

# Biblical Creationism

There are a number of passages in the Bible that are difficult to understand. There are other passages that people understand but simply don't like. Then there's a third class of passages that people simply refuse to believe. In the past this third category was quite small, but over the years there's been a growing number of Christians who read the Bible and dismiss large portions of it. It's no longer surprising to find Christians who disagree with the Bible on a wide variety of issues<sup>1</sup>.

If I had to pick one passage that I thought was the most rejected passage out of the entire Bible by those who call themselves Christians, it would be 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.”

The number of professing Christians in the modern church who believe that God actually created the universe in six literal days isn't very large. This idea is mocked, laughed at, and ridiculed. It's viewed as an extreme position that's as embarrassing as believing the Earth is flat or the Moon is made of cheese. There seem to be few churches left that agree with Exodus 20:11.

Now, there are many people who have tried 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 “Life came to exist gradually over incredibly long periods of time, as simple organisms gave rise to more complex ones.” That chapter

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<sup>1</sup> Whether such people are actually Christians or not is a good topic to discuss, but is beyond the scope of this document.

doesn't even hint at that line of thinking. In fact, it *directly contradicts it!*

The reason people try so hard to reinterpret Genesis 1 is because the world claims that evolution created the world, and so churches look for creative ways to force that interpretation upon the chapter. I suspect that very few people actually believe that the original Hebrew text has been teaching evolution all along and people simply overlooked it for 4,000 years. No, the reason people make that claim is because today's culture teaches that evolution is the truth, and the modern church is willing to “reinterpret” rather straightforward passages of the Bible so that they agree with whatever our culture wants them to say.

The great problem with this is that it simply *does not work*. It's 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's 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 honestly 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*. It's pretty clear that this chapter intended to convey the idea that these days were ordinary days, not vast ages of time. 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. That verse says 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 stretch of time then that verse would have been a great place to mention it, 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 evolution created the world then He could have easily done so. But Genesis doesn't 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 – which is something no evolutionist would agree with:

**Genesis 1:21-25:** “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. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. 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. 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. That doesn't “basically agree” with evolution; instead 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 – but that's what Genesis 1 says.

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

**Genesis 1:12-19:** “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. And the evening and the morning were the third day. 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: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 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. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 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. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”

Genesis 1 says that on the third day God created plants, grasses, herbs, and trees. Then on the fourth day God created the sun, moon, and stars. Once again, this doesn't “basically agree”

with evolution; instead 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, but the Bible says that plants came first.

When Genesis 1 is read in a normal, straightforward manner it clearly teaches 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 again. Then He 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 came long – followed by fish and birds at the same time, then land animals came later. Instead of saying that one kind of living creature gradually turned into more complex creatures He said that each animal reproduced after its *own kind*:

**Genesis 1:24-25:** “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. 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 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 isn't “basically the same” as evolution, as some 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 do it is to take one of three approaches, all of which are unbiblical:

- Reinterpret words to mean things that they don't mean. For example, some say that the word “day” means “a long age of time”, and “evening and morning” refer to the start and end of that period. They then claim that these ages overlapped and some took place before others, even though the text itself presents them in a strict chronological order. However, it's fundamentally dishonest to interpret words to mean the *opposite* of what they actually mean, *especially when there's 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're doing it wrong*.
- You can dismiss the first 11 chapters of Genesis as a myth. Some people claim that the passage isn't intended to be history at all, but is really just a fable filled with spiritual truths. However, doing this has severe consequences which we'll get to in a moment.
- You can say Genesis 1 is wrong. This is more honest than trying to force the chapter to say something it doesn't actually say. However, this also has very grave consequences.

Some people see this entire discussion as a rather minor issue. Rather than debate it or defend what the Bible teaches, they'd rather move on to some other subject that the culture doesn't have a problem with. However, this is an *extremely*

serious issue. There's no getting around this basic truth: if evolution is true then Christianity is false. The two belief systems are mutually exclusive. They cannot both be true.

Now, I realize there are many Christians who believe in evolution, and I'm not doubting their salvation. I'm *not* saying that belief in evolution will send you to Hell. What I *am* saying is that if evolution is actually true then it's 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 and upon all creation. 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."

It will not do to say that the death this speaks of is a spiritual death, and that physical death is normal. Christ didn't 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. Jesus took on Himself the punishment for sin, which was *physical* death – and then experienced the joys of *physical* resurrection. The last enemy that shall be destroyed isn't spiritual death, but physical death. The Bible is very clear on this point.

The reason this is important is because the gospel depends upon the idea that there was no death before Adam sinned, and everyone who dies does so because of what Adam did. 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 depends 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 1-3 being literally true.*

What happens if you dismiss Genesis 1-11 as myth? In that case there's no Adam and no Fall. However, since there's no Adam there can be no salvation either, which means the gospel is a lie and our faith is in vain. Interpreting the “days” of Genesis 1 to be “billions of years” doesn't 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, which was inflicted upon the world because of Adam's sin. Evolution says that death is a key part of life that has always been around.



Biblical creationism says that pain, suffering, cancer, disease, and destruction were *not* a part of God's original creation and only came into existence because of sin, and that 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 then 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 *are extremely 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 heart of the gospel, the character of God, and the accuracy of the Bible. It's a devastating belief system. If it's true then none of us can be saved, and God is a sadistic liar who enjoys tormenting His creatures for no real purpose.

For the record, Jesus wasn't 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. This means that according to evolution, the male/female distinction occurred near the *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.

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 actually the one Who created the world in the first place:*

**Colossians 1:13-16:** “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 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:”

This means that the very same person who died on the cross 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 Adam's son Abel was a real person who actually existed (Matthew 23:35).

The point I'm 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 all of Christianity is 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 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 world around you? The way 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 world around them is saying. They say “The Bible says this, but the world disagrees. Therefore the Bible must be wrong.”
3. There's 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 person uses the Word of God as their source of truth. The other two have rejected the Bible's authority and replaced it with a different source of truth. These views do not mix well. If you're willing to go along with the Bible most of the time but you occasionally reject it for personal reasons, it's silly to claim that the Bible is your ultimate authority. Your true ultimate authority is the one you use to override everything else!

As Christians our source of truth *must* be the Bible. It can never be the ever-changing world around us, whose standards differ from generation to generation. If we're evaluating the Bible by what the world tells us then the Bible isn't our source of truth – the world is. 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 should think.

Jesus was quite clear about what our source of truth ought to 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 didn't command us to follow the dictates of the world or to 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 able to be fully trusted. Those who add to it, however, are liars:

**Proverbs 30:5-6:** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

This verse doesn't 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 the verse clearly tells us that God's Word can be trusted, and those who add to it or replace it with something else are liars.

This point is repeated in the New Testament, where we're told that the Bible is all we need in order to live a godly life:

**2 Timothy 3:15-17:** “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. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

*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 which we need to live a godly life that aren't found in its pages. There are no good works that we can only accomplish with doctrines which are found outside its pages.

Christ echoed this, pointing out that it was impossible for the Scriptures to 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.”

Jesus knew the Bible quite well and frequently used it to support His teachings. He wasn't of the opinion that parts of it were good and other parts of it were myths, and the world around us had the final say.

I do believe that there are many solid scientific reasons for believing that God created the world in six days, but that's beyond the scope of this paper. In a sense the science isn't the real issue anyway. You see, facts don't 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<sup>2</sup>. Evolutionists looked at that evidence and said “See, this is proof that blood cells can survive for millions of

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2 Source: <https://www.science.org/doi/abs/10.1126/science.1108397>

years under the right conditions.” Creationists looked at that and said “See, this is proof that dinosaurs lived recently<sup>3</sup>.” The evidence was exactly the same, but the two groups arrived at completely different conclusions because they had different presuppositions.

That's 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 on what you believe, and what you believe depends on *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 world then you will use modern assumptions to interpret the evidence.

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 the words of your peers? The answer will make an enormous difference on how you live your life – and on where you spend eternity:

**Matthew 18:3:** “And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

Whether we believe in the words of God or not (and how far we believe them) makes all the difference in the world

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3 Source: <https://answersingenesis.org/blogs/ken-ham/2015/06/11/75-million-year-old-dinosaur-blood-cells/>