

Creation – a foundational truth

Is it really important for a Christian to believe in creation, or is it just a side issue?

Isn't the main thing just to tell people about Jesus?

Isn't it more important to fight the moral issues of the world, like abortion, homosexuality, sexual immorality and racism?

Although these are very important questions for a Christian to consider, a belief in creation is foundational to the Christian faith. Let's explore this.

Isn't the creation-evolution debate religion versus science?

No. It is one belief against another.

Most people think that scientists are unbiased and infallible. But this is wrong. An atheist scientist has a biased belief. Does a Christian scientist also have a biased belief? Yes. Christians are biased towards God. Atheists are biased towards no-God. It's not a question of being biased – it's a question of which bias is the right one. We are comparing the science of one religion with the science of another. It's therefore not wrong for Christians to be biased towards God!

Who has the evidence?

Concerning the beginnings of the universe, no one was there to witness these events, only God. The Bible, (Genesis), is an accurate historical record. All of our thinking therefore should be based on the Bible.

Do I believe in creation or evolution?

Many Christians think they believe in creation, but they actually believe in evolution. Find out how you rate.

1. Do you believe that the earth is more than 6,000 years old?
2. Do you believe that a day in the first chapter of Genesis could be a general term for thousands or millions of years?
3. Do you believe that dinosaurs came before Adam and Eve?
4. Do you believe the calculations of modern day age-dating methods that tell us the world is billions of years old?
5. Do you believe that many species of living things died out before Adam and Eve were created?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the five questions then you hold to some form of evolutionary belief.

Why can't the earth be millions of years old?

1. Let's find out what is meant by a day.

The Bible clearly states that there was evening and morning, and then the new day. It took just six 24-hour days to create the whole universe. The word day in Genesis 1 is the Hebrew word *yom*. Without exception, in the Hebrew

Old Testament, the word *yom* is never used to refer to an indefinite long period of time. Although the sun was not created until the fourth day, the phrase 'evening and morning' shows that there were alternating periods of light. God was the light, shining upon a rotation earth.

2. The Genesis account is written as history, not a parable.

We know this because of how the Old and New Testaments interpret Genesis as history. Exodus 20:11 summarizes the Creation Week. It eliminates any possibility of an extended time scale by any interpretative scheme. The Creation is the basis of our seven-day week with a day of rest.

"For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh." (Exodus 20:10)

"And God spoke all these words..." (Exodus 20:1).

There are over 100 quotations which suggest that Genesis was history. Jesus' genealogy (Luke 3) goes back to Adam. If we count up all the years listed in the genealogies of the Bible, we would come up with a figure of about 6,000 years, making the earth about 6,000 years old.

3. If there were millions of years between the creation of living species, some would have died before Adam and Eve were created.

Let's say that a 'day' stood for a million years. God created plants on 'day' three, then after a couple of million years he created birds and fish on 'day' 5, and then after another million years he created land animals and man on the sixth 'day'. By this time, there would have been plants, birds and fish that had died. And yet God says clearly that there was no death in His perfect creation. The animals were vegetarian. They didn't kill to eat. All that He made was very good. Death and pain for animals and man did not come into the world until after Adam and Eve sinned.

4. God promises to restore the earth to its perfect creation.

God tells us in Revelation that the lion will lie with the lamb, in perfect peace. There will be no killing. Jesus came to restore the world. If death and bloodshed occurred in the Garden of Eden, then there would be no restoration.

Why does it matter whether the world is 6,000 years old or millions of years old?

If the evolutionary theory were true, the whole point of the Gospel (good news) message would be lost, because Adam's predecessors would then have been clawing or clubbing each other to death in a world of bloodshed. It would also mean that the idea of the Fall of Adam and the curse, instead of being in a real time frame, would be a myth. The truth of the good news about Jesus Christ, and the fact that we can be restored in fellowship to our Creator, is dependent upon the truth of the bad news of how Adam and Eve rebelled and broke the original harmony between God and man.

Why do atheists love the 'millions of years' theory?

Everyone who insists there is no God relies on evolution to explain nature without a designer. Because no one has ever seen a species changing from

one form to another, evolutionists say that we need millions of years for it to happen.

“If nobody made us, there’s nobody to set the rules except us.”

Belief in evolution is the scientists’ basis for rejecting God. God is the law giver.

What you believe about where you have come from affects your world view.

Without Him we can make our own laws...such as:

abortion, homosexuality, pornography, racism... are all OK.

The Bible makes these issues clear:

Marriage - Adam and Eve, created male and female, shows union between man and woman

Abortion – We have not evolved from animals. Every individual is valued by God.

Racism – Humans did not evolve from lower to higher intelligence. There are no lower and higher races, (a foundational belief causing the killing of Australian Aborigines and Jews in past history).

How is it that evolution is infiltrating Christian belief?

Atheists know that in order to bring down a structure, the foundation must be destabilised. Genesis is the foundation. The rest of the Bible is the structure.

There is a war on between Christianity and atheism. Many Christians try to fight back by aiming at the issues. “Let’s fight abortion, racism, pornography etc.” They don’t think about where these problems have come from. They don’t think about battling the evolutionary debate. The atheists are clever. They just fire at the foundations of Christianity, in order to try to bring it down.

Why not just tell them about Jesus?

Unless we understand the impact of the fall of mankind, we cannot understand the wonderful message of Jesus dying for our sins. If we choose to believe in millions of years, we choose to believe in death and suffering in God’s original creation... fossils upon fossils over millions of years, stacking up before the event of mankind. We are saying that Genesis is not a true account...just a parable.

Activities

1. According to the scientific method, scientific principles must be proved. Discuss this problem for Evolutionary theorists, taking into account that there has been no observation involved in the construction of the theory.
2. Discuss your view about the age of the earth.
3. What is the origin of the idea of ‘no absolutes’?
4. Why is a correct understanding of Genesis foundational to an understanding of Salvation?
5. Draw a cartoon showing the war between evolutionists and Christianity. Show who’s aiming for the foundations and who’s aiming for the issues.

References:

The Genesis Solution – Ken Ham

The Answers Book – Ken Ham, Andrew Snelling, Carl Wieland

Stones and Bones – Carl Wieland

Fifteen Reasons to take Christianity as History – Don Betten and Jonathan Sarfati