

Week Ten

Creation

Creation

- God created the entire universe out of nothing
- Creation is distinct, yet dependent on God
- God created the universe to show His glory
- It was originally very good
- The relationship between scripture and the findings of modern science
- Application

God Created the Universe Out of Nothing

- “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1) → includes the entire universe
- “All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:3)
- “For in Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him” (Col 1:16)
- God “calls into being that which does not exist” (Rom 4:17)

Creation Out of Nothing

- God created the spiritual universe
 - The creation of the spiritual realm is implied in all of the previous verses
 - “You are the Lord, You alone; You have made heavens, the heaven of heavens” (Neh. 9:6)
- God directly created Adam and Eve
 - “The Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen 2:7)
 - “So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept He took one of his ribs and close up its place with flesh; and the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man: (Gen 2:21-22)
 - This is not compatible with a long evolutionary process

Creation is Distinct from God Yet Always Dependent on God

- “In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:10)
- God “gives to all men life and breath and everything” and that “in Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:25,28)
- False beliefs
 - Materialism – denies the existence of God completely
 - Pantheism – the whole universe is part of God
 - Dualism – God and the universe exist side by side, resulting in two equal, but opposite forces
 - Star Wars (the force)
 - Most “New Age” thought
 - Deism – God is not now directly involved with His creation

God Chose to Create the Universe to Show His Glory

- He speaks of His sons & daughters as those “whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made” (Is. 43:7)
- “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.” (Ps 19:1)
- “You created all things, and by your will they existed and were created” (Rev. 4:11)
- He did not need to create the universe – it was a free act of God

The Universe God Created Was “Very Good”

- God said it
 - It was “good” (Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, and 25)
 - It was “very good” (Gen 1:31)
- False asceticism is wrong
 - Paul warns against those who “forbid marriage” and “enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth” (1 Tim 4:1-3)
- Paul notes to avoid the “love of money” (1 Tim 6:9-10), yet affirms that it is God Himself “who richly furnishes us with everything to enjoy” (1 Tim 6:17) → material possessions are temporal
- This fact gives warrant for Christians to encourage proper industrial and technological development (together with the environment), and joyful and thankful use of all the products of the abundant earth that God has created (pg 272)

Relationship Between Scripture and Findings in Modern Science

- In many cases, sincere Christian faith and strong trust in the Bible have led scientists to the discovery of new facts about God's universe
 - Isaac Newton, Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, Blaise Pascal, Robert Boyle, Michael Faraday, James Clerk Maxwell, etc.
- We must be careful to not read too much scientific interpretation into scripture
 - Galileo (1564-1642) began teaching that the earth was not the center of the universe (following Copernicus (1472-1543))
 - His writings were condemned by the Roman Catholic Church
 - Phrases in scripture about the sun rising and setting were interpreted to mean that the earth was the center (see Eccl 1:5 as an example)
 - The reality is that these words merely portrayed events from the perspective of the observer – not a statement on the center of the universe

Final Reconciliation of Scripture and Science

- When all facts are rightly understood, there will be no “final conflict” between scripture and natural science
- These are areas of potential conflict between Christians who believe in the total truthfulness of scripture
 1. God created a “grown-up” universe
 2. A time gap between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 (or between 1:2 and 1:3)
 3. A long day in Genesis 1
 4. The flood significantly affected geological data
 5. The use of the word “kinds” in Genesis 1 being quite broad
 6. The death of animals before the fall
 7. Where the Hebrew word *bara* is not used, there is the possibility of sequence from previously existing things

We Should Not Fear Science

- We should not fear to investigate scientifically the facts of the created world but should do so eagerly and with complete honesty, confident that when facts are rightly understood, they will always turn out to be consistent with God's inerrant words in Scripture (pg 275)
- Scripture will never contradict facts in the natural world
- "By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible" (Heb 11:4)

Theories Not Consistent with Scripture

- Secular theories
 - Anything not in accordance with scripture
 - “Big Bang” with out a creator
 - Darwinism without God
 - Aliens
- Theistic Evolution
 - Largely based on Charles Darwin’s *Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859)
 - Hypothesize that God intervened in the overall process three times
 - The creation of matter at the beginning
 - The creation of the simplest life form
 - The creation of man
 - With the exception of these three intervention points, they hold that the evolutionary proceeded naturally (without God’s intervention)

Objections to Theistic Evolution (1)

- The clear teaching of scripture that there is purposefulness in God's work of creation seems incompatible with the randomness demanded by evolutionary theory
 - (They) must postulate for each of the hundreds of thousands of different kinds of plants and animals on the earth; they all developed through a process of random mutation over millions of years, gradually increasing in complexity as occasional mutations turned out to be advantageous to the creature (pg 277)
 - Genesis shows God being intention (see Gen 1:24)
 - Intelligent Design (see Gen 1:21)

Objections to Theistic Evolution (2)

- Scripture pictures God's creative word as bringing immediate response
 - “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth...For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood forth” (Ps 33:6,9)
 - “Let the earth put forth vegetation...And it was so” (Gen 1:10-11)
- Scripture says that God made plants and animals reproduced “according to their kinds” (Gen 1:11,24)
- God's present active role in creating or forming every living thing...is hard to reconcile with the distant “hands off” kind of oversight of evolution (pg 277)
 - “You formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb” (Ps 139:13)
 - God is concerned with many elements of the universe's growth (growing grass, feeding birds), wouldn't He be involved with the creation as well?

Objections to Theistic Evolution (3)

- The special, intimate creation of Adam and Eve
 - Scripture pictures the first man and woman as possessing highly developed linguistic, moral, and spiritual abilities from the moment they were created (pg 278)
 - This was a literal account
 - There is no break in the narration through Abraham, which was obviously literal
 - In Rom 5:12-21 and 1 Cor 15:21-22,45-59 affirms that sin came into the world through one man
 - Many NT passages clearly understand Adam and Eve to be historical figures as well as their sons Cain and Abel (see bottom of pg 278 for references)

Objections to Theistic Evolution (4)

- There are many scientific problems with evolutionary theory
- Evolution
 - Micro-evolution
 - Small developments within one species
 - No one denies these exists
 - Macro-evolution:
 - Major changes of changes across species, or even between non-living and living entities
 - This is what normally is being referred to as “Evolution”
 - The deficiencies will be discussed next

Challenges to Evolution (1)

- After closely monitoring one hundred years of experimental breeding, the amount of variation produced has been extremely limited (to micro-evolution)
- “Survival of the fittest” says that beings lose disadvantageous attributes
 - Most attributes could be argued as both positives and negatives
 - If humans came from monkeys, where’d our tails go!?!?

Challenges to Evolution (2)

- The mutations required to create complex organs (birds eyes, wings, etc.) could not have been the gradual build up of “beneficial” mutations
 - These are “step functions” with no benefit until the whole is achieved
 - Michael Behe discusses this topic in great scientific length in *Darwin’s Black Box* – irreducible complexity
 - Bombardier beetle example
- The fossil record simply does not support these theories
 - No concrete “intermediate types” or “transition” fossils have ever been found
 - If mutations really happened over long periods of time (or almost continually), then all fossils should be transition fossils
 - This is not the case in what has been uncovered in the past 130 years
 - Some evolutions are now supporting “Sudden appearance” of mutations rather than a gradual evolution because there are no fossils

Challenges to Evolution (3)

- While the molecular structures of living organisms do show relationships, there are also an amazing number of differences
 - As for the similarities, two theories:
 - Common ancestry
 - Common designer (Intelligent Design)
 - To explain the differences, evolutionists point random genetic mutations in various environments
- Where did life begin?
 - Where did the “stuff” for the big bang come from?
 - The chances of creating two enzyme molecules is 10^{22} , and the chances of two being the same is 10^{70} !
 - The chances of creating life is estimated by an evolutionist to be $10^{340,000,000}$!!!

Consequences on Today's Thought

- Evolution is taught as a “fact”
- Many people think that evolution has disproved the Bible
 - What significance is human life?
 - There would be no supreme Judge to hold us morally accountable
 - Why should we help those weaker than ourselves? (survival of the fittest)

The Age of the Earth

- There are two biblical interpretations
 - Old Earth (4.5 billion years old)
 - Young Earth (10,000-20,000 years old)
 - Both are Christians who believe in the inerrancy of scripture
 - God created the universe out of nothing
 - Creation is distincte from God, yet always dependent on God
 - God created the universe to show His glory
 - The universe God created was very good
 - There will be no final conflict between Scripture and science
 - Secular theories that deny God as Creator, including Darwinian evolution, are clearly incompatible with belief in the Bible

Generational Gaps

- There are gaps in the genealogies of the Bible
 - Who was Jotham's dad?
 - According to Matthew 1:8,9, it was Uzziah
 - According to 1 Chron. 3:10-12, it was Azariah
 - See page 290
 - Who was Shebuel's dad?
 - According to 1 Chron 26:24, it was Gershom, son of Moses
 - We know from Exodus 2:22 that Gershom was born to Moses before leaving Egypt (1330 b.c.), yet Shebuel was born approximately 510 years later!
 - Such gaps are not chronologically significant after Abraham as archeology confirms Abraham's life around 2000 b.c. → the question is how many gaps were there *before* Abraham

Age of Earth Discussion Topics

- When did man appear on the earth?
 - All seem to agree with Cro-Magnon man 9,000 to 11,000 years ago
- Did animals die before the fall?
- What about dinosaurs?
- Are the Six Days of creation 24-hour days? Were they sequential?
- How old did the earth appear to be when it was created?
 - Were Adam and Eve infants when they were created?
 - Why can we see light from billions of light-years away today?
- What impact on the appearance of the age of the earth did the flood have?
- Is carbon dating accurate?

Old-Earth / Young-Earth Conclusions

- Today, scripture leans toward a young-earth
- Today, science leans toward an old-earth
- In the end, the two will not contradict each other (we don't know enough today)
- All need to work together with **humility**
 - Arrogance has no place here – we don't know enough!
 - We must work together to and focus on the major items → Intelligent Design

Reading For Next Week

- Chapter 16
 - God's Providence
 - Homework – questions 1-5

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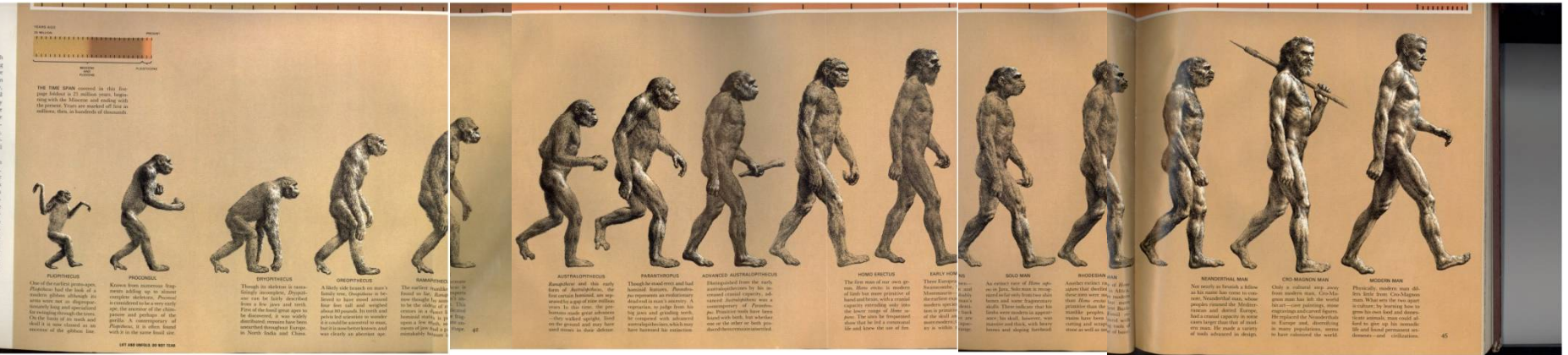
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Time Life's "Evolution of Man"



Pliopithecus,
Proconsul
Dryopithecus
Oreopithecus
Ramapithecus

Australopithecus
Parathropus
Advanced Australopithecus

Homo Erectus
Early Homo Sapiens
Solo Man
Rhodesian Man
Neanderthal
Cro-Magnon Man
Modern Man

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