

Lesson 3b

Evolution vs. Biblical Creation (and it's implications for our faith)

In this supplemental lesson, we will take a little more in depth look at the theory of evolution and how it matches up with the biblical account of creation. We also will explore the theological implications of evolution and how it undermines the doctrine of salvation through faith in Jesus.

Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding question.

Hebrews 11:3 *By faith* we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

1) According to the italicized portion of this verse, what is the only way we really can know about creation?

✓ Evolution: The change in the gene pool of a population from generation to generation by such processes as mutation, natural selection, and genetic drift. The hypothesis that all things came into being by chance, developing from lower to higher forms. This stands in sharp contrast to the biblical account of creation.

CREATION AND EVOLUTION COMPARED		
	Creation	Evolution
Time	<i>Six days</i>	<i>Billions of years</i>
Method	<i>God's Word & decree</i>	<i>By chance or accident</i>
Man	<i>A special creation</i>	<i>A superior animal</i>
Mans' purpose	<i>To serve & honor God</i>	<i>To survive, serve self</i>
Mans' responsibility	<i>To thank & obey God</i>	<i>None—but please self</i>

Atheistic evolution: Denies the existence of God and credits all to "chance."

Theistic evolution: The belief that God got things started and then let evolution take over. Those who believe in a theistic evolution deny that Genesis chapter one is to be understood literally.

EVOLUTION

There are six different forms of evolution:

Cosmic Evolution: The origin of time, space, and matter

Chemical Evolution: The origin of all the elements

Stellar Evolution: The origin of the stars and planets

Organic Evolution: The origin of life from non-life

Macro Evolution: The origin of the major kinds of animals and plants (or, to put it another way, macro evolution is how we get from single-cell, living molecules to man. It is the change from one species into an entirely different one.)

Micro Evolution: Variations within the kinds

The following is a list of problems with Macro Evolution

1. The first lifeform had to have come from non-life.
2. The complexity of life.
3. Mutations result in the loss of genetic code.
4. The lack of transitional species.
5. The half-life of DNA

HOW DOES THEISTIC EVOLUTION MATCH UP TO THE BIBLE?

Some Christians attempt to make a compromise between evolution and Genesis, chapter 1. They claim that the six days of creation are not meant to be understood literally. Instead, each day is symbolic for millions, even billions of years.

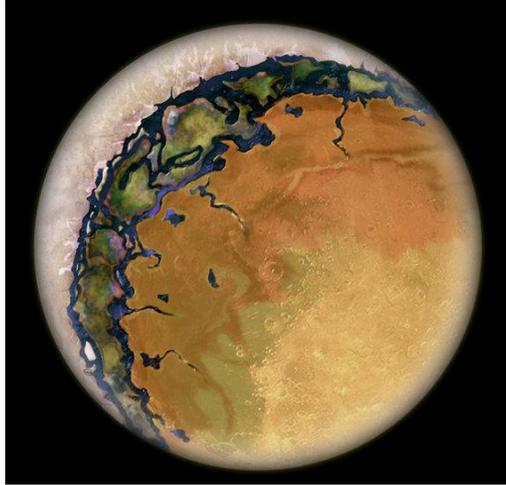
Does the text of the Bible allow for this possibility and what, if any, implications are there for the Christian faith? Please read the following passage and then answer the corresponding question.

Exodus 20:11 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ *Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.* On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹ *For in six days* the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

- 2) **According to the italicized portion of this passage, what did God command the Old Testament Israelites to do?**
- 3) **The beginning of verse 11 starts with the word ‘For,’ which means that what follows explains the reasoning for what was said just before this. According to the underlined portions of this passage, for what reason did God want the Old Testament Israelites to rest?**

The following is a list of problems with trying to merge evolution with Genesis, chapter 1

1. The style of writing in Genesis 1 is prose, narrative, historical.
2. Evening/morning



3. The order of creation.
 - a. According to the theory of macro evolution, vertebrate animals evolved in this general progression:

Fish → Amphibians → Reptiles → Birds → Mammals

- b. On day five of the creation week, sea creatures (comprised mostly of fish) were created. That would fit with the evolutionary model. However, Scripture also says that flying creatures were created on Day 5 too. This would mean that they came before many kinds of amphibians and reptiles, which does not fit with the evolutionary model.
4. “According to their (various) kinds”
5. The presence of death before the existence of humans.
6. Humans would be created in the image of animals.
 - a. Genesis 1:27 says, “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” Unlike the rest of creation, God endowed humans with something special: His image. God’s image is not his appearance. God is spirit, and as such he does not have a physical form. His image is things like his righteousness and holiness, the absence of any sin or evil. This is what God gave to our first parents, Adam and Eve. Before they had done anything, God had declared them to be good. The image of God allowed them to distinguish

between right and wrong, between good and evil. His image also made us morally accountable. Animals are not.

- b. This is significant, because if evolution is true, we came not directly from the hand of God, but evolved from the 'image' of animals. And if we are imbued with the image of animals and not the image of God, we are not morally accountable for our actions. And if that is true, we have no need for a Savior from sin.
7. Adam and Eve never would have existed if evolution is true.
- a. If humans slowly evolved from lower humanoid and apelike creatures (notice I did not say apes but apelike), not only would not all humans not share a common ancestry, but there would be no Adam and Eve. This presents us with a number of theological problems in addition to the ones we have just heard.
 - b. First, if Adam and Eve never existed, then they could not have fallen into sin.
 - c. Second, if they did not fall into sin, no promise was given to them in the Garden of Eden of a Savior from sin.
 - d. Third, similar to number 6, there would be no need of a Savior from sin. Humans are simply an evolutionary superior animal.
 - e. Fourth, Scripture says that Jesus died for the race of Adam. If not all humans are related to Adam, then not all humans have access to the atoning work of Christ.