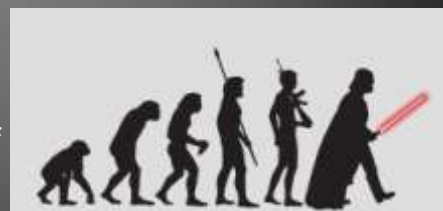
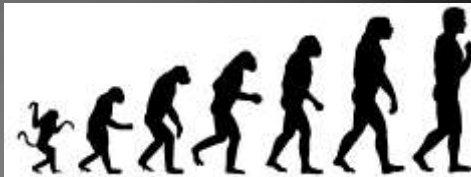


Conservative Orthodox View

- The conservative orthodox approach is only one real option concerning Adam and Eve.
- This view stresses the supernatural creation of man and the instantaneity of the event.
- The transcendence and power of God are completely evident in this act of creation, which is ex nihilo.
- The liberal approach rejects the biblical view and stresses process and the immanence of God.
 - By immanence, it is simply meant that God is in the creation and part of it.
 - Transcendence is the notion that God is apart and distinct from creation being independent of it.
 - The liberals teach that God works through natural channels. They do this in order to wed the biblical teaching of God and His work to the theory of evolution. In seeing God dependent on natural means and processes to accomplish things, they reject the supernatural.

Theories of the Origin of Man

- **Naturalistic Evolution:** the most common view by the secular and academic world.
 - The universe and life came into existence through materialistic processes, chance, natural selection, and mutation.
 - Those who hold this view claim that its strength is that it conforms with science.
- The reality of the issue is that it merely conforms with current scientific opinion. They use circular reasoning in interpreting the available data. There are no laws of science that truly support the evolutionary viewpoint.



Theories of the Origin of Man

- Fiat Creationism
 - This is the biblical view; it teaches God directly spoke/created the universe out of nothing and did so with brevity of time.
 - Most who hold to this view hold to a young earth model of creation, although this is not necessary to be classified as fiat.
 - The strength of fiat creationism is it corresponds with the biblical text.
 - Although it contains no true weakness, a perceived weakness is that it is difficult to correlate with ideas in the scientific community.



Theories of the Origin of Man

- Natural evolution and fiat creationism are two ends of a spectrum. There are a number of positions in-between.
- Deistic Evolution.
 - God was necessary to create all matter and get the universe started, but once it was set up, He left it to run on its own. He is an absentee God.
 - It's not too different than naturalistic evolution since all stellar bodies as well as life on earth were the product of natural evolution.
 - Saying there is a God who caused the Big Bang, but then disappeared does nothing more for man than having no God at all.
 - The view's perceived strength is it correlates well with modern theories of the scientific community.
 - This view's weakness is that it cannot adequately explain biblical passages that speak of God's direct and immediate creative work.

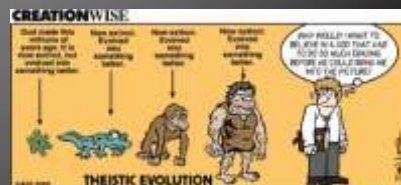


Theories of the Origin of Man

- Theistic evolution.
 - God created everything, but He used evolution directly. Therefore, it is direct with punctuated equilibrium.
 - For example, God directly creates the planets, but then allows them naturally to age for billions of years.
 - Once the earth was ready by accumulating an atmosphere and seas, God then stepped in.
 - Admitting that living matter cannot come from non-living matter, they argue that when the conditions were right God stepped in and gave life to this evolved matter.
 - He then stepped away and let it evolve on its own. Concerning human beings, God stepped in again and made humans to be far greater and distinct from the other animals by giving them a soul, thus making man into his current state.
 - These various interventions by God is what is meant by the term punctuated equilibrium.

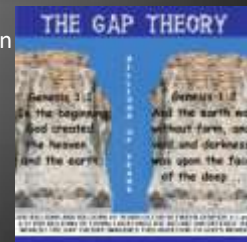
Theories of the Origin of Man

- Theistic Evolution Continued.
- There are variations within this view.
 - Liberal unbelievers tend to see this just as it was explained.
 - People who claim to be Christians and hold this view will usually subscribe to the Day/Age Theory of creation and match the punctuated equilibriums with each of the ages.
 - Some of these people believe Adam and Eve to be a literal pair, but others see them as being symbolic.



Theories of the Origin of Man

- Gap Theory.
- Popularized by the Scofield Reference Bible and many DTS professors in the early 20th century (i.e. Charles Ryrie).
- It was an attempt to reconcile the 6000 year timeline with the deep time of unbelieving scientists.
- The older Gap Theory argued that a gap occurred between the initial creation in Genesis 1:1 and the recreation of Genesis 1:2 and after.
 - Within that gap, Satan fell bringing the earth and universe into ruin. Some of the older gap theorists even allowed for the possibility of a pre-Adamic race of men that once lived on earth.
- Today, there is a modified Gap Theory that chooses not to speculate about the fall of Satan or anything in between the gap, but instead holds that the Hebrew grammar necessitates an indefinite gap of time.



Theories of the Origin of Man

- Progressive Creationism.
- The days of creation are not literal, but instead are mnemonic devices in the service of oral tradition.
 - In other words, the creation account is an oral tradition, and to ensure that the tradition did not become corrupted over time, breaking the creation cycle up into six easy to remember “days” would allow for the oral tradition to easily be passed on.
- This view lines up with Augustine as he posited that the first three days of creation are days of arrangement and the last three days are that of adornment.
- The idea is that God ends one creation cycle, and then later moves to the next in a “de novo” manner.
 - Thus, God starts one aspect of creation and only focuses on that, and when completed He then focuses exclusively on another aspect.
- Progressive Creationism does not worry about the time of creation and the age of the universe.

Theories of the Origin of Man

- Fiat Creationism is the biblical position.
 - Genesis 1 and vav consecutive.
 - Narrative Literary genre.
- Even the justification of the Sabbath assumes a literal six day creation.
 - Exodus 20:11 For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.



Problems with the Gap Theory

- It is unknown in history until the modern and postmodern eras.
 - Scholarly Christians, as well as studious rabbis, never postulated the Gap Theory prior to the time in which scientists began attacking the Bible over the age of the universe.
 - Meaning, the motive of the theory may have been to appease the arguments of man rather than the glory of God.
- You have to look hard for the Gap Theory, and the only reason people began looking was to have a compromise with secular astronomy.



Problems with the Other Theories

- Naturalistic, Deistic, and Theistic evolution completely contradict the Bible.
 - Actually scientific laws and observation do not by any means prove evolution.
- Progressive creation relies too much on allegorical interpretation. Narrative is not allegorical.



What is the Age of the Human Race?

- First, you have to answer what is the mark of humanity.
- There are four “Christian” answers.
 1. The issue is not important.
 - Wrong! Very important.
 2. Tool making.
 - Other creatures use tools (like chimps using twigs to get ants)
 3. Practice of burial of the dead.
 - A small amount of other creatures do this.
 4. Use of language.
 - This is probably it. Squares with Scripture, and Adam and Eve were speaking from the very beginning.
- With those other “markers” humans add complexity and theology to them, but language is alone unique to man.

What is the Age of the Human Race?

- The next issue has to deal with the Neolithic problems of Genesis 4.
 - Neolithic is a term of secular anthropology referring to the later part of the stone age supposedly 10,000 years ago.
 - It is believed to be a late development of the human race.
 - It is marked by domestication of animals, agriculture, making of pottery and clothing, and ability to make works of polished stone.
 - Secular anthropologists say the earliest humans did not know how to do any of this. They were wandering nomads that practiced slash and burn horticulture, rather than agriculture (no wheel).
- Genesis 4 shows Cain and Abel and their descendents were living a Neolithic lifestyle.

