

reflections of God

selections from Romans and Hebrews

Read through Genesis 1 as if you didn't know anything about God except what this Scripture tells you. On the chart, list all His characteristics that you can know for certain or that are implied in these verses.

For example, for Genesis 1:1, you could write the fact that God is the Creator.

You might also put on your list that He is eternal because this is implied. You can assume that if God was present in the beginning, He Himself had no beginning. Now you try it.

▶ Read Romans 1:19-20.

On the chart below, make a list of things in nature that display the characteristics of God that you found in Genesis 1. For instance, mountain ranges display God's creative power, and sunsets show His love for beauty.

Characteristic of God

As It's Seen in Nature

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |
| 6. | 6. |
| 7. | 7. |

▶ Look at Hebrews 11:3.

According to this verse, how did God create? What materials did He use? How are we to respond to something like this, something that cannot be proven by the technical tools available to us?

Romans 1:19-20

"Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them, 'For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

devos daily faith

»mon

With the most powerful telescope, we can now look 14-16 billion light-years into space. But there is still no end to it. Praise God for the infinite aspect of His divine nature.

»tues

One astronomer said that if you counted the stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, counting one per second, it would take you 2,500 years. Think about how these stars demonstrate the power of God.

»wed

If the earth were any closer to the sun, we'd all fry. If the earth were any farther away, we'd freeze. Verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 19 picture God in control of the heat of the sun. Thank Him for that perfect control.

»thurs

Creation is one way God tells us about Himself. Those who choose to ignore God or doubt His existence have to climb over a universe full of evidence. Thank God for the way He reveals Himself in nature.

»fri

The heavens silently tell us that an almighty God must have created them. Look into the sky tonight and consider the majesty of God.

»sat

There's plenty of evidence in outer space to show us God exists. He can speak to us, however, in our inner space as well. Are you tuned in to that frequency? Pray for the sensitivity to hear what the Spirit is saying to you through His Word.

The heavens
declare the glory
of God; the
skies proclaim
the work of his
hands.

—Psalm 19:1

{TIME SLICE}

stuff about the earth
and our Creator

Dirty snow melts
faster than clean snow!

Space shuttle *Discovery* was operational from its first flight on August 30, 1984, until its final landing on March 9, 2011. By its last mission, *Discovery* had flown 148 million miles--238 million km--in 39 missions, completed 5,830 orbits, and spent 365 days in orbit in over 27 years.

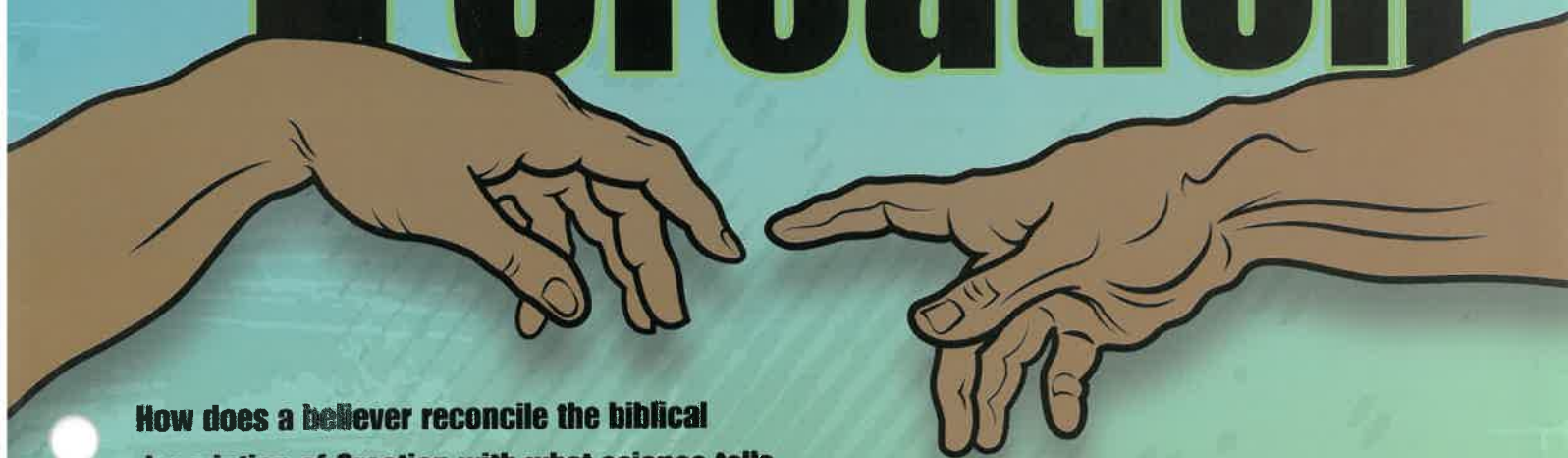


A "day" on Jupiter is about 9 hours, 50 minutes, 30 seconds at the equator. Hey, school would be shorter! But would you be able to get all your homework done? Who needs sleep, right?

The amount of
water in the Amazon river is greater
than the next eight largest rivers
in the world combined.

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipuka-
kapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu
is the name of a hill in New Zealand. Aren't you glad
the locals just call it Taumata???

4 Views of Creation



How does a believer reconcile the biblical description of Creation with what science tells us about the origins of the universe? It is an important question, and believers differ on their answers. Over the past century or so, four primary views of the origin of life on earth have developed as the scientific record has been compared to the account in Genesis.

1. Atheistic Evolutionism

Although he was not the first to propose an evolutionary theory to explain the origin of the human race, Charles Darwin became its most identifiable spokesman. In his work *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*, published in 1859, Darwin argued that random changes over time either strengthen or weaken a species. Changes that enhance a species's ability to survive are reproduced, while those that make a species more vulnerable are eliminated when the animals that reflect such changes soon die out. Human beings gradually evolved from lower forms of life by means of this process of natural selection. God was not a factor in human creation.

Opponents of atheistic evolution point out that such a process should have left behind a fossil record that includes a large number of "transitional forms," as changes in species developed over billions of years. Though scientists have identified some fossils as transitional, there is not a lot of evidence for natural selection occurring on a widespread

scale over long periods of time. More importantly, critics note that atheistic evolution clearly contradicts the biblical record, which traces the origin of humans and animals alike to the direct creative effort of God. Atheistic evolution must be rejected.

2. Theistic Evolutionism

A number of Christians have accepted evolution as the mechanism God used in creation. They point out that God often uses natural means to accomplish His purposes and say that He used the process of natural selection to create all forms of life, including the human race. They do not feel that theistic evolution contradicts the Bible, because they view the details of the creation account as symbolic. For example, some suggest that if Adam and Eve existed, they were chosen from among their prehistoric contemporaries to be tested by God and to become the ancestors of what would eventually become the human race.

Theistic evolution further asserts that the Bible's purpose is not to scientifically explain how God created the world, but to affirm that He did it. Genesis was not written from the scientific point of view. In fact, the Genesis text does not specify the means by which He created, only that He did so. Instead, the Genesis account is structured as poetry and was not intended to be a textbook on biology, astronomy, or geology. The creation account is therefore seen as a grand epic, culminating in God's creating human beings in His own image.

3. Progressive Creationism

A third view attempts to do justice to the events described in Genesis and the scientific evidence that suggests that the earth has existed for billions of years. Progressive creationists believe that the six days of creation were really creative periods that may have lasted for millions or even billions of years. They base this view on a study of the Hebrew word for "day" (*yom*). Although this term in the Bible most often refers to a literal 24-hour day, there are places where it seems to refer to an indefinite period of time. For example, Zechariah 14:7 speaks of the day of the Lord in a way that implies that it cannot be limited to just 24 hours.

Progressive creationists also note that the first creative "day" was finished before the sun and moon were created. They believe that viewing the six days of Genesis as creative epochs enables Christians to reconcile the biblical record with astronomical evidence, which indicates that the light from stars that is just now reaching the earth was first emitted billions of years ago. It also provides an explanation for fossil evidence that seems to suggest dinosaurs died out long before humans were present on the earth.

Progressive creationists deny that evolution occurred on a large scale, but some do believe in microevolution, the theory that variations within species occur over time as the result of mutations. But they do not believe that humans evolved from lower life-forms or that whole species are the result of evolutionary processes. Instead, God specially created the species on earth at different times over a long period.

4. Fiat Creationism

The fourth view is that creation took place within a six-day period, with each day lasting 24 hours. This viewpoint is often called fiat creation, "fiat" indicating "God commanded it." Those with this view believe that it is the most obvious reading of the text, and it is unlikely that those to whom Genesis was originally written would have understood Moses' words in any other sense.

Many who hold this view also believe that the age of the earth is relatively young. The evidence of radiometric dating does not bother them, because they feel that the interpretation of its results is largely a matter of conjecture. They explain the appearance of vast age in the geologic record by referring to the biblical account of the flood in Noah's day. This flood wiped out all life on earth, including the dinosaurs, and gave the earth the appearance of age. They also suggest that biblical passages that refer to gigantic creatures like Leviathan are actually speaking of dinosaurs (Job 3:8; 41:1; Ps. 74:14; 104:26; Isa. 27:1). If this is true, it means that humans and dinosaurs existed on the earth at the same time.

Conclusion

Although Christians do not agree on the details, we can all agree that the Genesis account clearly teaches that the eternal God is Creator and Lord of all things.

