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We Believe God Creates

No conflict between Christianity and Science

God created the world with natural laws and orderliness

Nothing but conflict between Christianity and Scientific Naturalism

Naturalists believe all phenomena can be explained by, and only by natural laws and orderliness

Religion becomes superstition, and God is omitted from the conversation

The Bible, particularly Genesis was not written as a scientific textbook

It is a theological narrative, written to reveal the God of Creation

Its emphasis is on God's relationship with humanity

Even Galileo said, "The Holy Ghost intended to teach us how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go."

God created all things

The book of "Genesis" literally means "in the beginning" - the first 3 words

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth*

The word used for "created" (Hebrew: bara) means "created from nothing"

John 1:3 *All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.*

God's Creation includes all systems, cultures, governments, rulers and dynasties

Psalms 46:9 *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.*

Colossians 1:16 *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him.*

He spoke all things into being. He just said so, and it was

But He used His own hands to create mankind

Genesis 2:7 *Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

Genesis 2:21-22 *So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.*

The pinnacle of all Creation, He created mankind in "His own Image"

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

To be “like” God and to “represent” God

The only ones to be appointed by God to rule over Creation

Genesis 1:28-31 *And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of the all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.*

All a result of God’s intelligent design and infinite power

Jeremiah 10:12 *It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.*

So, was Creation all accomplished in 6 literal 24-hour periods of time, called “days?”
Or was Creation all accomplished in 6 periods of time, perhaps lasting many years each?

6 Christian Views on the Timeframe for Creation:

1. **Historic Creationism.** What God created in the first verse could have existed for a long period of time, or the act of Creation continued immediately. Leaves room for either old earth or new earth timeframes.
2. **Young Earth Creationism.** Everything God creates was accomplished in 6 literal 24-hour periods. (Small problem: sun and moon created on the 4th day while there is morning and evening on the first 3 days)
3. **Gap Theory.** God created the earth, but after Satan fell from heaven, the earth was destroyed. God recreated the earth before including mankind. (Problems: Bible doesn’t speak of 2 creations, and at the end of each day of creation activity God said that it was “good.”)
4. **Literary Framework View.** Genesis 1 and 2 intended to be read as a figurative framework, explaining Creation in a topical not sequential order. The 6 days of Creation are metaphorical. Days 1-3 Forming, while Days 4-6 are Filling. (Problem: while the Bible uses poetic and figurative language, it does so to communicate a literal truth)
5. **Day-Age View.** The 6 days are actually 6 geologic ages (Problem: the sun doesn’t show up until day 4)

6. **Theistic Evolution.** God got the Creation started, then pulled away and allowed natural evolution to take over. God did, however, get actively involved again when creating mankind. (One problem: while one species can give birth to a related kind of species called “micro-evolutions,” many, not all, scientists agree that one species cannot give birth to another kind of species called “macro-evolutions.”)

We can have differences of opinion. But we have to agree on Who did the creating
The fact that God created the world is a closed-handed issue
The fact of how long it took God to create the world is an open-handed issue

The other predominant theory of how everything came to be is seen to be a series of random mutations over a long period of time, like somehow, nothing (a big bang) created something, that chaos created order...is like a Boeing 747 is created by a wind blowing through a junkyard (?)

Fails to recognize God’s place over Creation
Fails to give mankind the dignity God gave at Creation

Richard Dawkins (an atheist) said that “Although atheism might have been logically plausible before Darwin, Charles Darwin made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist.”

But natural evolutionary theory (“Survival of the fittest”) must include, but does not explain away:

- Racial issues
- Domestic violence
- The destruction of one culture or people group by another more stronger

Yet, Science is not the enemy. Sometimes Science can explain things the Bible does not give much detail to at all
The world, including (if not led by) the Church at one time believed the world was flat, and certainly that the sun revolved around the earth

Therefore, our imperfect/incomplete understanding of Scripture, and our imperfect/incomplete understanding of Science result in intellectual conflict
But it need not be

But here’s what we can and do know. Here is orthodoxy:

Before Creation nothing existed except for God Himself. He has always existed
God created the earth and all that is in it, from nothing
God created mankind from the dust of the world He created
Nothing but God is eternal, therefore, only God can ultimately rule over what He has made
Therefore, nothing but God is worthy of our worship, and our obedience

God didn't create the world and everything in it without purpose
Because God had and has great purpose, this gives mankind distinct dignity

Last week we learned that God is distinct from Creation
He is greater than Creation, therefore He is independent from Creation

But God is also very involved with Creation
He did create and then abandon Creation to function on its own, independent of Him
Job 12:10 *In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

Acts 17:25, 28 *...nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything...for in him we live and move and have our being.*

And God is near to all Creation, especially near to mankind
Psalm 46:1 *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

All Creation was designed to give glory to God
Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

We (mankind) were especially designed to give glory to God
Isaiah 43:7 *Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*

Revelation 4:11 *Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by you will they existed and were created.*

God created everything in Creation to show His greatness and to delight in His work

As God's pinnacle of Creation, we can:

- Take delight in God's creative work
- Take delight in our own creative work
- Take delight in other people's creative work

When we take delight in Creation, as God does, we give glory to God
Because we are imitating Him, as Image Bearers

If what we see around us looks bad or is bad, it's because of sin. But it wasn't created that way

1 Timothy 4:4 *For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.*

As Image Bearers, it is for us to steward the earth, and everything in it, in ways that point to the glory of God

What do we do with this? How does our view of Creation impact us now?

Pantheists believe heaven and earth are the same thing. God is in everything, and everything is god

(So what to do with cancer, hurricanes, crime?)

Deists believe that heaven (God) and earth (us) is forever far apart

(Rich people have no problem being left alone, but poor and hurting people then have no hope)

Christians believe God in varying ways interlocks His heaven with His Creation

N.T. Wright says, "The creation of the world was the free outpouring of God's powerful love...and having made such a world, He has remained in a close, dynamic and intimate relationship with it, without in any way being contained within it or having it contained within Himself."

The doctrine of Creation sets the stage for the coming of Jesus Christ

God comes as a man, the Creator amidst His Creation

He comes to connect heaven and earth through Himself and the mediator between the two

Jesus comes on a rescue mission to save us from unyielding despair

He dies in our place

He places His Holy Spirit in us

He'll return to rescue us, and renew all of Creation He made for us to inhabit with Him