

The Bible And Evolution

Psalm 19

Does Evolution contradict the Bible? Is it possible to believe in evolution and still be a Christian? If being a Christian means believing that Christ is our Creator and Savior, and that the Bible is the Word of God, the answer is NO!

Many theologians have attempted to reconcile the biblical creation story with the evolutionary origin of earth and life. To do so requires making the days of creation long indefinite periods of time. Such an interpretation of Scripture cannot be supported by good Bible study. In many ways Evolution and Christianity are not compatible.

Here are some points to consider....

1. The Bible and the Creation Narrative. The first obvious problem for Evolutionists is the Creation narrative in the first two chapters of Genesis. The author of Genesis clearly indicates that the work of Creation was done in six 24-hour days. Evolution denies this creative power of God. They also deny the person of Christ who performed miracles instantaneously while here on earth, just as he did in his work of Creation (Colossians 1:15-17).

2. The Bible meaning of a Week. If life developed gradually over millions of years, there would be no explanation for the weekly cycle. The day, month, and year are based on movements of the earth, moon, and sun. There is no astronomical basis for the week. It had its origin at the "Creation Week." If we look carefully at the creation account, it is very difficult to come to any other conclusion but that Moses, the author, described literal 24-hour days.

The Hebrew word "yom" has the same meaning as our word 'day'. In Hebrew, if a numeral accompanies the word "yom," it always means a literal day. There are no exceptions! In the creation account "yom" is associated with day one, day two, day three, etc. Moses makes use of the following expressions: Evening and morning, light and darkness, night and day. He could hardly have made it clearer that he is referring to literal days.

If each day is a long period of time, plants were created long before insects were. Plants were created on the third day and insects created on the fifth day. Many plants cannot survive without the pollination provided by insects. So, clearly the Bible states that each day of creation is a 24-hour day.

3. The Biblical Creation is the basis for the equality of all humans. If the theory of progressive evolution from amoeba to man is true, there would be a biological basis for considering some human races inferior and others superior, because some races would have advanced farther up the evolutionary scale than others. This was the basis of Hitler's "super race" concept. But all humans are equal, and since mankind is the creation of God, they have the same origin (Acts 17:26). God does not show favoritism (Romans 2:11).

4. The Bible and the Origin of Sin and Death. Gradual evolutionary development of living things until finally humans are evolved makes sin and its origin a difficult concept. The fossil record gives much evidence of death, disease, predation, and cruelty. All this supposedly happened eons of time before Adam and Eve evolved and later sinned. Yet the Bible clearly tells us that God said everything He created was "good" or "very good" (Genesis 1:10,12,18,25,31). Sin originated in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Genesis 3) and death is the result of sin. But if parasites, predators, disease, and death occurred long before the creation of Adam and Eve (according to Evolution theory), then why in God's plan would man need to be saved from sin and death?

5. The Bible and Salvation. The theory of evolution has no place for the purpose of Jesus dying on the cross. The Bible says death is the penalty of sin (Genesis 3:3, 4, 19). Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin that we should have paid (Romans 5:6). If the Creation narrative (including the origin of sin) is only myth or allegory, what is sin, and who was Jesus? Was his death necessary? Death is called an enemy in Scripture and the whole plan of salvation was to eliminate death and bring humans back to the original plan of eternal life (Colossians 1:22).

Furthermore, if Evolution gradually improves the human race, the atonement of Jesus was quite

unnecessary. Evolutionists believe that given enough time, undesirable characteristics, physical weaknesses, social unrest etc., will be eliminated. Even disease and dying could be overcome. History fails to support such improvements. The Bible clearly teaches that after Genesis 3, man's nature is evil and can do bad things. Only through the power of God can he be changed and have hope for the future (Philippians 3:20-21).

6. The Bible teaches a World-wide Flood. Evolution makes no allowance for a world-wide Flood. The concept of uniformity that has dominated Evolution declares that *the present is the key to the past*. In other words the gradual processes of nature that we see slowly eroding away seashores, cutting down rivers and reducing the height of mountains, happened in the past at the same rates. Then there is no need for a universal Flood to form mountains and valleys etc. However, in Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus clearly accepts Noah and the Flood as a historical fact.

7. The Bible authors believed in Creation History. Many of the authors of both Old Testament and New Testament clearly accept the creation account as accurate history. David (Psalms 33:6, 9), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 9:6), Isaiah (Isaiah 45:18), and Paul (Colossians 1:15, 17). Jesus, Himself, accepts creation as a literal historical event. He says in Matthew 19:4, (speaking of the creation of Adam and Eve), "*He (God) who made them at the beginning, made them male and female.*" The expression "*at the beginning*" is the same expression as is used in the first three verses of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. If each day of creation were a long indefinite period of time, the creation of humans, occurring as it did at the end of the sixth day of Creation, would not have been "at the beginning" of creation but after six long eons of time. This is contrary to Scripture.

8. The Bible claims to be God's Word. Is the Bible credible? If the Creation narrative is only an allegory, what about other parts of the Bible such as the translation of Elijah to Heaven, Jonah and the big fish, and the miracles and resurrection of Jesus? Do we then become the judge of what is

or is not true despite what Jesus and the Bible authors say?

9. The Bible and the Second Coming. The recent creation of earth and life makes believable the soon second coming of Christ (Matthew 24-25). If the Creation narrative is only an allegory, what about Jesus' promise of His coming again (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)? If a spark of life was created millions of years ago and organisms evolved over those many years, what is to keep us from thinking that Jesus' promise of His soon second coming is also just allegory?

10. The Bible and Man's Freedom. Evolution, *the undirected, chance evolving of living things*, if thought through to its full significance, eliminates the power of the human will. Darwin, himself, came to that conclusion that free will is an illusion. If evolution is true, then it also means that all our choices are merely actions or behaviors determined by our genes, our surrounding environment, and/or being conditioned by past mistakes or successful choices. We, therefore, would not have the power of choice.

But God gave humans the power of choice. Adam and Eve could choose to obey or not to obey God (Genesis 2:15-16). God wants his human creation to worship, love, and obey Him because they want to, not because of force (Deuteronomy 30:19). Humans are not robots. The Bible says that God created this world perfect in the beginning but since the entrance of sin, it has become more and more degenerate (Genesis, chapters 1, 2 & 3; Romans 1:18-32). This is opposite to the beliefs of evolutionists.

Jesus has promised to come again and restore this world to its original perfection (Revelation 21:1-5). God does not require the slow process of evolution over eons and the cruel method of "*survival of the fittest*" to create. As mentioned above, He can do it quickly. When we look at the flowers, the birds, the trees, etc. we see the evidences of a great Creator God who loves us and created these things for our happiness (Psalm 19).

Much more could be said to show that the theory of evolution is incompatible with the Bible and with the beliefs of a Christian, that are based on the Bible.

Evolution is based on "*survival of the fittest*" and the reign of "may the best creature win." Christians are persons who understand that God is both their Creator and their Savior. They believe that God is eager for as many as possible of His creation to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4) and that Jesus will return soon as He promised to bring an end to the tragedy and sorrow and evil that exists in the world today (Matthew 24).

You can have real purpose in life; freedom from the torment of sin, guilt, and failure; peace of mind and hope for eternity. Say no to evolution!

Believe God's Word and put your trust in Jesus Christ who died for your sins and lives to be your Savior. Pray and ask him into your life and you will discover a new life. Read the Bible verses and join with other Christians who love Jesus and His Word.

Jesus said, "*Behold, I stand at the door of your life. If you let me in, I will live with you forever.*" (Revelation 3:20). Ask him today, to come into your life and be your Lord and Savior.

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