

CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

SCIENCE

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A PORTRAIT OF THE CREATOR

IN

THE LANDSCAPE OF CREATION

Themes of Discussion:

The Doctrine of Creation is Fundamental

- Defines our concept of God
- Underlies the basic doctrines of Christianity

The Theory of Evolution as Science

- Falsifiable; Predictive; Experimental data
- Does not demand metaphysical naturalism

Five Main Views of Creation depend on:

- Interpretation of the Scriptures
- Interpretation of miracles

CREATION

Who is God?

What is His creation?

Who is mankind?

What is the relationship between God
and His creation and mankind?

NEW CREATION



INCARNATION



CREATION

Who is God?

What is the essence of His being?

- Timeless being; had no beginning
- Not created or formed by anything else
- Not part of nature
- Creator and sustainer of everything

GODS IN FOURTH MILLENNIUM MESOPOTAMIA

60	An	Sky god
50	Enlil	Wind or storm god
40	Enki	Earth and water god
20	Utu	Sun god
	Nannar	Moon god
	Inanna	Mother goddess
10	Marduk	Baal
	etc.	local gods and goddesses

Nature as God's creation teaches us that:

Nature is:

- subservient to God
- sustained by God
- orderly and comprehensible

Humans as God's creation in His image teaches us that:

We are part of nature.

We can communicate with God.

We are accountable to God.

We are in need of reconciliation with God.

DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION

Known processes:

- Selection of the fittest
- Descent with modification

Darwin: -fittest = best able to reproduce=>natural selection
-all species descended from a common origin

Key assumptions/predictions:

- 1) Long time: the earth is old enough for all species to appear
- 2) The number and diversity of species increases over time;
New species appear throughout history;
Living species have a relatively recent origin
- 3) All species are related

Do you agree or disagree
with the following assertion:

**If the theory of evolution is true,
then God is not the Creator.**

If the theory of evolution is true, then God is not the Creator

AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	AGREE
SCRIPTURES	SCRIPTURES	MIRACLES	MIRACLES	BOTH; CHANCE
Scientific Creationism	Concordism	IDT: Intelligent Design Theory	Hierarchy	Atheism
The Scriptures are interpreted literally and determine the conclusions of science	Science determines the interpretation of the Scriptures pertaining to the method of creation	Miracles are the only evidence of God's action in this world	God reveals himself in the laws of nature as well as in miracles	Evolution means that atheism is intellectually fulfilling
Henry Morris Duane Gish Carl Baugh John Morris Ken Ham	Robert Newman Cl Scofield Hugh Ross	Bill Dembski Phillip Johnson Michael Behe Gordon Mills Paul Nelson	Howard Van Till Richard Bube George Murphy	Richard Dawkins Steven Weinberg Carl Sagan Stephen J Gould

ATHEISTIC EVOLUTION

Portrait of the Creator: **The Cosmos**

Key Assumptions:

- Nature shows evidence of the lack of a designer
- Explanations by laws of nature replace evidence of a supernatural force
- The role of chance in nature precludes God

SCIENTIFIC CREATIONISM

Portrait of the Creator: **Magician; Illusionist**

Key assumptions:

- A literal interpretation of the Bible teaches:
 - The age of the earth is 6-20,000 years
 - The global flood formed all fossil records
- "Appearance of age" explains starlight, etc.
- Willing to re-interpret astronomy, radioactivity, geology, thermodynamics, genetics, etc. to fit the interpretation of the Bible.
- A recent origin of the earth invalidates evolution
- If evolution is false, then God is the Creator

CONCORDISM

Portrait of the Creator: **Literary genius**

Key Assumptions:

- The Bible is consistent with modern science
- The Biblical text has accurate historical information about the creation process
- Words in the Bible have meanings beyond the original intent which are illuminated by science
- God's creative process combines natural evolutionary processes with divine fiat

INTELLIGENT DESIGN THEORY

Portrait of the Creator: **Mechanic; designer**

Key Assumptions:

- Evolution cannot fully explain the origin of species and of life
- The inability to explain life by laws of nature indicates the existence of God the Creator
- The evidence of a Creator can be seen only where there is no explanation by laws of nature

HIERARCHY--INDEPENDENCE

Portrait of the Creator: **Watchmaker**

Key Assumptions:

- NOMA: NonOverlapping MAgisteria
- The worlds of nature and of Christianity do not overlap

HIERARCHY--THEISTIC EVOLUTION

Portrait of the Creator: **Nature guide**

Key Assumptions:

- The concept of evolution extends beyond the physical world to the spiritual
- God creates through continual guidance of the process of evolution

HIERARCHY--FUNCTIONAL INTEGRITY

Portrait of the Creator: **Sustainer**

Key Assumptions:

- God's creative process is understood as the laws of nature.
- Proper interpretation of the Bible addresses the nature of the Creator and the creation but not the time and method of creation

CONCLUSION

- The basic Christian doctrine of creation is not threatened by any scientific theory.
- The interpretation of Genesis as teaching a time and method of creation is not clear.
- God's action is revealed in everything, not just the "miraculous."
- The theory of evolution should be taught in our schools as science and not as religion or anti-religion.