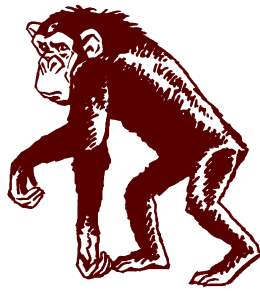


Creation and the Christian

By Pastor Mark Tossell



“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

Psalm 11:3

Introduction:

If you eat away at the foundations of a building, that building will soon crumble and fall, no matter how strong and durable the rest of the structure is. The foundation is the most crucial part of the building. When you destroy the foundation, you destroy the building. The foundation of Christianity has been under a fierce attack for the last two centuries. Without this foundation, Christianity is a farce, a lie, and a fraud. That foundation is the doctrine of creation.

The Sydney Morning Herald recently printed an article in their religious affairs section entitled "Creation Science: Bad Theology, and Bad Science." Is that a true statement? What is creation science? How important is the doctrine of creation to the modern Christian? Let us examine this controversial subject under several sub-headings:

1. What is the Doctrine of Creation?

Creation science, the doctrine of creation, and creationism are all essentially different terms for the same truth: The Lord God created the universe and all forms of life, from nothing, in six literal, 24-hour days, just as described in the account given in the first two chapters of Genesis.

The detailed description of creation given in Genesis (and referred to throughout Scripture) is not to be taken figuratively or allegorically. God says what He means, and means what He says. The sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, all plant life, all animal life, and man himself are not the result of millions of years of evolution; they were specially created by an omnipotent, omniscient Creator. This is the doctrine of creation.

2. What is the Theory of Evolution?

Let the modern scientist define the theory of evolution for us:

“Evolution, in biology, descent with modification, the process whereby all living things on Earth have diverged, by direct descent, from a single origin of life that occurred more than 3,000 million years ago...Our own species evolved within the group of African apes by a rapid evolutionary spurt during the last few million years. Molecular evidence suggests that our last common ancestor with chimpanzees and gorillas lived not much more than five million years ago.” (Microsoft Encarta 2000)

Essentially, evolutionists believe that the universe is the result of billions of years of random genetic mutation. Specifically, they propose that modern man, or *homo sapiens*, is a descendant of his ancient ancestor, the primate. Evolution teaches that we are no more than animals, complex organisms with no Designer and certainly no eternal soul.

3. What is Theistic Evolution?

Answer: an oxymoron! The term “theistic evolution” is like dry water, or a wise fool - it is a contradiction in terms. Then where did such an idea come from?

When theologians were fooled by evolutionists into thinking that the doctrine of creation is disproved by science, they tried to compromise by inventing a strange hypothesis that would satisfy both the evolutionist and the theologian: theistic evolution. They proposed that the universe did in fact evolve over billions of years, but that a Divine Creator was behind the whole process, guiding and directing the mechanism of evolution to produce the earth and everything on it. Although many professing Christians believe this theory, it simply does not fit with either science or Scripture, as I shall prove.

4. How Does God's Word Support the Doctrine of Creation?

a) A literal interpretation of the Genesis account of creation is the only interpretation supported by the Hebrew text and our English translation.

Genesis 1:1-8 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 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. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And the evening and the morning were the first day.** And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. **And the evening and the morning were the second day.**”

Genesis 2:1-3 “Thus the heavens and the earth were **finished**, and all the host of them. **And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made;** and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.”

Genesis 2:7 “**And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground,** and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.**”

Note the repeated use of the phrase "And the evening and the morning were..." The days in the first 2 chapters can be nothing else than literal 24-hour days. There is no evidence to support a figurative or allegorical interpretation of the Genesis account of creation.

b) The doctrines of original sin and the depravity of man depend upon the doctrine of creation.

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as **by one man** sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

c) The doctrine of creation appears throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Nehemiah 9:6 “Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”

Psalms 102:25 “Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.”

Acts 14:15 “And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:”

Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

d) The genealogies of the Gospels support creation.

Luke 3:38 “Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, **which was the son of God.**”

5. How Does Science Support the Doctrine of Creation, and refute evolution?

Scientists may speculate and hypothesise about the past or future, but they can only observe the present. The study of origins, whether by creation or evolution, is necessarily out of the scope of science in its real sense. Therefore, the theory of evolution is not a science but is rather a belief, a religious philosophy of origins, masquerading as scientifically proven fact.

Many good books have been written on the subject of creation science, providing scientific evidence for creation and against evolution. Let us consider some main arguments that they present:

a) The testimony of present relationships.

You would expect the mechanisms that caused evolution to still be present and active in our world today, but this is definitely not the case. The basic kinds of organisms are quite stable, if left to interbreed in a natural environment. Artificial selection may increase the number of varieties considerably, as in the case of the dog and cat, but it cannot produce a new kind, a new species. The present evidence bears testimony to the accuracy of the Bible when it states in Genesis that God made the animals and plants to reproduce **only after their own kind**.

b) The testimony of present processes.

The only mechanism that could produce the type of radical variation required for the process of evolution is the mechanism of beneficial mutations. Not only are most mutations harmful, or even fatal, but they are also very rare. Francisco J. Ayala, one of today's top geneticists, stated on one hand that "Mutation provides the raw materials of evolution.", yet he also admits, "Mutations are random changes of the hereditary material.... Most mutations are in fact harmful to the organism." Present processes do not support evolution, but rather support special creation, and repudiate evolution.

c) The origin of life.

Evolutionists believe that the first living organisms were developed naturally by innate processes, from non-living chemicals. However, "spontaneous generation" is certainly not occurring in the present world, and even evolutionists agree on this. Life does not come from non-life. Leslie Orgel, one of the world's leading authorities on origin-of-life studies, is forced to admit, "...one might have to conclude that life could never, in fact, have originated by chemical means."

d) The fossil record.

You would expect, if evolution were true, that the fossil record would show an abundance of transitional forms of organisms, and a lack of large gaps between the kinds of organisms. However, such is not the case at all. The fossil record is, in fact, marked by a conspicuous absence of any truly transitional forms between the basic kinds, contrary to the predictions of evolutionary theory.

Also, you would expect that primitive life forms found in the bottom, "older" rocks of the geologic column would have disappeared, making way for newer and better creatures. However, this is definitely not so.

The evolutionist would expect a gradual development in the geologic column, with evolution of higher organisms from simpler kinds. What do the facts say? Evolutionist Tom Kemp, curator of the Oxford University Museum in England, painfully admits, "As is now well known, most fossil species appear instantaneously in the record, persist for millions of years virtually unchanged, only to disappear abruptly."

e) The geologic age system.

The presence of simple life forms in the bottom of the geological column and of complex organisms toward the top supposedly proves evolution. This is called the geologic age system. However, the layers, or ages, of the columns are often mixed up, and even inverted. In one location, archaeologists found limestone 120 million years old directly above oozes only 5 to 10 million years in age. Also, how can it be proved that the bottom layers are billions of years old, whereas the upper layers are "only" millions of years old? Two ways: by using the fossils in each layer to date the rocks, or by using radiometric dating (carbon dating). However, the dates of the subdivisions in the geologic age system was determined long before radiometric dating was even discovered! If there is a serious discrepancy between the date given by the evolutionary model and by radiometric dating, the latter is always discarded. So, the geologic columns used to prove the theory of evolution are dated by assuming that evolution is a fact!

f) The date of creation.

According to Bible genealogies, the date of creation is probably about 4,000 B.C. This is a far cry from the date given by most evolutionists as approximately 4.6 billion years ago! The latter is based primarily upon radiometric dating. Most historians place the beginning of civilisation at around 5,000 B.C.

However, just how accurate is radiometric dating? Of course, its results cannot be proven, but how reliable is the mechanism by which it operates? The answer is, very unreliable. The mechanism is based upon false assumptions. Living molluscs have been tested by radiometric dating to be tens of thousands of years

old, and 200 year old lava flows were tested to be 22 million years old. Radiometric dating depends heavily upon the assumption that the formation and decay rate of the isotopes are constant, and that the proportion of C-14 to C-12 in the environment has remained in a steady state worldwide. However, both these assumptions are not supported by the facts. If the latter equilibrium is actually inaccurate by about 25%, as many recent measurements indicate, then the atmosphere of the earth can be calculated using radiometric dating to be about 7,000 years old! Also, another absurd key assumption made by radiometric dating is that when each radioactive material first crystallised, it contained only the "parent" element, and none of the "daughter" element. This assumption is easily proved in the present world to be a fallacy, thus explaining why young rocks can be dated as millions of years old.

When other processes are used to calculate the age of the earth, very different answers are given compared with radiometric dating. For example, using the decay of the earth's magnetic field, the age of the earth can be shown to be less than 7,000 years.

Also, note that 4,300 years is plenty of time to develop a world population of current proportions with a growth rate of only half a per cent per year. The current annual growth rate is a high 2 per cent. 4,300 years ago is the date postulated by Ussher for the time of the flood, using Bible genealogies.

Therefore, evolutionists are saying now that the main evidence for evolution is that there is no evidence we can see - either in the present world or the fossil record of the past. It is clear that, even as a scientific model, evolution fails to fit the facts. The simplest, most logical and most scientific model of origins is that of special creation.

6. Is the Doctrine of Creation Really so Important?

Try witnessing for Jesus to an atheist, and you will soon know the answer to this question! If the doctrine of creation is wrong, and evolution is right, then we may conclude the following:

- * The Bible is a book of legends and myths.
- * Jesus Christ was a liar, and certainly not the Son of God.
- * There is no Creator, no God.
- * There is no more to life than this world. There is no heaven and no hell.
- * We are no better than animals.
- * Christianity is just another religion, with no basis in fact.
- * Let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

Without the foundation of the doctrine of creation, the Bible is just another religious book. The theory of evolution and the Bible are the antithesis of each other; they are mutually exclusive. Either you are an evolutionist, or you believe the Bible. You **cannot** straddle this fence.

Conclusion:

If the scientific facts do not support evolution, then why do people still regard it as a proven scientific fact? Why do they scoff at the idea of special creation? The problem is not in the head: the problem is in the heart. People believe in evolution rather than in a Creator God because **they want to**. It's not an intellectual problem; it's a spiritual problem.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

The only solution is the Gospel of Christ, the Word of God.

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Then what is the purpose of apologetics, of Christian evidences? Many people will not open their mind and heart to the Bible because evolutionists have taught them that it is a book of fairy tales. Some convincing, logical, reasonable arguments for creation and the Bible can open the door for us to present the unbeliever with the Gospel. But remember: our arguments will not win anyone to Christ, but the Spirit of God and the Word of God certainly will. We must just be faithful and resourceful in our witnessing.