From pages 22-37 Nathan Brooks

The world Darwin and other scientists lived in during the centuries before our own time was a very different world than today. If you came out with something that opposed the view of the church you were likely to be mocked at the least, harmed at the worst, for contradicting the Bible. Chapter 2 of “Our Origins” explains this predicament scientists had to confront when they presented their findings.

The church believed that there had be no major changes since creation, but the processes of today seem to allow, and facilitate, much change. When we take the context of artifacts we find and apply it to the context of other artifacts, we start to build a foundation for explaining our history. This might go against the church, but it makes sense with everything else we find in all disciplines of science.

This is particularly interesting to me as a person who came from a family that prioritized religious learning over scientific learning, praising and rewarding faith based decisions (like baptism) over the not faith based.

Chapter 2 also explains that Darwin didn’t completely come up with his ideas on his own, that he was influenced by others, specifically Thomas Malthus. Malthus postulated the idea that resources is what would put a cap on population size, that humans would keep on reproducing with exponential growth if there was an indefinite amount of food. This chapter also alludes to Darwin reading all of the great scientists’ works, that Darwin benefitted from previous scientists and that he built on top of the ideas from before.

This interests me because it’s exactly what I and my peers are doing. Who knows, one of us might come out with some revolutionary thing in the future built on top of the ideas and work from generations before us.