

GOD CREATED THE WORLD IN SIX NORMAL-LENGTH DAYS

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PASSAGES in the Bible that are very difficult to understand. There are other passages that people understand but simply don't like. Then there is a third class of passages that people simply refuse to believe. In the past this third category was quite small, but recently there has been an ever-growing number of Christians who read the Bible and dismiss large portions of it. It is no longer considered shocking or horrifying for a Christian to say that they disagree with the Bible. At one time that would have been considered proof of heresy, but today it's quite fashionable.

There are a great many Bible verses that Christians no longer believe, and this book talks about a number of them. The one that I want to focus on in this chapter is this one:

Exodus 20:11: “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Modern Christians simply do not believe that God created the world in six days. That idea is mocked, laughed at, and ridiculed. It is seen as an insane, extreme position that is as embarrassing as believing that the Earth is flat or the Moon is

made of cheese. There are very few churches left that agree with Exodus 20:11. Worldly, godless scientists have told mankind that God did *not* create the world in six days, so people have obediently abandoned this verse and moved on. Modern Christians have made this mistake over and over again on issue after issue. When the culture tells us that divorce is acceptable, Christians nod their head and agree. When the culture says that homosexuality is normal and good, Christians abandon their position against it. When the culture says that abortion is simply a woman's right to choose, Christians make peace with it. In all of these fights the Bible's position has not changed, but the beliefs of modern Christians are radically different from the beliefs of their forefathers. Modern churches have tried to win the approval of the world by abandoning the teachings of the Bible – but *that is a very dangerous thing to do*. The Lord plainly tells us that “friendship with the world is enmity with God”. A church that has won the world's approval has lost God's approval.

Now, there are scores of people who have tried very hard to reinterpret “six days” to mean “14 billion years”. However, let's just be brutally honest: *the Bible doesn't say anything remotely like that*. No one has ever read Genesis 1 and came away thinking “Oh, life came to exist gradually over incredibly long periods of time, as simple organisms gave rise to more complex ones.” The chapter doesn't even hint at that line of thinking; in fact, it *directly contradicts it*. No one *really* believes that the actual Hebrew text has been teaching evolution all along and that people simply overlooked it for 4000 years. The reason people make that ludicrous claim is because today's culture has decided that evolution is the truth, and there are many people who are willing to “reinterpret” straightforward passages of the Bible so that they agree with whatever our culture wants them to say. The problem with this is that it simply *does not work*. It is impossible to reconcile evolution with Genesis because the Bible goes out of its way to contradict evolution. The Bible really *does*

teach that God created the world in six days – and the reason it teaches that is because *that is what God actually did*.

If you stop and read the first chapter of the Bible, you can't escape the idea that the person who wrote it actually believed that the entire universe was created in just six ordinary days. For example, look at how many times the phrase “evening and morning” is associated with the word “day”:

Genesis 1:5: “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. ...

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. ...

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day. ...

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. ...

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. ...

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

In the Jewish culture a day consists of *an evening and a morning*. No Jew who read this chapter could avoid the idea that these days were ordinary days, *not* vast ages of time. God could not possibly have communicated this any clearer to a Jewish audience. Exactly six days are mentioned, with the phrase “evening and morning” attached to each one. Just in case we missed it, this “six day” idea is repeated in Exodus 20:11, which I quoted at the beginning of this chapter. What that verse is saying is that God wanted Israel to work six days and rest one day *because God worked six days and rested one day*. If God had actually created the world over an incredibly long period of time

then that verse would have been a great place to mention that, but no such mention can be found. Instead the Bible uses the word “day” each time it talks about creation – not words like “year”, or “age”, or “unfathomable period of time”.

Keep in mind that if God had wanted to say that He used evolution to create the world then *He could have easily done so*. But Genesis does not even hint that the life forms we see today arose from more primitive ancestors. Instead it says that they sprouted out fully-formed, with birds appearing at the same time as aquatic life and land animals appearing only *after* birds came into existence – something no evolutionist would agree with:

Genesis 1:21: “And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22 And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23 And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”

This passage tells us that birds and fish were created on day five, while land animals were created on day six. This doesn't “basically agree” with evolution; it directly contradicts it! Evolution teaches that fish gave rise to land animals, which in

turn gave rise to birds. No evolutionist would agree that birds existed *before* land animals. That idea is considered to be preposterous – but that is what Genesis 1 says.

The Bible goes even further than that, however, and claims that plants existed *before stars*:

Genesis 1:12: “And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

13 And the evening and the morning were the third day.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

15 And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

In other words, Genesis 1 says that on the third day God created plants, grasses, herbs, and trees, and on the fourth day God created the Sun, Moon, and stars. Once again, this does not “basically agree” with evolution; it contradicts it. No evolutionist would agree that plant life existed before the Sun came into

being. Evolution teaches that the stars existed for *billions* of years before the first plant ever took root. The Bible, however, says that plants came first.

Anyone who interprets Genesis 1 in a normal, straightforward manner will quickly realize that it really *does* teach that God created the world in six days. Think about it: if God was trying to say that He used evolution to create the world then He did an *unbelievably* poor job. Instead of using words that convey enormous periods of time, He used the word “day” over and over, and then took the extra step of defining the word “day” to mean an “evening and morning” – something any Jew would interpret to mean an ordinary day, not an age of time. Instead of saying that the stars were created first, then the Earth, then plants, then sea creatures, then land animals, and then birds, He instead said that the *Earth* was created first, then plants, and then the stars – followed by fish and birds at the same time, then land animals. Instead of saying that one kind of living creature gradually turned into more complex creatures, He insisted that each animal only reproduced after its *own kind*:

Genesis 1:24: “And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25 And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.”

And just in case that was too complicated to follow, this same idea was repeated in the New Testament:

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."

This is not "basically the same" as evolution, as many people have claimed. This is a *direct and total contradiction of it*. You simply *cannot* read Genesis 1 in a normal, straightforward way and come away thinking that it teaches evolution. The only way to get evolution out of Genesis 1 is to take one of three approaches, all of which are grossly unbiblical:

- Reinterpret words to mean things that they don't mean and have never meant. For example, some have said that the word "day" means "a long age of time", and that "evening and morning" refer to the start and end of that period. They then say that these ages overlapped and some took place before others, even though the text presents them in a strict chronological order. However, it is fundamentally dishonest to interpret words to mean the *opposite* of what they actually mean, *especially when there is no textual support for it*. If your approach to interpreting the Bible is to say "Well, I want this passage to say this so I'm going to change the meaning of words until it says what I want it to say", then *you are doing it wrong*.
- You can dismiss the entire chapter (or the first 11 chapters of Genesis, for that matter) as a myth. Some argue that it's not intended to be history at all; it's simply a make-believe fable filled with "spiritual truths". However, doing this undermines the gospel, which we'll get to in a moment.
- You can say Genesis 1 is just plain wrong. This is much more honest than trying to force the chapter to say something it doesn't actually say. However, this also has very serious consequences.

Some people see this entire discussion as a rather minor issue. Instead of defending what the Bible teaches, they would rather move on to some other subject that the culture doesn't have a problem with. However, I believe that this is an *extremely* serious issue. There is no getting around this basic truth: if evolution is true then Christianity is false. Those two belief systems are mutually exclusive. *They cannot both be true.*

Now, I realize there are many Christians who believe in evolution, and I am not doubting their salvation. I am not saying that belief in evolution will send you to Hell. What I *am* saying is that if evolution is actually *true* then it is not possible for anyone to be saved. You see, the Bible tells us that before man sinned *nothing ever died*. The sin of man is what brought death into the world:

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:”

The Scriptures go on to say that death is an enemy, but one day God will put an end to it:

1 Corinthians 15:26: “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”

In other words, the Bible says that God created a perfect world in which there was no suffering, pain, or death. However, mankind sinned, and that sin brought death into the world. Christ then came to provide a solution to this problem. Since death was caused by the actions of *one man*, it was possible for the sacrifice of one man to undo sin and provide salvation:

Romans 5:17: “For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. ...

18 Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”

Now, as an aside, it is foolish to claim that the death this verse talks about is just spiritual death, and that physical death is normal. Christ did not die a spiritual death on the cross: He died a genuine, brutal, *physical* death. Nor did He experience a spiritual resurrection, with His body remaining in the tomb. He took on Himself the punishment for our sin, which resulted in *physical* death – and He then experienced the joys of a *physical* resurrection. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is not spiritual death, but physical death. The Bible is very clear on this point.

The reason this is important is because the gospel message depends upon the idea that there was no death before Adam sinned, and that everyone who dies does so because of what Adam did²⁷. As Romans 5:19 points out, the obedience of one man is sufficient to save us *only* because the disobedience of one man is what made us all sinners. But all of this hinges on a couple key points: that Adam was the first man, that there was no death before Adam, and that the Fall in the Garden actually happened. Notice that *all of these points depend upon Genesis 1-*

²⁷ As a technical point, we do not die because Adam sinned; we die because we inherit Adam's sin nature, which causes us to sin and therefore become worthy of death. But that is beyond the scope of this chapter.

3 being literally true.

What happens if you dismiss Genesis 1-11 as myth? In that case there is no Adam and no Fall. However, since there is no Adam, there can be no salvation either. The gospel also becomes a myth and our faith becomes vain. Interpreting the “days” of Genesis 1 to be “billions of years” does not help because *evolution depends upon death*. In order for evolution to work its magic there must be *countless* generations of living creatures that are born, live, have offspring, and die. Biblical creationism says that death is the enemy and was inflicted upon the world because of Adam's sin. Evolution says that death is a friend who has always been here. Biblical creationism says that pain, suffering, cancer, disease, and destruction were *not* a part of God's original creation. Those things came into existence because of sin, and one day God will put an end to them. Evolution says that pain, suffering, cancer, disease, and destruction were a vital part of our creation and are simply how the world works.

To put this another way: Biblical creationism says that God created a perfect world in which there was no suffering or death, and mankind ruined it through sin. Theistic evolution says that God *deliberately* created a world filled with suffering, cancer, and death, and then used death for *billions of years* to bring about the creation of mankind. These two Gods *could not be more different*. One of them hates death, sees it as an enemy, and has vowed to destroy it. The other loves death, has called it “very good”, and used it for billions of years – and then lied to all of us and claimed that there was no such thing as death before a mythical Adam sinned!

Evolution is *not* a trivial matter: it attacks the gospel, the character of God, and the accuracy of the Bible. It is a devastating belief system. If it is true it means that none of us can be saved – and that God is a sadistic liar who enjoys tormenting His creatures for no real purpose.

For what it's worth, Jesus was not an evolutionist. He believed that the world was created in six days. We can find this in Mark:

Mark 10:6: “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.”

Evolutionists laugh at statements like this. According to their belief system, the male/female distinction did *not* appear “at the beginning of creation”. In fact, something like 10 *billion* years supposedly went by without any life forms existing anywhere. It wasn't until quite recently (in the past two billion years or so) that male and female organisms arose. In other words, according to evolution, the male/female distinction occurred near the very *end* of creation, not at its beginning. The only way you could say that God made them male and female from the very beginning is if you believed that God created the world in six days.

Now, some might argue that Jesus was simply mistaken – that He had accepted the values of His culture and just didn't know any better. The problem with this theory is that *Jesus is the one who created the world in the first place*:

Colossians 1:13: “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For **by him** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”

In other words, the very same person who died and shed His blood for us is the same One who created all things. If Jesus used billions of years of suffering, pain, and death to create the world then He certainly could have said so – but instead He stuck to the Genesis account and claimed that Abel was a real person who actually existed.

The point I am trying to make is that the Bible directly contradicts evolution, and does so in very plain language. Furthermore, the Bible *cannot* be reconciled with evolution: if evolution is true then Christianity is false. The two are mutually exclusive. If evolution is accurate then the Bible is wrong and Christianity is nothing but a hoax. However, if the Bible is accurate – and I believe it is – then evolution *must* be wrong, and those who believe evolution and support it are also wrong. They may be quite sincere and they may think that they have a good case, but they are mistaken.

The real question is one of authority. Who do you ultimately believe is the source of truth? Is your authority the Word of God or the culture around you? The way that you answer this question is extremely important. There are three different ways this question has been answered:

1. There are some people who have placed their full confidence in the Bible. They say “The Bible is true and this is what it says, so those things must be true no matter what anyone else claims.”
2. There are others who will only trust the Bible as long as it agrees with what the culture around them is saying. They say “The Bible says this, but the culture disagrees. Therefore, the Bible must be wrong.”
3. There is another group who trusts only themselves. They say “This is what the Bible teaches, but I disagree with it.”

Therefore, I am right and the Bible is wrong.”

These views are *radically different*. The first one uses the Bible as the source of truth, while the other two have rejected the Bible's authority and replaced it with something else. (As a side-note, I hope you realize that these views do not mix well. If you are willing to go along with the Bible most of the time but then occasionally reject it for personal reasons, you *cannot* claim that the Bible is your ultimate authority. Your true ultimate authority is the one that you use to override everything else.)

As Christians, our source of truth *must* be the Bible. It can never be the ever-changing culture around us, whose standards and beliefs differ from generation to generation. If we are evaluating the Bible by what the culture tells us then the culture, *not* the Bible, is our source of truth. What's even worse is to evaluate the Bible in the light of what *we* think, instead of letting the Bible *tell us* how we ought to think.

Jesus was quite clear as to what our source of truth should be:

Matthew 4:4: “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Notice that Jesus did not command us to follow the dictates of our culture or to simply do whatever we thought was best! No, Jesus commanded us to obey God, not our peers. The reason we can do this is because every word of God is flawless and fully able to be trusted. Those who add to it, however, are liars:

Proverbs 30:5: “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Notice that this verse does not say “Every word of God should be subjected to whatever the culture around you has to say. Feel free to add to God's Word or take away from it as you deem necessary.” Instead it is simple, direct, and to the point: God's Word can be trusted, but those who add to it or replace it with something else are liars.

This point is repeated in the New Testament, where we are told that the Bible is all that we need:

2 Timothy 3:15: “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Note the clarity of this passage! *All* scripture was inspired by God and *all* of it is trustworthy. Verse 17 tells us that the Scripture was given so that we might be “perfect” and have what we need to accomplish *all* good works. That means the Scriptures left nothing out. There are no truths that we need that are not found in its pages. There are no works that we can only accomplish with doctrines that are found outside its pages. Christ echoed this, pointing out that the Scriptures cannot be wrong:

John 10:35: “If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;”

Jesus also expected people to know the Bible:

Matthew 22:29: “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

Of course, Jesus knew the Bible quite well and frequently used it to support His teachings. He was not of the opinion that parts of it were good and other parts were bad, and that the culture had the final say. God takes a very dim view of people who treat His Word so poorly.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SCIENCE?

There are a great many scientific reasons for believing that God created the world in six days and that evolution is merely a modern superstition. However, discussing the science of evolution is well outside the scope of this chapter (although I have discussed it in some of my other books, such as *Dinosaurs in History* and *Lesson 1: Creation*).

In a sense the science is not the real issue anyway. You see, facts do not speak for themselves. They have to be interpreted, and a person's presuppositions have a tremendous impact on how they interpret facts. The same fact can be interpreted in wildly different ways, depending on your assumptions.

For example, a number of years ago a researcher found live blood cells inside a bone that once belonged to a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Creationists looked at that and said “See, this is proof that dinosaurs lived recently.” Evolutionists looked at it and said “See, this is proof that blood cells can survive for millions of years under the right conditions.” The evidence was the same, but since the presuppositions were different the two

groups arrived at completely different conclusions.

That is why there is no such thing as “evidence for creation” or “evidence for evolution”. What matters is *how you interpret the evidence*. The way that you interpret it depends upon what you believe, and what you believe depends upon *who your authority is*. As the blood cell example demonstrates, if your authority is the Bible then you will interpret scientific evidence in light of what it teaches. If your authority is yourself then you will interpret the evidence in light of what you already believe. If your evidence is the culture then you will use modern assumptions to interpret the evidence.

For example, the Bible strongly condemns homosexuality. Those whose authority is the Bible look at that and say “See, this is proof that we live in a depraved culture that needs God.” Those whose authority is their culture look at those verses and say “See, this is proof that the Bible is a bigoted, homophobic book that should be banned for its intolerant attitudes.” In both cases the verse says the same thing, but people have drawn completely different conclusions. Their belief system drives their interpretation.

The final question is this: who do you believe, and why? Who is *your* authority? By whose orders are you living your life – by God's Word, by your words, or by today's culture? The answer will make an enormous difference on how you live your life – and on where you spend eternity.