

Source night

Topic-
Creation

Introductory principles

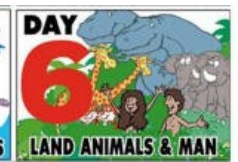
1. All persons of the trinity involved Genesis 1 :3, John 1 :1-3, Colossians 1 :16-17, Isaiah 45 :12
2. Creation is from God and reveals something of God Psalm 19 :1, Romans 1 :20, Jeremiah 10 :12
3. God is separate from creation, but the 'creation' dependent on God Nehemiah 9 :6
4. God made everything from nothing 'Ex Nihilo' Hebrews 11 :3
5. God is orderly, only sin disrupts God order and the perfect creation. Romans 8 :22 Jeremiah 2 :7

Bible and process of Creation

Galileo — "The Bible doesn't tell us how the heavens go, but how to go to Heaven"

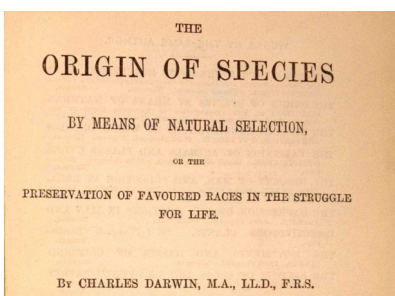
Not an issue that should be splitting Christians. Six main different ways Christians take the issue.

1. Historic Creationism Earth very old God prepared world for human life over literal 6 days
Humans are relatively young
2. Young Earth Creationists Earth and Humans young literal 6 days creation relatively short time ago, Science wrong, as God created a 'Grown Up' universe.
3. Gap Theory Huge gap in time between Gen ch 1 v1 and Gen 1 v2
Account from Gen 1v2 onwards re-creation after.
4. Poetic Creation account in Genesis is a poetic or literary way of explaining God made everything.
Each day is a picture, no literal chronology. Framework- Days 1-3 Days of forming, 4-6 Days of filling
5. Day Age View Word 'day' (Hebrew Yom) can mean a long period of time not just used to describe 24 hour period. So each 'day' could be many, many years. What is time to God?
6. Theistic Evolution All current scientific theories correct, but God caused evolution to happen, but how do we then take Genesis?



Issues with Evolutionary thought

How far do we accept evolution? Macro (One species became another) or Micro ('kinds' Gen 1:24 adapt)?



The full title of Darwin's book

If you miss God out of Creation, you must accept;

1. Nothing made everything, chaos made order, Matter made mind.
2. Survival of fittest, raises issues of racism & war. The weak have little value.
3. We came from no one, for no purpose and go no where, for no reason
Everything is random, the result of a fluke/accident. Therefore there are no absolutes. "The universe is bleak, cold and empty" - Richard Dawkins
4. Natural world has same value as us, animals & humans are same worth.

World's attitude to Creation

Some today hold that all the natural World has the same value as Humans. Phrase 'Mother Earth' *Gaia*.

Quotes

"The rainstorm and the river are my brothers. The heron and the otter are my friends,
And we are all connected to each other In a circle, in a hoop that never ends." Disney film Pocahontas
"The circle of Life" - The Lion King "The spiritual principle is, we are all one." - Russell Brand
"The Earth does not belong to man, but man belongs to the Earth" - Al Gore

Quotes

'One-ism'- popular idea. God exists in everything in creation (animism). All differences should be eliminated.

Biblical view of Creation

Bible - humans are apart, We alone carry image of God. Difference is part of Gods plan. Romans 1 :22-25

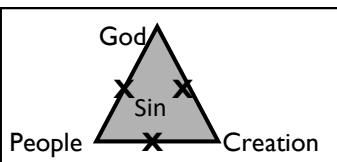
We are not to worship creation, but to respect it Habakkuk 2 :17

We are to have dominion Heb – *radah* meaning to rule, or have authority over creation. Genesis 1 :26-31

We are to subdue Heb - *Kabash* meaning to make slaves of. We are to populate the planet Isaiah 45 :18

Cherish and value created World Psalm 96 :10-14

We need to understand our sin affects the planet Jeremiah 12 :4, Hosea 4 :3, Leviticus 18 :24-25



Sin spoiled the relationship between God, us, and creation.

2 Chronicles 7 :13-14 'heal the land'

Romans 8 :23 Creation groaning waiting for moment in time...

Do we need to worry about apocalyptic warnings?

God will ensure his creation survives. Nehemiah 9 :6, Genesis 8 :21-22, Colossians 1 :17 **HOWEVER..**

We have a God given role as stewards of the Earth Genesis 2 :15

When we look after the Earth we're caring for God's stuff for him! Leviticus 25 :23

Examples of how God's people were told to care for their environment

God ordered the conservation of animals at the flood Genesis 6 :19

The land should be allowed to rest Leviticus 25 :8-11, Exodus 23 :10-11

Preserve trees Deuteronomy 20 :19 Proverbs 27 :18

Animals need to be cared for Proverbs 12 :10, Deuteronomy 22 :4-7, 25 :4

Respect for God If you believe God made the Earth, to trash it, shows disrespect for our Creator.

Love Mark 12 :31 Key teaching is to love our neighbour, if we pollute the planet we must be acting in an unloving way e.g. If we pollute atmosphere it can cause acid rain to fall on others

New Creation

Present creation temporary Isaiah 51 :6, 2 Peter 3 :10-13 Future creation will be perfect without sins effects.

All things reconciled Colossians 1:19-20 There will be a new earth *kainos* (renewed) not *neos* (brand new)



Discussion points for Life Groups



What do you believe about Creation? How far does it matter if we have different views?

In what ways do people today 'worship' creation? How can we take better care of the planet?

How far is oil a gift from God to us to enjoy? How does 'Love our neighbour' apply to this issue?

How do you see and experience God in Creation? How am I doing as a steward?