

# Lesson 4: The Great Forgetting

The discovery of new information did not force society to forget God. A different worldview led many in society to interpret it without including Him.

Creation speaks of its Creator. Our responsibility is to understand both the evidence and the assumptions that are brought along with it.

## Key Scriptures

- Romans 1:21-23
- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- Colossians 2:8
- Psalm 10:4

## Three Big Points

### 1. The Authority Changed

Our ability to reason is a gift from God, but it cannot replace God as the highest authority. The *modern* shift began when human reason was increasingly placed over revelation.

From: *What has God said?*

To: *What explanations will human reason permit?*

### 2. Natural Law Is Not Naturalism

Naturalism is a starting assumption, not a scientific discovery. We must distinguish between the evidence itself and the worldview used to interpret it.

- **Natural law:** The regular and observable order God established in creation.
- **Naturalism:** The belief that nature is all there is, or that only natural causes may be considered.

### 3. Deep Time Prepared the Way for Darwin

Darwin did not begin the movement away from God. His theory entered a culture already being taught to explain the past through immense time and without biblical history.

- **1788:** Hutton's *Theory of the Earth*
- **1830-1833:** Lyell's *Principles of Geology*
- **1831-1836:** Darwin's voyage on the *HMS Beagle*
- **1859:** Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*

### 4. How the Debate Moved Into the Classroom

Public institutions began to normalize explanations that did not include God.

- **1925 — Scopes Trial:** The conflict over evolution moved into American courtrooms and public education.
- **1968 — *Epperson v. Arkansas*:** States could no longer prohibit the teaching of evolution.
- **1987 — *Edwards v. Aguillard*:** States could not require creation science to be taught alongside evolution.
- **2005 — *Kitzmiller v. Dover*:** Intelligent design was ruled religious rather than scientific in a federal district court.

## Questions for Discussion

1. Where do we see God quietly excluded from explanations today?
2. What is the difference between studying natural laws and accepting naturalism?
3. Does everyone bring starting beliefs to the evidence? What are some examples?