

THE WORLD IS BEGUN AND SUPPORTED



Creation and evolution contradict each other.

THERE will never be agreement between the theory of evolution and the Bible account of creation. Only one of these can correctly explain how our world came to be. Those who teach evolution rule out God's hand in the process. Teachers of evolution say that life started by accident, billions of years ago, when just the right mix of environment and chemicals allowed the first life to form. They point to the apparent great age of the earth's rocks, e.g., as evidence that the world is billions of years old. Christians ask, "Adam and Eve were created as adults; couldn't God have created the rocks – and the stars and planets – at a certain 'age' as well?"

The fact is that any attempt to explain the origin of the world *without God* are directly contradicted by the first two chapters of Genesis. One would then have to ask: if the beginning of the Bible isn't true, how can we trust the rest of it? God puts the finite mind of man in its place when he reminds us, as he did his servant Job, "*Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?*" – Job 38:14.

Once again, we are not required to *understand* all the mechanisms of God's mighty creation. God merely asks us to *believe* the simple account in Genesis of how He made the world we live in.

ICON KEY

-  Introduction
-  Important point
-  For further reading

The Nature of Creation

1. Read Psalm 33:6-9. The author of this psalm was moved by God to describe the process of creation. ***What, specifically, did God DO in order to bring about the world's creation?***

2. The Bible uses the word "create" in a special way. It means, "to make out of nothing." When we use that word, say of a painter or a sculptor, we understand that he uses certain materials to produce his "creations" – brushes and canvas, stone and chisel. But God worked differently. In Genesis chapter one, glance at verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20 and 24. ***What raw materials did God use to bring forth the things He wanted to create?***

3. Read Hebrews 11:3. ***How does the Bible say "the worlds were framed"?***



Some people try very hard to make the Bible agree with the scientific theory of evolution. That means they have to try to make billions of years fit into the first two chapters of Genesis. Sometimes they quote the Bible passage which says that “with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). They speculate that each “day” of creation might actually have been millions or billions of years long. But this is hard to prove from the clear language of the Old Testament. For one thing, it is an established fact that when the Hebrew word “day” is used with a number (as in Genesis 1), it always refers to an ordinary, 24-hour day.

4. We have yet another indicator in Genesis that the “days” referred to are regular days such as we are familiar with. Scan Genesis 1, verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23 and 31. *What phrase is used to describe each passing day of creation?*

You may also wish to look up the following passages: Genesis 7:11-12, Genesis 8:14, Exodus 12:6 and Exodus 20:11. These are a few of the other places where the Hebrew word for “day” is used with a number. *In every case, normal 24-hour days are meant.*

5. One of the rules for correctly interpreting the Bible is this: a passage should be understood in its simple, literal sense, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise (as with the parables of Jesus). Thinking back over the portions of Genesis we’ve discussed, *what is the simple answer for the question: “How long did it take God to make the world?”*



6. Look up Exodus 20:11 *Again: how long did it take God to make the world?*

God is clear in His Word. Let us rely on that Word alone to tell us how our world came into being. To God be all the glory, Who brought this whole world into existence, in six natural days, simply by the power of His Word!

The Big Bang

It is good to remember that the Theory of Evolution is just that – a theory. It cannot be proven or demonstrated. The most popular model of the origin of the universe is called the Big Bang Theory. This says that, billions of years ago, all the matter in the universe was compressed into a space smaller than the head of a pin. When it couldn’t compress any more, it exploded, sending dust and material hurtling outward. Some of this dust gradually came together to form galaxies full of stars and planets – including our planet Earth. Because our Earth had just the right atmosphere and environment, life was able to form (although the teachers of evolution still can’t say from where the very first life came).

"LEARN FROM ME"

The word "evolve" means "to change slowly." According to evolutionists, life on earth began as simple, one-celled animals. Over billions of years (so they say), some cells got together to form plants, some animals, some fish, birds and insects. Each class of life gradually "mutated" into many different "species." Only the strongest types lived long enough to reproduce. Finally, the primate class of mammals grew to be the strongest and smartest. Certain of the monkeys lost their tails, came down from the trees and began to walk upright. Mankind was the final result.



If, on the other hand, the Lord leads you to accept the Bible account of creation, you may soon come to realize that it takes a great deal more "faith" to believe in evolution than in creation! What God asks us to do is straightforward: accept the simple yet profound account of the world's origins, as we find it revealed in the first two chapters of Genesis.

The world we observe around us has order, and it is incredibly complex. Common sense tells us that the One who created all this must have a mind far greater than our own. In the Bible, God reveals Himself as the creator of all things.

7. Open your Bible to the first chapter of Genesis. *What are the first four words of the first verse?*

8. Note: there is no scientific attempt to explain God, or the fact that He was always there even before the creation. There is no explanation for the fact that *we* are subject to time, while *God* is not. God simply IS. He is the only one who can say, "I am who I am," (Exodus 3:14). Once again, the Lord does not call upon you to understand, but only to believe what He tells you in the Bible. Look up John 20:29. *In this passage, what sort of people does Jesus call "blessed"?*

The Days of Creation

9. Refer again to the first chapter of Genesis. *What did God make on the first day of creation (from verses 1-3)?*

The world was still without shape and formless, but all the elements, as well as light, had now been created. It is interesting that God created the light (day one) before He created the objects which radiate light – sun moon and stars (day four).

10. By the way, *from verse two, which person of the Trinity was ALSO present with God the Father at creation?*

"LEARN FROM ME"

11. Skim the first dozen or so verses of John chapter one. In this section, Christ is referred to as "the Word." Read verses 1-3. *Who ELSE do we know was present with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit at creation?*

Thus already in Genesis, we are shown the presence of the Triune God, all three persons taking part in the creation of the world. You will note the use of the plural "us" and "our" later on in verse 26, as the three persons of the Godhead discuss the creation of man.

12. In the following portion of Genesis chapter one, we have an account of all the things the Lord created day by day. Beginning with verse nine, God separated the land from the seas and caused plant life to appear and grow on the earth. In doing so, He shows us why life does not and cannot slowly change ("evolve") from one thing into another. Skim over Genesis 1, verses 11, 12, 21, 24, and 25. A certain phrase keeps cropping up. Complete the sentence: *"God said that each species of plant and animal would reproduce..."*



God designed each species of plant and animal so that it would reproduce *only its own kind*. Established species do not gradually change into new species. Some examples: A nectarine is a cross of two fruits, a peach and a plum. But a nectarine seed, when it grows, will become either a peach tree or a plum tree. God made each after its own kind. Corn seed can be crossed to make long stalks for feed or long ears for grain, but it will always remain corn. God made each after its kind with its own seed in itself. A horse can be crossed with a donkey to make a mule. But mules cannot produce other mules. The Lord made the various kinds of life, and they do not change from one kind into another. The scientific theory of evolution cannot explain what is so clearly shown in Genesis chapter one.

On the fourth day God made the sun, moon and stars. So orderly are the lights in the heavens that a sailor on the high seas can tell from them just where he is and in which direction he must go. So orderly are the lights in the heavens which God made that nations launching satellites depend upon the exact positions of the stars in order to place their craft into orbit around the earth.

On the fifth day God made, simply by calling them forth into being, fish and fowl, both small and great. With each day of creation, God notes the passing of a 24-hour day, and He also repeats that each day's creation was "good".

In verses 24-25, the creation of animal life is recorded. Following this comes the crown of God's creation, man. Man alone (in contrast to the animals) was made "in God's image" – perfectly righteous and holy. All creation was to be under the rule of man to to be used for God's glory and man's own welfare. People were commanded to be fruitful and have children and populate the earth; children were part of God's plan to bless mankind.

"LEARN FROM ME"

13. Originally all living creatures were to eat the herb of the field and all seed-bearing fruit. This did not remain a command of God after the fall into sin. *When God looked over His completed creation (v.31), what was His conclusion?*

The comments in the preceding few pages are not meant to be a complete discussion of the subject of God's awesome work of creation. You may wish to ask your pastor to recommend further reading material on the subject of Creation vs. Evolution. Many books and pamphlets by Christian authors have been written on this topic.

The Crown of God's Creation



In Genesis chapter one God gives us an overview of the creation account. In chapter two the Lord goes back one step and repeats the story of the creation of man. The chapter opens with God's day of rest, the seventh day. Certainly, we are not to think of the Lord as "getting tired" from all His work, but rather that He simply ceased from His work, which was now complete. Later we will see how the Bible itself relates this "rest" on the seventh day to the spiritual rest (for our souls) that is found in Jesus Christ.

14. Read Genesis 2:7. *From this verse, what are two aspects of the creation of man which were different from the other things God created?*

In considering the creation of the first man, Adam, people have often asked, "What about the cave men?" Were there never brutish human beings who lived in caves and scavanged a living from hunting and gathering? At some point in the later history of the world there may well have been primitive men like this, but certainly Adam was not one of them! Imagine the intelligence it took for Adam to name every one of the animals (2:19), birds, etc.

15. Yet, among all the creatures God made, there was no fitting companion for the man. Adam was lonely. Read Genesis 2:21-24. *How did God create woman?*

16. Go back to Genesis 1:26-27. *What was one additional way in which the creation of man was different from the creation of the animals?*

"LEARN FROM ME"

17. Skip to the New Testament and read Ephesians 4:24. Again, *what does "the image of God" mean?*

18. Some people believe in the "wind-up theory of creation". That is, they think God created the world and then withdrew and let it run on its own. But read Hebrews 1:3. *God not only used His Word to CREATE all things – what does He also use His Word to do?*

19. Read again Genesis 1:28. *With which command did God insure that His creation would survive?*

20. Many people fear that the earth may one day be destroyed by a natural disaster or a man-made nuclear catastrophe. But read Genesis 8:22. *What has God promised?*

Additional Bible Readings



For additional Bible readings on the material covered in this lesson, you may want to read Job, chapters 38 and 39, where God tells His suffering servant that no man witnessed creation. Read also Genesis, chapters 37, 39-45, and 50, as a prime example of how God brought good out of apparent evil in the life of Joseph. Read also Psalm 104.