Evolutionary Creation

A Christian Approach to Evolution

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NOTE: I was not able to find the source for a few slides and get permission to use them, like this cartoon.

1\textsuperscript{st} Person: D’you believe in ‘evolution’ or ‘creation’?

2\textsuperscript{nd} Person: Both
2nd Person:
I believe some men developed from early ape-like creatures . . .
2nd Person:
... and some were created.
1st Person:
That doesn’t make any sense.
2\textsuperscript{nd} Person: 
You’re just jealous!
1st Person: 
D’you believe in ‘evolution’ or ‘creation’?

2nd Person: 
Both
1st Person:
That doesn’t make any sense

**Origins Dichotomy**

- **Evolution**
  - Delusion of Design
  - Rejects God
  - Science

- **Creation**
  - Intelligent Design
  - Accepts God
  - Religion
American Evangelicals

The creation story in which the world was created in six days is literally true, meaning it happened that way word-for-word.
Biologists in Evangelical Colleges

- 25% Young Earth Creationists
- 50% Progressive Creationists
- 25% Theistic Evolutionists
Biologists in Evangelical Colleges

75% Anti-evolutionists

25% Theistic Evolutionists
Biologists in Evangelical Colleges

25% Young Earth Creationists

75% Old Earth
Evangelical Theologians

Ryrie Study Bible
NASB (1978)
Evangelical Theologians

TNIV Study Bible (2006)

World History

BIBLICAL HISTORY

Dates are approximate and dependent on the interpretative theories of various scholars. A key element in this chart is the use of the ancient Mesopotamian chronology together with certain astronomical and archaeological synchronizations for the 12th and 16th Egyptian dynasties. Emphasis is placed on broad historical periods and cultural sequences.

WORLD HISTORY

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S. MESOPOTAMIA
N. MESOPOTAMIA
EGYPT
SYRIA-PALESTINE
ANATOLIA
CRETE
PERSIA
GREECE
ITALY

Early Dynastic Period
Old Kingdom
Ebla
Early Minoan Period
Early Helladic Period
Elamite Dynasties
Hittite Kingdoms

Akkadian Period
First Intermediate Period

Neo-Sumerian Period

2500 B.C. 2400 2300 2200 2100 2000

Early Biblical Period

2156 Abram born
2091 Abram moves to Canaan
1991
2006
2006
2066
2050
1991 Abraham
Ishmael born
Isaac born
Abram offers Isaac
Evangelical Theologians

TNIV Study Bible (2006)

World History
Evangelical Theologians

TNIV Study Bible (2006)
Evangelical Theologians

The best harmonious synthesis of the special revelations of the Bible, of the general revelations of human nature, and of science is the theory of Theistic Evolution.
Evangelical Theologians

Bruce Waltke

2007
My Position

Evangelical Theologian
- Born-Again Christian
- Bible Word of God
- Holy Spirit Inspired
- Miracles & Prayer
- Intelligent Design

Evolutionary Biologist
- Overwhelming Evidence
- Never Falsified
- Explanatory Power
- Biology Makes Sense
My Position

I love Jesus & I accept evolution
1\textsuperscript{st} Person:
That doesn’t make any sense
Lecture Outline

1. Terms & Definitions
2. Biblical Hermeneutics
3. Human Origins
Terms & Definitions
Terms & Definitions

Evolutionary Creation

Theistic Evolution

Substantive
Charles Darwin
1809-1882
Deism
Ernst Haeckel
1834-1919
Panpsychism
Albert Einstein
1879-1955
Alfred North Whitehead
1861-1947
Panentheism
Evolutionary Creation

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created the universe and life through an ordained, sustained, & design-reflecting evolutionary process.
Embryology-Evolution Analogy

- Divine Creative Action
- Ordained & Sustained Natural Processes
- Intelligent Design
- NO God-of-the-Gaps
- DOUBLE that of Anti-Evolutionists
- Image of God & Human Sin
- Mysterious Manifestation
Biblical Hermeneutics
University of Toronto
Medical School
Registration Day  
Regent College  
UBC  
30 Aug 84  

The Grand Plan:  
Declare absolute + pure hell  
on the "theory"
Scientific Concordism

**ASSUMPTION** that God revealed scientific facts in the Bible 1000s of years before their discovery by modern science.

But is it true?
3-Tier Universe

Heaven of Heaven
God’s Dwelling
Waters Above
Gen 1:7, Ps 104:3, Ps 148:4

Firmament
Gen 1:6-8, Gen 1:14-19

Moon

Earth
Immovable
1 Chr 16:30, Ps 93:1, Ps 104:5

Underworld
Phil 2:10-11, Rev 5:3, Rev 5:13

Foundations of the Earth 25X
1 Sam 2:9, Job 38:4, Ps 75:3, Ps 104:5

Waters Below
Gen 1:7, Gen 1:9

Ancient Phenomenological Perspective
3-Tier Universe

Heaven of Heaven
God’s Dwelling
Ps 104:2-3, Deut 4:34, Neh 9:6

Heaven
Moon

Stars Above
Ecc 1:14, Ps 119:96

Firmament
Gen 1:6-8, Ps 148:4

Waters Below
Gen 1:7, Gen 1:9

Immovable
1 Chr 16:30, Ps 93:1, Ps 104:5

Underworld
Phil 2:10-11, Rev 5:3, Rev 5:13

Foundations of the Earth 25X
1 Sam 2:9, Job 38:4, Ps 75:3, Ps 104:5

Ancient Science
Ancient Science

Babylonian Universe
9th Century BC
Ancient Science

Egyptian Universe

New Kingdom
1570-1085 BC
Ancient Science

Babylonian World Map
6th Century BC/E
Ancient Science

Babylon
Ancient Science
Ancient Poetry
Creation Account Panels Gen 1

Concordism?

Formless

Empty

Day 1
Tohu
Light

Day 4
Bohu
Sun, Moon, & Stars

Day 2
Separate Waters Above/Waters Below

Day 5
Decorate Flying Creatures & Sea Turtles

Day 3
Separate Water/Land (Plants)

Day 6
Decorate Animals & Humans (Plants for Food)

Day 7
Sabbath God's Day of Rest
Message-Incident Principle

**BIBLE**

**MESSAGE**
- Divine Theology
  - Inerrant & Infallible

**INCIDENT**
- Ancient Science
  - Ancient Phenomenological Perspective
Message-Incident Principle

Phil 2:10-11

(1) in heaven,
(2) on earth &
(3) UNDER THE EARTH katachthonios

MESSAGE
Divine Theology
Inerrant & Infallible
Jesus is Lord

INCIDENT
Ancient Science
Ancient Phenomenological Perspective
The intention of the Holy Spirit is to teach us how one goes to heaven, and not how heaven goes.

The intention of the Bible is to teach us that God is the Creator, and not how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created.
Message-Incident Principle

Gen 1-3

MESSAGE
Divine Theology
- Creation
- Very Good
- Image of God
- Sin
- God Judges Sin

INCIDENT
Ancient Science
Quick & Complete Origins
De Novo Creation
The Bible is NOT a book of science.

The Bible is a book of Redemption, and of course I accept the Creation story. I believe that God did create the universe.
I believe God created humanity. Whether it came by an evolutionary process and at a certain point He took this person or being and made him a living soul or not, does not change the fact that God did create humanity.
Whichever way God did it makes no difference as to what men and women are & their relationship to God.
Human Origins
Human Origins

Evolutionary Creation
Christian
Ordained & Sustained
by God
Created in the Image of God
& fallen into sin

Non-Negotiable
How & When?

Human Evolution

Dysfunctional Evolution
Abiotic
by natural science
Not about animals
contrary by physiological instincts

X
Embryology-Evolution Analogy

Humans
Image of God & Sinful

Sperm ↔ Egg
Embryology-Evolution Analogy

Humans
Image of God & Sinful

Last Common Ancestor
No Image of God & Not Sinful
6 Million Years Ago
CHIMPANZEES
No Image of God & Not Sinful

HUMANS
Image of God & Sinful

LAST COMMON ANCESTOR
No Image of God & Not Sinful
6 Million Years Ago
We Are More Than Flesh!!!

CHIMPANZEES
No Image of God & Not Sinful

HUMANS
Image of God & Sinful

6 Million years Ago
Final Reflections
Final Reflections

- Define the terms!
- Are evangelicals coming to terms with evolution?
- Gen 1-3 a precedent?
- Pastoral concerns . . .
Cartoon

Title:
God Throws the Creationists a Curve

God:
Let there be evolution.
Cartoon

1st Person:
That doesn’t make any sense.