Concept - Considering Evidence

From

The Theology of Origins (YEC)

“Basics of the Biblical Creationist Perspective”
(Creation Apologetics 101)

Concepts of Part 1 – Concept of Truth, Valuing Truth & Foundational Belief & Apologetics in Biblical Creation

Concepts of Part 2 – The Fact of Evidence, the Role of Perspective & the Influence of Bias & Presuppositions; Basis of Biblical Creation

By Rich Cloud, Chair of PPCF & Director Creation Sage Ministry
Creation Apologetics

Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”? (This is not an easy thing to define or describe)
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Why is the concept of Truth Important to the Subject of Biblical Creation?

If Biblical Creation **lacks the foundation of Truth in what it says**, this impacts –

- the **factual act** of Creation by God,
- the **truth content** for the remainder of Scripture and
- even the **character of God** Himself?
Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”? This is not an easy thing to define or describe.

Why is the concept of Truth Important to the Subject of Biblical Creation?

If Biblical Creation lacks the foundation of Truth in what it says, does this not impact –
  • the factual act of Creation by God,
  • the truth content for the remainder of Scripture and
  • even the character of God Himself?

Spend a few minutes - Examining the Concept of Truth – Video #1 “Veritology” from Truth Project (FOTF)

Truth focus here - looking at why Jesus came
Consider - applying Truth to the concept of Biblical Creation
“What is Truth”?

We recognize that ‘Truth is on trial’.

God’s Word is on Trial.

God’s Truth about Biblical Creation is on trial
(Genesis 1 to 11 is on trial)

Clearly important -- 1) Recognize & Discover; 2) Accept & Speak → the TRUTH
“What is Truth”?

We recognize that ‘Truth is on trial’.

God’s Word is on Trial.

God’s Truth about Biblical Creation is on trial
(Genesis 1 to 11 is on trial)

Clearly important -- 1) Recognize & Discover; 2) Accept & Speak → the TRUTH

Continue w/ Truth Project Video & its application to Biblical Creation)
‘Cosmic Battle’ which seeks to be counter to God’s Truth in Genesis 1 to 11?
The Cosmic Battle
Video described this **COSMIC Battle** about --- “What is Truth”?

- God’s Truth vs. The Lie (originates w/ Satan & rejects God)
- The need to engage in THIS BATTLE for the CREATION Truth
- This Battle calls into question both the Character of God & the Truth Claims of His Word
- Biblical Creation is about seeking to provide an *apologia* for God Word (For those recorded accounts found in Genesis 1 to 11)
The **COSMIC Battle** is about --- “What is Truth”?

**For example**

If Genesis 3 is not historically **true** & accurate (as part of Genesis 1 to 11), then is there a truthful reality as to the basis of Sin or its origin?
The **COSMIC Battle** is about --- “What is Truth”?

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**For example**

If *Genesis 3* is not historically **true** & accurate (as part of *Genesis 1* to 11), then is there a truthful reality as to the basis of Sin or its origin?

There are **consequences to what we believe** & what is in fact true!
Creation Apologetics – What Does God’s Word Say?

Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”?
How does Scripture define & describe Truth? --- OT
Creation Apologetics – **What Does God’s Word Say?**

Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”? How does Scripture define & describe Truth?

OT – Hebrew *emet* – is the **principal Hebrew word** in OT to signify ‘Truth’

- **Emet** is used frequently of God in denoting *His Faithfulness*
- **Emet** carries the **inclusive meaning** of – continuance, firmness, stability, security, sureness, reliability & integrity → **reliance & integrity of character**
- **Emet** infers within its usage the concepts of belief & trust
- Thus at its basis, **Emet** → speaks to the **key importance of character** as assigned to both the **concept Truth** & the person about whom it is expressed (especially God)
OT – Hebrew *emet* – is the principal Hebrew word to signify ‘Truth’

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Psalm 138:2 – A Key verse to describe the above

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, **for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.** (ESV)
Creation Apologetics – **What Does God’s Word Say?**

Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”?  
How does Scripture define & describe Truth? --- **NT**
Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”?
How does Scripture define & describe Truth? --- NT

NT – Greek *aletheia* 622 -- is the primary Greek work to signify ‘Truth’

- *Aletheia* is frequency used to describe Christ and key aspects of His character & purpose (John 1:14, 17; John 8:32; John 14:6; John 17:7)

- *Aletheia* contains in its basic meaning the concepts of – what is real & reality; what is factual, what truly exists (in a factual sense) → the opposite of falsehood; what is correct & accurate; integrity & rectitude of character; Transcendent truth & True truth

- In NT passage, *aletheia* speaks to the factual sense & the reality of truth as applied to examining one’s life experience - in both our personal thoughts and in what we do
Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”?
How does Scripture define & describe Truth? --- NT

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When Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, He said “In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.” (John 18:37)  [Jesus is the WORD]
Think for a moment – How would you define “What is Truth”? How does Scripture define & describe Truth? --- NT

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Do I/you testify to the Truth? -- It is incumbent upon us to seek the Truth of God’s Word in all things & in every area of our life experience.
Q & A / Thoughts about the Concept of **Truth**
What does buying a house have **in common with** buying a new car?
What does buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

- High Cost
- Debt to service via Loan
- Insuring the purchase

Each of the Expresses value & responsibility

But there is another common aspect --- negotiation
What does Buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

We do not want to pay the list price for the car or the asking price for the house.

We want to ‘negotiate’ a new (lower & less costly) price.
What does Buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

We do not want to pay the **list price** for the car or the **asking price** for the house.

We want to ‘negotiate’ a new (lower) price.

**Do you, do I/we seek to ‘negotiate’ w/God’s Word?** Do you, do I **NOT** want to pay the **asking price** for what **The Word** says (not take/accept it at “face value”)?
What does Buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

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**Do you ‘negotiate’ God’s Word?** Do you **NOT** want to pay the asking price for what it says (the asking price = taking it at **face value**)?

**What do I mean?** Do I seek to accept its (God’s Word) content for what it says or do I ‘edit’ God’s Word to fit my own personal perspective(s)?
What does Buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

We do not want to pay the list price for the car or the asking price for the house.

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Do you ‘negotiate’ God’s Word? Do you not want to pay the asking price for what it says (taking it at face value)?

What do I mean? Do I seek to accept it content or do I ‘edit’ God’s Word to fit my personal perspective(s)?

If in doing so --- do I, do we lessen the Truth claims of God’s Word?
What does Buying a house have in common with buying a new car?

We do not want to pay the list price for the car or the asking price for the house.

We want to ‘negotiate’ a new (lower) price.

We often seem willing to ‘negotiate’ God’s Word.

But we seem less willing to ‘negotiate’ the claims of science, especially ‘big picture’ science (we allow the Story-telling to continue).

The fact is that all science, even operational (experiment & observation) produces or examines evidence, must be ‘interpreted’ or understood. Evidence does not speak, the scientist speaks for it.
Q & A / Thoughts on the Concept of -- How do I view the Authority of God’s Word?

*To negotiate with or to edit = lessening its authority*

How do I view the Authority of Science.
How Do we apply the concept of Truth to our Christian Experience

(especially in the area of Biblical Creation)

Examining the concept of Apologetics (Creation Apologetics)
Creation Apologetics (how do you/I ‘Testify to the Truth’ – John 18:37)

The **Importance of Apologetics** to 1) Discovering, 2) Knowing & 3) Speaking Truth

1 Peter 3:15 – “...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,...” (ESV)
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**Always prepared** – always, ongoing / ready, prepared (**being intentional**)

**Make a Defense (to defend)** – [665 - apologia]- **answer, reply, reason, accounting** (logical & rational argument to provide understanding)

**Reason** (3364 - The Word) – reason, discourse, expression, saying ➔ (**speak TRUTH**)
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Make a Defense (the act to defend) – [665 - apologia]- answer, reply, reason, accounting (logical & rational argument to provide understanding)
Reason (3364 - The Word) – reason, discourse, expression, saying → (speak TRUTH)

1st Priority – about Christ and His completed work for us – testimony (John 18:37) & 2nd (principle of sharing truth) – all of the recorded content & truths contained in God’s Word
Christ’s “Role” as Creator – the Artist, the Sculpturer, the Engineer, the Doer

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (ESV)
Creation is of God

Christ’s Role as **Creator** – the Artist, the Sculpturer, the Engineer, the Doer

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2 He was in the beginning with God.  
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(Law of Science) are related to God’s ‘upholding’ the universe (Col 1:17, Heb. 1:3)

**Col. 1:17** - all things were **created through him and for him**.  
17 And he is before all things, and in him **all things hold together**.

**Heb. 1:3** - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power**.
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**Laws of Science are related to God’s ‘upholding’ the universe** (Col 1:17, Heb. 1:3)

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**Heb. 1:3** - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**The key point here** – That the Truth of Scripture (about Origins) is interwoven into & with the Truth about Science (in both Origins & unto the Present day)
What is Creation Apologetics
(The **Defense**, The **Answering**, The **Applying** Biblical Truth)

**Creation Apologetics** ➔ Both Creation **Theology** & Creation **Science**

Creation Theology (right hand) ↔ Creation Science (left hand)
What is Creation Apologetics
(Defending, Answering, Applying Biblical Truth)

Creation Apologetics → Both Creation Theology & Creation Science

Creation Theology (right hand) ↔ Creation Science (left hand)

**Creation Theology = Genesis 1-11**
The Creation, Origin of Sin, Flood, Genealogies, Dispersion
(1st 2000 years of History) as Recorded in Scripture
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Creation Science = Origins Science (Physical Universe)
Fields of Science to include: Astronomy, Archeology, Biology, Biochemistry,
Botany, Genetics, Geology, Paleontology (Chemistry, Physics, Engineering)
(physical outcome of 1st 2000 years of History)
Q & A / Thoughts the Concept of *Creation Apologetics*

Break

2\textsuperscript{nd} Part follows
Concept - Considering Evidence

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Concepts of Part 1 – Concept of Truth, Foundational Belief & Apologetics, Valuing Truth

Concepts of Part 2 – The Fact of Evidence, the Role of Perspective & the Influence of Bias & Presuppositions; Teaching Basis of Biblical Creation

By Rich Cloud, Chair of PPCF & Director Creation Sage Ministry
‘Considering the **Evidence**’ of Origins

Via

The **Perspective** (the Mindset) We Hold about the Related Concepts of -

- **Science**
- **Theology**
The Perspective We Hold –
Q. -- Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Evidence?
The Perspective We Hold –
Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Evidence?
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Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Evidence?

View of History & Time → applied to Origins Science
View of History & Time → applied to Creation Theology
The Perspective We Hold –
Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Evidence?

View of History & Time → applied to Origins Science
View of History & Time → applied to Creation Theology

It is not true to say that there is different evidence for creation and evolution. Everyone has the same evidence—it is just interpreted in different ways.
The Perspective We Hold –
Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Evidence?

Ex / Fossil Evidence & How it is interpreted?

As it exists in the ‘present’

It is not true to say that there is different evidence for creation and evolution. Everyone has the same evidence - it is just interpreted in different ways.
The Perspective We Hold –

Q. -- Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Presuppositions?
The Perspective We Hold –
Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Presuppositions?

Definitely! When the evidence is Origins-based

It is important to recognize that people’s presuppositions influence the way they interpret evidence. Evolution is based on a reasoning process that rejects God. Creation starts from the authority of God’s Word. Your presuppositions are like a pair of glasses that you wear to look at the world around you.
Do Creationists & Evolutionists have Different Presuppositions?

Definitely! When the evidence is Origins-based

Presuppositions are the core beliefs we accept as true.

Presuppositions are not evidence.

Evidence is what exists.

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Presuppositions are not evidence.

Evidence is what exists.

Definitely! When the evidence is Origins-based

Consider the **Perspective** we hold about **One-Time** Events?
Q. -- Do you accept the premise that there can be bias when examining scientific evidence (or any source of evidence)?

Q. -- If so, how can you counter the influence of bias?
‘Considering the Evidence’ of Origins

Via

Evidence Diagrams

The Perspective of Scriptural Evidence
The Perspective We Hold –
How then do the Presuppositions of Creationists & Evolutionists lead to Different Perspectives (of God’s Word)?

Constructing an Evidence Diagram
(Collecting the aspects of - considering & examining the evidence)
**Considering Evidence** (Origins – Scripture & Science)

- **Biblical Creation**
- **Naturalism / Evolution**

Presuppositions (Core)
Assumptions (Developed)

1. Evidence
2. Genesis 1 - 11
3. Is what actually exists
4. Context (one-time)??? Background, history, timeline of evidence
5. Interpretations
6. Conclusions

**Evidence**

- **Presuppositions & Assumptions**
- **Interpretations & Conclusions**

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
**Considering Evidence** *(Origins – Scripture & Science)*

- **Presuppositions (Core)**
- **Assumptions (Developed)**

1. **Concept #1**
   - Truth OR just a Story?

2. **Concept #2**
   - From God OR from man?

3. **Evidence**
   - Is what actually exists

4. **Context**
   - Background, history, timeline of evidence

5. **Interpretations & Conclusions**

6. **Interpretations**

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**Evidence** *(Genesis 1 - 11)*

- **Presuppositions & Assumptions**

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Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
Considering Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)

Presuppositions (Core) 1
Assumptions (Developed) 2

Concept #1
Truth or just a Story? (Correct History & Time)

Concept #2
From God or from man? (Correct View of Origins)

Evidence
Is what actually exists 3

Presuppositions & Assumptions

Evidence (context)

Interpretations & Conclusions

Naturalism / Evolution

Context
Background, history, timeline of evidence 4

Genesis 1 - 11

Interpretations
Conclusions 5 6

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
Considering Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)

Presuppositions (Core) & Assumptions (Developed)

1. Concept #1
   Truth or just a Story?
   (Correct History & Time)

2. Concept #2
   From God or from man?
   (View of Origins)

Evidence (context)

Evidence
Genesis 1 - 11

Interpretations & Conclusions

Observations of ???
Role of Bias & Understanding ???
Correct Perspective [B, H, T]

Interpretation ?s
Conclusions ?

Context
Background, history, timeline of evidence

Naturalism / Evolution

Evidence
Is what actually exists

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
‘Considering the Evidence’ of Origins

Q & A / Thoughts

Via

Evidence Diagrams

The Perspective of Scientific Evidence
The Perspective We Hold –
How then do the Presuppositions of Creationists & Evolutionists lead to Different Perspectives (of Origins Science)?

Constructing an Evidence Diagram
(Collecting the aspects of - considering & examining the evidence)
**Considering Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)**

- **Presuppositions (Core)**
- **Assumptions (Developed)**

1. **Biblical Creation**
2. **Naturalism / Evolution**
3. **Evidence (Rock Layers)**
4. **Context ???**
   - Background, History, Timeline of evidence
5. **Interpretations**
6. **Conclusions**

- **Evidence** is what actually exists

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
Considering Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)

Presuppositions (Core)
Assumptions (Developed)

1  2

Evidence (context)

Presuppositions & Assumptions

Evidence (Rock Layers)

Interpretations & Conclusions

Core Beliefs & Ruling Paradigm APPLIED TOO THE EVIDENCE BEFORE it is even examined.

Evidence Is what actually exists

Perspective = Presupp. & Paradigm) APPLIED TO THE CONTEXT IN INTERPRETING IT during examination [B, H, T].

Interpretations Conclusions

Context Background, History, Timeline of evidence

Perspective = Presupp. & Paradigm) APPLIED TO THE CONTEXT IN INTERPRETING IT during examination [B, H, T].

Interpretations Conclusions

Perspective = Presupp. & Paradigm) APPLIED TO THE CONTEXT IN INTERPRETING IT during examination [B, H, T].
Considering Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)

1. Evidence (context)
2. Presuppositions & Assumptions
3. Evidence (Rock Layers)
4. Context
   - Background, History, Timeline of evidence

Presuppositions (Core)
Assumptions (Developed)

Biblical Creation
(OEC)

Naturalism / Evolution

Core Beliefs & Ruling Paradigm applied to the Evidence before it is even examined.

Evidence Is what actually exists

Perspective = Presupp. & Paradigm) APPLIED TO THE CONTEXT IN INTERPRETING IT during examination [B, H, T].

Interpretations & Conclusions

Biblical Catastrophism
Waves of H2O w/ sediment from World-Wide Flood of 371 days

Naturalism - Uniformitarianism
Layers accumulate slowly w/ some catastrophic events in 570 million years

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
Q & A

More thoughts about - Perspective as applied to

Both Scriptural evidence & Scientific evidence
The Meaning of Pikes Peak (relative to Faith & Scripture)

[What is the Truth about Noah’s Ark & the Flood Waters]

Sciences of Hydrology, Geology & Physics
**Considering Evidence** (Origins – Scripture & Science)

**Presuppositions (Core)**
**Assumptions (Developed)**

1. Concept #1
   - Reality of the Flood?
   - Vs. Uniformitarianism?
2. Concept #2
   - Truth of Scripture?
   - Vs. Naturalism?

3. Evidence
   - Is what actually exists

4. Context
   - Background, history, timeline of evidence

5. Observations ???
   - **Genesis 7:19** +++
   - Vs. Story (Local)
   - & Understanding ???
   - Water above Mountains
   - Vs. Possible?

6. Interpretations ?
   - Conclusions ?

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Evidence #1
- **Pikes’ Peak & The Flood**
- **Presuppositions & Assumptions**
- **Evidence (context)**
- **Interpretations & Conclusions**

Adapted from Books by John Morris-ICR & articles AIG
Specific Facts Related to This Evidence

• Fields of Science - Geology, Hydrology, Physics

**Genesis 7:19** - 19 And the *waters prevailed* so mightily on the earth that *all the high mountains* under the whole heaven *were covered.* 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, *covering them fifteen cubits deep.*
Specific Facts Related to This Evidence

• Fields of Science - Geology, Hydrology, Physics

**Genesis 7:19** - 19 And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. 20 The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

- Amount of water ‘available’ ≈ ~ 8000 - 9000 ft depth on ‘smooth’ earth
- Truth issue of Scripture – compromise & malleability of Scripture – Local Flood
Specific Facts Related to This Evidence

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- Truth issue of Scripture – compromise & malleability of Scripture – Local Flood

What Scripture says about *extent of flood*
- Verses & Words → describing the **absolute nature of destruction** of the earth and/or destroying all of life (except those safely on the ark) – Genesis 6:13, 17, 19; 7:4, 18-20, 21-23; 8:21; 9:11, 15 (13 verses & 20 words describing complete destruction)
Specific Facts Related to This Evidence

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What Scripture says about extent of flood

- Verses & Words → describing the absolute nature of destruction of the earth and/or destroying all of life (except those safely on the ark) – Genesis 6:13, 17, 19; 7:4, 18-20, 21-23; 8:21; 9:11, 15 (13 verses & 20 words describing complete destruction)

My Testimony – physics of water, faith issue, 1+ days after belief

(False) Perspective → Earth ‘unchanged’ ---- earth ‘reformed’ from before to after Flood
Specific Facts Related to This Evidence

- Fields of Science - Geology, Hydrology, Physics

**Genesis 7:19** - And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

- **Pikes Peak** & Other Mountains, like Mt. Everest, did not exist before the Flood
- The probable **Topography of the earth** consisted of plains, ranges and hills, with limited mountains, to a **maximum height of ~7000 ft above sea level**

Something like the above **must be True for God’s Word to be True**

→ **Genesis 7:19** & other Flood verses

21-23; 8:21; 9:11, 15 (13 verses & 20 words describing complete destruction)

My Testimony – physics of water, faith issue, 1+ days after belief

(False) Perspective → Earth ‘unchanged’ ---- earth ‘reformed’ from before to after Flood
Consider Evidence (Origins – Scripture & Science)

1. Presuppositions (Core)
2. Assumptions (Developed)
3. Evidence
   - Is what actually exists
4. Context
   - Background, history, timeline of evidence
5. Interpretations
6. Conclusions

Concept #1
Reality of the Flood? (!!!!)

Concept #2
Truth of Scripture? (!!!!)

Evidence #1
Pikes’ Peak & The Flood

Presuppositions & Assumptions
Evidence (context)

Observations ???
Genesis 7:19 +++ (true)
& Understanding ???
The destruction of the Flood was so great that the earth was fully resurfaced / new topog. (structurally new)

Interpretations?
Conclusions?
Q & A

More thoughts about - Perspective as applied to

Pikes Peak & Flood
The following content describes the Principles by which Biblical Creation Teaching is Defined.

The intent is to hold to the Truth and not to lessen its meaning.
Psalm 138:2 – I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. (ESV)
Psalm 138:2 – God’s Character (Name) & His Word (Scripture) above all

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**Do you Really Believe that what you believe, is Really Real?** (TP-video #1, ‘Veritology’ ending)