

CREATION versus EVOLUTION

2 Peter 3 (Part 1)

Evolution is a powerful philosophy that denies Biblical creationism. It is fundamentally a religion without God, that is, the religion of atheists, agnostics, and humanists. In this lesson we want to deal with the Bible and science.

Evolution is a theory that depends upon putting its own interpretation upon certain scientific data to explain its philosophy. However, the same scientific data is capable of being interpreted or explained by those who hold to creationism as well. All current scientific data that is now available sustains the creation - catastrophe model as well, or even better, than it does the creation - uniformity model.

I. PURPOSE

In this lesson we said we want to study the **Bible** and two great scientific facts ignored by the evolutionists. It may surprise you, but I don't want you to open your Bibles to Genesis chapter 1 or chapter 6. But if you will, open your New Testament to the 2nd book of Peter chapter 3, which is the best chapter in the Bible to study with the evolutionists.

2 PETER 3:1 *** These days people like to have their *emotions* stirred up and not their minds. The movies play on the sexual emotions; we are concerned about the emotions of love, hate, security, and insecurity. But Peter here would stir up our minds to remember certain things... what are they?

Verse 2 -- Peter would not have our minds filled with secular philosophies, that leave out God, useless theories, and with all the wisdom of men, but rather have our minds filled with the word of God.

Verse 3 -- They were walking in their own lusts. These are not necessarily sexual lusts; there are other kinds, but so often this day and time we think of only one. But he means the lust of personal ambitions, and self-glory.

He says, here is the pseudo-intellectual attitude that would come to exist, on the part of "scoffers" or NASV "mockers". The pseudo-intellectual attitude will be one of "scoffing." These scoffers will arise from among self, that is, within the context of Christendom.

Verse 4 -- He presents the basis of their scoffing. "Scoffers" today point and say, for hundreds of years, even for thousands, Christ has not come back to end this world. Our "scoffers" of today say that with our understanding of the cosmos this world will continue as it is now for thousands of years more and even millions. Biological processes will continue without end.

Peter is making the point that this understanding would be different if they understood the word of God. If they believed in the origin of the cosmos as presented in the Scriptures, that it had a super-natural beginning, a creation, then they could also believe that a

supernatural end for this cosmos was possible.

But this philosophy of the “scoffers” of these days is that of evolution and uniformity. They believe that the processes that can be studied today are the processes that have always existed; i.e. all the same biological processes, chemical, ... geological, ... hydraulic processes – and that nothing has changed within the system..

If these processes that exist today are the only processes that have ever existed, and that they have always been uniform, then perhaps we could explain man as simply a biological process.

If evolution has brought life from nothing and made man from animals; there’s no telling what evolution may account for in the future. The modern scientist can argue that by knowing **all** biological processes, man may control the biological, social, and cultural development of future man.

For all intents and purposes then, if this is true, current man is God over the world that is come next century and the next millennial. That is the world view at present.

So it is not surprising that Peter says men will reject the truth that the Lord is coming back in judgment.

Verse 5, 6 -- Peter says their views are not based upon the truth-- but that the uniformity - evolution philosophy is based on willful ignorance of the two greatest facts of history, namely says Peter, the creation and the world-flood.

So the philosophy of creationism and catastrophism is found in the Bible. It is of great important then to study the creation and the flood.

Verse 5b -- Peter spoke of the creation -- that by the word of God, the heavens were of old... (almost identical to Genesis 1:6 & 9).

Many modern theologians want to allegorize the story of the creation. But it is not written as an allegory, but as fact. Those who understand Genesis 1, 2, 3 as history but don’t believe it, are more correct than those who say they believe, but try to explain it as an allegory or symbolical.

We must depend entirely upon revelation from God to understand the origin of this cosmos. As far as the scientist is concerned, God’s method of originating the cosmos, which is no longer used today, cannot now be studied first hand.

The scriptures tell us that God **rested** from that kind of creation at the end of six days. Thus the creation process is not accessible to the scientist to study in a laboratory. Only God can tell us about creationism.

1. The fact of the **completeness** of creation is emphasized again and again in Genesis 2:1-2, as well as in Exodus 20:11 when Moses gave the Ten Commandments he said that God had rested, or ceased from the creation process, on the seventh day. It is emphasized in the New Testament in Hebrews 4:3, 10, and other scripture, that God rested from the creation process.

Thus, nothing is now being “created” or “made.” The processes of nature by which God now sustains His creation are thus entirely different from those by which he first produced it. Present day physical and biological processes then, are the only processes available for scientific measurement and study, and can therefore tell us nothing whatever about the processes God used in creation and making all things.

The **two laws of thermodynamics** are statements concerning conservation and disintegration; they bear the Bible to be true in their regard. These laws of thermodynamics are so famous, they are simply called by scientists the First Law, and the Second Law.

The first is the **Law of Energy Conservation**. This law says that the total amount of matter and energy in the universe is constant. Nothing is being created. This is very basic to the study of science today.

The second law is the **Law of Entropy, or Disintegration**. It says that everything is becoming more and more disorganized. It says that things are getting older, wearing out, the universe is running down. It doesn't say that energy is being annihilated, but not accessible. It says that if the universe continued under the laws of uniformity it would die a heat death, perhaps millions of years from now; it is in the process of decay. This law says things decay, things become disorganized, and do not become better. [The Bible says this also in the **Hebrews 1:10-12.**]

Both of these laws in themselves, dispute the claims of the evolutionists. For instance, the fact that the earth is not dead already shows that this earth is not eternally old. Somewhere, somehow, it came into existence; it has not been here eternally.

Thus it is scientific to believe in creationism. That it had a beginning and not always was--is scientific.

Thus creation is not now still going on. There are changes taking place, but not creative changes, but changes in harmony with the laws of nature or providence of God, or God's “upholding laws,” God today upholds all things by the word of his Power (**Hebrews 1:3**).

We have seen that creation was completed on the sixth day.

2. Next we see that creation was **mature**. It is difficult to tell the difference between the true age and the apparent age because of this fact. An example would be Adam. Suppose you had a doctor to examine Adam after the creation to determine his age (count his teeth, or check his growth rings, or whatever he might do to determine his age), and he might find Adam's apparent age to be 25 years, but his real age would be one minute!

You ask a horticulturalist to examine the flowers and the fruit trees. Here they are bearing fruit and with seed inside. Usually years are required to grow and bear fruit under the processes of uniformity today. But these are only a minute old! The soil they were growing in may have looked like it had been developing hundred of years.

Suppose a geologist looked into the earth to find what mineral deposits were present. I imagine he would find uranium minerals with some uranic lead already diffused in with it. God created a mature cosmos. Everything he created was full grown right from the start.

3. In the third place, when God looked upon it, it was good. The creation was created **perfect**. It didn't need to evolve! It was perfect already! (Genesis 1:12, 25) How else would you expect God to create it?

We see then it was created **1) Complete; 2) Mature; and 3) Perfect.**

Initially all the creation was good. Then God made man, and man brought disorder into God's creation. I suppose that Satan caused the first disorder in the cosmos. But man brought spiritual disorder to the earth.

And when man brought spiritual disorder, God, because he is God and God is holy, had to bring a curse upon man and his dominion. Man was cast from the garden. Now decay began. Man must earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. The earth which had been created perfect then began to bring forth thistles and obstacles for man. Woman would bring forth children in sorrow.

Adam, God said, this is because you listened to someone else instead of me! Eve, this is because you listened to Satan. Anytime we accept words of another above God we are in trouble. Eve had listened to the voice of the serpent, and trouble resulted.

Decay and death. Now man had a struggle. "Dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return." (Eccl. 12:7; Job. 7:21; 34:15)

We have seen that the First Law of Thermodynamics came into being at the end of the sixth day and the creation was completed. And now at man's sin, the Second Law of Disintegration and Disorganization begins.

This teaching is not just in the Old Testament, but it is found in the New as well. Jesus sanctioned Genesis 1:2 as historical and accurate. He quoted from both chapters.

In Hebrews 1:10, the writer quoting from Psalms 104:4 said
"10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."

Things wear out; they decay. This is why it is impossible to create a perpetual motion machine. This is why all our clothes and shoes wear out; it is why our bodies wear out. So from the moment a person is born, he begins to die so to speak.

But along with physical decay and death, Adam brought social decay and death into bloom. Now man would be held accountable. And his condition was one of moral and ethical deterioration till it came to the time of the flood.

Man devolved, not evolved! Man multiplied upon the face of the earth-- I reckon that's the only command God made that man has kept. But as he multiplied he became exceedingly sinful. What is our condition today. We multiply; do we think we are any better in our social and spiritual order than when Christ was here?

But this brings us to the second great fact of history that Peter points out that "*scoffers*" should remember, and it is found in verse 6.

Verse 6 -- The second great fact of history that Peter points them to-- saying you scoffers should remember the great flood!

This catastrophe occurred just a few thousand years after man was driven from Eden. [About 1600 years if they are no gaps in the genealogy, and no more than one or two thousand off anyway.] During this time the social and spiritual condition of man deteriorated as they multiplied upon the face of the earth. So here then came the greatest example of the Second Law of Death and Decay in the flood.

Peter, in **verse 6**, says that the "*cosmos*" ... that orderly system, not "*kaos*" but "*cosmos*" perished. With it perished the first social system, first geological systems, and geographic features.

Two facts we note in this is it "*overflowed with water.*" 1) It was a world-wide flood, 2) it was a water flood, a flood of water, and not something symbolic.

"The world (cosmos) that then was, being overflowed (katakluzo) with water perished." Two unique words are used with reference to the world flood. They are not used in anything else in the Bible except with reference to this world flood. The Hebrew word in the Old Testament is marone. An entirely different word. The Greek word is "katakludzo" from which we get our word "**cataclysm**." The only time this word is used in the Bible is with reference to the great catastrophe, the world flood. When Jesus tells about men building on sand and on rock and the flood coming, it is a different word for flood, not the same at all.

There is no doubt as to what Peter meant here. In his first epistle he had said, **I Peter 3:20** – "*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*" "

Scientists refer to the Bible as teaching **creationism** and **catastrophism**. But it would probably be more correct to call it "creationism" and "cataclysm." Peter does use the word "**catastrophe**" in 2 Peter 2:6, "***6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;***" God made use of a volcanic action, or some action like a volcanic & earthquake combination to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and that was a "catastrophe"-- but the flood of Noah was called a "cataclysm" and there has never been another one like that.

But let us go back to Genesis chapters 4,5,6 to emphasize the two facts we noted about this "cataclysm," that it was 1) a world-wide flood; and 2) a water flood.

The Bible words make it very plain that it was a world flood. In Genesis 7 we are told that the mountains were covered for 150 days. The ark came to rest in the Ararat mountain range. Those mountains today are 17,000 feet high (how high they were before the flood we aren't sure.) For the water to cover those mountains, for a period of 150 days, you don't have to know a lot about hydraulics to know that in that time it would be all over the earth, at that depth. it would have covered the earth in a much time shorter than that.

If it were only a local flood, it was somewhat silly of Noah to build an ark. Instead of spending a 120 years or so building that ark, he could have migrated a long way in that time. But it would have been necessary for all men to have migrated to the Euphrates valley so they would be killed. For the Bible plainly says that all life besides those eight souls in the ark perished.

But Noah built a gigantic structure. The ark had the capacity of 522 standard box cars. It would be very easy to have two of every specie or kind (and we realize specie and kind are not always synonymous) in the ark. Understand of course that he didn't have to take the fish aboard. And there was still plenty of room for them to take food; and I suppose they took some water, I don't know. Maybe "caught" it when it began to rain!?

But with it being world-wide, several hydraulic engineers have written about the hydraulic effect of a world-flood: the moving swishing waves, the rising and falling of giant tides, the stirring of the sediments with winds, rains, and upheavals from the deep, we realize there must have been a tremendous change of the physical features of that cosmos that existed before the flood.

We must realize then that the layers of the sedimentary rock with fossil contents do not tell of the earth from creation-- but of the earth as destroyed by the catastrophic flood.

But for scoffers to accept a catastrophic destruction of the old world at the hands of God they must then face the fact that God could at any time he chooses bring another catastrophic end, this time in a judgment of fire, and men don't want this revelation that we are going to be accountable to God, and so they deny the catastrophic judgments, and hold to a philosophy of uniformity. (Romans 1:28 speaks of such men who do not like to retain God in their knowledge.)

The appeal to a system of uniformity, because uniformity is all that we have known personally... so far.

The Bible speaks of at least five cosmologies.

- 1) the cosmology of the six days of creation -- a process not on-going today. A world that lasted six days ended when God rested on the seventh day.
- 2) there was that cosmology that Adam and Even lived in until they sinned, an world that ended with Adam's sin, an age of perfection, and good. A world then that existed from the end of day six, till Adam's expulsion from the garden of Eden.
- 3) There was then that world that existed from the fall of man till the flood of Noah's day, called *the world that was*, in v. 5, of our text..
- 4) There is the cosmology of this present world ...
- 5) And in **verse 13**, Peter speaks of the cosmology that will come!

So these five Biblical cosmologies stand over and against the false cosmology of the scoffers of today-- their cosmology is that evolution and uniformity.

Verse 8 -- Here is a true hint about the time relationship of God and man for God to bring about His work. He can accomplish in one day, what might take uniformity 1000's of years. God is not worried about time. He will be true and faithful.

It will not take God a million years to bring this cosmos to an end. he can do it quickly and suddenly like a thief in the night.

Verse 9 -- Repentance -- men must have a change of mind. In view of this context then, he undoubtedly has reference to these who scoff against God and His Word, they must have a change of mind and a change of heart and turn to God.

Verse 10, 11, 12 -- Science today can deal only with the world as it is; they cannot deal with the creational processes, nor with the catastrophic processes, except the results of it (and they misinterpret that), nor can they tell us anything about the catastrophic eschatological future. We must depend upon the revelation of God.

Verse 16 -- A warning to Christians in context of these competing cosmologies-- don't try to twist the scriptures to fit into some secular understanding or theories of the cosmos.

This is the way that of many great schools and universities in the country have started. They fall into the theistic-evolution trap. But Jesus Christ accepted the story of Genesis 1 and 2 about God's creation of Adam and Eve as accurate and historical.

Many schools and universities in our nation have started out believing the Holy Scriptures inspired of God and accepted the account of Genesis. In time, they slowly twisted the scriptures to fit other philosophies. So to fit in with the philosophy of evolution, many religions try to twist the creation story into an allegorical and symbolic story.

Verses 17, 18.

CONCLUSION:

1Peter 3: Verse 9 – Repentance – to turn to God. This one acts stands for the whole process of turning to God – It stand for the whole conversion process of hearing the Word of God, believing it, turning from sin, and obeying the Gospel to be baptize.

Verse 15 – God’s mercy . . .

PURPOSE: To show that evolution and uniformity ignores two great Bible truths.