

As I was preparing for this week's lesson, I came across a quotation from one of the founders of our church that pertained to last week's lesson in regard to the Trinity and found it quite helpful and wanted to share it:

I am instructed to say, The sentiments of those who are searching for advanced scientific ideas are not to be trusted. Such representations as the following are made: "The Father is as the light invisible; the Son is as the light embodied; the Spirit is the light shed abroad." "The Father is like the dew, invisible vapor; the Son is like the dew gathered in beauteous form; the Spirit is like the dew fallen to the seat of life." Another representation: "The Father is like the invisible vapor; the Son is like the leaden cloud; the Spirit is rain fallen and working in refreshing power." {SpTB07 62.2}

All these spiritualistic representations are simply nothingness. They are imperfect, untrue. They weaken and diminish the Majesty which no earthly likeness can be compared to. God can not be compared with the things His hands have made. These are mere earthly things, suffering under the curse of God because of the sins of man. The Father can not be described by the things of earth. The Father is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. {SpTB07 62.3}

The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested. The Word of God declares Him to be "the express image of His person." "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here is shown the personality of the Father. {SpTB07 63.1}

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. **There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--**

those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ. . . .
{SpTB07 63.2}

Glimpses of God Lesson 2 1Q 2012

This week we will explore creation – a topic hotly debated around the world, in schools, colleges and universities, churches, courtrooms. There are four ideas put forth regarding life on planet earth:

1. Big bang, random chaos, over billions of years with forces of nature spontaneously generating life that evolved from nothing to what we have today
2. God created everything from nothing *divino* and perfect – and what we have today on earth is not the way God created earth to be, but what God created infected by an attack on His creation
3. God uses the process of evolution and billions of years to create – theistic evolution
4. Aliens seeded life on earth and let it evolve over billions of years

As we go through the lesson today, let's see if we can't find harmony between the Biblical account and the scientific record, and then determine which of the theories is most consistent with the available evidence.

In the Beginning

When you hear the title what comes to mind?

In the beginning God created the heavens and earth Genesis 1:1

OR

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. John 1:1

Which text is the ultimate beginning?

If the beginning is in John 1:1 and it is actually a time before anything existed but God, then to what is Genesis 1:1 referring?

Is Genesis referring to the creation of the entire universe or of earth and this solar system?

- Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— **while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?** Job 38:4-7

One of the founders of our church agreed with Job that other beings were in existence before earth was created and that mankind was created after the rebellion began in heaven.

- Angels on probation had been deceived by Satan, and had been led on by him in the great rebellion in heaven against Christ. They failed to endure the test brought to bear upon them, and they fell. **Adam was then created** in the image of God and placed upon probation. He had a perfectly developed organism. All his faculties were harmonious. In all his emotions, words, and actions, there was a perfect conformity to the will of his Maker. After God had made every provision for the happiness of man, and had supplied his every want, He tested his loyalty. If the holy pair should be obedient, the race would, after a time, be made equal to the angels. As Adam and Eve failed to bear this test, Christ proposed to become a voluntary offering for man. {Con 18.2}

What are the implications from understanding this one point when it comes to understanding the Bible account of creation in light of scientific evidence?

If we conclude that Genesis describes the creation of the entire universe, what will happen to our belief when we look at science?

We will be confused by:

- Light reaching earth which took billions of years to travel the universe to reach earth
- Radio dating of non-organic rock on earth to billions of years
- How light was created on day one of creation week but the sun, moon and stars were not created until day four

But, given the evidence of John 1:1 and Job 38:7, we realize the Genesis account is not the account of the creation of the entire universe, but is the record of God's creation of life on planet earth. The universe itself, with its many worlds, was already in existence when God came to this corner of the Milky Way to terra-form planet Earth. With this in mind let us explore Genesis 1:2:

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep.”

The words translated formless, empty, darkness are describing a deep void, abyss, hole, emptiness in space which is so impenetrable that light cannot even escape, what we might call a black hole. On day one of the Genesis account of Creation Week, when God said, “Let there be light,” God dissipated a black hole, already in existence in the Milky Way from God's previous creation of the universe. The light from the stars of the universe could now pass through this section of the Milky Way. Thus, “let there be light”.

On day four God created the Sun, Moon and stars of our solar system (Venus, Mercury, Mars, etc.). The “evening and morning” designation or “day/night” description on day one is the Hebrew way of describing a 24 hour period, it is describing the rotation of the earth on its axis every 24 hours. It is ensuring the reader that God’s terra-forming of planet earth occurred in seven 24 hours periods, not over billions of years.

This understanding also reconciles much of the geological arguments against a young earth. The matter at the core of the black hole was created by God billions of years ago when He created the universe. But it wasn’t until approximately 6,000 – 10,000 years ago that God came to this section of the Milky Way, dissipated the black hole and used this ancient matter to create this solar system and life on earth. Thus, the inanimate material on earth dating billions of years old in no way undermines our confidence in God’s Word and His creation of life on earth approximately 6,000 – 10,000 years ago.

This is also consistent with the rock on the moon dating to billions of years, yet the of space dust on the moon consistent with 6000-10000 years of accumulation.

What about Carbon 14 dating of organic material to 50,000 years of age?

- Carbon is one of the building blocks of organic life. In our environment most of the carbon is in a stable form called carbon 12 (C12), but because of the sun’s radiation a small portion of carbon is changed into an isotope called carbon 14 (C14). When an organism is alive the carbon in the molecules of that organism is constantly being replaced and the ratio of C12 to C14 remains constant, matching the ratio in the environment. But once the organism dies no new carbon is introduced and the C14 slowly decays.
- It takes approximately 5,730 years for 50% of C14 to decay. Therefore, by measuring the amount of C14 in

dead organic material scientists calculate a suggested age of the dead organism.

- But there is one major flaw with this entire procedure, the assumption that C14 levels are the same today as they were thousands of years ago. If the atmospheric C14 levels were significantly less 5000 years ago than today, fossils from 5000 years ago would date as if they were tens of thousands of years older than they really are. And the Bible gives us every reason to believe that is exactly the case.
- In Genesis the Bible says “And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament” (1:7).
- When God created the earth He put a water layer above the atmosphere. Similar to our ozone layer this water layer would provide protection from solar radiation thus markedly reducing the amount of C14 in the atmosphere prior to the flood. Additionally, this water layer would act like a solar energy absorbing, dispersing element warming the entire earth uniformly.
- The earth, as God designed it, did not have frigid polar extremes nor equatorial hot spots. Because of this water canopy the entire earth was uniformly pleasant, lush and habitable.
- At the flood the waters above the earth came down contributing to the creation of our oceans and resulting in more C14 in the atmosphere as well as the polar extremes in weather.

What does science say? NASA's Kepler telescope has found planets in which there are water canopies over the planet, and average temperate climate of 72 Fahrenheit, exactly consistent with the Biblical account of creation of this world.

<http://news.yahoo.com/nasa-kepler-probe-finds-two-earth-sized-planets-151308770.html>

Thoughts?

Okay, let's examine the various theories.

What is the problem with Big Bang as a theory of origins and subsequently evolutionary speciation?

- From nothing – no energy, matter, space, time – nothing suddenly an explosion occurred from which everything came
- It is not scientific
- It cannot be tested or reproduced and therefore inconsistent with its own tenets of being scientific as it requires belief without evidence
- Therefore, it is pure speculation and manmade theory
- No direct evidence to support the theory
- No transitional fossils
- It requires us to believe there is no purpose for our existence
- It requires us to believe there is no right or wrong, no morality, other than what we decide as a society
- It requires us to believe that killing is good, as killing is necessary for adaptation and evolutionary advancement
- Death then is not an enemy but a friend to development

What is the problem with Theistic Evolution?

- God uses death to create
- Selfishness is part of God's creation
- Selfishness and sin are not a choice but the engine that drives us to survive, and thus adapt and develop and advance.
- God is not a being of love, but the originator of pain and suffering
- Sin is not a breach of an eternal design protocol or principle of love, instead it is a break of arbitrary rules put in place by a powerful deity.
- Conflicts with the Biblical record, undermining confidence in Scripture, and thus in Jesus and God's character of love

Bible Creation

- Cannot demonstrate this by observation, so no direct scientific evidence of creation
- Biblical Creation is consistent with itself
- Indirect evidence of science consistent with Biblical account
 - Geological dating is consistent with the Bible
 - Moon dust fits life within last 10,000 years
 - Carbon dating fits life within last 10,000 years, with the Biblical water canopy prior to the flood
 - Law of love, circle of beneficence
 - Law of liberty
 - 7 day weekly cycle
 - Genetics of Bible correct, Darwin incorrect (commandment describes epigenetic changes which is what science confirms, Darwin's theory of random mutation wrong).
 - A woman genetically could be created from a man, removing the Y chromosome and doubling the X, but a man could not be created from a woman as no Y chromosome. Interestingly, the Bible account was not a woman first, which would be all that humans had ever seen.
 - Genetic information is not introduced by mutation, but is deleted thus species don't advance by mutation, but decline.
 - Nature as we see it is not how God designed it, but infected with survival of the fittest principle, and mutations.
 - Adaptation, commonly called evolution, is consistent with Biblical record, thus no transitional fossils, things adapt, they don't change from one species to another.
 - Fear is medium of death
 - Love casts out fear and medium of life (this is true in brain circuits)

- Complex ecosystems all interdependent could not have arisen slowly over billions of years
- Geological record consistent with flood
- NASA findings of other planets with water canopy consistent with Biblical account and flood
- Biblical diet found to be healthier than non-Biblical societies – and proven by science to be so

What advantage is there to believing in Bible creation?

- Purpose for our existence
- Moral principles to guide our life
- Healthier lives if follow Biblical principles
- Knowledge of loving God
- Hope in life eternal and world without pain and suffering

What disadvantage is there in believing in Bible creation?

- May get connected to religious institutions that squash thinking and undermine freedom
- May seek to use the government to force others to honor creator or creation (i.e. forced worship, or restrict freedom to choose how one governs their body – such as contraception).

What advantage is there in believing in life originating from evolution?

- May remain a free thinker, who values evidence and avoid having the mind closed by institutional dogma
- May be more tolerant allowing others to think for themselves and hold different beliefs

What disadvantage is there in believing in life originating from evolution?

- No real purpose for our existence

- No higher morals or values other than what society creates
- No life after death, thus no hope for a future
- No principles of love overcoming fear
- No God of love
- No intelligence greater than humanity (thus far discovered)
- Inability to trust future to higher power increasing anxiety, fear and depression (which can also happen if one believes in an angry wrathful god)

MONDAY

Read first paragraph, “The drama...” thoughts?

Do we think we currently see anything the way God created it?
Why is this important to remember?

When critics look at some aspect of creation and criticize God, we must remember that creation is all twisted and infected and does not currently function as God intended.

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, “In numerous places the Bible...” thoughts?

Why does the Bible link the Lord as Creator with the Lord as Redeemer?

Redemption is actually recreation, and can any other being than the Creator, fix, or recreate, His creation? In other words if a product is broken the manufacturer is the one who can fix it. In this case, when mankind deviated from God’s design, only God, the Designer could put man back into His design.

Do you see Christ’s mission as doing just that?

What did you think of this sentence, “But how can death be the ‘enemy’ if it was one of God’s chosen means for creating humans, at least according to the evolutionary model?”

Good question isn’t it? But could we add to this question, “How can death be the enemy, if God is the source of death, the one who must kill in order to be just?”

I had a discussion after class last week with a lovely young lady, who loves God and has a kind heart, but she insists that God is the source of death and is the one who kills and according to her He murdered the people before the flood, because sin had to be punished by God. So, if death is the enemy, which will be destroyed and swallowed up in the end, and God is the source of death – then won’t God need to be destroyed in order to destroy death?

Or another way to look at it, is Satan’s argument, that if God could just get a grip on His anger and wrath and leave sinners alone in their corner of the universe, then sinners could live eternally, because there isn’t anything wrong with sin, sin doesn’t kill, there is something wrong with God who uses His power to kill!

What is the solution to this dilemma? To recognize the truth, sin is the source of death. Death does not come out from God. As the Bible says:

The wages of sin is death Rom 6:23

Sin when full grown brings forth death James 1:15

Or as our church founders said:

We are **not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin.** The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to

transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, **cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death.** {1SM 235.2}

Read last paragraph, “How is the idea...” thoughts?

Again, they make a good point. But could we not ask, “Does God use the process of violence, dominance of the strong against the weak in order to punish the wicked, torturing and destroying them in order to make a flawless and selfless society?”

Thoughts?

THURSDAY

Creation and Re-Creation

How do you understand God brings about ending sin and recreating the earth anew?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1-3