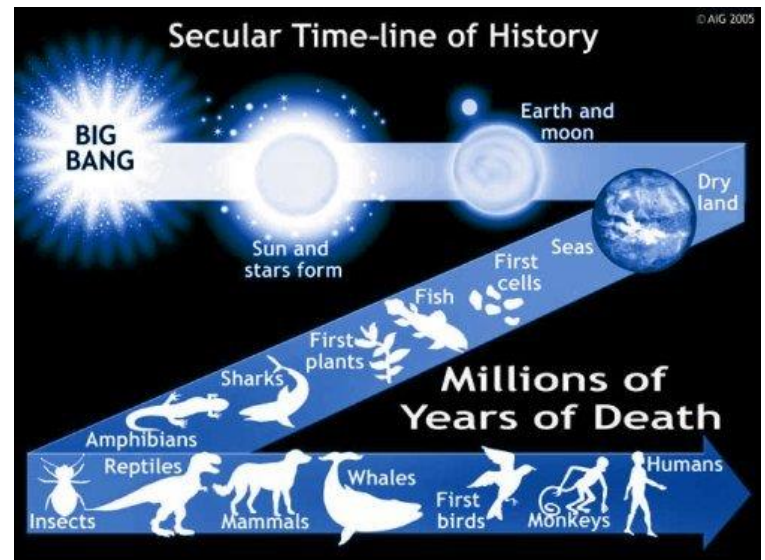


THEORIES OF ORIGINS AND BIBLICAL CREATIONISM

UNBIBLICAL ORIGINS THEORIES

Atheistic/Naturalistic Evolution

- This theory of origins has been largely adopted by society today, becoming the primary understanding of how the universe came into existence
- It is now the dominant view of origins in the popular modern mind being understood as “fact”
- It began with Charles Darwin and his publication of *The Origin of Species* in 1859
- In this theory, a combination of atoms, motion, time, and chance has fashioned what we currently have
- It theorizes that several billion years ago chemicals in the sea, acted on by sunlight and cosmic energy, formed themselves by chance into one or more single-celled organisms, which have since developed through beneficial mutations and natural selection into all living plants, animals, and people
- Molecule-to-man evolution is based on the premise that through mutation and natural selection, organisms have become increasingly more complex
- Major tenets of evolution:
 1. The universe resulted from a big-bang explosion
 2. Life began completely by chance when a single-cell appeared from non-living matter
 3. All other living organisms have developed from those early, simple forms of life which gradually increased in complexity...a development which also produced man
- The process of evolution in formulas:
 - Mutations + Natural Selection x Time = Evolution
 - Nobody x Nothing = Everything
 - Matter x Time x Chance = all that exists
- Naturalistic evolution is built on the premise that everything happens by natural processes and that nothing is supernatural
- Over time and out of sheer chaos, matter evolved into everything we see today by pure chance



¹ Image taken from https://answersingenesis.org/world-religions/is-evolution-a-religion/?utm_source=facebook-aig&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=facebook-aig

- Anything is possible if given enough time and enough combination of random events
- Contrary to any specific purpose or design behind the universe, it all exists as a result of a large number of inadvertent but fortunate natural accidents over long periods of time
- In other words, everything that exists is ultimately a cosmic accident...the result of an endless chain of purely random events which all culminate in the highly intricate and amazingly designed universe
- It is a process – one that is still happening – that has taken place through a series of slow changes and genetic mutations over billions of years

- In order for the theory of evolution to “work,” the key ingredient is time
- Billions of years are necessary in order for the slow changes to take place and accumulate sufficiently to produce what we see today
- This theory “is rooted in the unbiblical premise that what is happening now is just what has always happened. This idea is known as uniformitarianism. It is the theory that natural and geological phenomena are for the most part the results of forces that have operated continuously, with uniformity, and without interruption, over billions and billions of years. Uniformitarians assume that the forces at work in nature are essentially fixed and constant. Scientists who hold this view explain nearly all geological phenomena in terms of processes that are still occurring.”²
- Uniformitarianism (as opposed to catastrophism) was proposed by Charles Lyell in his work

Principles of Geology (c. 1830) in which he argued that all geological features must be explainable by natural, rather than supernatural, processes



- Scripture clearly condemns uniformitarianism by stating that the world’s history has not been one of uniform natural processes
- Rather, two global cataclysmic events explain all of the geological and hydrological features of the earth: creation and the global flood

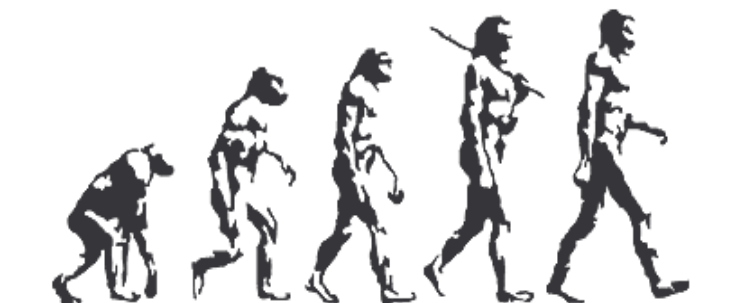
2 Peter 3:4-6 ~ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

- A number of unanswered questions arise with this theory:
 - What was the first cause that caused everything else?
 - Where did the present matter come from to form the universe?
 - Where did energy come from?
 - What holds everything together and keeps everything from falling apart?
 - How could life, self-awareness, and reason evolve from inanimate, inorganic matter?
 - How can the complex design of organisms and systems be explained by mere chance?
 - Where did intelligence and personality come from?
 - If evolution is true, where is the evidence in the fossil record of transitional forms?

² MacArthur, *The Battle for the Beginning*, 50.

- The primary problem with evolution is that it attempts to explain the origin of all life on earth entirely apart from any supernatural involvement, namely apart from the God of the Bible
- It assumes that there was no God who has created the world; thus, man is not accountable to God and there are no moral absolutes
- Naturalistic evolution “is the view that every law and every force operating in the universe is natural rather than moral, spiritual, or supernatural. Naturalism is inherently antitheistic, rejecting the very concept of a personal God.”³
- “Evolution was introduced as an atheistic alternative to the biblical view of creation. According to evolution, man created God rather than vice versa...Evolution was devised to explain away the God of the Bible – not because evolutionists really believed a Creator was unnecessary to explain how things began, but because they did not want the God of Scripture as their Judge.”⁴
- “To put it simply, evolution was invented in order to eliminate the God of Genesis and thereby to oust

the Lawgiver and obliterate the inviolability of His law. Evolution is simply the latest means our fallen race has devised in order to suppress our innate knowledge and the biblical testimony that there is a God and that we are accountable to Him...By embracing evolution, modern society aims to do away with morality, responsibility, and guilt. Society has embraced evolution with such enthusiasm because people imagine that it eliminates the Judge and leaves them free to do whatever they want without guilt and without consequences.”⁵



Theistic Evolution/Evolutionary Creation

- Theistic evolution holds that God directed, used, and controlled the processes of naturalistic evolution to “create” the world and all that is in it
- This involves the idea that God used evolution to create the universe, from the big bang right up to humans
- It is the view “that there is a God, but He was not directly involved in the origin of life. According to this view, God created the building blocks and natural laws with the eventual emergence of life in mind. However, early on He stepped back and let His creation take over. He let it do what it was designed to do, and life eventually emerged from non-living material. This view is similar to atheistic evolution in that it presumes a naturalistic – albeit God-designed and ordained – origin of life.”⁶
- This view of origins is close to Deism, which believes that God exists but that He does not interfere with His creation (i.e. God is the great “clockmaker” who created the clock, wound it up, and let it go)
- Theistic evolutionists generally accept the findings of science and then try to fit the evolutionary hypothesis into the Bible (i.e. the bases on which theistic evolution rest are the Bible and science)
- Thus, theistic evolution tries to ride 2 horses (evolution and Creation) which are going in opposite directions
- It is nothing short of an attempt to blend two opposing views together (like oil and water, fire and ice)
- Not surprisingly then, theistic evolution is rejected by both naturalistic evolutionists and biblical creationists
- Proponents: Bruce Waltke, Tim Keller, Francis Collins, Peter Enns, Os Guinness, John Stott
- The BioLogos Foundation has been one of the most aggressive proponents of this view, ultimately waging war against the Genesis account of creation

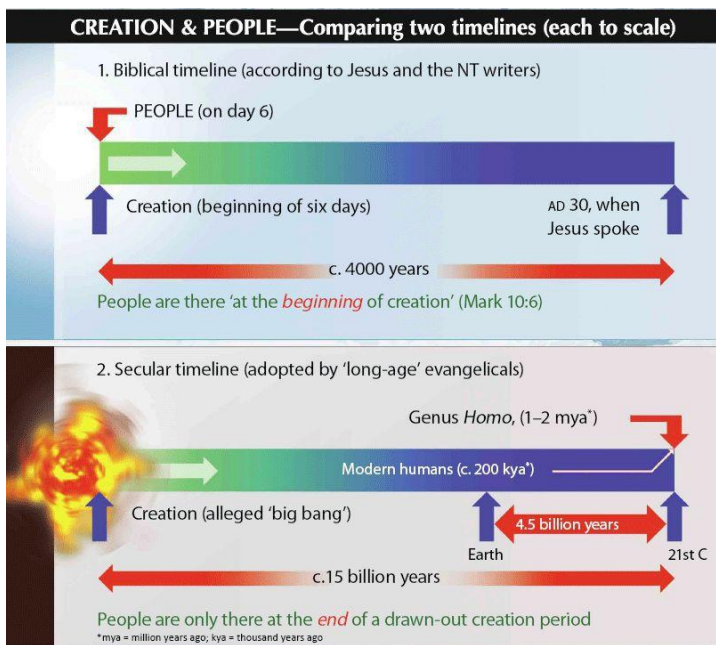
³ MacArthur, *Battle*, 11.

⁴Ibid., 24.

⁵ Ibid., 25.

⁶ <https://www.gotquestions.org/theistic-evolution.html>

- Core Tenets or Assumptions of Theistic Evolution as defined by BioLogos:⁷
 1. The Bible is **NOT** a reliable source of scientific knowledge about the origin of the earth and the universe, including living things—because it was never intended to teach us about science.
 2. The Bible **IS** a reliable source of knowledge about God and spiritual things.
 3. Scientific evidence is **irrelevant** to the Bible—it is simply not a science book.
 4. The creation story in Genesis 1 is a confession of faith in the true creator, intended to refute pantheism and polytheism, not to tell us how God actually created the world.
 5. The Bible tells us **THAT** God created, not how God created
- There are several serious problems with theistic evolution:
 - It requires death and destruction before the Fall
 - If the human race evolved, then Adam was not a historical person and the analogy between Christ and Adam in Romans 5:12–21 breaks down
 - It requires an allegorical approach in interpreting Genesis 1-2
 - To suggest that mankind came from a non-human ancestor cannot be reconciled with the clear statement of man’s creation in Genesis 2:7



- In short, the doctrines of creation and evolution are so contradictory that reconciliation is totally impossible
- Although theistic evolutionists attempt to integrate the two doctrines, such syncretism reduces the message of the Bible to insignificance
- This is because evolutionary views have priority over biblical statements; thus, the Bible must be reinterpreted when and wherever it contradicts the present evolutionary worldview
- “So-called theistic evolutionists who try to marry humanistic theories of modern science with biblical theism may claim they are doing so because they love God, but the truth is that they love God a little and their academic reputations a lot. By undermining the historicity of Genesis they are undermining faith itself. Give evolutionary doctrine the throne and make the Bible its servant, and you have laid the foundation for spiritual disaster.”⁸

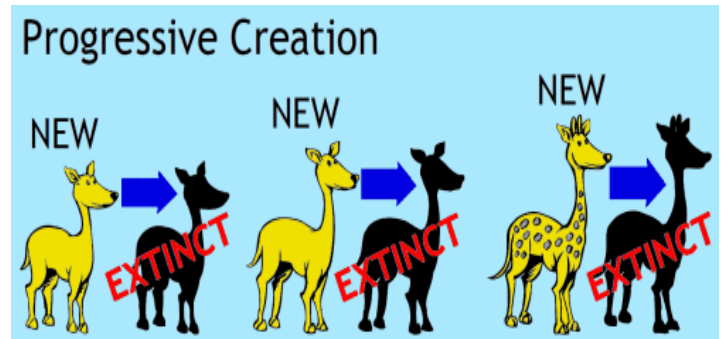
Progressive Creationism/Day Age Theory

- Those who hold to this view perceive God as being involved not only at the beginning of the process (as in theistic evolution) but at various points along the way
- They believe, while the big bang was responsible for the origin of the universe and that the earth formed from the debris field, God stepped in to create at the major stages of life throughout geologic history (i.e. the vertebrates, the birds, the mammals, and man)
- In other words, it holds to cosmological and geological evolution but necessarily biological evolution
- God is supposed to have created organisms in progressive stages while allowing earlier forms to die out

⁷ <https://biologos.org/articles/series/science-and-the-bible/theistic-evolution-history-and-beliefs>

⁸ MacArthur, *Battle*, 25-26.

- They believe that God created the major types of the animal and plant kingdoms at the beginning of the 6th day and then watched as they evolved naturally within their groups until at the end of this lengthy period referred to as "the 6th Day"
- This theory is supposedly a more serious attempt to reconcile the Bible with science in that it assumes the old age of the earth according to the teaching of science and yet at the same time, it acknowledges the direct creation of man and animals according to Genesis 1–2
- Tenets of progressive creationism:
 - The big-bang origin of the universe occurred about 13–15 billion years ago
 - The days of creation were overlapping periods of millions and billions of years
 - Over millions of years, God created new species as others kept going extinct
 - The record of nature is just as reliable as the Word of God (the 67th book?)
 - Death, bloodshed, and disease existed before Adam and Eve
 - Manlike creatures that looked and behaved much like us (and painted on cave walls) existed before Adam and Eve but did not have a spirit that was made in the image of God, and thus had no hope of salvation
 - Noah's flood was local not global



- Proponents: Hugh Ross (founder of *Reasons to Believe*), James Montgomery Boice, Gleason Archer
- This position has been attractive to many Christians because it allows them to use the term “creationist,” but still supplies the supposed academic respectability in the eyes of the world, by rejecting six literal days of creation and maintaining acceptance of billions of years
- This theory is based in part on the “Day Age theory” which assumes that the days in Genesis 1 refer to an indeterminate period of time
- In this view, the days of creation are not to be understood as 24-hour days but as geologic ages
- It includes the idea that the days of Genesis 1 were ages and that evolutionary processes were involved in the “creation” of Adam
- For example, Dr. Ross believes that day 3 of creation week lasted more than 3 billion years

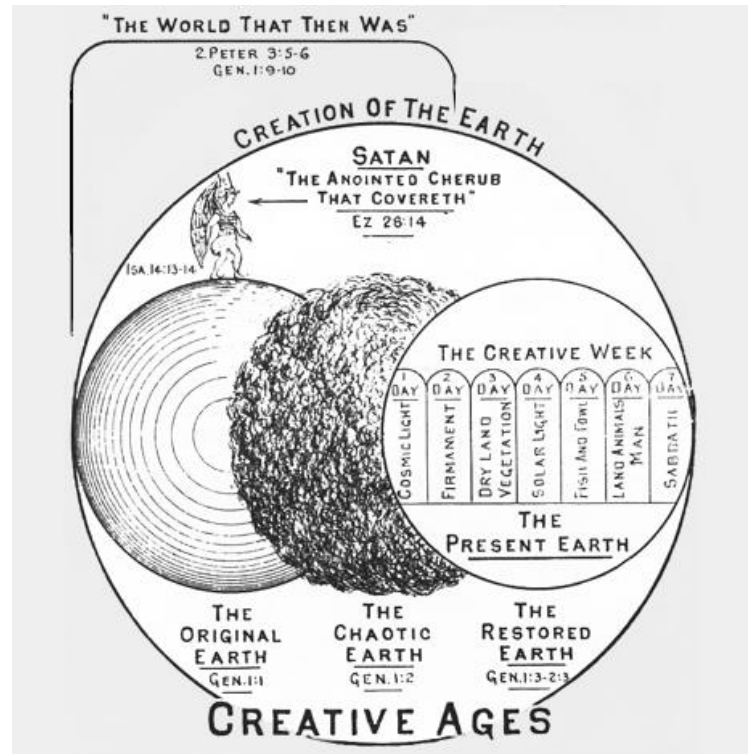
Psalm 90:4 ~ For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.

2 Peter 3:8 ~ But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

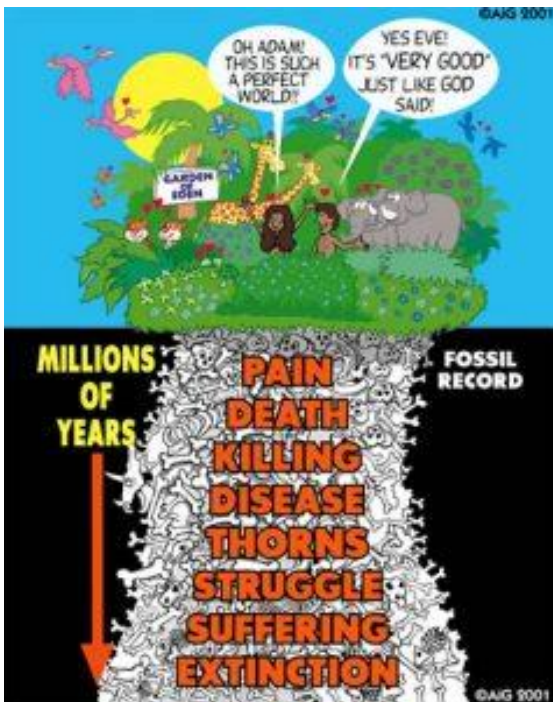
- Several problems result from this theory:
 - In Exodus 20:10–11, God draws an analogy between a person working 6 days and resting on the 7th and God creating 6 days and resting on the 7th...this doesn't work if the days are not 24-hour days
 - This theory would mean there was death before the Fall because it involves a long period of time
 - The creation of plants bearing seeds prior to the creation of land animals poses a problem in that some seeds depend on insects for pollination and fertilization.
 - How could plants, created on the 3rd “day,” survive if the sun was not created until the 4th “day?”

The Gap Theory

- This view states that a “gap” of time exists between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, a gap that could have lasted millions of years
- Supposedly, in Genesis 1:1, God created a fully functional earth with all animals, including the dinosaurs and other creatures we know only from the fossil record...this was the original creation of God, perfect in every way
- Then between verses 1 and 2, Satan rebelled in heaven and was cast out which “ruined” the original creation...his rebellion brought about its destruction and eventual death and the earth was reduced to its “formless and void” state
- At this point, God started all over again (Gen 1:3ff), recreating the earth in its paradise form as further described in Genesis
- The purpose of this view is to hold to the old age of the earth (an accommodation to science) and yet to understand the words of Genesis 1 and 2 literally



- “In 1814, Dr. Thomas Chalmers, a respected Scottish Presbyterian minister began to advocate the idea of a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. The reason for this was not theological—it was geological. By interpreting the first two verses of Genesis in this way, Dr. Chalmers felt that he could accommodate the views of the geologists of his day who were teaching millions of years, while at the same time maintaining a literal interpretation of the Genesis account of creation.”⁹



- Problems with this view:
 - It requires death and destruction before the Fall
 - The plain reading of Genesis 1 does not at all intimate a length of time between the first two verses
 - The phrase “formless and void” is assumed to be evil but the same phrase is used in Job 26:7 and Isaiah 45:18 without that connotation
 - Genesis 1:31 says God declared His creation to be “very good,” a statement difficult to square with the theory that evil already existed because of Satan’s fall in the “gap.” Adam would have been walking on the graveyard of billions of dead creatures over which he had never exercised dominion.

⁹ <https://answersingenesis.org/genesis/gap-theory/mind-the-gap/>

Intelligent Design

- This view holds that intelligent causes are necessary in order to explain the complex design behind the universe, plants, animals, and humans
- It says that there is evidence of design in what exists...and this design requires an intelligent designer since certain biological features defy an evolutionary explanation
- There are 3 primary arguments used to support Intelligent Design Theory
 1. Irreducible complexity – life is comprised of intertwined parts that rely on each other in order to function properly, something that cannot be explained by evolution (i.e. the human eye)
 2. Specified complexity – states that it is impossible for the complex patterns observed in organisms to be developed through random processes
 3. Anthropic principle – the universe is so fine-tuned to allow for life on earth that it could not have possibly come about through random, uncoordinated events (i.e. how close earth is to the sun)
- While this position is true in that it identifies an intelligent being as the source of all that exists, it is not sufficient because it fails to identify the God of the Bible as the Designer
- It doesn't define God as that individual which still amounts to an idolatrous rejection of the God of the Bible

Romans 1:18-20 ~ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven ~ against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 2:14-15 ~ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

- General revelation and the conscience point to a designer who is moral, personal and powerful...and those realities should drive a person to go to the Scriptures to meet that God
- However, Intelligent Design doesn't necessarily lead to this conclusion; it concludes that life on earth was designed by an intelligent agent, without specifying who that agent is
- "As a movement, there is no claim as to who that designer might be. Among the prominent leaders of the movement are Roman Catholics, Evangelicals, Protestants, Unification Church members, and others. Although individuals within the movement point to whom they believe the creator might be, ID is not intended to point to any specific designer. As such, the ID movement is embraced by those of the broad Christian tradition as well as Muslims, and its arguments could potentially be used by any religion that holds to some notion of a 'higher power.'"¹⁰

A BIBLICAL DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINS

- Sudden creationism is the understanding that God created all that exists directly and instantaneously (fiat) out of nothing (ex nihilo)
- Creation was a recent event of 6,000 to 10,000 years ago and the days of Genesis 1 were 24 hours in length
- The basis for the 24-hour creation days is the biblical account of Genesis 1 and 2; thus, while science may contribute to our understanding, it doesn't control or change our interpretation of Scripture in order to accommodate its findings
- Even though the Bible is not a science textbook, it is accurate when it reveals scientific truths

¹⁰ <https://answersingenesis.org/theistic-evolution/what-about-theistic-evolution/>

The Hebrew Word for “Day”

- The Hebrew word for “day” (*yom*) always refers to a 24-hour duration when used with a numerical adjective or ordinal number as it is in Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31

Genesis 8 ~ The 150 days of the flood

Exodus 24:18 ~ The 40 days Moses was on Sinai

Numbers 13:25 ~ The 40 days the spies searched out Canaan

Jonah 1:17 ~ The 3 days Jonah was inside the great fish

- The one exception is Genesis 2:4 where the context clearly indicates that “day” there refers to the entire period of creation

Genesis 2:4 ~ This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.

“Morning and Evening” Terminology

- “Morning and evening” terminology, which occurs over 100 times in the Old Testament, supports a 24-hour connotation
- Such terminology is never used figuratively in the OT; rather, it always refers to a 24-hour period
- At the conclusion of each day, this terminology occurs (Gen 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31)

Genesis 1:5 ~ God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

- Some might argue that there could be no “morning and evening” until day four since the sun was not created until then
- But, technically, the sun itself is not needed for a day and a night...only what is needed is light and a rotating earth
- The “morning and evening” terminology indicates a rotating earth and God created light on day 1 prior to there being a sun
- In fact, God actually defines “day” in Genesis 1:5 by designating it as a period of light and a period of darkness
- This light/dark cycle is best understood as one full earth rotation or a 24-hour day
- Furthermore, in the new heavens and earth there will be no need for the sun since the glory of God will provide the “light”

Revelation 21:23 ~ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.

The Creation of Man and Woman

- The language of Genesis 1-2 makes it very clear that mankind did not evolve from some lower life form but was rather created instantaneously by God
- No other explanation of human origins can account for this except sudden creationism

Genesis 1:27 ~ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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

- Man's creation was special and unique...he was created on the last day, the climax of God's creation, after which God noted "it was very good"

Genesis 1:31 ~ God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

The Pattern of the Work Week

- The work week is patterned after the creation week

Exodus 20:8-11 ~ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

- The illustration between the creation week and the work week would be meaningless if the days are not 24-hour days

Created from Nothing

- By faith, we believe that God created all that is in the universe out of nothing

Hebrews 11:3 ~ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

- There existed no eternal matter; by faith we believe that God created everything that exists out of nothing
- The visible came into being from the invisible

The Works and Words of Christ

- Scripture makes it abundantly clear that Christ not only identified with creation but actually initiated all of it

John 1:3 ~ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16 ~ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Hebrews 1:2 ~ in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

- Although most explanations for creation require a significant time interval between the creation of matter and the origin of man, Christ makes it very clear that man was a part of the creation at the outset, not some subsequent addition

Matthew 19:4 ~ And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?"

End-Time Events

- The hope of the resurrection, a recreation of the body, argues definitively for the original creation

Daniel 12:2 ~ Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

John 5:29 ~ and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Romans 8:23 ~ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ~ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

- “This is like the creation of Adam repeated. Only this time, not just one body is created, but literally millions who have trusted Christ as their Savior. Since multitudes will be given recreated bodies in the resurrection, how easy it would have been for God to create just Adam and Eve at the beginning. Thus, it is logically valid to conclude that the greater creative miracle of resurrection parallels the lesser miracle of initial creation. Sudden creationism then stands not only possible but even most probable as a manifestation of God’s consistency.”¹¹

The Rest of Scripture

- All of Scripture argues for the fact that God is the Creator

Nehemiah 9:6 ~ You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

Isaiah 44:24 ~ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,

Jeremiah 32:17 ~ Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You

Acts 14:15 ~ and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM.”

Hebrews 1:10 ~ And, “YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS”

Revelation 4:11 ~ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

- Scripture as a whole points to a Person who created not a process, a Person who is the first cause of all things

¹¹ <https://www.tms.edu/m/msj23a.pdf>