

Creation and Evolution - Fact or Fiction

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God Who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. Philippians 2:12b-13

4 Models for Origins

1. *Atheistic evolution* - no supernatural involvement, life evolved over a long time by chance and mutation.
 - Darwin model - life developed by mutations and survival of the strongest (assumptions by Darwin about cells and mutations are now known to be wrong)
 - Punctuated Equilibrium - evolution happened in rapid spurts so no fossils were preserved
2. *Deistic evolution* - a supernatural being started life and naturalistic processes took over and evolved life into what we see today
3. *Theistic evolution* - God not only started life processes but also directed it through all evolution stages over a long time
4. *Creation* - all life and life processes were designed from the beginning to function just as we see them today. This was an act of God, the Creator.

Perspective on Creation and Evolution Debate

- We all have *biases*.
- We are in a *battle*. Atheistic evolution says there is no God. Rejection of God leads to a downward spiral as noted in Romans 1:18-32.

4 Cultural Shifts in the 20th Century (Dr. Michael Thompson)

Stage 1 - *Objective Truth* (God is God) pre-1900s

Stage 2 - *humanism* (Man is God) early 1900s

- This stage was propped up by the Scopes trial which is unfortunate because the proof of evolution was based on evidence that was later proven to be fake.

Stage 3 - *Existentialism* (Personal opinion is God) 1950 to 1975

Stage 4 - *Nihilism* (No God) 1975 to present

Facts to Consider

Creationist Ken Ham noted that the thing about missing links in the fossil records is that they are missing.

What if the earth is young? This is a problem for evolution which postulates;
energy + matter + lots of time = life

- The decay of the earth's magnetic field indicates a young earth.
- The small quantity of Helium (inert gas) in the atmosphere indicates a young earth.

Many great scientists who made foundational discoveries in science were creationists and devoted followers of Jesus.

Take Aways

- When it comes to origin models both evolution and creation are faith issues.
- Acceptance of creation or evolution as the origin explanation lead to very different outcomes for how life is lived.
- Acceptance of Creation origins means there is a Creator (God) Who knows what is best for His creation.

The Nicene Creed (A.D. 325/381)

I believe in one God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only – begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.