

In the beginning God created: Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1 declares that God created. Not only do we read that God created, the Hebrew is very clear that God created out of nothing (ex nihilo). Scripture begins with the declaration that “God created,” and that truth is consistently proclaimed throughout, with the New Testament noting that when Genesis declared that God created it was declaring that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, were all involved in the act of creation. Read John 1:1-3, and Colossians 1:15-16.

Not only is the Bible clear that God created, it details the purpose of that creation. God created a place where individuals He would create in His image could live, have fellowship with Him and be blessed by Him.

That’s what the Bible declares. Can we prove it? No. We can talk about design, using the old argument of a man finding a watch and knowing if there was a watch there had to be a watchmaker, but we can’t prove the God of the Bible was that watchmaker. We cannot prove “**In the beginning God created**” but the Bible never assumes we can. Read Hebrews 11:1-3.

Ultimately the question is, *“Do we evaluate the Bible through the lens of Darwinism, or do we evaluate Darwinism through the lens of Scripture?”*

Many in our culture tell us that science has eliminated the need to believe in a God who created. They believe that science has proven that the world in which we live and all of us in that world are the by-products of a chance expansion of energy in space and evolution that followed on the planet known as earth.

One of the major problems in studying creation, from a Christian perspective, is that any study of creation is limited to the creation we now live in. Our current world has only a limited resemblance to Genesis 1-2 account of creation. From a biblical perspective any study of creation and the world in which we live must take into account two major upheavals to that creation. First, there was sin and then there was a flood. The Bible teaches that both radically changed what was, so what is cannot be compared to it. With sin, creation was cursed, and everything radically changed.

Let me illustrate. Assume you have a daughter who is the perfect neat nick. You brag about how she keeps her room. Her clothes are not only always hung up but are organized in the closet. All her books are neatly arranged by topics on her bookshelf. Toys are always in the appropriate basket and she never leaves her room in the morning without making her bed. One afternoon I stop by and you are excited to show me this perfect room. You take me down the hall, open the door and, wow, nothing is in place. Clothes are all over the floor, books are scattered all around. Her toys look like she has not picked one up in months. The bed looks like she has slept in it for a week and never once pulled up a sheet or blanket. Her room is a disaster. She is not a neat nick. When I am asked about this perfect room, I have to say it does not exist. It was all made up by a mother who wanted the perfect child. Nothing was in place.

What is left out of that story is that that afternoon a jealous friend had entered the house and literally tore her room apart. What I saw was a disaster and all I can assume is that her mom made it all up. By the way, later that evening the girl returned home and put everything back the way it was.

Genesis 1 and 2 tells us that God created a perfect world. At every juncture He declared, “**It is good.**” And then along came Satan and forced God to turn it all upside down because of man’s sin. So today we can sit at the bedside of a young person dying of cancer and declare that we see nothing good in the world and therefore God made it all up to make Himself look good. Our world is a messy room, but not because God is not a neat nick but because we can only see the turned upside down world, Oh, by-the-way, Jesus is coming back to put it all back as it originally was.

When science seeks to describe our world, it begins with a totally messed up room and then seeks to make sense out of it. That sense assumes that the world always was as it is now, and the room is a mess because the daughter never hangs things up etc.

Many scientists are convinced that there must be an explanation for our messed-up world and have concluded that Darwin’s theory of evolution is valid. Sinful man grabs hold of that theory because it means there is no God who created so we are not obligated to follow rules the church sets forth as coming from the Bible.

Let me note that there are some Christian scientist who have sought to blend together the theories of evolution and a creator God and have proposed what is called “theistic evolution.” If you are interested in digging into that there are some good books out there, including a great book entitled “*Four Views on Creation, Evolution, and Intellectual Design*,” published by Zondervan.

Straight evolution, as it is commonly taught today and accepted by society in general, is in total contradiction to the Bible. As already noted, evolution denies a creator God. With no God there is no lawgiver. If there is no lawgiver, then there is no standard by which to determine right and wrong and there can be neither judgment of wrong (which does not technically exist) or reward of right (which technically does not exist). With no God to judge right and wrong (neither of which actually exists) there is no God to avenge wrong or bless rightness. There is no heaven or hell. This life is all there is so one is free to live it as one wants.

Evolution denies the creation of man in God’s image. For evolution, man is unique only in that he has evolved further than other animals. If man has not been created in the image of God, there is no fellowship possible with God (who does not technically exist in evolution). Any talk of spending eternity with God is a joke. Evolution declares that man has progressively and continually evolved into a higher being while Genesis declares that man has sinned and that sin made him far less than he was created to be.

Adam and Eve as the parents of all of mankind is a fable as far as evolution is concerned. Many “humans” evolved in different places at different times. Adam and Eve are, to evolutionists, merely symbols of mankind in general.

Death did not come to mankind because of sin since sin does not exist. The process of millions of years of evolution included pain, suffering and death. A sin nature is not passed on from one person to another because one bears the image of Adam. There is no doctrine of sin or the need of atonement.

Without a God, man created in His image, a standard of right and wrong that demands wrong be dealt with, the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is not only unnecessary but a lie. The virgin birth of Jesus makes no sense if a sinful nature of man is not passed on from one generation to another. The miracles of Jesus over nature in particular, although His healing miracles and death would also be included, make no sense. If nature just happened as a result of evolution than one cannot speak of Jesus telling the winds to cease and the seas to be calm.

If evolution is correct the saving aspect of Jesus’ death and resurrection makes no sense. The declaration of Paul that in Adam all die and in Jesus all are made alive is gibberish.

The bottom line is, *“Do we evaluate the Bible through the lens of Darwinism, or do we evaluate Darwinism through the lens of Scripture?”*

There are lots of problems with evolution. There are lots of gaps evolution cannot explain and lots of leaps that evolution makes because of missing links but the challenge for Christians is not to prove evolution wrong but to understand what the Bible teaches about man’s origin, man’s sin problem and the answer to that problem in the person and work of Jesus. For the Christian history is not moving upward to some greater evolved being but to the return of Jesus and with His return, man’s return to where he began.