

...He is clothed with majesty....

- Ps 93

God's majesty....

revealed in
nature &
creation

Psalms 8
Psalm 148
Psalm 104

Psalms 19

as a great
reigning king

because of His
nature

revealed by His
actions

“O LORD, our Lord, how glorious is Thy name in all the earth! whose majesty is rehearsed above the heavens... When I behold Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast established. What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou thinkest of him?” – Psalm 8 (JPS)

“Nature does all things spontaneously, by herself, without the meddling of the gods.”

- Lucretius (of Rome), 60BC

“Our highest assurance of the goodness of Providence seems to me to rest in the flowers. All other things, our powers, our desires, our food, are all really necessary for our existence in the first instance. But this rose is an extra. Its smell and its color are an embellishment of life, not a condition of it. It is only goodness which gives extras, and so I say again that we have much to hope from the flowers.”

- Sherlock Holmes (Arthur Conan Doyle)

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Psalm 145:2...Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised..

- greatness is unsearchable (i.e. unfathomable) (3)
- great goodness (7)
- righteousness (7)
- gracious (8)
- full of compassion (8)
- slow to anger (8)
- of great mercy (8)
- good to all (9)
- tender mercies are over all his works (9)
- power (11)
- upholdeth all that fall (14)
- raiseth up all those that be bowed down (14)
- gives openest thine hand (ie. gives openhandedly) (16)
- righteous (17)
- holy (17)
- nigh (18)

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I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE

- Exodus 3:14

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Psalm 145

Psalm 136

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever.

- KJV

“steadfast love”

not “because” but “indeed”

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Psalm 136

Christians Decline as Share of U.S. Population; Other Faiths and the Unaffiliated Are Growing

	2007	2014	Change*
	%	%	%
Christian	78.4	70.6	-7.8
Non-Christian faiths	4.7	5.9	+1.2
Unaffiliated	16.1	22.8	+6.7
Atheist	1.6	3.1	+1.5
Agnostic	2.4	4.0	+1.6
Nothing in particular	12.1	15.8	+3.7
Don't know/refused	<u>0.8</u>	<u>0.6</u>	-0.2
	100.0	100.0	

*The "change" column displays only statistically significant changes; blank cells indicate that the difference between 2007 and 2014 is within the margin of error.

**The "other world religions" category includes Sikhs, Baha'is, Taoists, Jains and a variety of other world religions. The "other faiths" category includes Unitarians, New Age religions, Native American religions and a number of other non-Christian faiths.

Source: 2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% and nested figures may not add to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Few issues have divided the American public as bitterly as Charles Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Since *On the Origin of Species* was published in 1859, it has driven a wedge between those who accept that humans and this planet's other inhabitants have evolved over time, and those who believe that our species was created in its current form with no alterations. While **the majority of people in Europe** and in many **other parts of the world** accept evolution, the United States lags behind. Today, **4 in 10 adults in America** believe that humans have existed in our present form since the beginning of time, and in many religious groups, that number is **even higher**. This is woeful.

Evolution Is Finally Winning Out Over Creationism

Now, at long last, there seems to be hope: National polls show that creationism is beginning to falter, and Americans are finally starting to move in favor of evolution. After decades of legal battles, resistance to science education, and a deeply rooted cultural divide, evolution may be poised to win out once and for all.

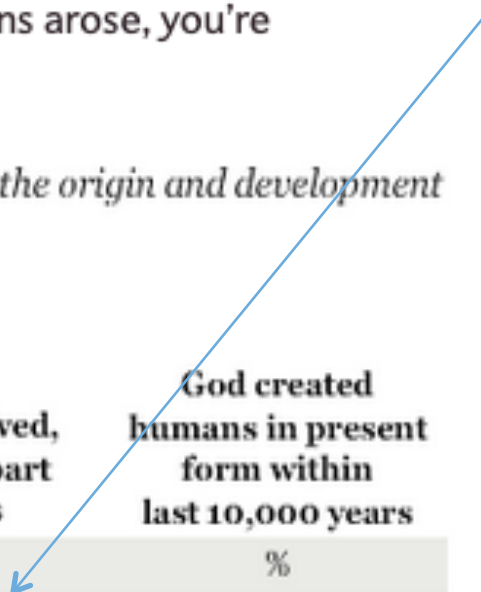


The people responsible for this shift are the young. According to a recent Pew Research Center report, 73 percent of American adults younger than 30 expressed some sort of belief in evolution, a jump from 61 percent in 2009, the first year in which the question was asked. The number who believed in purely secular evolution (that is, not directed by any divine power) jumped from 40 percent to a majority of 51 percent. In other words, if you ask a younger American how humans arose, you're likely to get an answer that has nothing to do with God.

Which of the following statements comes closest to your views on the origin and development of human beings?

By education, church attendance, and age

	Humans evolved, God guided process	Humans evolved, God had no part in process	God created humans in present form within last 10,000 years
	%	%	%
18 to 29	35	30	28
30 to 49	27	20	46
50 to 64	38	11	44
65+	23	16	50



May 8-11, 2014

GALLUP

Evaluating Our Importance In The Universe

Updated February 4, 2016 · 8:40 AM ET

Published February 3, 2016 · 9:12 AM ET

Life should exist elsewhere but, if it does, the probability is that it will be simple, some kind of alien bacteria. Intelligent aliens may be out there in Earth-like planets, or in more exotic environments, but if they are, they are very far away. For all practical purposes, we are alone as intelligent molecular machines capable of pondering our origins and future.

This is the striking revelation from modern science, one that should grab everyone's attention. We matter because we are rare and our planet matters because it is unique. At the very least, it should inspire us to re-evaluate our relationship to one another and to the planet, beyond petty ideologies and short-sighted tribal disputes that fill so much of our time.

Next time you hear a scientist saying something like "the more we know about the universe the less important we become," beg to differ. The reality is precisely the opposite: The more we know about the universe, the more unique we become. ...

What do we think of as God's majesty?

- Nature / creation
 - Ps 19
 - Ps 148
 - Ps 104 – parallel with Gen 1
 - Ps 8 (puts us into dependent relationship)
- He is a king (a great king) he reigns.
 - Ps 95
- His nature / attributes.
 - Power – Ps 65:6
 - Ps 29: move to actions
- His actions?
 - Deeds 145 (acrostic)
 - His mercy endureth forever.
 - Ps 136