Physical Science Chapter 9 Study Guide: Science vs. Evolution

1. The question of origins—When and how did the world with everything in it come to be? This is not really a question of science at all—it belongs to the discipline of history, but since scientists have weighed in on the question so extensively, we will consider it in our study of science.
2. Three basic questions addressed in this chapter
   1. What is the origin of the universe?
   2. What is the origin of life?
   3. How did life development or arrive at its present level of diversity and complexity?
   4. Biblical view
      1. God created everything out of nothing (*ex nihilo*)
      2. God created space, time, matter, energy, spirituality, and life
   5. Naturalist view
      1. Evolution—the universe and life were formed by gradual processes apart from God
         1. Charles Darwin—*Origin of Species*—laid the groundwork for the modern theory of evolution
         2. Charles Lyell—his theory of uniformitarianism said that natural processes have always occurred in the same way and at the same rate throughout history
      2. Secular humanism—humans can only know what they can observe, experience, and discover in the natural world; as a result, science is the only tool man has to know truth
         1. Origin of life—chemical evolution-the idea that life began from a chemical reaction
         2. Origin of time and space—big bang theory
   6. Theistic evolution—the idea that God uses the process of biological evolution in creating the world
3. The battle against evolution
   1. Prominent voices in defense of Creationist view (often called “creation science”)
      1. Dr. Henry Morris—wrote an important work entitled *The Genesis Flood*
      2. Dr. Duane Gish—called the “bulldog” of creation science
      3. Institute for Creation Research (ICR)
      4. Scientists in history: Isaac Newton, William Gilbert, Samuel F. B. Morse
   2. Evidences against evolution
      1. Chemistry
         1. Life is so complex that the correct arrangement of chemical at exactly the right time is basically impossible
         2. “Irreducible complexity”—an argument from the Intelligent Design proponents that says that many biological structures are too complex to have been formed gradually over time, but rather the parts had to start to function together all at once
         3. Relying on mutations in the DNA code for changes would result in a less functional organism not more
      2. Physics
         1. An awful lot of order and pattern is evident in physical laws—this cannot be explained by evolution
         2. Second law of thermodynamics—Evidence shows that the world is becoming more and more disorganized, which goes against the storyline of evolution
         3. Earth’s magnetic field indicates that the earth is not millions of years old
      3. Aesthetics and Meaning—Evolution has no explanation for these dimensions of reality
         1. Beauty
         2. Creativity
         3. Motivation for living