



Origins Lesson 2 1Q 2013

Creation: Forming the World

SABBATH

Read second paragraph, “Some scholars...” thoughts?

Any concerns with the arguments of this paragraph?

Why do you think they chose the word “impose”? Would you have described it differently?

Is “impose” a purpose, and “created for a purpose” the same?

Does “impose” connote a certain lack of freedom, a certain constraint, and/or control, almost sounding as if it is a big puppet show?

Where is the line drawn between God’s design, God’s parameters for operation, even God’s intention and planned purpose for his creation, and freedom within God’s creation?

Does “nature” have freedom? What does one define as nature? Is humankind part of “nature”? Are animals part of nature?

Do birds have “freedom” to choose where to build their nest, or is God deciding where they build their nests?

Does God create an environment, atmosphere, design for the health and welfare of his creation based on constants, protocols, “laws,” and then give real freedom for his creation to operate within those parameters or not? OR does God impose his will upon creation enforcing things go his way?

If it is the second, then why did sin happen? Was it God’s imposed way?

Are we then arguing for theistic evolution? In other words, if we argue God imposes his way, then aren’t arguing that the way events unfolded was in harmony with God’s way, and he therefore uses the methods of evolution for his purposes?

Theistic evolution has arisen as people have attempted to merge ideas from science and the Bible. But, why is theistic evolution an impossible concept to derive if one uses the Bible?

Theistic Evolution Untenable:

- Days were created in 24 hour periods- evolution cannot happen that fast
- If days are interpreted to mean eons of time, then no life could have evolved because the plants were created on day three and sun on day four



- Theistic evolution is a direct assault on God's character and law – how?
 - God is love and his law is the law of giving and beneficence
 - Theistic evolution is built upon the law of death, me first, kill or be killed, the strong destroying the weak in order to save self. This is an argument based on Satan's lies about God.
- If theistic evolution is true then sin is undefinable, because there is never a time when exploiting others to advance self is not needed to continue our growth and improvement. When does a mollusk become accountable for survival? When is a rodent accountable for killing to survive? Etc. etc. When does accountability begin? With the gorilla, homo erectus, Neanderthal, or homo sapien? Again part of Satan's strategy is to confuse facts and make sin something "arbitrary." So Satan would allege that sin "began when God said it does because he is God and God does what he wants." This obscures the truth that God built his universe upon unchangeable protocols, and violations of those protocols are destructive.
- Without an atmosphere solar radiation would be so intense that life couldn't evolve – how did an oxygen rich atmosphere evolve without plants that produce oxygen?
- If we suggest an oxygen rich primordial soup, how did living cells evolve in an oxidizing, high radiation environment?

Can you think of any Bible texts that reveal God's foreknowledge regarding how people would question creation and begin thinking that things came along naturally on their own?

First of all, you must understand that in these last days some people will appear whose lives are controlled by their own lusts. They will mock you⁴ and will ask, "He promised to come, didn't he? Where is he? Our ancestors have already died, but everything is still the same as it was since the creation of the world!" They purposely ignore the fact that long ago God gave a command, and the heavens and earth were created. The earth was formed out of water and by water, and it was also by water, the water of the flood, that the old world was destroyed. 2Pet 3:3-6

Do you hear a prediction, that at the end of time people would forget about creation, and purposely choose to believe that things continue along naturally? Doesn't this sound like a prediction that evolutionary theory would come along at the end of time?

What is the difference between the theory of evolution and adaptation as God designed?

- Evolution states no God, no Intelligent Creator, only natural random forces involved in creation of the cosmos and life.
- Evolution states that random forces cause random mutations, that along with selection pressure result in a slow gradual advancement of the species.
- Creation says, that God created the universe and then life, and he built into his design for life the ability to change and adapt based on one's own choices and experiences. In other words,



God didn't design us like we design wind up toys, that have the appearance of life, but only do the exact same thing over and over again. No, God built us with ability to actually change ourselves, down to our DNA and then create beings in our own image, for good or for bad as we decide.

- Thus, adaptation, neural rewiring, physical change, DNA change, based on choice and experience, epigenetic modification and transposons, which change the person and their offspring, is exactly how God created life to operate. This is not speciation, one species becoming another species, but the same species changing and adapting based on choice and need.
- Any examples of adaptation?
 - Darwin's famous finches – with all the different beaks, didn't happen over millions of years due to random mutation, but happened in 1-2 generations due to environment and epigenetic modification. Amazingly, Darwin's finches are evidence of creation, not evolution.¹
 - Not all changes, since humankind deviated from God's design are adaptive and consistent with how God designed life to operate.
 - Telomere shortening, which contributes to aging
 - Epigenetic modification in response to famine, which contributes to obesity in offspring
 - Epigenetic modification related to alcohol, which results in offspring of mothers who drink while pregnant have change in taste receptors such that alcohol tastes better than if mother didn't drink while pregnant
 - And a recent study found that epigenetic modification of how the brain responds to testosterone may contribute to homosexuality. Females get an epigenetic marker that prevents their brains from masculinizing when exposed to testosterone. Male brains don't have this epigenetic change. Sometimes, however, the epigenetic modifier, which should be removed from mother's DNA doesn't get removed and her son's brain doesn't respond to testosterone normally, and thus doesn't masculinize.²

So, when Adam and Eve sinned, they actually changed themselves, in character, but because of the way God built them, they changed biologically as well. Thus God's healing plan involves both, we get

¹ Abzhanov, Arhat; Meredith Protas, B. Rosemary Grant, Peter R. Grant, Clifford J. Tabin (September 3, 2004), "[Bmp4 and Morphological Variation of Beaks in Darwin's Finches](#)", *Science* (USA: AAAS) **305** (5689): 1462–1465, [doi:10.1126/science.1098095](#), [ISSN 0036-8075](#), [OCLC 1644869](#), [PMID 15353802](#), retrieved 2008-03-08

Abzhanov, Arhat; Winston P. Kuo, Christine Hartmann, B. Rosemary Grant, Peter R. Grant and Clifford J. Tabin (August 3, 2006), "[The calmodulin pathway and evolution of elongated beak morphology in Darwin's finches](#)", *Nature* (UK: Nature Publishing Group) **442**(7102): 563–567, [doi:10.1038/nature04843](#), [ISSN 0028-0836](#), [OCLC 1586310](#), [PMID 16885984](#), retrieved 2008-03-08

² Rice WR, Friberg U, Gavrillets S. Homosexuality as a consequence of epigenetically canalized sexual development. *The Quarterly Review of Biology*. Published [[Online](#)] 11 December 2012.



new hearts and right spirits, i.e. a renewed character where we love others more than self, and we one day get new biology, new bodies free of the inherited defects that have accumulated over the years.

SUNDAY

Read Bible text at top and then first paragraph, “The Bible starts...” thoughts?

What does it sound like is being described? Does it sound like a black hole in space?

If this is so, does it strengthen the Biblical case for creation or weaken it? Why?

Read last two paragraphs, “When the earth...” thoughts?

MONDAY

Read top dark section “Then God said...” thoughts?

What points do you take from this passage?

What are the possible meanings to “Let there be light”?

- God was presenting truth and thus it was the light of truth that we revealed on day one
- God lives in unapproachable “light” thus it was the light of God’s presence showing up to create
- It was some form of physical light with photons, heavenly flashlights, to give light to God’s workspace
- It was God dissipating a black hole in the Milky Way and light from the rest of the suns in the Milky Way was now flowing
- Other possible meanings?

Which do you like best and why? Which fits the available evidence best and what are the weaknesses with each position?

- God was presenting truth but this week is about creation, was God creating truth? The text goes on to describe night and day, light and dark, which seems to lean away from a metaphorical interpretation to something happening more literally.
- God does lives in unapproachable “light” but again, the context is about creating or doing something creative, was God creating the light that always emanates from his presence?
- It was some form of physical light with photons, heavenly flashlights, to give light to God’s workspace. Physical light would be consistent with God creating, or acting to cause something not already happening to happen, thus physical light seems likely, but there is no account in the Bible or natural world of a new source for this light being created.



- It was God dissipating a black hole in the Milky Way and light from the rest of the suns in the Milky Way was now flowing in this newly created solar system. This fits the context of the description of earth before creation, it fits with God acting with creative power to do something, it fits with the physical reality of the universe with the light of millions of suns being seen, it fits with Scripture's account of angels singing when earth was created.

What do you think about the idea that God divided the light from the darkness and called the light day and the darkness night, so that the evening and the morning were the first day, yet the Sun of our solar system wasn't created until day four?

What are the possible explanations?

- Moses was writing to a group of people who were familiar with night and day, and he wanted to be sure they understood the time period involved in each creation day was a normal 24 hour earth day and not some expanse of time
- God's presence, was more brilliant than the sun and as the earth was created it rotated on its axis and as it turned in relationship to God, it had a light and dark phase lasting 24 hours since its rotation was set at a constant rate. God then named these periods day and night, and on day four created the sun to light it when God's physical presence wasn't here.
- Other?

What are the reasons you like one over the other? Any evidence for either?

TUESDAY

Read top section, "Then God said..." thoughts?

What do you find important about this?

Do you notice the water was divided into that above the atmosphere and that below it? Why is this important? Does it give us any insight regarding the condition of the earth today and how to understand geology and dating of the earth?

This provides a sound basis for the Biblical flood, the geological changes based on the flood, and the explanation for why C14 dating cannot be trusted to give reliable dates. The waters above the earth would have provided protection from solar radiation, reducing C14 in the atmosphere before the flood and for many years after the flood thus, one of the assumptions required for C14 reliability is that C14 in the atmosphere be in steady state is false. So the older something actually is, its age is falsely magnified as it starts with less C14 than we have in the atmosphere today.

Imagine if this water above the earth had some type of circulatory pattern – what might that have resulted in? Would it have distributed the heat from the sun creating a uniform temperature around the globe? There would have been no rain, just heavy dew. Do you think the water above the earth was in



some liquid state, or was it in a vapor? If in a liquid state do you think the atmosphere thinned at higher altitudes as it does now? Would trees grow taller if the atmosphere didn't thin? Would birds fly higher? Do you think any birds or other animals could have flown in and out of that water canopy? What might the sun have done if a bird flew threw it, causing shimmers? Might the sky have been a kaleidoscope of incredible beauty?

Thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Read top dark section – “Try to envision...” thoughts?

Certainly, it was an amazing display of might and power, incredible, awesome. Did God take any risks in doing so? How might Satan have used this against God and what was God's answer for it?

Might Satan have alleged God was just trying to intimidate, to use force, to pressure his intelligent beings into conformity? If this idea was believed what would have been the result? Would love have grown or been lost?

How did God deal with such an allegation?

The Sabbath – which reveals what? God's character of love, truth, presented in love, leaving his intelligent beings free! Day 1-6 we learn God has power, it is day seven that reveals the true nature of the one wielding the power, and confirms he is reliable and trustworthy!

So what does genuine Sabbath observance look like? Is it confined to avoidance of work and church attendance? No, those who put Christ on the cross wanted him off to keep the Sabbath. Genuine Sabbath observance only happens when the individual has God's law written upon the heart and they practice God's methods in their lives, presenting the truth, in love and leaving others free!

On day three of creation – what did God do? He created land and plants – what do you think it was like?

And consider the earth, before the flood, before the upheaval, with beautiful stones and precious metals used by God to create. Were river beds mud, or rubies, sapphires, diamonds, with gold and platinum? With a million kaleidoscopes of light shimmering and glimmering across them – amazing beauty.

Here is one description I like:

In the days of Noah a double curse was resting upon the earth in consequence of Adam's transgression and of the murder committed by Cain. Yet this had not greatly changed the face of nature. There were evident tokens of decay, but the earth was still rich and beautiful in the gifts of God's providence. The hills were crowned with majestic trees supporting the fruit-laden branches



of the vine. The vast, gardenlike plains were clothed with verdure, and sweet with the fragrance of a thousand flowers. The fruits of the earth were in great variety, and almost without limit. The trees far surpassed in size, beauty, and perfect proportion any now to be found; their wood was of fine grain and hard substance, closely resembling stone, and hardly less enduring. Gold, silver, and precious stones existed in abundance. {PP 90.1}

Thoughts?

Do you think the earth, when God formed it, had mountains so high a human couldn't survive there? Do you think there were mountains with sharp, ragged, rocky projections?

Listen to this description and see if you think this is reasonable or not?

When God had formed the earth, there were mountains, hills, and plains, and interspersed among them were rivers and bodies of water. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, not high and ragged as they now are, but regular and beautiful in shape. The bare, high rocks were never seen upon them, but lay beneath the surface, answering as bones to the earth. The waters were regularly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and very beautiful plains, were adorned with plants and flowers, and tall, majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger, and much more beautiful, than trees now are. The air was pure and healthful, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels beheld and rejoiced at the wonderful and beautiful works of God. {3Spiritual Gifts 33.1}

If this is true, what does it say about our minds? When you see mountains, like the Rockies, do you see beauty? But, when you see a person with a bone sticking out of their leg to you think, "how beautiful?"

What does this say about our viewpoint?

THURSDAY

The lesson asks us to read 2Cor 4:6, lets start in verse 1 and read through verse 6:

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.



Thoughts about this passage? What do you hear? What is Paul talking about? What is he using as a reference or object lesson?

Here are some high points; let's see if this makes a picture for us:

- God is merciful and sent Christ to provide what we need for salvation
- This provides hope for a real solution to our condition
- We respond by choosing to give up the destructive ways of the world
- Thus we don't lie, deceive, distort
- We instead are lovers of truth
- But, the Remedy, the gospel, is "veiled" – what is this referring to? Veiled where and by what?
- Veiled in the minds of those who have not accepted the truth and their minds are blinded to God and his methods and character by believing lies
- And what is it that shines into the heart that frees the mind? The light of the truth of God, his character, methods and principles as revealed by Jesus
- What metaphorical, symbolic, system is Paul utilizing to teach this?
- The Sanctuary service
 - The priests are the believers, who enter the Holy Place, which symbolizes the church, where the lamp of God's Word, and the Bread of life – Jesus is, and the golden altar – representing the hearts renewed with love for God that offer prayers to God are. The Holy Place is where the daily priests, those dressed in white robes would go each Sabbath to eat the showbread, which symbolizes the believers having renewed characters to be like Jesus worshipping together each Sabbath and partaking of Christ. But as we long to see God, we look to the Most Holy and something obstructs us – what?
 - A veil – and on the veil? Angels – and what is Satan? An angel, who is the Father of what? Lies, about who? God and what do those lies to in our minds? Veil our minds to the truth about God. And what did Jesus do? He destroyed those lies, and what happened at the Cross when Christ died? The veil was torn and the obstruction between the believers and God was removed and we can see past the lies and see the truth about God clearly now.

Thoughts?

Read third paragraph, "Yet, the 'gods' of evolutionary..." thoughts?

I agree with this. It makes an excellent point – but what does this excellent point also indict? The idea that God kills, or God is the source of death, or that God executes the wicked.

Notice how they rightly say, death "came as a natural result of rebellion against His good rulership."



Isn't it interesting when exposing the weakness of evolution they see the problem with making God out to be the source of death, but some who embrace this truth will still defend the idea of God being the source of death when it comes to the destruction of the wicked and call it "justice"?

Why? What does it reveal?

FRIDAY

Read Questions 1: "Identify..." thoughts

- The balance in the ecosystem – we provide CO₂ to the plants and the plants provide O₂ to us. How did the plants survive for millions of years with no CO₂? How did any O₂ requiring organism survive without the plants providing oxygen?
- What about chlorophyll producing plants? Which convert sun's energy to usable chemical energy? How did life begin before the mechanism to convert the sun's energy to chemical energy was in place?

Read and discuss questions 2 and 3