
Lesson 5 — THE SIX DAYS of CREATION



"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day He rested. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

[Exodus 20:11]

Is Genesis history? Or should we interpret it another way?

Try for just a moment to place yourself in the shoes of an ancient Israelite wandering in the wilderness. When the children of Israel first heard the words of Torah through the prophet Moses, they would have been asked to accept God's word at face value. God — in His infinite knowledge and wisdom — used the conduit of human language to clearly communicate His truth about the creation of the universe and the origin of humankind. Knowing that many ancient Israelites were illiterate and uneducated, God's intention was to convey historical truth through Moses that was easy to understand and believe. God is never the author of confusion.

In other words, it was not necessary for an ancient Israelite to have a "modern" understanding of astrophysics or archaeology in order to accept the fact that God supernaturally created the world just as the Bible says — in 6 literal, 24-hour days. There is absolutely no possible scenario in which Moses or an ancient Israelite would have interpreted the 6-days of creation in any other way than what it obviously states.

No Israelite in his right mind would ever read the opening chapter of Genesis and say, "I know God says He created the heavens and earth and all that is in them in 6 days, but what He **"really"** meant to say is that it took billions of years of naturalistic evolutionary processes to create the world." And yet ... this is precisely how millions of Christians interpret the book of Genesis today.

If we are to be good interpreters of Scripture, then we must be willing to read the Bible in its historical context and with the original audience in mind. We must allow the Bible to say what it says and resist the temptation of inserting our own interpretation and bias into the text. Unfortunately, when it comes to Biblical creation, modern scholars, pastors, and everyday believers have ignored this essential rule of interpretation and have compromised the historical view of Genesis.

Once the historical interpretation of Genesis is abandoned, one is left with only a few possible alternatives. Either the creation account in Genesis is purely symbolic as some form of poetic allegory, or it is a laughable attempt by archaic, uneducated nomads to try and explain complex modern concepts without the advantage of progressive science.

Either way, many “modern” believers cannot possibly embrace Biblical creation as real history because that would violate the cultural consensus that modern science has “proven” naturalistic evolution to be a fact. If evolution is a scientific fact, then the Genesis account of creation must be incorrect and therefore false. Both cannot be true at the same time.

As we will see, Big Bang cosmology and naturalistic evolution are diametrically opposed to and irreconcilable with Biblical creation, which is why many Christians choose to interpret Genesis as myth and pure allegory. If Adam and Eve and the serpent aren’t real, historical beings but merely symbolic representations, then the tension between evolution and Biblical creation is removed.

However, some theologians still want to preserve the historical integrity of Genesis and at the same time make allowances for millions of years of evolution. In doing so, several “hybrid” views have emerged and have been embraced by the church.

Did God Use Evolution?

There are three primary views that attempt in vain to harmonize Biblical creation with naturalistic evolution. All of these views were popularized and widely embraced after Darwinian evolution revolutionized the scientific community and began to challenge traditional views of creation. This section will provide a short summary of each.

- ❖ **Day-Age or Progressive Creation Theory** — suggests that the “days” in Genesis are not literal but actually indefinite periods of time that represent billions of years of evolution.
- ❖ **Gap Theory** — proposes a gap of indeterminate time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Most versions of the gap theory place millions of years of geologic time (including billions of animal fossils) between the Bible’s first two verses.
- ❖ **Theistic Evolution** — suggests that God created the raw materials of the universe but then turned everything over to purely evolutionary processes, which has continued for billions of years.

On the surface, there are many theological problems with all of these man-made attempts to harmonize evolution and Biblical creation. One of the most obvious contradictions is that all three theories place millions of years of suffering, disease and death chronologically **BEFORE** the creation of man. If God used millions of years of natural selection to gradually

bring about the evolution of man, then it would have required the death of untold billions of living organisms before Adam could evolve into our modern species. In other words, death brought man into the world. But what does the Bible say?

- ❖ Read Romans 5:12-17. What does the Bible say about how death entered the world? Should we take this interpretation literally? Why or why not? What is Adam’s connection to Jesus Christ?

- ❖ Read Genesis 3:20. What does Eve’s name mean? How does this verse create problems for those who believe that man has “evolved” from a lesser species over millions of years?

The 6 Days of Creation

Another major problem with attempting to harmonize Big Bang cosmology with Biblical creation is that the two views virtually are polar opposites.

Take a moment to Read Genesis 1 — 2:1-3 and describe what God created on each day.

Day 1 —

Day 2 —

Day 3 —

Day 4 —

Day 5 —

Day 6 —

Day 7 —

Does the Bible match evolution?		Does the Bible match evolution?	
Bible	Evolution	Bible	Evolution
• 1. Earth before sun	• 1. Sun before earth	• 7. Plants before sun	• 7. Sun before plants
• 2. Oceans before land	• 2. Land before oceans	• 8. Marine mammals before land mammals	• 8. Land mammals before marine mammals
• 3. Light before sun	• 3. Sun before light	• 9. Birds before reptiles	• 9. Reptiles before birds
• 4. Land plants first	• 4. Marine life first	• 10. Atmosphere between two layers of water	• 10. Atmosphere above water
• 5. Fruit trees before fish	• 5. Fish before fruit trees.	• 11. Man brought death into the world	• 11. Death brought man into the world
• 6. Fish before insects	• 6. Insects before fish	• 12. God created man	• 12. Man created God

Why is it impossible to reconcile Big Bang cosmology and man’s evolutionary view with Biblical creation?

How Old is the Universe?

Every alternative theory to Biblical creation has been developed for one reason and one reason alone. Exceptions must be made to Genesis in order to account for the proposed age of the universe! An honest reading of Genesis at face value does not allow for billions of years, yet when it comes to naturalistic evolution, time literally is of the essence. For evolution to have any chance of working, there is one thing that must never be compromised under any circumstance whatsoever — vast amounts of time!

Any honest evolutionist (if there are any) will admit that even with allowing for billions of years, there are major problems with the theory. For example, evolution has NEVER BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY OBSERVED! NOT EVEN ONCE! EVER! IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND!

But if you take away those vast amounts of time, every evolutionist knows that his theory is impossible. Dead in the water. Laughable. That is precisely why naturalists necessarily insist on vast amounts of time and even become combative when anyone suggests otherwise. Time is the primary "god" of naturalistic evolution. Without billions of years, evolution dies.

Thankfully, the Bible provides some simple interpretive rules that help us determine the meaning of the word "day" within context. Sometimes the Hebrew word for day — *yom* — can refer to an extended period of indefinite time (i.e. *in the "day" of Abraham*). Yet whenever the Hebrew language uses qualifiers with the word day, such as the phrase "*evening and morning*," or a numerical value, it always refers to a normal, 24-hour day.

It is interesting that this simple rule of interpretation is always followed in the Hebrew Scriptures **EXCEPT** when it comes to Genesis 1. For example, when Joshua led Israel and marched around Jericho 7 days in a row, no one has ever suggested that they marched for 7 million years or even 7,000 years! It is plainly understood as 7 literal, 24-hour days.

Q & A

- ❖ Read Exodus 20:11 again. Why should we interpret the 6-days of creation as ordinary, 24-hour days? If using the information provided in the Bible alone (i.e. *genealogies*), about how old is the universe? Does that trouble you? Why or why not?

- ❖ Read Mark 10:6. When does Jesus say Adam and Eve were created? What does that say about how Jesus viewed creation?