***The King’s Speech***

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**Background:**

Origin stories form the foundation of every worldview because they provide the basis for understanding God, man, and nature. From ancient myths to Genesis to evolution, every worldview has a story of how we got here. If we are to be effective Christian teachers we must have a solid scientific, theological, and philosophical understanding of the various origin options. We need to develop innovative ways to explain the Biblical creation account[[1]](#endnote-1) to our young people so that they will be equipped to face any challenge they encounter outside of their homes, schools, and churches.

**Description:**

This course is designed to provide a solid understanding of the most prominent worldview origin stories and contrast them with the Biblical narrative found in Genesis. It investigates the strengths and weaknesses of origin stories that combine science and faith, such as Intelligent Design, theistic evolution, and Biologos. Finally, it presents a new paradigm for teaching the Biblical creation account based on the premise that God Spoke.

**Objectives:**

1. Understand the purpose of origin stories.
2. Perform a thorough exegetical evaluation of the Genesis creation narrative.
3. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of the most influential origin stories.
4. Incorporate the Genesis, “God spoke,” paradigm into the classroom.

**Content:**

1. Guidelines for the science - faith discussion of origins.
2. The basics that must be explained by any story of beginnings.
	1. Energy.
	2. Matter.
	3. Information.
	4. Life.
3. The uniqueness of the Genesis story among Ancient Near eastern creation myths.
4. Detailed exegesis of the Genesis account of God’s creation and response to modern criticism.
5. Competing origin Stories
	1. Evolution.
	2. Intelligent Design.
	3. Theistic evolution.
	4. Biologos.
6. God’s speech as a paradigm for understanding our origins.

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**Tentative Schedule**

**Hour 1 – Myth – Theology - Science**

1. Science versus religion.
2. Define evolution.
3. The need for creation stories
4. What does a creation story need to explain?
5. Ancient Near Eastern Myths
6. Far Eastern Myths.
7. The profound differences between the Genesis narrative and creation myths.
8. The uniqueness of Spoken Creation.
9. Why is a speaking God so important?
10. Classroom application.

**Hour 2 – Genesis 1 and 2.**

1. Is Genesis a science textbook?
2. Exegesis of Genesis one.
3. God spoke as a paradigm for explaining origins.
4. Classroom application.

**Hour 3 – Genesis 2**

1. Exegesis of Genesis 2.
2. Importance of Genesis 2 in understanding the relational, spiritual, and functional role of God, man and animals.
3. Differences and similarities between Genesis 1 and 2.

**Hour 4– What does science tell us?**

1. What is science qualified to investigate?
2. Review of the things that must be explained in any theory of origins.
3. Review of basic biological principles.
	1. Ecological complexity.
	2. Life growth and replication.
	3. Information processing.
4. DNA and information storage.
5. Information communication.
6. Biblical explanation of scientific discoveries.

**Hour 5 - Evolution and NOMA.**

1. NOMA (Non-Overlapping Magisteria)
2. Evolution
	1. Random
	2. Genetic Mistakes (mutations) – Mutations are mistakes in genetic replication.
	3. Natural selection
	4. Mating fitness
3. The scientific method.
4. Is evolution even good science?
5. How come when we ask nature questions it answers back?

**Hour 6 – God and evolution**

1. How can God be involved in evolution?
2. Are they compatible?
3. Theistic evolution.
4. Biologos.

**Hour 6 – God and evolution**

1. Intelligent Design.
2. God of the gaps argument.
3. Classroom application.
1. I don’t take a particular stand on old earth or new earth creation because I feel that well-meaning Christians can have differing opinions on this topic. I do, however, believe that the Genesis narrative is the only origins story that can completely explain the world as we experience it scientifically, theologically, and philosophically. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)