

First Southern Baptist Church - May 1, 2019

Theories of Creation

Introduction

1. You must choose, you may not agree with me - that's okay
2. Our pathway for the next few weeks
 - A. Tonight - Theories of Creation
 - B. May 8, 2019 - Business mtg
 - C. May 15, 2019 - Day One
3. What is the theory that is most consistent with the Bible?

I. Theories of Creation

1. Evolution - without God
2. Age/ Day Theory
 - the word "day" in the text refers to an "age"
3. Gap Theory
 - popularized by Scofield, there is a Gap that the Bible does not tell us about, in which creation occurred
4. Allegorical Theory (theological import)
 - the story is like a parable, does not have to be literally true to contain truth
 - given to the Jews to respond to the other creation stories of the time
5. 6/ 24 Theory

II. Problems with the Theories

1. Evolution -
 - insufficient evidence
 - does not include God
2. With the Age/ Day Theory
 - the text does not line up with what we might see as necessary... must have light to have plant life etc
 - accepts the evolutionary time frame
3. Gap Theory
 - by one man sin came into the world (Rom. 5:12-21)
 - by this theory, there was death before Adam
4. Allegorical Theory
 - other scriptures seem to indicate that God created with a word
 - Hebrews 11:3
 - makes the creation story into a myth, just like all the other myths
 - accepts the evolutionary time frame
 - to "respond" -well, that's a lot of material to "respond"
5. 6/24 Theory
 - instantaneous creation does not line up with progressive thinking so much a part of the scientific world view
 - does not harmonize well with the current state of science - requires a miracle

III. Evolution Doesn't Work

1. Fossils don't line up
2. No one was there
3. Carbon dating is limited
4. Dust in the living room
5. No missing link
6. Adaptations are not adequate for species changes
7. High improbability - Carl Sagan - 1 chance in $10^{2,000,000,000}$ - two billion zeros
8. Evolution is not occurring today
9. Second law of thermodynamics
10. Requires too much faith

III. In Very General Terms

1. Evolution
2. Theistic Evolution - God directed the process of evolution
3. 24/6 - Literal Bible

****to believe in theistic evolution, means if evolution is not true, then your theory of how the world was created is not true. You are still saying that evolution took place... just God directed.**

IV. Consider This:

1. Things have changed:
 - After the flood (Gen. 6) - the ages of the characters in Genesis begin to drop off substantially... -therefore the earth has changed??
 - The Gnome Project - traces humanity back to one person (through DNA)
 - modern physicists tell us that the world had a beginning
2. Jesus was there:
 - Hebrews 11:4 - He created
 - John 1:1ff - created by the Word
3. Jesus' Way to work with a Word
 - A. Lazarus - come forth
 - B. To the lame man - get up
 - C. To the demon - get out
 - D. To the storm - be still
4. God's Way to Create - "let there be"
 - 8 commands in the creation story (or a process?)
5. Six days... sound very much like a "how" it was done
 - if the six days are a parable... then what does it mean?
6. God's Way is a Loving Purposeful God -
 - the evolutionary way, impersonal forces of nature (would this have "naturally" happened?)
7. God is hands on, -made man from dust
 - not happen-stance, or haphazard

V. Not Alone

Kenneth Matthews - Beesen Divinity School responds to the allegorical/ theological argument:

“On the other hand, if we interpret early Genesis as theological parable or story, we have a theology of creation that is grounded neither in history nor the cosmos. It is unlikely that the community of Moses, which understood its God as the Lord of history, would have tolerated such a cosmology. The *toledot* structure of Genesis requires us to read Chapter 1 as relating real events that are presupposed by later Israel (Ex. 20:8-11). If Genesis 1-3 is theological story without correspondence to reality, the creation account conveys no information about creation except that it owes its existence to God. This undermines the very purpose of the preamble, which establishes a real linkage between creation and covenant history, for the latter clearly is rooted in history.”

“Also, if taken as theological story alone, the interpreter is at odds with the historical intentionality of Genesis. By virtue of its predisposition to employing genealogies, Genesis has treated Adam and Eve as real historical individuals.”

*“Thus we conclude that the creation narrative claims historicity. It should not be interpreted allegorically or treated solely as literature. It also conveys discursive information about reality, using schematic ornamentation. There is a general correspondence between Genesis’s telling of the earth’s origins and modern reconstructions, but the correlation of the details cannot be worked out satisfactorily.” (Pages 110-111 in The New American Commentary Genesis - Vol. 1A

Where is Your Faith? - in the Bible or in the Theories of Science?
What is the theory most consistent with the Bible?