

Science and Religion

- Battles from studying vs what the church says
- I have very little interest in the How, I care about why, I may be the wrong person for this talk
- Earliest Creation Stories
- Creation ex nihilo - creation out of nothing
- What is evolution
- How of Creation
- Short history of created conflict between creationism and evolutionism
- Creation of the Cosmos the world
- Creation of Man - The Why of creation the image of God

Evolution is a small part of the talk - because when we understand what it is and what its place is its a very small part of the question the why is more important

- Creation out of nothing is the most basic and fundamental dogma of the church
- Everything is found in the dogma of creation
 - The unforced hand
 - The unconstrained love of God
 - Does it without any need
- The absolute otherness of God
 - That he is not a part of creation
- Potential mortality or immortality of creation

Earliest Ideas of Creation:

Unlike the greek understanding the Judaic is out of nothing

- Plato has God who has a God who created the world out of primordial matter
- Creation out of ether
 - Some original work
- Creation is out of nothing
 - 2 Maccabees 7 - Mother who has 7 sons
 - 6/7 are murdered
 - A king comes in and is persecuting them and are forcing them to eat pork, which is a sign that you are rejecting their faith
 - 7th son - go to the mother and say to the mother just let him eat pork
 - I beg you, child, to look at the heavens and the earth and see all that is in them; then you will know that God did not make them out of existing things.* In the same way humankind came into existence. Do not be afraid of this executioner, but be worthy of your brothers and accept death, so that in the time of mercy I may receive you again with your brothers.”
- God creates out of nothing
 - Argument is that God creates out of nothing
- God doesn't create out of need, even love couldn't constrain him

- His love was perfect in the trinity
- Why
 - Creates because he wants not needs to share his life
- God loves us for us, not for what we can do for him
- John of Damascus
 - by a super abundance of goodness he saw fit that there should be somethings to benefit by and participate in his goodness
 - ▶ He brings all things from nothing into being
 - ▶ Share his life with us, he creates
- Pantheism
 - Creation is not an emanation he doesn't pour out of himself into the creation
 - So that you hug a tree you hug divine nature
- Creation
 - Creation is separate to the creator
 - The divine is not contained in nature
 - Divine nature doesn't merge in creation
 - Maintain separation
- Analogy of an Artist
 - God is artist
 - Paining is creation
 - Look at a piece of art, you can look at brushwork and see the skill of person
 - Appreciate his personalities
 - Artist is not contained in artwork
 - God creates and still separate but by looking at creation we can see his personality
- Before creation simply God
- Time and creation begin at the same time
 - Time there is a movement there is a process
 - With God, these things do not exist

Short history of Evolution

Evolution

Basic tenants of darwinian evolution

- More individuals are produced each generation that can survive
- Phenotype - observable properties of creation

- Phenotypic variation exists among individuals and the variations are heritable
- Differences in the way we look
- Variation can be inherited
- Traits that can be inherited, those individuals better suited for the environment will survive
 - Differential fitness
- When you have reproductive isolation that occurs new species will form

George mendell - augustinian monk - modern genetics

Darwin was not going to attack the church

- Simply explaining what is observable in nature
- Original reaction was mixed.
 - How can creation be less then 6000 years old
- Late 1800's
 - European theologians began to accept evolution as an instrument of God
 - Pope Leo
 - ▶ Modern revaluation of biblical interpretation
 - ▶ Acceptance of human evolution subject to the evolution of the soul
 - When Darwin came out the whole church denied it
 - European world was unphased
 - ▶ Catholic Church adopted it right away
 - ▶ Protestant world
 - Threatening the idea that the Bible was literal
 - Fundamentalist protestant moment
 - Literal truth of things
 - Go against biblical criticism
 - Late 1900's
 - ▶ Schools teaching it in schools
 - ▶ Fundamentalist fight against it
 - ▶ Huge backlash
 - Caused major spark in atheistic movement
- Scripture never concerned with the how
- Never been a guardian of science
- Pope Benedict

- *"What response shall we make to this view [evolution]? It is the affair of the natural sciences to explain how the tree of life in particular continues to grow, and how new branches shoot out from it. This is not a matter for faith. ... More reflective spirits have long been aware that there is no either-or here. We cannot say: 'creation or evolution', inasmuch as these two things respond to two different realities. The story of the dust of the earth and the breath of God, which we just heard, does not in fact explain how human persons come to be but rather what they are. It explains their inmost origin and casts light on the project that they are. And, vice versa, the theory of evolution seeks to understand and describe biological developments. But in so doing it cannot explain where the 'project' of human persons comes from, nor their inner origin, nor their particular nature. To that extent we are faced here with two complementary - rather than mutually exclusive - realities."*
- *If you have evolution it cannot explain the moment where man is in a relationship with God*
- *Why are we even discussing in our Orthodox Church if it was a protestant and Catholic Church?*
 - *Western captivity of orthodox thought*
 - ▶ *In Egypt under islam, with limitation of everything*
 - *We start translated work and using protestant works*
 - *Enter firmly into our Sunday school curriculum*
- *Science Vs Faith*
 - *Science has limits but faith has no limits*
- *Creation of the Cosmos*
 - *Stages of Creation*
 - ▶ *Heavens and the Earth*
 - *Creation of the invisible and visible*
 - *Visible*
 - ▶ *Important Notes*
 - *Genesis is not a science textbook*
 - *Poetic Canticle*
 - ▶ *Its Poetry*
 - *One is historical and one is point*
 - *The church is not a scientific organization*
 - *Never agrees scientific theory*
 - *Do we care how gravity works in the church?*
 - *The church may say no if it contradicts scripture*
 - *Orthodoxy most definitely rejects creationism*
 - *There can be no science of the church*
 - *No Christian Science*
 - *Orthodox discerns synergy in all stages of creation*
 - *Just as in salvation God and man works together*
 - *Likewise in creation, creation participates in the creative activity*
 - ▶ *God creates in 6 consecutive stages of creation*
 - *Day I*
 - *God creates time and Heavens and Earth*
 - *Holy Spirit hovering*

- ▶ *St. Basil says - it is the Holy spirit brooding over the creation like a nest making sure it is perfect and ready*
- ▶ *Let their be light - not sun or moonlight since it was created 4th day*
 - *Fathers say the light of the Godhead*
 - *It was Good*
 - *Kalos - it is beautiful*
- *Day 2*
 - *Let there be a firmament*
 - ▶ *Formless matter takes form*
- *Day 3*
 - *Separation*
 - ▶ *Dry land separated form the sea*
 - ▶ *Let the earth bring forth*
 - *Let the earth bring forth*
 - ▶ *There is participation of the earth*
- *Day 4*
 - *Creation of the Lights*
 - ▶ *Sun/moon*
 -
- *Day 5*
 - *Creation of sea animals*
- *Day 6*
 - *Creation of all other earth animals*
 - *Let us make man in our image*
 - ▶ *Direct command here*

*The earth revolves around creation
But the Universe revolves around Man*

God breathes in Man

*God does not do this for any other creation
Breathing in face of someone else is act of deep symbolism
giving something of your own to another person
such as priesthood
baby in baptism*

When God is breathing into man he is not just doing it to give him life but giving of his own life

*Limitation of evolution
the beginning of life itself
the breath of God in Man*

*Everything else may or may not be , who knows
Reality is we do not care*

Importance of Creation

God made man according to the image of God

Why of Creation

being born in the image of christ

The Glory of God is the human being - St Irenaus

we bear his image

WE are called to be his dwelling place so he is formed in us

Do not underestimate who you are and who you are to become and never underestimate the person next to you

We know now why Christ says the shepherd leaves the 99 and goes after the lost sheep or if one repents there is joy in heaven

Value of the human being

Value and purpose of creation account not scientific narrative but explain mystery of God calling man to be more like him

Conclusion

Church is not scientific institution

Genesis is not a scientific book

Evolution doesn't contradict our faith

Created conflict