



Creation Versus Evolution

I once heard a man jokingly say to his friend, "I can tell by the shape of your jaw, that a monkey was your Pa!" He was, of course, making reference to the theory of evolution. Evolution is the theory that lower forms of animals, over the course of millions or billions of years, gradually developed into or produced higher forms of animals, including humans. Simply put, as far as you and I go, according to evolution, we came from apes or some ape-like creatures.

**"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."
— Genesis 1:27**

Many have blindly accepted the notion of evolution without giving consideration to the Bible's explanation of man's existence, which is creation by God, the Supreme Being. Consider three notable differences between the theory of evolution and creationism according to the Bible.

The Origin of Man

As we noted above, evolution teaches that man evolved or gradually developed from lower forms of animals. The Bible, however, says, "For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is" (Exodus 20:11). The Bible plainly states that "God created man . . ." (Genesis 1:27). Consider this: If I tell you that a frog went to sleep and overnight turned into a prince (a human being), you would call that "a fairy tale." However, some folks try to convince us that a frog turned into a man, not overnight, but after millions or billions of years. People call this "science" or "scholarship." No, that too, is just a fairy tale!

The Nature of Man

Evolution categorizes human beings as animals. Evolutionists agree that man is superior to the beasts of the field, but still, he is just an animal. Because evolution views humans only as some type of "critter," it sees only the *physical* aspect of man. In contrast, the Bible also shows the *spiritual* nature of man. The Bible teaches that "God created man in his own image" (Genesis 1:27). Since "God is a spirit" (John 4:24) and not a physical being, the fact that God made

man in His image must refer to some spiritual side of man. Humans, like the God that created us, have an eternal aspect. That is right. Each human has an eternal spirit that will one day "return unto God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Yes, we eat, breathe, and die, just as animals do. But humans, unlike animals, will live forever! That's how God made us.

The Proper Behavior of Man

Lizards, squirrels, and mountain lions do not have a moral code of conduct. Since evolution looks at humans as only some superior form of animal, then evolution cannot give mankind an objective code of conduct to follow. One horrible consequence of accepting the theory of evolution is that it removes any objective standard of right and wrong. If humans are mere animals, then just like in the animal kingdom, "anything goes" when it comes to personal behavior! But the Bible says that God wants humans to hold fast to that which He calls "good," and abstain from what He labels as "evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21,22). As humans, we have the capacity to understand the idea of things being morally right or wrong. If we had evolved from animals, we would clearly have no such concept of morality since right and wrong are not a part of animals' thinking. Furthermore, the Bible declares that man's whole purpose or duty while living on the earth is to "Fear God, and keep his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). You will never find an evolution-based textbook that agrees with that idea!

Remember this. Evolution is simply an unfounded, unproven "t-h-e-o-r-y." On the other hand, the Bible's message about creation is part of God's "t-r-u-t-h" (John 17:17). Creation versus evolution? It is simply a matter of fact (God's truth) versus fiction (man's fantasy).

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Confession

One of the actions that can be found in the New Testament associated with becoming a Christian and being a Christian is that of confession. The New Testament speaks of the responsibility of the Christian to “Confess therefore one to another, and pray one for another...” (James 5:16). Regarding the Christian’s relationship with God, John wrote, “If we confess our sins, he (God) is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins...” (1 John 1:9). These New Testament verses are teaching regarding the responsibility and blessings that one who is already a Christian has and will receive through confession. The context is that of a Christian recognizing sin in one’s life, repenting of that sin, and confessing one’s spiritual failures.

Another New Testament usage of the word confession is for one who is not a Christian, but who is seeking to become a Christian. The inspired author Paul placed confession in the process of becoming a Christian when he wrote, “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10). In becoming a Christian, one must believe with the heart that Jesus is the Son of God and out of that conviction comes forth the confession of faith in Jesus. An example of this process is seen in the record of the Ethiopian who became a Christian after hearing the preaching of Philip. The record says, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. As they went on their way they came unto a certain water, and the eunuch said, ‘see here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.’ And he answered and said unto him, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God’” (Acts 8:35-37).

It should be noted that the Bible’s example of confession of faith in Jesus Christ was after belief and repentance of sin but before baptism. “...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him” (Acts 8:38).

The importance of confession of faith in Jesus Christ with the mouth can be seen from an incident in the life of Peter. On the night that Jesus was taken into custody by the Jewish authorities, Peter had the opportunity to confess his faith in Jesus or deny Jesus. In that instance, Peter failed to confess Jesus, and said, “I know not the man” (Matthew 26:74). To Peter’s credit, he had previously confessed his faith in Jesus as the Christ (Matthew 16:16), and he would repent of his denial (Matthew 26:75) and go on to confess faith in Jesus many more times. However, the point of this example is that what one says, confession or denial, represents what is in the heart at that moment. One who does not have the courage initially to confess Jesus is the Son of God before other believers surely will not be able to live the Christian life daily before the world.

The question often arises, “is all that I need to do to be saved is confess that I believe in Jesus?” The biblical example and teaching is that one must have faith or believe in Jesus, one must repent of their sins, confession of faith in Jesus arises out of the previous two, and then one is baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 8:35-38, Acts 2:36-38,41, Mark 16:16). Every part of the process of becoming a Christian should be taken seriously, looking forward to living the Christian life and following the will of God that is found throughout the New Testament.

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What Is the Mission of the Church?

A mission is an assigned task, and there are myriad of missions various individuals and/or groups have been sent to accomplish. A secret agent may be sent by his nation to accomplish some covert operation in a foreign land. An army unit may be deployed on a peace keeping mission. Or, a politician may be sent to a foreign government to conduct diplomatic negotiations. These are all various kinds of missions. Similarly, the church has a mission to accomplish. However, her mission is not an assignment by men but is assigned to her by God. Nonetheless, men have given various assignments to the church. Consider these:

Some have said the church exists to do good deeds. Certainly, the church as opportunity is afforded to her is to “do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10). However, this is only partly true. The church does not exist only to do good deeds. The seeming dilemma lies in definition. What is “good” to men is not always “good” to God. For example, men often tend to justify sin (John 3:19), especially their own sin or the sin of a loved one. The church, however, has the God-given responsibility to oppose sin. After convicting the churches of Galatia of returning to the “weak and beggarly elements, Paul asked, “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16). Nearly every book of the Bible convicts men of sin, and to many, this is not good.

Others say the church exists to do right. This is an honorable statement if the right standard of authority is recognized. Every religious, social, and civic group could make the same statement.

Even humanist and atheist could say such. However, is their standard from men or from God? Does the church exist to do right? Yes, but not according to just any standard. Because the church is commissioned by God, her standard is the Word of God, the Bible.

Still others say the church exists to have fellowship. Again, this is only partly true. Paul wrote, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11). Christians are to have fellowship with God and with God’s people but not with the world (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Sadly some folks mistakenly think the church exists to entertain or be entertained. For this reason, many churches hire “pep-rally” preachers along with “conscience-soothing” choirs. Rather than opposing sin and wickedness, anything and everything goes, and worship becomes a frolicking mass production.

What, then, is the God-given mission of the church? First, it is evangelism. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Second, it is edification which means to build up. Christians are to build each other up in the exhortations of the Lord. Paul wrote, “Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). And, third, it is benevolence — doing good unto all men as opportunity is afforded (Galatians 6:10). Let us, therefore, fulfill our God-given assignments and do away with man’s preconceived ideas about the mission of the Lord’s church.

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The Bible on Lying

The writer of the book of proverbs profoundly declared: “These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19). Among the seven things that God hates, the sin of lying is mentioned twice. Many people can quote Revelation 21:8 where the Bible teaches that all liars will suffer eternity in Hell. Lying takes place often and most times without remorse in the culture of the United States. It has become completely accepted in some circles. Lying is still an abomination to the Lord.

One person pointed out some eight different situations in which people generally lie. Some are very much accepted and some are not. (1) **Some lie out of habit.** It is ingrained early in life, and some people never stop regardless of the situation. (2) **Some lie out of malice.** Paul alluded to these people in Romans 1:28-29. It was something that went on in Corinth (2 Corinthians 12:20). (3) **Some lie out of fear.** This is perhaps one of the most accepted motives for lying. Someone might justify truth being told by saying something like, “people should not have to tell the truth if it is going to hurt or kill someone.” (4) **Some lie out of carelessness.** They do not want to find out the truth for themselves before repeating it to someone else, so he may lie in a careless fashion. (5) **Some lie to boast.** Some want to appear better than they really are, so they lie about their character or actions. (6) **Some lie for profit.** The adage is that there are no honest car salesmen. It is almost expected for them to lie about what they are trying to sell or how good of a deal they are trying to give someone. (7) **Some lie for propaganda purposes.** Some say statistics in advertisement are nothing but a bunch of lies covered up by numbers. It is interesting how people can make the same numbers give two different messages.

The Bible frequently points out lying is wrong and truth-telling is commendable. The prophets were instructed never to speak or teach with lying in the process (Ezekiel 13:9; Isaiah 9:15; Jeremiah 14:14; Zechariah 10:2). John reveals the mind of God on the subject when he says of the home of God, “...And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” (Revelation 21:26-27). It is interesting to note that in order to cover up sin, lying often has to be involved. History proves that it is a true statement that lying generally leads to more lying. One good biblical example of this is the sin of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11.

The bottom line is this: lying is never right and never does any good. It is amazing how a liar never wants to be lied to. Such inconsistency is hypocritical! It is also interesting that most of those who are not even religious want and desire for truth to be told. They understand the consequences that come from lying. Epicurus was not a religious man and in fact did not believe in any god or superior being of any kind. Yet, he argued that truth must be told simply from a practical point of view. The person who lies will not have many friends, certainly not one he can trust. Fascinatingly, this philosopher noted that a liar will also have a nagging fear in the back of his mind that he will be found out. Lying comes with too many negative consequences for one to even want to be involved in it.

“A good name is better than precious ointment” (Ecclesiastes 7:1a). “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1).

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Will You Walk The Three Steps To Discipline?

We hear much talk about discipline in the home, but often we miss out on what steps this really entails. *Webster’s Dictionary* speaks of discipline as instruction or “study,” “training that corrects and molds mental faculties or moral character” and “control gained by enforcing obedience or order.” God emphasizes all of these aspects of discipline as a responsibility for parents, and if we are to have homes as He would have them, we must be willing to walk the three steps to proper discipline.

Instruction is the first step in the goal to bring about the proper “mental faculties” and “moral character.” God commands us that His words “shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt *teach them diligently* unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Training is the next step in proper discipline. To do this we must be prepared to do as Ezra did when he “gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Nehemiah 8:8). To truly mold our children, we need to enable them to make decisions based on sound and proper reasoning. Thus we must ourselves be prepared and patient enough to explain the proper (Bible) basis for our decision making in our instructions to them. This will prepare them to make the proper decisions themselves, and also to one day provide the same guidance for their children. Training entails not only explanation, but example. In 1 Kings 22, we read of king Ahaziah, the son of Ahab. We are told that “he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother” (verse 52). Tragically we see young people today fall into terrible situations, only to find that they are following in the path of their parents. If we are to properly discipline our children, we should live so that we can say to them “be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1; cf. 1 Timothy 1:5).

But of course we realize that even in the best of circumstances, there will be times in which children do not heed the instruction and training given them. It is then that enforcement or punishment, the third step and final step of discipline, is to be applied. The previous steps in discipline have been preventive while this final step is corrective. This part of discipline may find many forms such as lectures, restricting activities and privileges, or even corporal punishment (spanking). While there are foolish people who would have us believe that such corrective efforts will harm a child and are devoid of love, God has clearly told us that such measures must be done and are the actions of true love (Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:6-7).

Homes and society today are in peril because of the lack of discipline and the resulting turmoil. Their only hope is if we will do our part to correct this by being willing to take the God given steps of proper discipline. Let’s love God and keep his commandments (John 14:15) — our homes will be blessed by it!

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“Is the Big Bang Theory Taught in the Bible? Can Creation Be Attributed to the Big Bang Theory, or Is this the Way We Explain God Creating the World in the Bible?”

The “Big Bang” is the explanation given by many in the scientific community that describes the early development of our universe. Many, because of the cosmos we live in, look for reasons apart from God’s revelation to explain our origins. The study of origins is the rudimentary concern with the “Big Bang” theory. We must keep this in mind. Further, the “Big Bang” is still, and always will be, a theory and not a fact or demonstrated law. Only one was present during creation (Adam according to the Bible), but empirically, no one today was present during creation to empirically establish or record such an event. Therefore, science or the knowledge of events pertaining to our origins is very limited apart from revelation.

The fact of the matter is this: If we did not have revelation from God, we could not nor would not know anything definitely about our origin. And, still, if we did know the very nature of how God formed and shaped this world, this would, perhaps, imply that we were sovereigns like God, Who knows all things! Natural laws, which are absolute, do not violate God’s spiritual laws contained in His Word — the Bible. Therefore, true science is not antagonistic to the Bible. Paul said this to Timothy nearly 2000 years ago: “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith...” (1 Timothy 6:20-21). Science that opposes God’s Word opposes God. If science is in opposition to God’s Word, then either God’s Word is false, or man’s scientific reasoning is false. Both cannot be true.

The only way to answer this (these) question(s) is to go to the only source of information that can inform us of how God created this world. The Bible is the only book that explains our origin (or attempts to) apart from man-made/concocted theoretic science. No man could explain how a force adequate to create such a world — our cosmos — without that adequate force revealing how that force did it. All science knows that, in order for matter to exist, it must have an adequate force to establish such. No matter appears without force or beginnings. But, this is the debate: What is the adequate force to establish such a world in which we live? Can this be explained apart from God? To attempt to do so is to believe that matter created itself, and this premise is absurd! Every scientist, who has a semblance of honesty, recognizes this quandary. How do they or we explain the cause for the effect?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT CREATION OR ORIGINS?

The Bible does not teach God created the world through a “Big Bang.”

The Big Bang theory, in all reality, attempts to explain how chaos becomes cosmos without God. It attempts to explain, trying to be reasonable in this, that chaos, without divine manipulation, control, or authority becomes cosmos — that which is orderly as our world is — by chance! These scientists and some religionists state that chance established order, and therefore our world with human, animal, and plant life is all the result of chance! *WOW!* That’s scary if you consider the implications. If chance established this world, then indeed, we are very lucky to be alive! Why? Have you ever considered how limited this chance theory is in probability? What is the probability that exploding chaotic mass billions and billions of years ago became such a serene, picturesque environment in which we live? The chances of this ever happening again are slim to none!

Frankly, the Bible doesn’t explain how God created this world, but it does tell us that He did it by His Word, with much power, order, and organization. Listen to a few passages and allow God’s magnificent power to express the origins of our universe. **Psalm 33:4, 6-9:** “For the word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth...By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: He layeth up the depth in store-houses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done: He commanded, and it stood fast.” Therefore, as the Bible says: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (**Genesis 1:1**). Friends, the Bible teaches that in six orderly, 24-hour days, God created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11**). To argue over this, to deny this, to reject this is to reject everything! If we dethrone God to empirical scientific oppositions of godliness, we cannot claim to be Christian and still believe in the Bible. To denounce God’s simple but powerful establishment in creation, is to denounce everything God has done. If we reject God’s miraculous power in creation, we reject God’s miraculous power in the resurrection — and there goes our hope of eternal life through redemption! Jesus’ life was a farce. Redemption is therefore a farce. And, so, we see that on the basis of the Bible, God’s Word, powerful and sufficient for all of life and godliness, is true because our God, truly, is more than an awesome God! We live in an orderly world not a chaotic one (cf. **Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3** et al.)! This did not, by chance, just happen or appear. God is the greatest cause Who created something out of nothing — this world we live in — by powerful and intelligent design. He is the Designer of the design, not the “Big Banger of chaos” without any control over such. He is the only One that can take lives that are chaotic and make them orderly. He is not the author of such confusion as is established by the theories of man (**1 Corinthians 14:33**)!

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