advocates evolution theory, calling for “reverence for our evolving planet.” They have permanent human evolution displays. They promote humans having a common ancestor with animals saying “we are all connected” to various reptiles and sea creatures, in the “evolutionary tree of life.”

**Darwin** was honest when he pointed out that, according to his theory of the common origins of all living things, humans have "a pedigree of prodigious length, but **not**, it may be said, of noble quality." (Charles Darwin, Descent of Man, pp. 164-165, 1897 edition.) **Darwin** went so far as to mock the faithful, saying, “It is only...**arrogance** which made our forefathers declare that they were **descended from...gods.**” (The Descent of Man, pp. 31-32)

Guilty as charged. **Luke 3:38** says, “**Adam, which was the son of God.**” In 1909 the First Presidency said mankind are the “**Direct lineal** offspring of deity.”

Some **evolutionists in the restored church** unabashedly teach that we should accept evolution despite spiritual teachings to the contrary. Secular teacher **Ben Spackman** said, “Well, **It’s very clear that apostles, prophets and scriptures reject** evolution and, ah, you decide that science is a conspiracy, it’s false, maybe it’s satanic, and you start claiming that true church doctrine is a young earth and, ah, creationism and moreover those professors at BYU are leading the church astray. They’re off base. Currently this is the heartlander movement. They are literally doing this.” He also said, “The Problem in the Church is **not** that you can’t be an evolutionist and accept church doctrine. **The problem is the nature of prophets, scripture and revelation. If you think they must know what God knows and always teach what God knows as facts**, by that standard. Again I want to be clear—by that standard—**Our Prophets and scriptures are false.**” (5/4/2020, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xPAI\\_GmgNA&t=249s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xPAI_GmgNA&t=249s))

Elsewhere, Spackman gives a lecture titled “Science Falsely So Called: How Latter-Day Saints Came To Misread Scripture As Science.” ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xPAI\\_GmgNA&t=249s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xPAI_GmgNA&t=249s))

This divorce of scripture from science is a foreign concept, not in keeping with the revelations of the restoration. More on that later in this book.

**Spackman** keeps digging, and says, “Now, obviously you all know the church’s position on evolution is that evolution happened, but did you know that **this is also contrary to scripture** in some sense and **wasn’t the church’s teaching** for a while...” (Ben Spackman, Aug. 13, 2018, Gospel tangents interview, Evolution-creation controversy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1DkqKm5pZE&pbjreload=10>)

**Spackman** perhaps hits it on the head when he says that we are becoming a church run by professionals. He says, “My impression is that what we’re seeing in the church today is professionalization. ... it took a while for us to have professional historians, but now **we’re seeing the fruits of that** with the Joseph Smith Papers Project, with the Gospel Topics essays. **These people who are professionally trained are being trusted by the authorities of the church, in terms of the information they’re presenting.**” (Aug 13, 2018, Gospel Tangents Interview, Ben Spackman on Evolution-Creation Controversy, edited by Rick C. Bennett, Jr.)

PhD. Ugo A. **Perego** joined the chorus of scriptural-non-literalism and taught at a 2017 FairMormon conference, “look I think Genesis is a story it’s not science but it’s a story...” (min. 17:33 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKsaK0ZKbVk>) Perego is known for his claims that God put Adam’s spirit into an evolved hominid, and similar Christian evolutionist claims in contradiction to the teachings of the restoration. Ugo teaches of a 200,000 year past “African Eve.” This is at odds with the scriptural chronology of Adam about 6,000 years ago.

**Wootton**, former BYU Hawaii president, describes those who take the scriptures at their word as follows in his Saints and Science book: limited understanding, Naïve, perilous literalism, fundamentalist, evangelical, lack of exposure to science, narrowness, traditional, unlearned/uneducated, rigid, medieval, openly antagonistic, scientifically untenable (see Richard T. Wootton, Saints and Science).

**Wootton**, as BYU Hawaii president, insisted on evolution teaching when under accreditation review. He said, “The Hawaii campus of BYU was being evaluated by an accreditation team of the western college association for its crucial first possible accreditation. Dr. Bill Priest of the team, a national leader in college administration, challenged me, asking, in effect, Dr. Wootton, this is the college of a very strict church: no smoking, no drinking, no sex. It seems fundamentalist. **So do you allow your science department to teach evolution? I replied that if any professor in our biological science department did not teach the theory of evolution, I would seriously question his competence. Dr. Priest asked if the church believed that god used evolution to establish creatures. I replied that it does not believe so, or otherwise, officially.** I referred to some of my doctrinal findings, now stated in this book, about how many Mormon scientists are both staunch members and believers in evolution” (Richard T. Wootton—President BYU Hawaii 1959-1964, Saints and Scientists p.68)

The tale goes on, where **Wootton** says if asked by the Church Apostles to stop the teaching of evolution at BYU, he would refuse. He continues: “He noticed that I said that “members can choose.” He asked if top leaders could choose, and whether we could conceivably get a leader over the church who opposed the teaching of evolution. My answer was “possibly.” dr. priest then asked what I would do if that leadership expected me to have our biology teacher stop teaching any evolution. I replied that this was a hypothetical situation, which I did not believe would occur. But **Dr. Priest continued to question what I would do if I were asked to ‘shut down’ our biology professor on evolution. I said I would answer honestly, but not meaning to presume any special courage, because I didn’t think it would come up. “I wouldn’t do it.”** He asked whether that might not cost me this job. I said that in that case, I would work elsewhere. That was the end of the inquiry. I never knew whether my answer on this had any effect on the outcome. but the full accreditation was granted with considerable commendation to the college from the committee” (Richard T. Wootton—President BYU Hawaii 1959-1964, Saints and Scientists p.69)

In 2023 the BYU evolutionists published “Let’s Talk about Science & Religion” pushing evolution, then they struck again in 2025 writing “The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ and Evolution.” Both books present an intolerant insistence on evolution acceptance and promote shaky evidence for their scientific and doctrinal claims.

Thankfully **Elder Holland** has recently said that we are willing to lose accreditation at BYU if people keep pushing the issue of gender fluidity, etc. He also called for more musket fire at BYU defending church teachings on marriage between a man and woman, etc. His discourse is now part of required reading for freshman BYU students in a course on the mission of BYU (see <https://speeches.byu.edu/talks/jeffrey-r-holland/the-second-half-second-century-brigham-young-university/>).

### Days of Creation

1. “Young Earth Creation” (6 24-hour periods by God): This is the view most Christians espouse, and also appears in modern revelation (D&C 77). Whether or not this is the case, it’s much closer to the truth and more scriptural than evolution’s millions of years.

Abraham 4:23 actually makes an interesting case for a single calendar day is what is meant by days of creation, describing each creation day as morning until evening: **“And it came to pass that it was from evening until morning that they called night; and it came to pass that it was from morning until evening that they called day; and it was the fifth time.”** Note that these days could have been based on our time or God’s time, whose day is 1000 years to us.

**On page 20**, the LTSR authors say, “Young earth creationism is not supported by the science that shows our earth has existed for **at least 4.5 billion years** and that life has existed upwards of 3.5 billion years.” We will get more into those numbers later.

2. “Day Age Creation” (6 periods of creation by God of unknown length): This is a possibility when understood in light of a day to God being a 1000-year period. The 1:1000 conversion is not a whim; it is scriptural (JST 2 Peter 3:8; Facs. 2 Fig. 1; Abr. 3:6-11). This is also not tolerated as a realistic possibility in the Let’s Talk Science book. For them, it’s mainstream billions of years of evolution or bust. While many seek to spiritualize these passages, D&C 77:6-7, 12 on the temporal lifespan of Earth as 7000 years reminds us that God isn’t just being figurative with the 1000-year day of God. We also see that Adam died the day he ate the fruit, meaning before 1000 years had expired.

3. “Progressive Creation” (Multiple periods of creation over millions of years.): Note how this theory is just another type of evolution, employing the old ‘millions of years’ line. It’s clearly not the intended message of scripture.

4. “Theistic Evolution” (Evolution, but with God involved somehow.): This is the theory many latter-day saints ascribe to, now that teachings against evolution have been drown out by BYU and the prevailing secular culture of America. Though many have accepted this view, not all Church members are buying it. Many, especially those among the older generation of saints, still remember and believe creation truths from days past.

Theistic evolution theory is the most laughable, as evolutionary theory’s whole point is to be an alternative theory to God as the Creator. The god of evolution is not all-powerful, all-knowing, or perfect – he is wasteful and tyrannical. In short, he is nonsensical and nothing like the God of the scriptures and the restoration.