

## **The Beginning – Part 2**

Genesis 1-2; Coast Community Church Pastor's Class; Earl Miles; June 26, 2016

### **The Bible and Science (Psalm 19)**

- 'Book' of General Revelation and Book of Special Revelation
- Complimentary and Supportive
- Different but Supporting Roles
- The Bible should correct bad scientific interpretation.
- Science may correct bad Biblical interpretation.

### **Four Views of 'The Beginning' (Genesis 1:1)**

- Atheistic Evolution (AE)
- Intelligent Design (ID)
- Theistic Evolution (TE)
- Creationism (C)

### **Why Is This Discussion Important? (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:1-3)**

- Making Disciples.
- Division in the Church.
  - We are not as unified as we might think.
  - We can be quick to condemn others.

### **Views Not Requiring the Biblical God (Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 1:18-25)**

- Atheistic Evolution
- Intelligent Design
  - Scientific Explanations
  - Ancient Pagan Creation Stories
  - Other Religious Explanations

### **Views Requiring the Biblical God (Acts 17:22-31)**

- Theistic Evolution
- Creationism

### **Theistic Evolution**

- With a literal Adam
- Without a literal Adam

## **Creationism**

- Six 24 Hour Days
- Day Age View
- Framework View

## **Day Age View**

- Progressive or Process Creation (Hugh Ross)

## **Framework View**

- Punctuated or Intermittent Day View
- Gap Theory (Restoration View, Palestine or Historical Creation View: Sailhamer, Piper)
- Days of Revelation View
- Days of Divine Fiat View
- Instantaneous View (Augustine)
- Analogical View (Franz Delitzsch, Herman Bavinck; W.G.T. Shedd; Robert Godfrey)
- Temple View (John Walton of Biologos; N.T. Wright)

## **Age of the Earth**

- Young Earth Creationism (YEC)
  - Scientific Creationism
  - Apparent Age View (Henry Morris – Institute for Creation Research)
- Old Earth Creationism (OEC)
- Both
  - Time-Relative or Expanding Time View
- Either

## **Note: Differences Among Godly Men**

- Six 24 Hour Days: Tertullian, Calvin, Luther, Lightfoot, Watson, Vincent, Aquinas, Bishop Ussher, Matthew Henry, John Owen, Jonathan Edwards, Al Mohler, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Henry Morris, Ken Ham, Ligon Duncan; Louis Berkhof; R.L. Dabney
- Day Age View: Augustine?, Charles Hodge, A.A. Hodge, B.B. Warfield, W.G.T. Shedd, J. Gresham Machen, Francis Schaeffer, James Montgomery Boice
- Framework View: Augustine?, Kline, Bruce Waltke, younger R.C. Sproul
- Theistic Evolution (open to it): B.B. Warfield, Billy Graham, Tim Keller, C.S. Lewis
- Young Earth: Many like R.C. Sproul, Jr and Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis
- Old Earth: Charles Spurgeon, William Lane Craig, Robert Godfrey, Charles Hodge, C.S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer, Scofield, B.B. Warfield, Michael Horton, Stephen Meyer

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### **Rest in Jesus, Hope in God, Pursue Love**

#### **Plan**

- Views
- Scripture
- Importance
- Approach
- Compelling Arguments

#### **The Bible and Science**

##### **Psalm 19**

Luther, Calvin and Copernicus (Ligonier Article)

- 'Book' of General Revelation and Book of Special Revelation
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'Science works by experiments. It watches how things behave. ... Do not think I am saying anything against science: I am only saying what its job is. And the more scientific a man is, the more he would agree with me that this is the job of science — and a very useful and necessary job it is too. But why anything comes to be there at all, and whether there is anything behind the things science observes — something of a different kind — this is not a scientific question. If there is "Something Behind," then either it will have to remain altogether unknown to men or else make itself known in some different way. The statement that there is any such thing, and the statement that there is no such thing, are neither of them statements that science can make. And real scientists do not usually make them.' – CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Thus, from the observation that human intelligence can communicate by manipulating sequences of alphabetic letters, creationists infer that a similar kind of intelligence was responsible for the message sequences of nucleotide letters in DNA. Some master intellect is the creator of life. But

such observable instances of information cannot tell us if the intellect behind them is natural or supernatural. This is not a question that science can answer. – Pandas and People (Intelligent Design Book)

### **Video: Was There a Beginning?**

Stephen Meyer, Christian Scientist, speaking at a Ligonier Conference

### **Four Views of ‘The Beginning’**

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"Do I agree that the theory of evolution, its truth or falsehood, is of fundamental importance to the Xtian faith?" This question can have several senses, in some of which the answer *yes* wd. most seriously misrepresent my position. I believe that Man has fallen from the state of innocence in which he was created: I therefore disbelieve in any theory wh. contradicts this. It is not yet obvious to me that all theories of evolution do contradict it. When they do not, it is not my business to pronounce on their truth or falsehood. – C.S. Lewis, personal letter

‘To adopt any form that does not permit God freely to work apart from law and that does not allow *miraculous* intervention (in the giving of the soul, in creating Eve, etc.) will entail a great reconstruction of Christian doctrine, and a very great lowering of the detailed authority of the Bible. But if we condition the theory by allowing the constant oversight of God in the whole process, and his occasional supernatural interference for the production of *new* beginnings by an actual output of creative force, producing something *new*, i.e., something not included even *in posse* in the preceding conditions,

we may hold to the modified theory of evolution and be Christians in the ordinary orthodox sense. ... I say we may do this. Whether we ought to accept evolution, even in this modified sense, is another matter, and I leave it purposely an open question.' – B.B. Warfield

Answersingenesis.org;

*The Power of the Holy Ghost*

A Sermon Delivered On Sunday Morning, June 17, 1855, By Pastor C. H. Spurgeon, At New Park Street Chapel, Southwark.

The power of the Holy Ghost. (Ro 15:13)

In Ge 1:2, we read, “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” [We do not know how remote the period of the creation of this globe may be—certainly many millions of years before the time of Adam. Our planet has passed through various stages of existence, and different kinds of creatures have lived on its surface, all of which have been fashioned by God. But before that era came, when man should be its principal tenant and monarch, the Creator gave up the world to confusion. He allowed the inward fires to burst up from beneath and melt all the solid matter, so that all kinds of substances were commingled in one vast mass of disorder; the only name you could give to the world then was, that it was a chaotic mass of matter; what it should be, you could not guess or define.]<sup>1</sup> It was entirely without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The Spirit came, and stretching his broad wings, bade the darkness disperse, and as he moved over it, all the different portions of matter came into their places, and it was no longer “without form, and void;” but became round like its sister planets, and moved, singing the high praises of God—not discordantly as it had done before, but as one great note in the vast scale of creation.

1. Bracketed text indicates that as brilliant as Spurgeon was, even he did not understand the age of the earth issue. Editor.

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