

Beliefs about Creation

Ken Ham – Answers in Genesis

1. Historical biblical account
2. Progressive creation
3. Gap theory
4. Theistic evolution
5. Naturalistic evolution

Historical biblical account

Each day of creation in Genesis is a normal day of about 24 hours in length, in which God created everything that exists. The earth is only thousands of years old, as determined by the genealogies in the Bible.

Progressive creation

The idea that God created various creatures to replace other creatures that died out over millions of years. Each of the days in Genesis represents a long period of time (day-age view) and the earth is billions of years old.

Gap theory

The idea that there was a long, long time between what happened in Genesis 1:1 and what happened in Genesis 1:2. During this time, the “fossil record” was supposed to have formed, and millions of years of earth history supposedly passed.

Theistic evolution

The idea that God used the process of evolution over millions of years (involving struggle and death) to bring about what we see today.

Naturalistic evolution

The view that there is no God and evolution of all life forms happened by purely naturalistic processes over billions of years.

Taking Genesis as history

Any theory that tries to combine the evolutionary time frame with creation presupposes that death entered the world before Adam sinned, which contradicts what God has said in His Word. The view that the earth (and its “fossil record”) is hundreds of millions of years old damages the gospel message. God’s completed creation was “very good” at the end of the sixth day (Genesis 1:31). Death entered this perfect paradise after Adam disobeyed God’s command. It was the punishment for Adam’s sin (Genesis 2:16–17, 3:19; Romans 5:12–19). Thorns appeared when God cursed the ground because of Adam’s sin (Genesis 3:18).

The first animal death occurred when God killed at least one animal, shedding its blood, to make clothes for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). If the earth’s “fossil record”

(filled with death, disease, and thorns) formed over millions of years before Adam appeared (and before he sinned), then death no longer would be the penalty for sin. Death, the “last enemy” (1 Corinthians 15:26), diseases (such as cancer), and thorns would instead be part of the original creation that God labeled “very good.” No, it is clear that the “fossil record” formed some time after Adam sinned—not many millions of years before.

Most fossils were formed as a result of the worldwide Genesis Flood. When viewed from a biblical perspective, the scientific evidence clearly supports a recent creation by God, and not naturalistic evolution and millions of years.

Myths versus Truth

Evolutionary Myth: The earth is 4.6 billion years old.

The Truth: Many processes observed today point to a young earth of only a few thousand years. The rate at which the earth’s magnetic field is decaying suggests the earth must be less than 10,000 years old. The rate of population growth and the recent emergence of civilization suggests only a few thousand years of human population. And, at the current rate of accumulation, the amount of mud on the sea floor should be many kilometers thick if the earth were billions of years old. However, the average depth of all the mud in the whole ocean is less than 400 meters, giving a maximum age for the earth of not more than 12 million years. All this and more indicates an earth much younger than 4.6 billion years.

Evolutionary Myth: The universe formed from the big bang.

The Truth: There are many problems with this theory. It does not explain where the initial material came from. It cannot explain what caused that material to fly apart in the first place. And nothing in physics indicates what would make the particles begin to stick together instead of flying off into space forever. The big bang theory contradicts many scientific laws. Because of these problems, some scientists have abandoned the big bang and are attempting to develop new theories to explain the origin of the universe.

Evolutionary Myth: Fossils prove evolution.

The Truth: While Darwin predicted that the fossil record would show numerous transitional fossils, even more than 145 years later, all we have are a handful of disputable examples. For example, there are no fossils showing something that is part way between a dinosaur and a bird. Fossils show that a snail has always been a snail; a squid has always been a squid. God created each animal to reproduce after its kind (Genesis 1:20–25).

Evolutionary Myth: There is not enough water for a worldwide flood.

The Truth: Prior to the Flood, just as today, much of the water was stored beneath the surface of the earth. In addition, Genesis 1 states that the water below was separated from the water above, indicating that the atmosphere may have contained a great deal more water than it does today. Also, it is likely that before the

Flood the mountains were not as high as they are today, but that the mountains rose and the valleys sank after the Flood began, as Psalm 104:6–9 suggests. At the beginning of the Flood, the fountains of the deep burst forth and it rained for 40 days and nights. This could have provided more than enough water to flood the entire earth. Indeed, if the entire earth's surface were leveled by smoothing out the topography of not only the land surface but also the rock surface on the ocean floor, the waters of the present-day oceans would cover the earth's surface to a depth of 1.7 miles (2.7 kilometers). Fossils have been found on the highest mountain peaks around the world showing that the waters of the Flood did indeed cover the entire earth.

Evolutionary Myth: Slow climate changes over time have resulted in multiple ice ages.

The Truth: There is widespread evidence of glaciers in many parts of the world indicating one ice age. Evolutionists find the cause of the Ice Age a mystery. Obviously, the climate would need to be colder. But global cooling by itself is not enough, because then there would be less evaporation, so less snow. How is it possible to have both a cold climate and lots of evaporation? The Ice Age was most likely an aftermath of Noah's Flood. When "all the fountains of the great deep" broke up, much hot water and lava would have poured directly into the oceans. This would have warmed the oceans, increasing evaporation. At the same time, much volcanic ash in the air after the Flood would have blocked out much sunlight, cooling the land. So the Flood would have produced the necessary combination of increased evaporation from the warmed oceans and cool continental climate from the volcanic ash in the air. This would have resulted in increased snowfall over the continents. With the snow falling faster than it melted, ice sheets would have built up. The Ice Age probably lasted less than 700 years.

Evolutionary Myth: Thousands of random changes over millions of years resulted in the earth we see today.

The Truth: The second law of thermodynamics describes how any system tends toward a state of zero entropy or disorder. We observe how everything around us becomes less organized and loses energy. The changes required for the formation of the universe, the planet earth and life, all from disorder, run counter to the physical laws we see at work today. There is no known mechanism to harness the raw energy of the universe and generate the specified complexity we see all around us.

Despite the claims of many scientists, if you examine the evidence objectively, it is obvious that evolution and millions of years have not been proven. If scientific thought seems to contradict the Bible, realize that scientists often make mistakes, but God does not lie. At one time scientists believed that the earth was the center of the universe, that living things could spring from non-living things, and that blood-letting was good for the body. All of these were believed to be scientific facts but have since been disproved, but the Word of God remains true. If we use modern "science" to interpret the Bible, what will happen to our faith in God's Word when scientists change their theories yet again?