

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2019

Week 11: March 10-16

Creation or Evolution?

Read: Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:9-11; 31:17; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 26:13; 33:4; Psalm 33:6-9; 90:2; 96:5; 102:25-27; 103: 15-17; 104:30; 139:7-10; 148:5; Proverbs 8:22-31; Isaiah 2:21; 37:16; 40:12-14,26-28; 42:5; 43:7; 44:24; 45:12,18; 52:55; Jeremiah 4:23-27; 10:11-16; 23:24; Amos 4:13; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 19:4,8; Mark 10:6; Luke 11:50-51; John 1:1-3; Acts 17:24,28; Romans 1:25; 8:20; 9:17; 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 11:9; 15:28,47; Ephesians 1:4; 4:6; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3,10; 11:3; James 1:17; Revelation 4:11; 10:6. Read Job 38-41 in full.

"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth." — The Apostles' Creed

"I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible." — The Nicene Creed

"What do you believe when you say, 'I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth? That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of nothing made heaven and earth with all that is in them, who likewise upholds and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence, is for the sake of Christ, His Son, my God and Father, in whom I so trust as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul; and further, that whatever evil He sends upon me in this valley of tears, He will turn to my good; for He is able to do it, being Almighty, and willing also, being a faithful Father.'" — The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 26

"We believe that the Father by the Word, that is, by His Son, has created of nothing the heaven, the earth, and all creatures, when it seemed good unto Him; giving unto every creature its being, shape, form, and several offices to serve its Creator; that He also still upholds and governs them by His eternal providence and infinite power for the service of mankind, to the end that man may serve his God..." — The Belgic Confession, Article 12

"It pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, for the manifestation of the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, in the beginning, to create, or make out of nothing, the world, and all things therein whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days; and all very good." — The Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 4

From the earliest days of the Church, the almost universal position of Christianity is that God created the heavens and the earth — in fact, that God created all things entirely — and he did so across a span of seven days (working for six and resting for one). This establishes the basis behind the week and the Sabbath rest. Even those in the early church who held that the Creation week was a symbolic week and not a literal week, did not import millions of years into the Biblical text, but thought that God had created all things in an instant.

Yet, by the late 1800's, with the rise in popularity of Darwinian Evolution, many in the church began raising doubts because of the science of their day. The Princeton theologian, Charles Hodge, was one of the first major Christian thinkers to affirm a form of Darwinian Evolution even though he admitted that such a view was "exegetically doubtful." Yet, this is what happens when you permit science to govern the reading of your Bibles rather than submitting science to the plain reading of the Biblical text.

Today, the majority of professing Christians have gone down the path of accepting Darwinian Evolutionary theory even though there are some solid Christians who are working in the scientific fields which have shown that Darwin's evolutionary model has more holes than a block of Swiss Cheese. And, at its core, Darwinian Evolution, as taught in most American schools and colleges exists as a way to explain the created order without the presence of a Creator God.

So, let's ask the question, what does the Bible say about creation? Can we insert millions of years into the Biblical text? The answer is no. If you have read the passages above, you will realize that the Scriptures say a lot about creation and that in all cases, they speak of God as the great creator of all things. A rule of thumb, for Bible interpretation, is to ask the question, "What does the rest of the Bible say about this teaching or idea?"

If you apply that simple approach (sometimes spoken of as "The Analogy of Scripture" or as "The Reformed Hermeneutic."

And though this should be enough (and historically, has been understood to be enough by the church), there are numerous other problems with the Evolutionary theory or that come with trying to harmonize the evolutionary model with the Bible. For example:

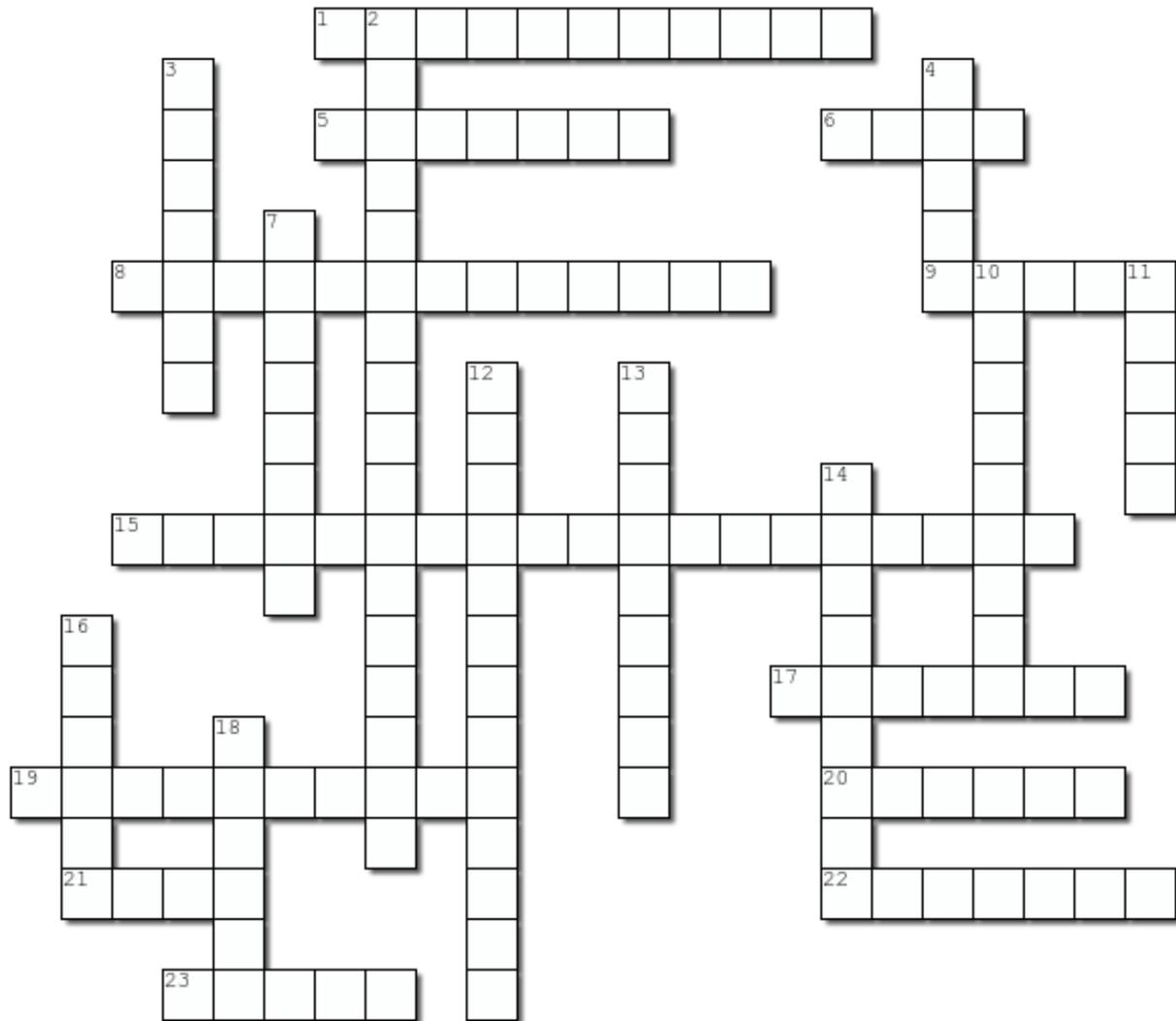
1. The seven-day week is not established by anything in nature and is only explainable by a historical reading of Genesis 1 and 2.
2. If you suggest that each day of Genesis represents millions of years, then you have disease and death showing up prior to Adam and Eve's sin and the fall of man.
3. It is hard to believe that Moses' original audience would have understood the days of Genesis 1 any differently than as ordinary days — especially as the phrase, "evening and morning," is repeated throughout.
4. The Christian teaching on sin is rooted in the creation of man — with Adam as the covenant head of his home.
5. The creation account in Genesis 1 is presented as a miraculous work of God, creating all things out of nothing with a word of power. To incorporate millions of years for the purpose of peace with unbelievers denies the miraculous nature of what is being described.
6. It is interesting to note that Jesus' first public miracle was the creation of water into wine — essentially making that which was new look very old to those to whom it was not revealed. If we think of modern scientists as the wine-taster at the wedding, now you have a parallel — someone operating only on observational knowledge and experience (much as modern science falls squarely into that category).

Also, for those of you who, like me, who grew up on a steady dose of evolutionary theory:

1. Evolution cannot explain the orderly design in nature nor can it explain the amount of information contained in DNA (design and information must come from an intelligent source).
2. There is no evidence in the fossil record for intermediate species. In other words, there is a great deal of evidence for adaptation of animals within a species, but no evidence of one species changing form into a new species.
3. Every mutation that we find in biology demonstrates a corruption of the data within the genome...not an improvement of said data.
4. Evolution cannot explain how non-living particles gave rise to living beings.
5. RNA is composed of protein molecules but protein molecules are formed by RNA. Which came first? Evolution must explain that all things come about by cause and effect.
6. Darwin's theory is built on the presumption that the cell was a simple and easily adaptable component of life. Yet, with the development of electron microscopes, we have discovered that the cell is neither simple nor is easily adaptable.
7. Carbon dating is produces inconsistent results and is a poor measure of the age of things.
8. Evolutionary theory is based on the principle that nature is eternal and is entirely explainable by cause and effect. Yet, basic logic teaches that an infinite regress of causes is irrational (something must cause the following cause) and plunges the entire evolutionary model into irrationality.

In short, if you are going to approach the world from a Biblical perspective, a creation over the span of 6 ordinary days (with God resting from creation on the seventh) is the only way to read Genesis 1 and 2. With any other way, you are building a house of cards that will soon fall down.

Week 11 - Creation or Evolution



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Across

1. This historic Reformed confession goes as far to state that creation took place across six days.
5. 'The God who made the world and everything in it does not live in ___ made by man.'
6. 'In the beginning was the _____.'
8. 'He who created them from the beginning made them _____.' (3 words)
9. On which day of creation was the Giraffe created?
15. This is sometimes called 'The analogy of scripture' and basically means to see everything Scripture teaches on a topic.
17. The psalmist says that creation wears out like a _____ but the creation will stand.
19. God upholds the world he created with his eternal _____.
20. 'The first man is from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is a man from _____.'
21. Isaiah states that God has measured the waters of the earth in the hollow of his _____.
22. God made all things out of _____ (hint: Latin phrase for this is 'ex-nihilo')
23. God created Man in his own _____.

Down

2. The days of creation are given measurement with this phrase (3 words).
3. The fourth commandment, dealing with the _____, is built on God's activity of work and rest.
4. 'As for man, his days are like _____.'
7. On the sixth day of creation, God saw all he had created and pronounced them to be _____ (2 words).
10. 'He is the image of the _____ God.'
11. Charles _____, who taught at Princeton Seminary, was an early professor who harmonized creation and evolution.
12. 'By the _____ the heavens were made' (4 words)
13. When God presents himself to Job to make his case, God appears in this force of nature.
14. God speaks of this ancient serpent with mighty armor.
16. On which day of creation were the Sun, Moon, and stars created?
18. God possessed this when he created all things.