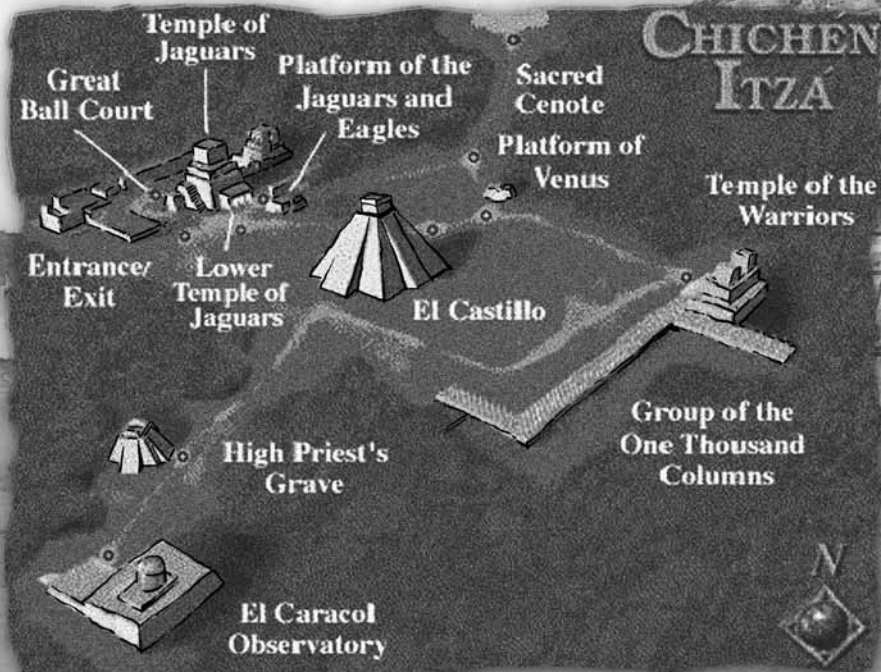
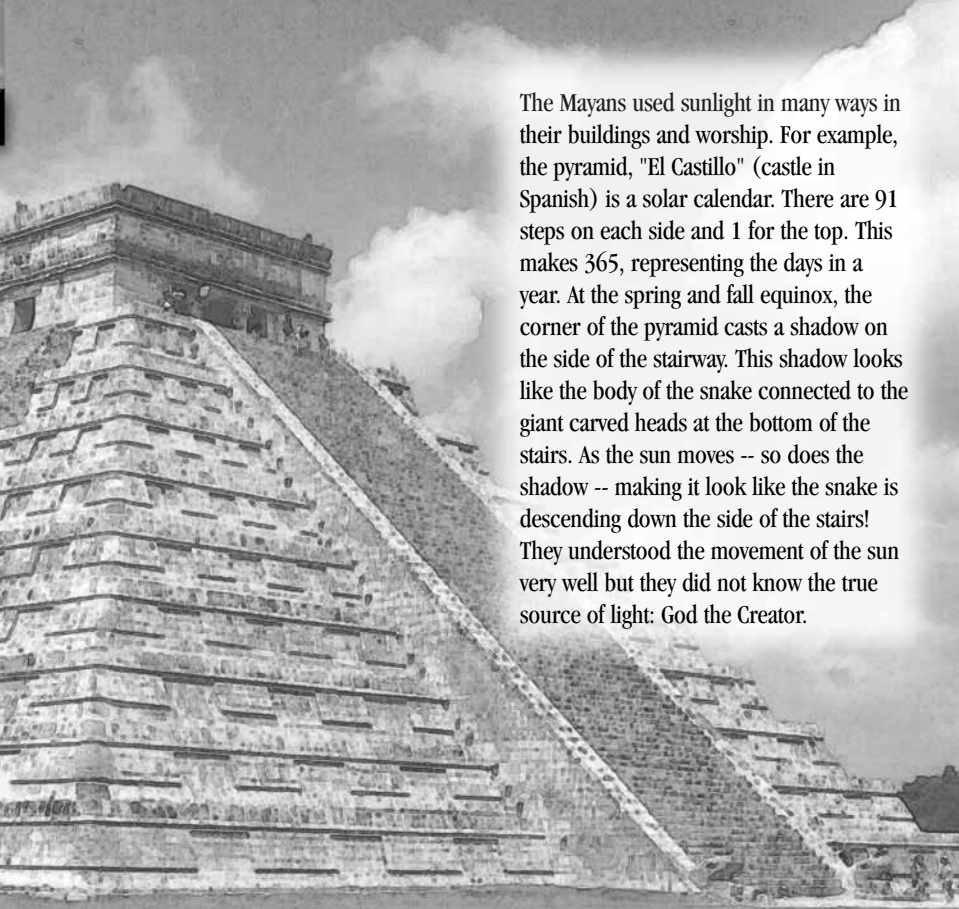


## Ancient City of the Jaguar - Part I



The following two chapters based on Jonathan Park and the Ancient City of the Jaguar take place in a very old city in Mexico, on the Yucatan Peninsula. As you listen to the events in the episodes, follow some of their movements with this map.





The Mayans used sunlight in many ways in their buildings and worship. For example, the pyramid, "El Castillo" (castle in Spanish) is a solar calendar. There are 91 steps on each side and 1 for the top. This makes 365, representing the days in a year. At the spring and fall equinox, the corner of the pyramid casts a shadow on the side of the stairway. This shadow looks like the body of the snake connected to the giant carved heads at the bottom of the stairs. As the sun moves -- so does the shadow -- making it look like the snake is descending down the side of the stairs! They understood the movement of the sun very well but they did not know the true source of light: God the Creator.

Studying ancient cultures is very interesting. By studying the ruins of the Mayan culture you can see that they did not know the God of the Bible.

Many cultures do not have an understanding of the Bible.

They have a creation story **BUT** it has parts of a Biblical story and other parts all mixed up together.

One of the ancient Mayan creation stories is an example. You will see what is meant by this as you read the following:



“In the beginning there were only the Creators, Tepeu and the Feathered Serpent, Gucumatz, in the void and the waters. These two sat together and thought. They glittered with sun power. Whatever they thought and whatever they said came into being.”

Underline the parts of this story that are similar to the Biblical creation story.

Missionaries can use these similarities to connect the culture's stories to the true creation story of the Bible.

There is little knowledge in these cultures about the true God being the Creator, sin, or that Jesus died on the cross for that sin. So it is a perfect strategy for missionaries, or you, to begin telling these cultures about God from the beginning of the Bible.

You can see from the Mayan story that you can not assume that the word 'God' is talking about the God of the Bible. They may think you are talking about one of their many gods like Tepeu or Gucumatz.



In our American culture today, there are also people who have grown up not going to church and so the word 'God' can mean different things to them too.

This strategy of witnessing starting at the beginning of the Bible is called Creation Evangelism.

### **The story in Genesis explains many things about our world.**

Genesis means “beginnings”. In Genesis, we learn why we must work, why we wear clothes, and about the first marriage between one man and one woman.

#### **Why do we work?**



Read Genesis 2: 17-19

We work because after sin, God said that man's work would be very hard, toiling with the thorns and thistles from the ground.

#### **Why do we wear clothes?**



After sin, God made the first sacrifice of a lamb for two reasons:

1. Because blood is needed to pay for sin.
2. He used the skin of the lamb for Adam and Eve's clothes

#### **Why do we get married?**



Adam and Eve were the first man and woman to be married. It is here that God gave us the example of what this relationship is supposed to be like.

#### **Why is there evil in the world?**

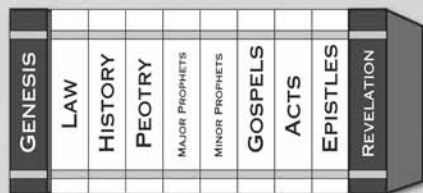


Bad things happen in this world because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve. Satan now has power on the earth, and people continue to chose to do bad things. That is why Christians have the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices.

Genesis and Revelation are like Book ends.

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and Revelation is the last book.

Genesis tells us how things began and Revelation tells us how things will end.



### Perfection

Genesis tells about the perfect Garden of Eden.

Revelation tells us about the return to a perfect eternity.

### Sin

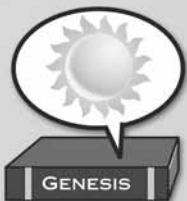
Genesis tells us about the fall into sin.  
Revelation tells about the restoration from sin.



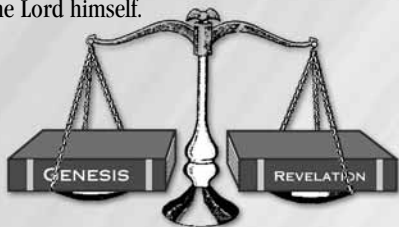
### Light

In Genesis, God made light that came from a source other than the sun.

In Revelation, it says that in eternity there will no longer be a need for the sun, because the light will come from the Lord himself.



The books of Genesis and Revelation bring balance and hope to the whole Bible.

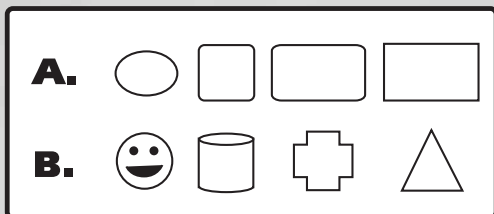




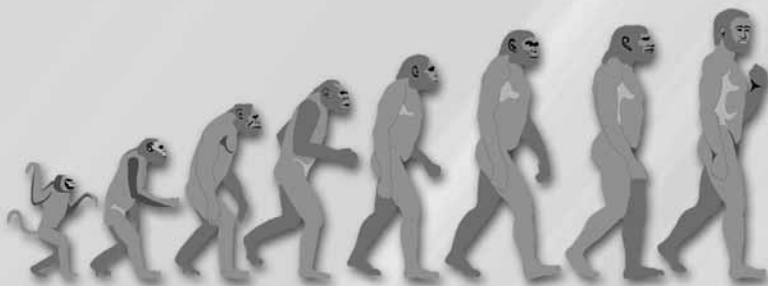
**If Genesis is not true the way it is written, other things do not make sense.**

Put on your critical thinking hats and try to think about these questions.

Which diagram shows gradual change?



Looking at this evolutionary picture, can you see how it shows gradual change?



If humans evolved from an ape-like ancestor gradually over a long time, when did they become made in God's image – and separate from the animals? (Remember the picture is only an artists drawing)

Genesis says that humans were made from the beginning "in God's image". So gradual change as the picture shows from apes into humans could NOT have happened and does not make sense.

## Problem of Time

6 days of creation vs Millions of years of evolution.

If there was not an actual time when the real Adam and Eve committed the first sin, where did it come from?

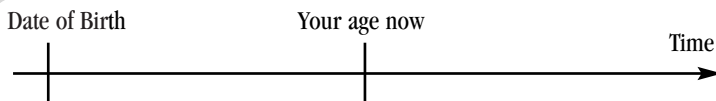


With out the Bible, there is no point in time when this happened.

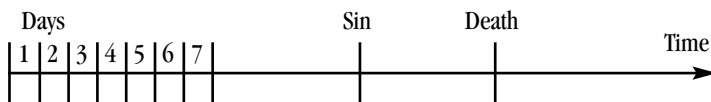
**Do you know what a timeline is?**

It is a way of drawing out events that have taken place through time.

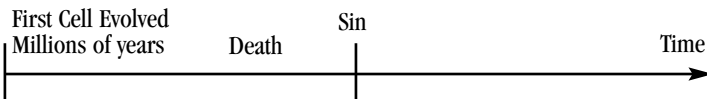
Draw a time line of your life.



Look at the following time lines.



**Creation Time-line**



**Evolution Time-line**

According to the creation timeline, there was no death before sin.

According to the Evolution timeline there was death before sin.

**Genesis says that death came as a result of Adam & Eve's sin.**

But if you try to make the days of creation into long periods of time, there would have to be millions of years where animals died before sin came into the world.

However, Romans 5:12 says, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."*



Death came as a result of sin. If death was just a natural part of the world, and not the penalty for sin, then Jesus died for no reason.

It is important for you to understand this point. Can you explain it in your own words?

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## Communication Breakdown

Have you ever had a miscommunication with your parents, brother or sister? It is usually not too hard to explain what the problem is when everyone is willing to listen.

Some people say Genesis is just a simple story that God wrote so humans could understand, but really when God created it was so complicated, that He couldn't explain it to humans. So they say the Biblical creation story is not how it really happened..

This argument does not make sense. God is the creator of the universe. He would certainly be able to communicate clearly what he meant! If God could not figure out how to tell us what really happened then God is a pretty bad communicator and not the God we know in the Bible.

### The Problem of Order



Days of Creation



Millions of years ago

### This is the order of evolution. Do the orders match? NO

The order of evolution and Genesis are completely different. If God was just telling us a little story about evolution or long periods of times –He did so in the wrong order.

## The Problem of the Symbolic

Do you know what a symbol is?

It is a sign that is given a meaning just like a red light in the street means stop and a green light means go.

The Cross is a Christian symbol representing Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.



A blue sign with a large white H on it means Hospital.



There are fancier symbols that are more complicated.



Some people say Genesis is a symbolic story. They believe that science has proven evolution. So they are changing God's account of Creation and changing it to fit with man's theories and ideas.

However, when you accept what God said, you can see that true science is in agreement with the literal reading of Genesis.



When you understand the meaning of Genesis it becomes easier to share your faith with others.

Have you ever shared about God to a friend? It is sometimes hard to know how to start. Here is a model that you can use found in Acts 17:16-34 says...

*<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. <sup>17</sup>Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. <sup>18</sup>Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, <sup>20</sup>For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. <sup>21</sup>(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)*

*<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. <sup>24</sup>God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;*

*<sup>25</sup>Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; <sup>26</sup>And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; <sup>27</sup>That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: <sup>28</sup>For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. <sup>29</sup>Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. <sup>30</sup>And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: <sup>31</sup>Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. <sup>32</sup>And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. <sup>33</sup>So Paul departed from among them. <sup>34</sup>Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

### Paul's Model

**First**, identify the true Creator God

**Second**, share with them how we are his creation

**Third**, show them how we rebelled in sin

**Last**, explain that Jesus paid our penalty for sin

If Paul had been visiting the Mayans he may have used this model with them. In their culture they worshiped many gods and did not recognize the true creator God. One thing that the Mayans worshiped was the Jaguar. This animal is found on the Yucatan Peninsula. Other interesting animals that are found there are the armadillo, spider monkey, and the yucca moth and yucca plant.

## Mystery Animal

Can you guess what animal this is?



Ears like a mule



Eyes like a pig



Claws like a bear



Head like a lizard



Snout like a hog



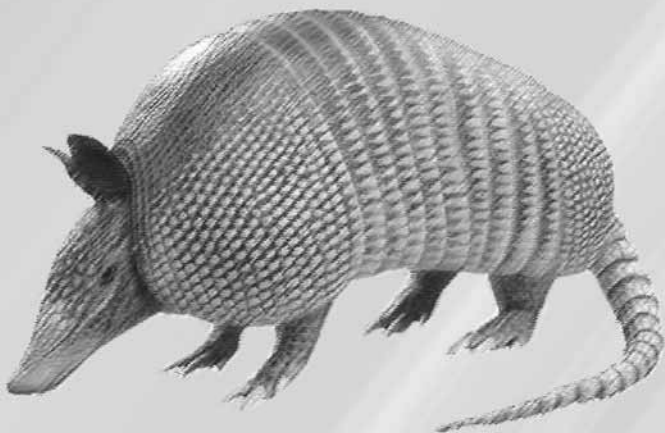
Tail like a rat

The Nine-banded Armadillo are the kind that live in the Yucatan. However, the Three Banded Armadillo can roll themselves into a ball when they are scared. They roll-up by bringing their tail up to their head both fit into slots in the armor. This leaves no soft parts exposed.



What do you think the armadillo's armor is made from?

# Armadillo Armor



The armor consists from boney plates, covered by tough, horny skin. Each of the armadillo's plates is separated by a section of skin which makes his armor suit flexible!

## The Armadillo's Inner Winter Coat

You know when you wear your warm winter coat to keep your body warm many times the top half of your body is warm but your legs may still be cold. The armadillo does not have this problem!

They have a special net of arteries and blood vessels known as the *reta mirabila*. That is Latin for "miraculous net". Arteries that supply blood to the legs give their warmth back to the body before the blood goes into the legs. So the heat is kept inside the body, and not lost through the legs.





## Spider Monkey


The Spider monkey probably got its name because of its long arms legs and tail.

Notice how long his legs and arms are compared to the rest of his body?


Does your Mom or Dad have a little machine they use to spread fertilizer around the lawn?

The Spider Monkeys are responsible for spreading seeds around the jungle. These monkeys eat many fruits whole including the seeds. Then they move on to somewhere else. When these seeds work their way through the monkey's digestive system, they are left behind somewhere else in the jungle.

## Yucca, Yucca



Yucca—does something not taste very good?



That's not what I mean.  
Yucca is this plant!

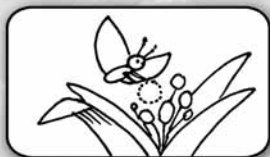




## What is so grand about a Yucca plant and moth?

The amazing way that the plant and moth depend on each other.

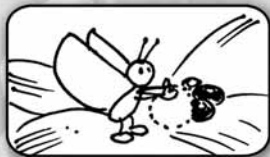
The female flies to a Yucca flower and gathers pollen into a sticky ball, using her special mouth.



The Yucca moth has the ability to find another Yucca plant that has not yet been pollinated by another moth.



When inside the flower, the moth injects her eggs into the flower. Then she stuffs the sticky pollen ball right inside.



Then the flowers begin producing seeds that will make new plants. When the moth eggs hatch they begin to eat the left-over seeds.



Without the plant the moth would die, and without the moth, the plant would die. God has designed a way in which these two depend completely upon each other. Just as we are supposed to depend completely on God our creator!

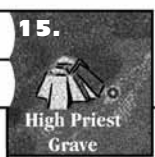
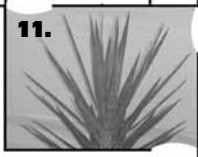
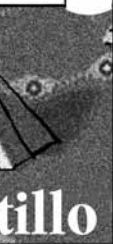


## Find your way through the Mayan Ruins Maze.



Begin where it says **START**. Follow the pathways to each number in the correct order. When you reach a number, read the fact or question for that number on the following page.





**1. As you travel through the ruins you run into an armadillo!**

Armadillos are designed with armor. Two shields to protect their front and back. Bendable armor around their middle and boney rings around their tail.

**2. Play a game in the Great Ball Court.**

The courts were similar to soccer fields. There were raised stone hoops placed at each end. The game was a cross between soccer and basketball. A hard rubber ball was used. The game is played like soccer with out using hands, and a score is made by putting the ball through the hoop. The court is about the size of a football field.

**3. Did you know?**

Armadillos can gulp in air into their stomach and intestines so that they float like a balloon in the water!

**4. The Temple of Jaguars.**

The Jaguar is a large cat that lives on the Yucatan Peninsula. It was revered by the Mayans. This temple has several stone carved Jaguars in it.

**5. You have to walk through part of the jungle to get to the next ruin.**

You see an amazing monkey hanging by its tail in a tree. What kind of monkey could it be?

**6. The monkey you saw is called a Spider Monkey.**

They have a 'prehensile' tail. Which means 'to grasp'. The underside of the tip of his tail has ridged skin which helps him hold onto things. He can use it to grab onto tree limbs, to use as a fifth leg, or to stabilize himself when reaching out.

**7. Explain how the armadillo shows God's design of the animal.**

**8. OH NO!**

You have lost your way in the ruins and it is getting dark. What are you going to do?

**9. This pyramid is called El Castillo.**

It is an amazing show of the Mayans architectural and astronomical knowledge. It is thought that many human sacrifices were made here.

**10. The Yucca plant** has a special partner that is designed to help the plant and in turn the plant helps the partner. Do you know what kind of relationship this is called?

**11. The Yucca plant** produces pollen that's much stickier than other flowers. The pollen can not be carried off by the wind. It is also too sticky for bees. The only thing that can pollinate these flowers so they don't die out is a special insect.

**12. The Yucca plant and the Yucca moth have a symbiotic relationship.** The moth pollinates the yucca while the yucca provides a place for the moth to lay its eggs and food for its young.

**13. The Temple of the Warriors and 1000 columns.**

Every 52 years the Mayans would tie up a sheaf of years representing the end of one of their cycles.

**14. You have met a friend And have had a good conversation with him/her.** You have the opportunity to share about God with them. How would you go about sharing?

**15. High Priests Grave.** Don't be fearful around graves because you have the Holy Spirit with in you. God has power over all things.

**16. El Caracole is an astronomical observatory.** They made a stone dome with windows at precise points so that stars can be seen through a certain window on certain dates.



**Circle the drawing that shows what is the most valuable.**



A giant SUV



All the money that you can imagine



A ray of sunshine in the rain



Human being



Happiness on a sad day

**Cultures are made up of people.**

When a culture does not value its people, the people are treated as throw away things, it will eventually lead to the fall of that culture. It appears that the Mayan culture did not value its people. We know this because they would offer human sacrifices to their gods.

Have you ever been treated badly?

It does not make you feel valued. God values you and that is why He had his son die for you on the cross.

Psalm 33:11-13 says

*“The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. The LORD looketh from heaven; he beboldeth all the sons of men.”*

This is talking about how God sees, blesses, and values everyone on the earth!

