

Creation vs. Evolution

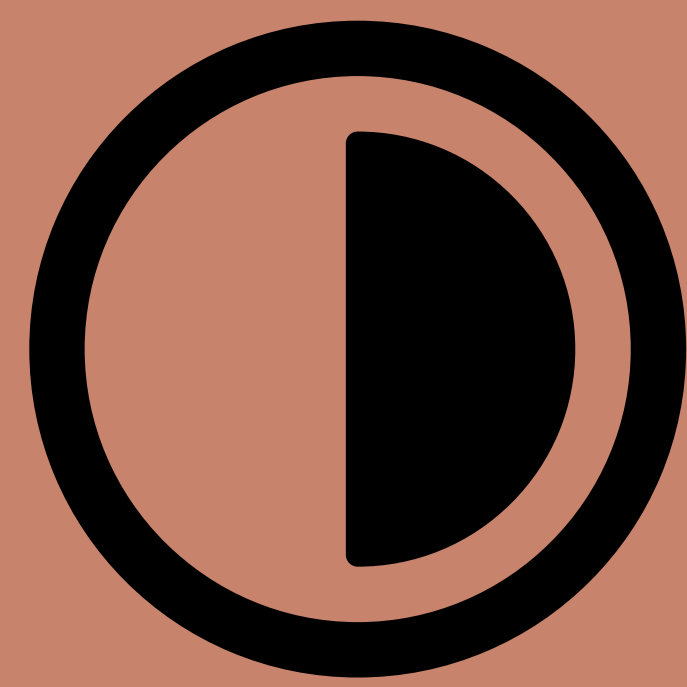
How did the world come to be?

CREATION: THE GENESIS ACCOUNT

Genesis 1:1-2: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep..."

Day 1

Separation of Light and Darkness



Genesis 1:3-5

Day 4

Creation of Sun, Moon, and Stars



Genesis 1:14-19

Day 2

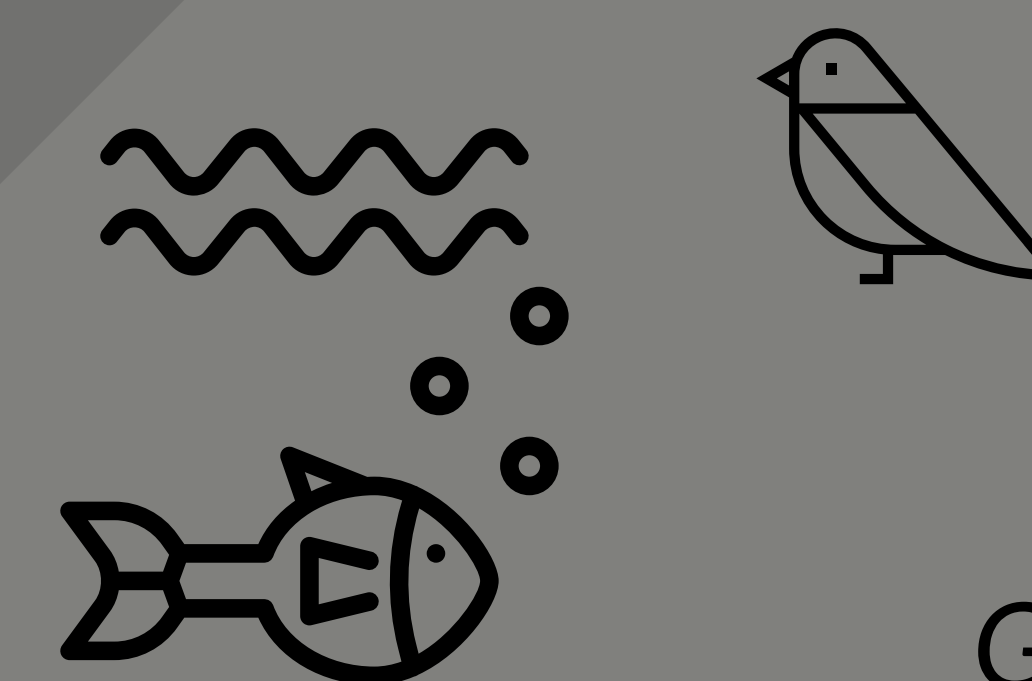
Separation of Sea and Sky



Genesis 1:6-8

Day 5

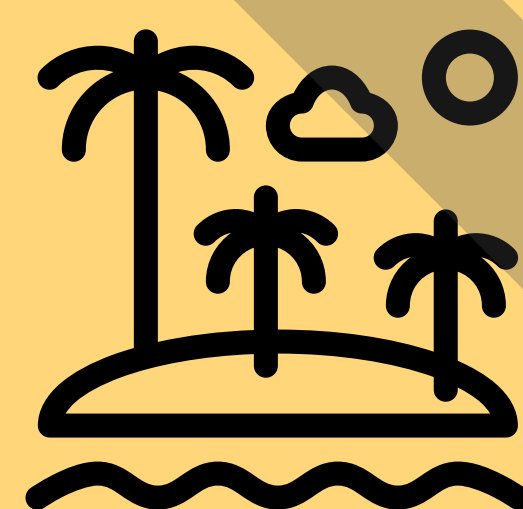
Creation of Birds and Fish



Genesis 1:20-23

Day 3

Separation of Land and Sea,
Creation of Vegetation



Genesis 1:9-13

Day 6

Creation of Land Animals and
Human Beings



Genesis 1:24-31

The world was created with **order and purpose**,
and it was **good**.

Evolution: The Big Bang Theory

(This is the most widely accepted evolutionary theory on the origin of the universe. It is incompatible with the Biblical creation account.)

In the beginning (before time), the earth was void and without substance.

13.8 billion years ago, random particles exploded to create subatomic particles, which became atoms, which eventually became elements.

3.5 billion years ago, the first single-celled organisms appeared.

60 million years ago, the first multicellular organism emerged.

Evolutionist Carl Sagan estimated the likelihood for life to appear on any given planet to be 1 in 10^{2,000,000,000}.

When did man first appear?

3 million years ago?

4 million?

315 thousand?

...there is no agreement.

Instead of the world being created with **order and purpose** in the way clearly presented in Genesis, the big bang theory claims the formation of the world was **random and chaotic**, and scientists **can never know the truth** of what happened and why. Evolutionary theory ultimately teaches that **there is no greater purpose to the universe and all the things that fill it (including human lives!)**.

What's the purpose of a human life?

Creation

Humans are created in God's image, and we trust in His plan for life, even if this brings temporary discomfort and unhappiness.

Designed to care for our neighbors, we carry out our vocations for the good of others rather than ourselves.

Mankind is not meant merely for survival. Set above the rest of nature, we have a responsibility to care for the world God created. Human life is more valuable than all other created life.

While our choices are our own, as children of God, our lives have value and purpose beyond our own whims, desires, or even our own self-preservation. We recognize this and endeavor to live as redeemed children of God, caring for the lives of all people.

Evolution

There is no grand design for the world as a whole, and humans play no special role in the world. Suffering, because it has no inherent meaning, should be avoided if at all possible.

The ultimate purpose of humanity is survival, like every other species.

Our only obligations in life lie with our community, which helps us survive. We should try to reach our full potential of self-actualization/happiness so that we not only survive but also leave the world a better place. The next generation can build on our success.

Beyond this, life has no meaning, and it makes sense for us to have complete control over whether we use our lives well or throw them away.

What are the consequences of this view?

Christians know the value of human life is absolute because life is a gift from God. However, when we reject this truth, the value of life becomes conditional based on age, ability, intellect, or some other measurable attribute. This perspective leads to the devaluation and mistreatment of people who cannot contribute to society in typical ways, including the unborn, the elderly, the mentally challenged, the homeless, and so on.

Is mankind naturally good or evil?

According to the Creation account:

Evil

Although God originally created man "very good" and perfect, humanity is now sinful by nature because of Adam and Eve's fall into sin. Our age is no more or less sinful than ages past. Humans are naturally inclined to do evil. Sin and its corruption of nature lead to the abuse of the weakest among us. It is only through Christ and His work in our lives that mankind is capable of doing good.

According to evolution:

Good

Mankind is generally good. Sometimes hard circumstances make people do evil things, but that is not innate to humans. Humans are also getting better over time. We have not reached our full potential, but mankind is currently better than it has ever been. We have greater compassion now for others, no matter their ethnic heritage, gender, age, or sexuality.

What are the consequences of this view?

The belief that human beings improve over time and are inherently capable of doing good results in works-righteousness, arrogance, complacency, and cowardice in the face of injustice. In reality, humans are no better now than they were when Adam and Eve first sinned; we still need Jesus to save and transform us. Our beliefs are not morally right just because they exist in the present day.

What about Christian Evolution?

Christian Evolution = the belief that God created the world by setting the process of evolution in motion

In an attempt to resolve the tensions between popular evolutionary theory and the Genesis account, Christian Evolution interprets the Hebrew word for "day" in Genesis 1 as a long period of millions of years during which evolutionary processes took place, rather than understanding it simply as a 24-hour day.

Does this even matter?

Yes. When we begin to question or change God's Word to explain away miraculous acts in some parts of Scripture because they seem impossible to us, we undermine other areas, including things as central to our faith as Jesus' miraculous resurrection from the dead.

Sources

- phys.org
- astrobiology.nasa.gov
- apologeticspress.org
- history.com
- forbes.com
- discoverymagazine.com

For more on how a Biblical understanding of creation informs our views on LIFE, check out our Youth4Life podcast episode "Creation vs. Evolution" or visit y4life.org at the QR code below.

