



CREATION VS. EVOLUTION

PRESENTATION #1

Definitions

Creation - 1. the action or process of bringing something into existence 2. the bringing into of existence of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God.

Evolution - 1. the gradual development of something, especially from a simple to a more complex form 2. the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

The idea of organic evolution was proposed by some ancient Greek thinkers but was long rejected in Europe as contrary to the literal interpretation of the Bible. Lamarck proposed a theory that organisms became transformed by their efforts to respond to the demands of their environment, but he was unable to explain a mechanism for this.

Lyell demonstrated that geological deposits were the cumulative product of slow processes over vast ages. This helped Darwin toward a theory of gradual evolution over a long period by the natural selection of those varieties of an organism slightly better adapted to the environment and hence more likely to produce descendants. Combined with the later discoveries of the cellular and molecular basis of genetics, Darwin's theory of evolution has, with some modification, become the dominant unifying concept of modern biology.

Religion - the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods

- a particular system of faith and worship
- a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance

Science - 1. the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment 2. the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment

Faith - 1. complete trust or confidence in someone or something 2. strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof.

- a system of religious belief: the Christian faith.

b. a strongly held belief or theory: the faith that life will expand until it fills the universe.

Reason - the power of the mind to think, understand, and form judgments by a process of logic

Logic - reasoning conducted or assessed according to strict principles of validity

Many Scientists Many Conclusions

Methodological factors

Working within different paradigms

Contrasting worldview they have embraced

Worldview - a particular philosophy of life or conception of the world

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of presuppositions (assumptions which may be true, partially true, or entirely false) that we hold (consciously or subconsciously, consistently or inconsistently) about the basic constitution of reality, and that provides the foundation on which we live move and have our being. -The Universe Next Door, James W. Sire. Pg 20.

7 Basic Questions

1. What is prime reality - the really real?
 2. What is the nature of external reality, that is the world around us?
 3. What is a human being?
 4. What happens to a person at death?
 5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?
 6. How do we know what is right and wrong?
 7. What is the meaning of human history?
 - (8). What personal, life orientating core commitments are consistent with this worldview?
- The Universe Next Door, James W. Sire. Pg 22-23.

3 Basic Worldviews

Theism

Naturalism

Pantheism

Naturalism and 7 Basic Questions

1. Prime reality is matter. Matter exists eternally and is all there is. God does not exist.
2. The Cosmos exists as a uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system.
3. Human beings are complex "machines"; personality is an interrelation of chemical and physical properties we do not fully understand.
4. Death is extinction of personality and individuality
5. Through our innate and autonomous human reason, including the methods of science, we can know the universe. The cosmos, including the world is understood to be in its normal state

6. Ethics is related only to human beings
7. History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without an overarching purpose
8. Naturalism itself implies no particular core commitment on the part of any given naturalist. Rather core commitments are adopted unwittingly or chose by individuals
(The Universe Next Door, James W. Sire. Pg 68-84.)

Practical Naturalism

Humanism
Marxism
Nihilism
Atheistic Existentialism

Problems with Naturalism

The only thing that is true is what is scientifically verifiable

Problem is... the above statement is not scientifically verifiable (self contradiction)

Everything results from cause and effect

Then what we think about and feel about something is just the result of predetermined chemical cause and effects in our brain

No true feelings... no true thoughts

Only way it can really work is if everyone is objective

No one is truly objective

There is always a history, worldview, emotions, etc. being brought into the observations and conclusions we are making about the world around us.

When it comes to theology the burden of proof is on the evolutionist and naturalists not the creationist and theist

Ultimately the theist is fine with excepting things on faith... its the atheist and naturalists who is not satisfied with faith

And you can't disprove creation and God

Why try so hard to disprove something you don't believe exists ???

Creationism

Creation theories

Six-day creation theory
Gap theory
Day-Age theory
Multiple creations theory

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

What is "the heavens and the earth"?

Heaven and Earth does not necessarily mean universe

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. (Genesis 1:2)

Earth is our planet

And God called the expanse Heaven.(Genesis 1:8)

expanse - firmament in some translations

let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens. (Genesis 1:20)

let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens. (Genesis 1:20 NASB)

Heavens in context = sky

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (Genesis 2:1)

What is the heavens and the earth? - From the context the sky (atmosphere) and the planet

That the planet existed before the creations week and God organized the planet for life and then created life

Creation Organized

Day 1 Light

Day 4 Organized Lights into Bodies

Day 2 Sea and Sky

Day 5 Sea and Air Animals

Day 3 Dry Land and Vegetation

Day 6 Land Animals and Humans

Day 7 Rest / Enjoy

Literal Days

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy." (Exodus 20:8–11)

Creation by fiat

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."
(Psalms 33:6, 9 ESV)

Recent Creation

There is no date given for the creation in the Bible

There have been estimates that it was roughly 6,000 years ago using the chronologies given in the Bible

There is not way to reconcile the Bible with the millions of years needed for Darwinian Evolution to occur in any of its forms

Original Creation Diverse but not fixed

Many different kinds of animals are listed in the creation account

They produced after their kind... kind seems to be much broader than our current definition of species

In fact there has been change in creation as pointed out in Genesis 3:14-19 and 6:5-12

Micro-evolution is in perfect harmony with the Bible

The Global Catastrophe

Flood is not an element of the Creation story, but it does explain many of the questions used against creationists

Fossil record

Geological column

Are Bible and Science in Conflict?

Science - the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment

2 Types of Science

1. Experimental (or empirical) Science
Chemistry, Physics, Ecology, etc.

2. Historical Science
Archaeology, Paleontology

Most Sciences use both

But only the empirical aspects are open for experimentation

Historical parts are not

No conflict between Scripture and empirical science

Problems arise due to worldview clash between supernatural explanation vs naturalistic explanation

Data and Interpretation

1. A is a human being. B is gorilla. There are many similarities between A and B, but A has many superior attributes compared to B

2. The similarities show that A and B had a common origin - evolution. The superiorities indicate that A evolved more progressively than B since their divergence from a common ancestor
3. The similarities show that A and B had a common origin - creation. The superior attributes of A indicate God created humans in His own image. This was not the case with the creation of animals
4. The similarities show that A and B had a common origin - creation. The superior attributes of A indicate that God directed the evolution of A. God may or may not have directed the evolutionary path of animals subsequent to their creation.

The first statement was data
statements 2,3 and 4 were interpretations

Implications

Not all data is accurately measured

Sometimes its is hard to tell what is data and what is interpretation

Bias is present in any interpretation (all interpretations are at least partly subjective)

Science is always changing updating so its hard to base conclusions specific data or scientific concept

Science should not dictate theology because science is always changing

Theology should not dictate science since bad interpretations of the Bible have hindered knowledge about the world

Forensics

of, relating to, or denoting the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime