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## Origins Today: Genesis Through Ancient Eyes

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

**Featured speaker: Dr. John Walton,  
Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College and Graduate School**

The rift between faith and science in Christian circles today often results in the marginalization of Christians engaged in the sciences, impediments to evangelism, and the attrition of young believers who are told that Christianity is incompatible with the acceptance of evolution or an old earth. John Walton's work in Genesis 1–3 offers a fresh perspective on this complex issue by seeking to understand the message of Scripture within its ancient context. A close reading of the Genesis creation account and an evaluation of its ancient Near Eastern setting raise the question of whether the Bible provides modern scientific information related to our understanding of the natural world (e.g., cosmology, biology, or human origins), or whether it offers a theological, rather than material, framework for thinking about the cosmos—for example, God made everything and is sovereign over it. This question in turn leads us to inquire whether today's scientific conclusions regarding old earth, common descent, and parentage of the human race necessarily conflict with the Bible or theology.

**Thursday, 4 April 2013, at 7:30 pm.**

**Location: Frey Hall 110, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are at <http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.**

John Walton (PhD, Hebrew Union College) is Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College and Graduate School. His research focuses on the literature and cultures of the ancient Near East and the Old Testament, with a particular interest in Genesis. Before his role at Wheaton, Dr. Walton taught for 20 years at Moody Bible Institute. He has authored many articles and books, including *The Lost World of Genesis One*, *Genesis 1 as Ancient Cosmology*, and *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*. His book on Genesis 2–3, *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, is forthcoming from InterVarsity Press. He also served as general editor of the *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Old Testament* and co-author of the *IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. His ministry experience includes church classes for all



age groups, high school Bible studies, and adult Sunday school classes, as well as serving as a teacher for "[The Bible in 90 Days](#)." Dr. Walton currently teaches a class on Christian doctrine to sixth graders at Glen Ellyn Bible Church. He and his wife, Kim, live in Wheaton, Illinois, and have three adult children.

**The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis ([tdavis@messiah.edu](mailto:tdavis@messiah.edu)), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.**

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