

Has Science Disproved the Biblical Creation Account?

(Chart 1 – Title Page)

Most people who were educated in the 20th and 21st centuries would be surprised that anyone is still asking this question. Almost every science curriculum from elementary school through university courses excludes any form of supernatural intervention in the creation of matter, energy, and space-time. The formation of the universe and the emergence of life on planet Earth are assumed to be the result of mindless, undirected cosmic and biological evolution. This is a *foundational assumption* for the dominant modern theory of origins.

(Chart 2 – Two Perspectives)

As Christians who have a high view of Biblical inspiration and authority, and great respect for the astonishing scientific advances of the last few hundred years, we need to consider the question of origins from at least two perspectives – one from the Bible and one from modern science:

- 1) **How seriously do we need to take the details of the creation account in Genesis?**
 - a. Is there enough literary “wobble room” in Genesis 1 and 2 and related passages of scripture, for us to believe that God used an evolutionary process to create, or does He expect us to believe He created the universe and all living things “ex nihilo,” out of nothing, in six 24-hour days, and rested on the seventh?
 - b. Is the creation account allegorical, and not meant to be understood as history? Were Adam and Eve, and other people named in the early chapters of Genesis, historical individuals, or were they literary characters in a fictional creation myth?
 - c. What did Jesus and the Apostles, believe about the early chapters of Genesis?
- 2) **From the standpoint of modern science, do recent discoveries add credence to the idea that we live in an intelligently designed universe, or one that originated spontaneously and developed on its own, by chance over billions of years?**
 - a. Is the appearance of design in the universe an illusion generated by how the human mind processes what it perceives, or is it genuine evidence of an unimaginably vast intelligence behind the creation?

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- b. How do the world views of researchers influence how they interpret scientific data? Or put another way, is there any such thing as a totally objective human being?

(Chart 3 - World View)

Before we go any further, it is important to understand the power of world view. Many creationists and intelligent design advocates point out that the central issue in the creation versus evolution controversy is not the material evidence, but the world views of those interpreting the evidence. Everyone has the same evidence. Everyone also has a world view, whether they realize it or not. A world view is a system of thought that we use to interpret the meaning and purpose of the world around us, to make moral and ethical decisions, and to distinguish truth from falsehood. There are many world views, but the major ones we encounter in our part of the world fall into only a few categories.

- 1) **Humanistic/Atheistic world views** – This is the dominant world view in our culture today, and the one people involved in evangelistic outreach most often encounter. In this view, the material world of matter and energy is all that exists. There is no God, or gods, or spirits, or any kind of spiritual reality. Therefore, humans have the authority and responsibility to define their own morality and values and to determine what is or is not true. In this view, the human personality and intellect are strictly bio-chemical phenomena. So, the idea of a human soul or spirit existing apart from the body is an illusion. After you die, you no longer exist. There is no meaning or purpose for our existence beyond what we make up for ourselves, and that is totally arbitrary. Therefore, there is no absolute moral truth or standard of ethics, and we are not accountable to a non-existent supreme being. Atheist Richard Dawkins once said, scientists cannot allow “a Divine foot in the door” in our efforts to understand the universe. So, intelligent design and purpose by a God is completely ruled out as an explanation. If anything in nature appears to be designed, that is, by definition, an illusion.
- 2) **A biblical or Judeo-Christian world view** – Christians believe in a transcendent all-powerful God who created all things, whose very character defines truth and the difference between good and evil, and to whom all people are morally accountable. For Bible believing Christians, the clear teachings of Jesus and the Old and New Testament writers on the topic of origins are of paramount importance. The Bible, correctly understood and taken seriously, should shape our world view.

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(Chart 4 – God’s Opinion of Atheism)

- 3) God expresses His opinion of the arrogant Atheistic world view: **Psalms 10:4**, “The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, ‘There is no God’.” **Psalms 14:1**, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’.” **Romans 1:21-23**, “²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

(Chart 5 – Jesus is Creator)

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus is the Creator. As Christians, we need to take this seriously as we study the topic of origins.

John 1:1-3 “¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being.”

If anyone doubts that this verse is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ, John 1:14 puts that idea to rest: “¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory; glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

In **Colossians 1:15-17**, Paul writes, referring to Jesus, “¹⁵And He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created by Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things (He pre-existed the creation), and in Him all things hold together.”

The writer of Hebrews strengthens the argument that the Lord Jesus is the Creator. **Hebrews 1:1-2** “¹God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

So, what are we to make of this? These statements are obviously intended to be taken as objective fact. Nothing in them even hints at allegory or metaphor. If Jesus is the Creator, then He was not only there when the events of Genesis 1 and 2 occurred, but He personally made them happen. If Jesus is the Creator, then He

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knows exactly how the events of creation occurred, right down to the finest subatomic detail.

Jesus was also all about truth, the kind of truth that pastor Bob referred to a few weeks ago as “True Truth.” Jesus said:

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the father but through Me." Jesus is the personification of Truth.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."

When people were wrong about something, Jesus corrected them. He did not accommodate ignorance or error. In Matthew 22 some Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection but knew that Jesus did believe, tried to trip Him up with a hypothetical story about seven brothers who married the same wife in succession after each older brother died. They asked Him whose wife she would be in the afterlife, probably snickering to each other as they did so. Jesus' answer must have stung them. He bluntly stated, “You are mistaken, not understanding the scriptures, or the power of God, ...” **Matthew 22:29**. That must have stung! Nobody but Jesus talked to big wig Sadducees like that.

(Chart 6 – Scriptures Affirming Historicity of Genesis)

There are too many New Testament passages in which Jesus and the Apostles clearly affirm their belief in the Genesis account of creation and the world-wide flood as historical events, to be lightly dismissed or ignored. On the screen you see a partial list. Don't try to read it. Here are some important examples:

When the Pharisees asked if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason Jesus said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ...” **Matthew 19:4**. Jesus goes on to explain a lot more about marriage and divorce. But there is a lot packed into this one short verse. Jesus affirms that Adam and Eve were [historical people](#), not fictional characters, that they were [created fully human](#) in the beginning, with no implication that they were descended from pre-human primate ancestors, and that there are [exactly two](#), that's T – W – O, [created genders](#).

Referring to His second coming in **Matthew 24:37**, Jesus said, “For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.” This statement simply assumes

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that the “days of Noah” were real historical times, and that Noah was a real historical person, not a mythological figure.

In Paul’s writings in Romans 5:12-21, and 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, and verse 45, the whole argument for the gospel message of fallen humanity, salvation through Jesus Christ, and Jesus’ resurrection rests on Adam being a *real* historical person who sinned near the beginning of *real* human history.

Romans 5:19, “For as through the one man’s (Adam’s) disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.”

1 Corinthians 15:21-22, “²¹For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.”

There isn’t a single passage in the Old or New Testaments that even slightly suggests that the creation account, and the people and events mentioned in Genesis 1 through 11, are anything but historical. Here’s a point to ponder before we press on to some of the scientific evidence in favor of an intelligently designed universe.

(Chart 7 – A Point to Ponder)

If Jesus is the Creator, as we saw in John 1, Colossians 1, and Hebrews 1, and Jesus is the personification of Truth (John 14:6), and Jesus didn’t accommodate ignorance or error in His dealings with people, and if cosmic and biological evolution *really were* responsible for the formation of the universe and our biosphere, why didn’t Jesus just tell us so? First century people could have understood an evolutionary concept, just as the Epicureans did from the 4th century B.C., right up to meeting Paul in Athens in Acts 17. Instead, He and the Apostles treat the Genesis creation account as historical.

Part 2 – The Testimony of Modern Science

(Chart 8 - Dawkins)

In her chapter on pastor Bob’s topic from last week, “Hasn’t Science Disproved Christianity,” Rebecca Mclaughlin quotes atheist Richard Dawkins describing the universe as having, “precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at

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bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”

This may be the worst example of, “professing to be wise they became fools” I have ever seen. Modern discoveries in molecular and cellular biology, which Dawkins undoubtedly knows about, completely contradict what he says. This is a clear example of a powerful philosophical commitment to an atheist/materialist world view blinding an otherwise brilliant person to something that should be obvious to anyone.

(Chart 9 - Dembski)

In his book, The Design Inference, mathematician William Dembski presents a formal paradigm for how people reliably recognize design.

Properties that Dembski calls **Improbability and Specificity** produce recognizable patterns that we can accurately identify as the result of intelligent design. The structurally simple arrowheads and the anvil have both features. Something like Mount Rushmore has both. Natural forces do not shape rock into the four recognizable faces of past American Presidents.

Improbability: Something that is extremely unlikely to come about by chance. In molecular and cellular biology, we see phenomena with such low probability of chance occurrence that they are mathematically impossible.

Specificity: This has to do with something having a recognizable, specific, non-random form, and/or a functional purpose. Specificity may also include the presence of completely immaterial components, such as encoded information or instructions. No one has ever observed the creation of information apart from an intelligent source. Information does not arise from any source other than pre-existing intelligence. The DNA molecule contains encoded instructions for the production of proteins in living things. This biological information is more efficiently and densely packed than the instructions in any computer program. Although the DNA molecule is composed of proteins and amino acids, the information stored in DNA is completely immaterial. The medium (the physical chemicals) is not the message, just as the ink and paper on the printed page is just the medium but not the message. The message requires an intelligent source, a language and an alphabet to encode the message, a mechanism for transmitting

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the message to a receiver, and an intelligent recipient (or an intelligently designed machine) to decode and act on the message.

We saw in children's corner that even young children can easily tell the difference between a naturally occurring object and one that is designed and manufactured for a purpose by an intelligent being. Any normal person, highly educated or not, can instantly see that distinction. Sadly, scientists committed to an atheist/materialist world view refuse to see intelligent design in infinitely more complex systems. An amazing example of this complexity is in molecular machines at work inside living cells.

(Chart 10 – Biochemist Dr. Michael Behe)

Molecular Machines: On the topic of molecular machines, I begin to run out of adjectives to express my amazement. Here's a video clip from "Unlocking the Mystery of Life," by Illustra Media, that demonstrates the mechanical and electrical engineering that went into the creation of a molecular machine called the bacterial flagellum. Biochemist Dr. Michael Behe, one of the founders of the Intelligent Design Movement, explains the bacterial flagellum in detail in his book, Darwin's Black Box.

(11 - View Clip from Unlocking the Mystery of Life 14:20 – 18:17)

The Bacterial flagellum is far from being the only molecular machine. The whole process of unwinding DNA strands, transcribing the genetic code to messenger RNA, and translating the result to form functional proteins involves multiple molecular machines.

(12 - View clip from The Wonder of DNA with Dr. Georgia Purdom 6:05 – 10:09)

Another almost unbelievable molecular machine for its sheer weirdness, is the "Motor Protein." The Motor Protein transports other proteins from one location to another in the cell to the destinations where they are needed. The clip we are about to see is from a presentation called "The Wonder of the Cell" with geneticist and molecular biologist Dr. Georgia Purdom. Her entire presentation is all about how white blood cells get from the bloodstream into locations where infections need to be dealt with. This short clip shows the function of the "Motor Protein," an incredible molecular machine. I wish we had the time to see the whole thing.

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(13 - View clip from The Wonder of the Cell. 28:37 – 30:16)

During my atheist days in college, one of many things that got me thinking seriously about the possibility that God might exist was how incredibly fine-tuned the universe is. Last week pastor Bob spoke at length about the 19th Psalm, which reveals a powerful but wordless message written in the heavens, about the glory and creative power of God. As an astronomy major, who worked as an assistant at an observatory in the mountains of southern California, this message got through to me, despite my atheism. So did the amazing precision and harmony built into the laws of physics.

(Chart 14 – The Nuclear Strong Force)

In his book Nature's Destiny, Michael Denton discusses the importance of the precise values of the fundamental physical constants, such as the values of the strong nuclear force, the weak nuclear force, the electromagnetic force, universal gravitation, and the speed of light. Tiny alterations to any of these values would render the universe as we know it impossible. What really bothered me as an astronomy student, was how did these things originate? Where are they from? Why should they be precisely what they are? Although scientists have accurately described what goes on at the subatomic level mathematically, and have made good predictions verified by experiment, the why and how questions remain largely unanswered. One example of the importance of these fundamental forces is the strong nuclear force. We tend to think of it as an attractive force between subatomic particles in the nuclei of atoms, but the value of this force is a function of the separation between particles. At a separation of seven tenths of a femtometer (7×10^{-16} m), it flips from being attractive to being repulsive! This one force has the dual roles of holding atomic nuclei together and preventing them from collapsing into themselves. This is crucial to the existence of our universe.

(15 - View Clip from Privileged Planet 48:14 – 51:18)

(Chart 16 – Francis Crick quote)

Nobel laureate, and co-discoverer of the DNA molecule, Francis Crick has said, “Biologists must always keep in mind that what they see was not designed but evolved.” Why did a brilliant man like Francis Crick feel the need to say this? I believe it's because the astonishing order and complexity we can now observe in

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biological systems at the molecular and cellular level, and the interdependency of thousands of biochemical processes, molecular machines, and the tiny physical structures that enable them to work together, make it obvious to anyone that they **are** designed, even engineered, with intelligence and purpose, and could not possibly have arisen by chance. But apparently, Crick was firmly, even religiously committed to his atheist/materialist world view despite all evidence to the contrary. The appearance of design in nature is not an illusion. Design in nature is real, and the Almighty Creator God of the Bible is real.

(Chart 17 – Creation verses – Show but don't read)

What we have just seen points strongly to the existence of our Creator, but it does not by itself lead us to faith in Christ. In my own case, it was one of several factors that convinced me to at least give God's Word and the gospel a hearing. Over a period of weeks, a faithful friend who was truly an ambassador for Christ, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, led me to the Lord. If you have been struggling with unbelief based on the impression that science has completely discredited the Bible, I hope what you have seen today will help you along the path to faith in the Lord Jesus.

(Chart 18 – Final Star View)

Last week pastor Bob quoted the 8th Psalm, where king David says in amazement, "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the Moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man that Thou dost care for him?" It is amazing that God cares for us rebellious, sinful, confused, and fallible humans, but He does. He loves us sacrificially. He cares so much that the Son of God came to Earth as a perfect, sinless man and died on the cross in our place to atone for our sins, so that we may put our faith in Him and spend eternity with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 "Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."