

Introductory principles

1. All persons of the trinity involved Genesis 1 :3, John 1 :1-3, Colossians 1 :16-17, Isaiah 45 :12
2. Creation is from God and reveals something of God Psalm 19 :1, Romans 1 :20, Jeremiah 10 :12
3. God is separate from creation, but 'creation' is dependent on God Nehemiah 9 :6
4. God made everything from nothing 'Ex Nihilo'. Hebrews 11 :3
5. God is orderly, only sin disrupts God order and His perfect creation. Romans 8 :22 Jeremiah 2 :7

Bible and process of Creation. Galileo- "The Bible doesn't tell us how the heavens go, but how to go to Heaven"
This is not an issue that should be splitting Christians. There are different ways Christians take on the issue.

1. **Young Earth Creation** Earth and Humans young literal 6 days creation relatively short time ago, Science wrong, as God created a 'Grown Up' universe. The Earth is only between 6,000 and 10,000 years old. The World-wide flood explains fossils etc.
2. **Historic Creationism** The Earth is very old. God prepared world for human life over literal 6 days. Humans are relatively young.
3. **Gap Theory** Huge gap in time between Gen ch 1 v1 and Gen 1 v2 Account from Gen 1v2 onwards re-creation after. v2 can be translated 'became without form and void'. Maybe an asteroid hitting the Earth, caused this?
4. **Day Age View** The word 'day' (Hebrew *Yom*) can mean a long period of time not just used to describe 24 hours. So each 'day' could be many, many years. What is time to God?
5. **Time Relative Creation.** It holds that the universe could be both young and old depending on your perspective. Time is not constant, time in the past could have moved more slowly than today.
6. **Theistic Evolution** All current scientific theories correct, but God caused evolution to happen. Some hold Adam and Eve, were not real people but symbolic figures, representing the fall of humanity. Others in this camp, believe that God either created them as heads of humanity, or appointed them as heads from the other humans. Linked with this is Poetic Creation The account in Genesis is a poetic or a literary way of explaining God made everything. Each day is a picture, not literal chronology. Framework- Days 1-3 Days of forming, 4-6 Days of filling

You may hear the term 'Intelligent Design', it means, science itself points to an intelligent designer.

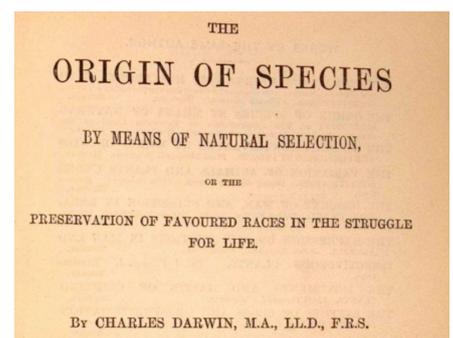
Questions

Which view do you lean towards, and why?

Issues with Evolutionary thought How far do we accept evolution? There are moral implications to evolution. Macro (One species can become another) or Micro ('kinds' Gen 1:24 adapt)?

If you miss God out of Creation, you must accept;

1. Nothing made everything, chaos made order, Matter made mind.
2. Survival of fittest, raises issues of racism & war. Hitler's philosophy would never have happened without evolutionary thought. The weak have little value.
3. We came from no one, for no purpose and go nowhere, for no reason. Everything is random, the result of a fluke/accident. Therefore there are no absolutes. "The universe is bleak, cold and empty, so what?" - Richard Dawkins
4. Natural world has same value as us, animals & humans are of the same worth



The full title of Darwin's book

World's attitude to Creation

Some today hold that all the natural World has the same value as Humans. Phrase 'Mother Earth' Gaia. 'One-ism' - popular idea. With origins in Eastern religions. God exists in everything in creation (Pantheism). All differences should be eliminated. One-ism categorically affirms that things are "not two" but "one." In a cosmos without a Creator, all distinctions collapse and man is god, there is nothing outside the circle, so no saviour from God.

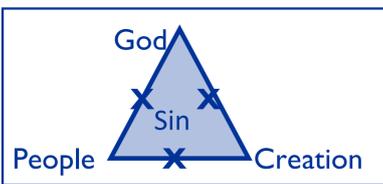
Quotes

"The rainstorm and the river are my brothers. The heron and the otter are my friends, And we are all connected to each other In a circle, in a hoop that never ends." Disney film Pocahontas
"The circle of Life" - The Lion King
"The spiritual principle is, we are all one." - Russell Brand
"The Earth does not belong to man, but man belongs to the Earth" - Al Gore

Quotes

The Biblical view of Creation in the Bible, is Two-ism - humans are apart, We alone carry image of God. Difference is part of Gods plan, e.g. God created male and female.

We are not to worship creation, but to respect it Habakkuk 2 :17 We are to have dominion Heb – *radah* meaning to rule, or have authority over creation. Genesis 1 :26-31 We are to subdue Heb - *Kabash* meaning to make slaves of. We are to populate the planet Isaiah 45 :18



Cherish and value created World Psalm 96 :10-14 We need to understand our sin affects the planet Jeremiah 12 :4, Hosea 4 :3, Leviticus 18 :24-25 Sin spoiled the relationship between God, us, and creation. 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 'heal the land' Romans 8 :23 Creation groaning waiting for end times.

Questions

How do Christians and non Christians see the World differently?

Christian view - We have a God given role as stewards of the Earth

Reasons why we should care about creation

1. When we look after the Earth we're caring for God's stuff, for him! Genesis 2 :15 Leviticus 25 :23
2. Follow God's example, he ordered the conservation of animals at the flood Genesis 6 :19
3. God gave clear instructions to the people of Israel to care for the land, for good reasons.

E.g The land should be allowed to rest Leviticus 25 :8-11, Exodus 23 :10-11
Preserve trees Deuteronomy 20 :19 Proverbs 27 :18
Animals need to be cared for Proverbs 12 :10, Deuteronomy 22 :4-7, 25 :4

4. Respect for God. If you believe God made the Earth, to trash it, would show disrespect for our Creator.

5. Love Mark 12 :31 A key Christian teaching is to love our neighbour, if we pollute the planet we must be acting in an unloving way e.g. If we pollute atmosphere it can cause acid rain to fall on others

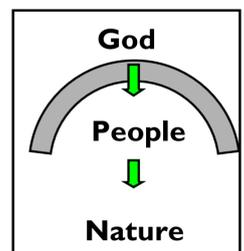
However, God will ensure his creation survives, until he decides to wrap it up. Nehemiah 9 :6, Genesis 8 :21-22, Colossians 1 :17

We do not need to be scared of apocalyptic stories, God is in control, he sets limits. God's promise to Noah.

What does Creation tell us about God? Romans 1 :19

1. He is orderly
2. He is beautiful
3. He is powerful
4. He is good
5. He does big and small
6. He brings life
7. He is creative
8. He brings life
9. He is intelligent
10. He is majestic

New Creation The present creation is temporary. Isaiah 51 :6, 2 Peter 3 :10-13
Future creation will be perfect without sins effects. All things reconciled Colossians 1:19-20
There will be a new earth. kainos (renewed) not neos (brand new)



Questions

Any questions or comments?

Next time - Gifts, talents & ministries