



ORIGINS

STORIES OF HOPE FROM GENESIS

Creation

“I believe in God, Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth ...”

– Nicene Creed

“All Christians are, by definition, creationists.”

– Denis Alexander, *Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?*

Evolution

- Change over time (politics)
- Genetic mutation + natural selection (foxes)
- “Microevolution” (dogs)
- “Macroevolution” (amoebae to apes)
- Materialism / naturalism / atheism

Agreement

- God created all things out of nothing
- Life is a gift of God, not an accident
- Humans are created in the image of God
- Creation is now subjected to futility
- Human death is in the world because of sin
- The flood was an act of divine judgment

Disagreement

- Is the earth as old as it looks? If not, why does it look so old? If so, how do we read Genesis 1?
- Did animals die before humans fell? So what?
- Do all creatures share common ancestry? If not, what do we do with genetic evidence? If so, how do we read Genesis 2-3?
- Was the flood global or regional?

Six Honest Serving Men

Creation

- What ... a temple
- Why ... to the glory of God
- When ... ?
- How ... ?
- Where ... ?
- Who ... Father, Son and Spirit

	Young Earth Creation	Old Earth Creationism	Evolutionary Creationism
How old is earth?	6-10,000	4.6 bn	4.6 bn
Yom / day	24 hours	A period	24 hours
Why it looks old	The flood	It is	It is
How old is life?	6-10,000	3.8 bn	3.8 bn
Death pre-fall	No	Yes	Yes
Shared ancestry	No	No	Yes
Other humans	No	(No)	Yes
Scope of flood	Global	(Regional)	Regional

Young Earth
Creation

Mature Earth:
the world was created with
the appearance of age, like
an adult

Flood Geology:
the effects of the global
flood have distorted our
reading of scientific data

Old Earth
Creation

Day-Age:

the “days” in Genesis 1 refer to indefinite periods of time

Gap Theory:

there is a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2

Land of Israel:

the *erets* in Genesis 1:2ff is the land of Israel

Evolutionary
Creation

Special Creation:
God used evolution to
create all animal life, but
created man from dust

Neolithic Farmers:
God chose two Neolithic
farmers to receive his image,
souls and his life-breath

John Walton, “Genesis Through Ancient Eyes”
(<https://youtu.be/bOnsqCVq42A>)

- Cosmos as temple
- Three storeys (waters, earth, heavens)
- Ancient writers were not particularly trying to shape our scientific knowledge (on dinosaurs, the moon, the fountains of the deep, the sky, the bowels, mustard seeds, storehouses, the solar system, or Australia)

"How beautiful you are, my darling,
how beautiful you are!

...Your eyes are like doves behind
your veil...

...Your hair is like a flock of goats...

...your teeth are like a flock of
newly shorn ewes...

...your lips are like a scarlet
thread...

...Your temples are like a slice
of pomegranate...

...Your neck is like the
tower of David... built
with rows of stones
on which are hung a
thousand shields...

...Your two breasts are
like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle
Which feed among the
silies...

...Your lips, my bride,
are like honey... honey and
milk are under your tongue,

And the fragrance of your
garments is like the
fragrance of Lebanon...

...Your navel is a round goblet...
Your belly is like
a heap of wheat...

...your nose is like the
tower of Lebanon,
which faces toward
Damascus..."

...from
Song of Solomon
Chapters
four and
seven.



Resources

answersingenesis.org / creation.com

reasons.org

biologos.org

John Lennox – *Seven Days That Divide the World*

John Walton – *Genesis Through Ancient Eyes*

Tim Keller – *Creation, Evolution & Christian Laypeople*

James Stump (ed.) – *Four Views On Creation, Evolution,
And Intelligent Design*