

Which is Right: Creation or Evolution?

The God Questions – Part 5

Microevolution and Macroevolution

- Microevolution – evolutionary change within a species. These are observable changes that might happen through natural selection and are accepted by most creationists.
- Macroevolution – evolutionary change across species that takes long periods of time and involves the introduction of new genetic information. This is typically what is meant when someone says “evolution,” and is rejected by most creationists.

Options for the Origins of Life on Earth

- Believe that God created all life forms in their complete state (biblical creation).
- Believe that all life developed from a common ancestor through evolutionary processes without the work of any supernatural being (Darwinian Evolution).
- Believe in some combination of the two previous statements (theistic evolution).

Biblical Creation

- God created the universe and all living beings out of nothing (ex nihilo) (Genesis 1:1).
- God created humans in His image and gave them the command to have dominion over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26-30).
- God’s creation was perfect, but became corrupted when sin entered the world (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; 3:19; Romans 5:12; 8:20-22).

Issues with Evolution

- Does not provide adequate answers about the origins of life.
 - No explanation about how the initial matter came to be.
 - Improbable answers about how the first living organism formed. *“Nobody knows how it happened but somehow, without violating the laws of physics and chemistry, a molecule arose that just happened to have the property of self-copying – a replicator.” – Richard Dawkins*
- The vast majority of genetic mutations are negative, not beneficial. Positive mutation is only possible with very small organisms that have a very large population.
- There are many questions about how new genetic information can be introduced through evolutionary processes.

- Fossil records do not give evidence for transitional species.
- One of the most popular arguments for evolution is that common genetic makeup amongst living beings must mean a common ancestor. While this is one of the more reasonable arguments, it is a fallacy to say that we must come from a common ancestor.

Issues with Theistic Evolution

- Theistic evolutionists believe God created the first organism and then allowed evolutionary processes to bring about all other living beings. This contradicts what is revealed in Scripture.
- Death would have had to be around for billions of years before the first humans existed. This contradicts the belief that sin brought death into the world (Romans 5:12).
- This teaching diminishes the idea of humans being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

The Age of the Earth

- Traditional biblical creationists believe the earth is about 6,000 years old. On the other hand, many scientists believe the earth is billions of years old.
- Some biblical scholars attempt to reconcile an older earth through, “The Gap Theory,” or the belief that “day” in Genesis 1 means an age and not a 24-hour day.
- There is good evidence to believe that the earth might appear older than it actually is.
 - God created things in whole or complete states.
 - A cataclysmic worldwide flood would have greatly affected the structure of the earth and the placement of fossils.

Implications of Creation or Evolution

- The Imago Dei
 - Creationists believe that people are made in the image of God and therefore have inherent value and worth (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6).
 - Evolutionists believe that people are just the most evolved beings. This leads to questions about whether all lives have equal value and worth.
- The Present State of the World and Future Hope
 - God’s good design has been corrupted by sin, but He will bring total restoration.
 - This is simply how the world is and there is nothing beyond this world.