

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church April 17, 2016

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

- God has revealed himself through both special revelation (the Bible) and through general revelation (nature).
- Aquinas correctly taught that the Bible (faith) and nature (reason) when correctly understood **NEVER** contradict one another because both have God as their source and both bear witness to Him.
- Therefore, if we think the Bible says one thing about Creation and science says another, we at least misunderstand either the Bible or science OR possibly misunderstand both the Bible and science!
- A problem we face is that the seemingly most straightforward, literal reading of Genesis appears to support a young Earth while general revelation from many perspectives appears to support a very old universe. We will focus on why evolution is “bad science” and not attempt to defend either a young or old Earth/universe.

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

- Prior to about 1800 Christians generally thought the Earth was less than 7000 years old but did not consider it an important issue.
- In the 1800's (even prior to Darwin) Christians generally accepted that the earth was old. B.B. Warfield (1851-1921) who coined the term Biblical inerrancy believed in "an old earth and argued that genealogies are not chronologies.
- The modern "young earth" movement began in 1961 with *The Genesis Flood* by John Whitcomb and Henry Morris.
- For some Christians a young Earth is a test of orthodoxy despite people such as Billy Graham, C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer, J.I. Packer, John Piper and Wayne Grudem holding an "old Earth" view.

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 – 31 John Piper on Creation

We should teach without any qualification that God created the universe and everything in it. It wasn't always here. It didn't spontaneously emerge from a big bang alone. God did it. That's clear, and everybody who believes the Word should preach that.

Secondly, I think we should preach that he made it good. There was no sin in it, when he first made it.

Thirdly, I think we should preach that he created Adam and Eve directly, that he made them of the dust of the ground, and he took out of man a woman. I think we should teach that. I know there are people who don't, who think it's all imagery for evolution or whatever.

And we should teach that man had his beginning not millions of years ago but within the scope of the biblical genealogies. Those genealogies are tight at about 6,000 years and loose at maybe 10 or 15,000. So I think we should honor those genealogies and not say that you can play fast and loose with the origin of man.

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 – 31 John Piper

- John Sailhamer wrote in *Genesis Unbound* or in his other books, that all of creation happened in verses 1 and 2. It may be as old as 4 trillion years, as far as he is concerned, and what was happening in Genesis 1 each day was not the bringing into being of the earth and its various forms, but rather the ordering, managing and structuring of things. This allows for 24 hour days but also allows for an old earth.
- I lean that way. I don't believe in evolution as the way that Adam came to be a human. I think God created Adam from the dust of the ground. I think he was unique and that he is the father of all humanity—Adam and Eve—and that he is not the product of a long evolutionary process. I can't make that jive with the way the text reads.
- And I think that it's very important that Adam be a historical figure, because that's the way he is treated by the other biblical writers.

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

What is evolution?

- Evolution is the theory that all life has descended from a common ancestor as the result of random variation and natural selection over a very long period of time.
- Evolution claims to account for both micro and macro evolution.
- Micro evolution means the process by which a species adapts to a particular environment to form a subspecies. For example, there are 17 subspecies of white-tail deer in the United States. Micro evolution is a scientific fact beyond dispute.
- Macro evolution postulates that **new** species arise from natural selection and random variation through a series of intermediate forms. There are no documented observations of this nor does the fossil record contain any intermediates.

What is the Doctrine of Creation?

Basic Taxonomy

1. Kingdom: Animal
2. Phylum: Chordata
3. Class: (fish, amphibian, reptiles, birds, **mammals**)
4. Order: (**carnivores**, primates, rodents, even/odd toed ungulates, etc.)
5. Family: (**canines**, felines, bears, raccoons, weasels, etc.)
6. Genus: (**Foxes**, dogs, wolves, coyotes, jackals)
7. Species: (**red fox**, artic fox etc.)

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- **Though evolution will be shown to be implausible versus creation, it is important to note that evolution is more plausible than the “big bang.”**
- **The main reason is that evolution postulates the prior existence of the earth as a place hospitable for life and of all the necessary basic materials for life to begin as well as the existence of the sun as an energy source and the moon providing the rhythm of day and night.**

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

There is some general agreement between the Genesis account and the “scientific narrative.”

1. **And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Genesis 1:3** The “big bang” theory claims the first 400 million years following the “big bang” was a time of only light. It is remarkable that Genesis starts with light since Einstein’s famous equation of $E=mc^2$ gives the mass energy equivalence.

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

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2. And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:9-10 The “big bang” theory places the origin of the universe about 13.77 billion years ago and the formation of the earth 4.5 billion years ago. Both accounts have a general sequence of light and then formation of the earth as a place hospitable for life.

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3. And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:20-21 **The fossil record appears to have a great explosion of ocean life about 570 million years ago that progresses from very simple creatures to fish to amphibians to reptiles to birds, and finally mammals.**

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- 4. So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:21** **The fossil record appears to show birds after the appearance of dinosaurs about 230 million years ago.**

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5. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. Genesis 1:24 **The fossil record appears to show dinosaurs becoming extinct about 65 million years ago and being replaced by mammals.**
6. Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Genesis 1:26 **Though scientifically controversial, the fossil record appears to show human like creatures (Neanderthals appearing about 200,000 years ago) *homo sapiens* (Cro-Magnon about 30-40,000 years ago) and modern man *homo sapien sapiens* about 10,000 years ago. Note: homo= man and sapien = wise**

Evolution vs Genesis 1:3 - 31

There are some disagreements between the Genesis account and the “scientific narrative.”

1. The time scale is much larger in the “scientific narrative” than many Christians expect.
2. The sequence of events is slightly different.
 - Day and night begin on the first day (Genesis 1:4-5) but the sun and moon are apparently not created until the fourth day (Genesis 1:16-18)
 - Plants appear on the third day (Genesis 1:11-12) before the sea creatures. The fossil record appears to show flowering plants during the age of reptiles.