



HOW THE WORLD BEGAN

Study 23

Creation

The biggest enemy to attack Christianity in the 20th century was the pseudo-scientific lie of evolution. But as the 21st century dawns new evidence has emerged giving Christians powerful arguments concerning how the world **really** began.

However the scope of this study is to teach what the **Bible** says about creation rather than debate the details. And the bottom line is this: God created the world! Write out Genesis 1:1

Fill in the missing words:

"You alone are the LORD . _____ even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, _____ and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you." (Nehemiah 9:6)

There is no disagreement between Christians up to this point. But when it comes to **how** God created the world people begin to contradict each other.

Theory 1

God created the world but ...
Evolution was the method God used to do it?

This theory is a cop-out for Christians who want to believe in God but don't want to get into arguments about it. However it creates more problems than it solves. Evolution by definition requires that one species, over millions of years, changes into a completely different kind.

Is that what the Bible says?
Study Genesis 1:21-25
and tick the correct box.

Everything was created
according to its kind

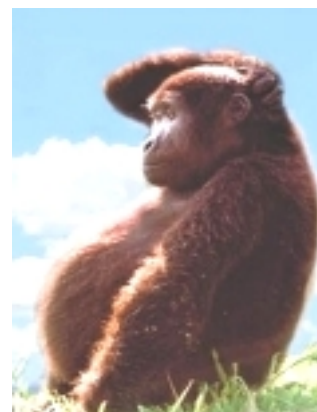
Gradual evolution
one kind to the other

What is worse, evolution lowers man from the image of God to the level of an animal. So take your pick: -

God used evolution to make man.
Not created in God's image after all.
Therefore Genesis is not true.

Man is an evolving animal.
Yes, God made man in His image.
Therefore God is an animal too.

God is a moral and spiritual being.
Man is made in the image of God.
Therefore evolution is a lie!



Fill in the missing line.

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own image,

male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-27)

Since God created us in His image it means that we are capable of spiritual perception; making moral judgements; showing altruistic love. Animals cannot do these. (See study seven, "Why you are special to God.") That is why evolution could not be the method God used to create the world. Christians who say they believe in 'Theistic Evolution' should stop and consider what the 'Image of God' means. The theory simply doesn't fit!

Theory 2

God created the world in 6 days but ...
The 6 'days' were long periods of time?

The basic idea is that each of the creation days were really 'geologic ages' accounting for the 'old' age of the earth. Millions of years after the initial creation came a pre-Adamic race of manlike beings who eventually went extinct. This explains (they say) human fossils embedded in ancient rock. **After all that**, came Adam and Eve. But what did Jesus teach about long ages before man and woman was made? (Mark 10:6)

Read Acts 17:26 and Genesis 3:20.

From whom does the Bible say **ALL** human life stems? _____

Apart from scientific information indicating a **young** earth, this 'old earth' theory also undermines central Christian doctrine. The Bible teaches that there was no sin or death until one man brought it into the world. (See Romans 5:12) Yet these people are saying that there was disease, brutality, bloodshed and suffering before sin and that there was **death before death!** Give your interpretation of Romans 5:17 below. If we think the first half is not to be taken literally, then the second part cannot be taken seriously either. Think about it!



Literal or
Figurative?

*"For if, by the trespass of the one man,
death reigned through that one man ...*

*how much more will those who receive
God's abundant provision of grace
and of the gift of righteousness, reign in
life through the one man, Jesus Christ."*



Literal or
Figurative?

The Truth

God created the world in 6 literal days!
Fill in the missing statement from Exodus 20:11.

"For _____

_____ but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."

INSTANT POWER OVER NATURE

Creation and evolution are both accepted by faith - the former by faith in God's Word; the latter by faith in the shifting opinions of science. It is understandable that atheists prefer their pet evolution, but why should Christians have a problem with instant creation? Throughout scripture are accounts of God's instant creative power over nature. Connect the examples to their relative Bible passage.

- Instant power over disease Matt. 8:26-28
- Instant power over nature John 11:38-44
- Instant power over death Acts 14:8-15

The classic example is the resurrection of the dead. In 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 it says, *"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed - in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable."*

Revelation 21:4 adds, *"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

In other words, the day is coming when the bodies of those who have died will be raised to life again and recreated instantly from dust precisely the way Genesis described the first creation. Every true believer holds to the truth concerning this. (Read all Corinthians 15) So why should any Christian require that the original creation be dragged out over millions of years? Not only is it inconsistent, but it plays into the hands of those who hate God.

HOW THE WORLD BEGAN

God created the world. He created it out of a substance not known by man (Heb. 11:3) and he spoke it into being at the word of his command. Learn John 1:1-3 and write it in the box.