

Creation

- This is a highly important doctrine.
 - Has repeated emphasis in the Bible (e.g. Jesus appeals to it when talking about marriage).
 - It is central to many other doctrines: human predicament, plan of redemption, eschatology, etc.
 - A faulty view on this can cause other doctrines to suffer.
 - Creation differentiates Christianity from other world religions and humanism.
 - It provides contact between theology and the natural sciences.



Ex Nihilo

- God created the universe out of nothing.
- He did not use already existent material, but instead there was nothing, and from that God created.
- This is why God is transcendent and separate from the universe. **Hebrews 11: 3** speaks clearly about ex nihilo.
 - Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.
- The creation was the work of the Triune God and its purpose was the glory of God.
- Within creation, we see both the initial work, and then the later work such as the creation of man (Genesis 2:7) and woman (Genesis 2:21).



Problem of Time

- Among Christians, there are different positions concerning creation.
 - It goes beyond the young vs. old earth creationists.
 - However, these positions introduce the problem of time with the creation.
- Modern scientists claim the universe is 14 billion years old, and the earth is 4.8 billion years old.
 - A plain reading of Genesis cannot support that.
 - Thus, some see the creation details as being metaphorical, and therefore they seek to match the creation timeline to the timelines of secular scientists. Not just liberals do this, but evangelicals do as well.
- As Christians, we should realize the unchanging Bible has priority over the changing theories of fallen scientists.
 - Take DNA studies and the age of humanity as an example.
 - Also, presuppositions play a large role (uniformitarianism).

Four Prominent Views

- Day-Age Theory says days of creation were undefined periods of time.
 - The Hebrew word for "day" does make this possible, but exegetical considerations rule this out.
- People subscribe to this view because they want to reconcile creation to the 4.8 billion year timeline.
 - They still believe they interpret the Bible literally.



Four Prominent Views

- Pictorial Day Theory says the first three days of creation are arrangement and the second three are adornment.
 - Augustine held this view.
- God builds the container from what is formless and void in days 1-3, and then fills the container in days 4-6.
- There is symmetry of creation in this view.
- This viewpoint is often used to say the method and timing of creation is unimportant, but the text emphasizes the completeness of creation.
 - So it is possible to take an allegorical view with this.
 - It is also possible to hold to this view and a literal young earth creationist view.

| Arrangement | Adornment |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Day 1: Light and Darkness | Day 4: Sun, Moon, and Stars |
| Day 2: Sea and Sky | Day 5: Creatures of the Sea and Sky |
| Day 3: Fertile Land and Earth | Day 6: Life that Dwells on the Earth |

Four Prominent Views

- Gap Theory says the universe is old, but creation as we know it is young.
 - They claim there is an indefinite gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2.
 - Something happened in that gap to cause the universe to fall into chaos.
 - The Hebrew grammar could allow for this, but it is unnecessary.
 - It attempts to merge young earth and old earth positions.
- This is only needed if one wants to appease the theory of an old universe.



Four Prominent Views

- The Literal Seven Day Theory (or Flood Theory) says that God created the universe recently, in a six day period, and much of the geological data on earth is the result of the global flood.
 - Creation and the Flood are compressed together in their understanding of Creation and Scientific data.
- There is a growing body scientific evidence of evidence to support this position. The Biblical evidence has always supported this position.



Implications

- First, God's work in creation is unique.
- Second, everything has value since it is the handiwork of God.
- Third, God continues to sustain His creation with His providential hand.
- Fourth, if nature is God's then the study of natural science is a legitimate enterprise.
- Fifth and finally, God is eternal, transcendent, and self-sufficient.
 - Everything else has contingent existence. God is self-existence and depends on no one or nothing else to exist.
 - Yet, since He is the ground of all other existence through creation, both the universe and life in it depend upon Him



For More Information

- This discussion has been primarily theological, not scientific.
- If a person seeks scientific evidence for young earth creationism, there are a lot of good solid creationist sources.
- I recommend the following:
 - Answers in Genesis
 - Creation Research Institute
 - Institute of Creation Research.

