

SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY PT.2

Creation and Evolution

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU?


- Does Orthodox Christianity believe in creationism?
- Does Orthodox Christianity reject creationism?
- Does Orthodox Christianity believe in evolution?
- Does Orthodox Christianity reject evolution?
- Do you personally believe in creationism
- Do you personally believe in evolution?

INTRODUCTION

- Earliest Creation Stories
 - Creation Ex Nihilo - creation out of nothing
- What is evolution?
- Creation of the Cosmos the world
- Creation of Man - The Why of creation - The image of God

EARLIEST IDEAS OF CREATION

- Hellenist view
 - Plato
 - Believed that created out of matter but the matter was created from a creator
- Judaism/Christian View
 - Believed created out of Nothing
 - 2 Macabees 7
 - “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.”



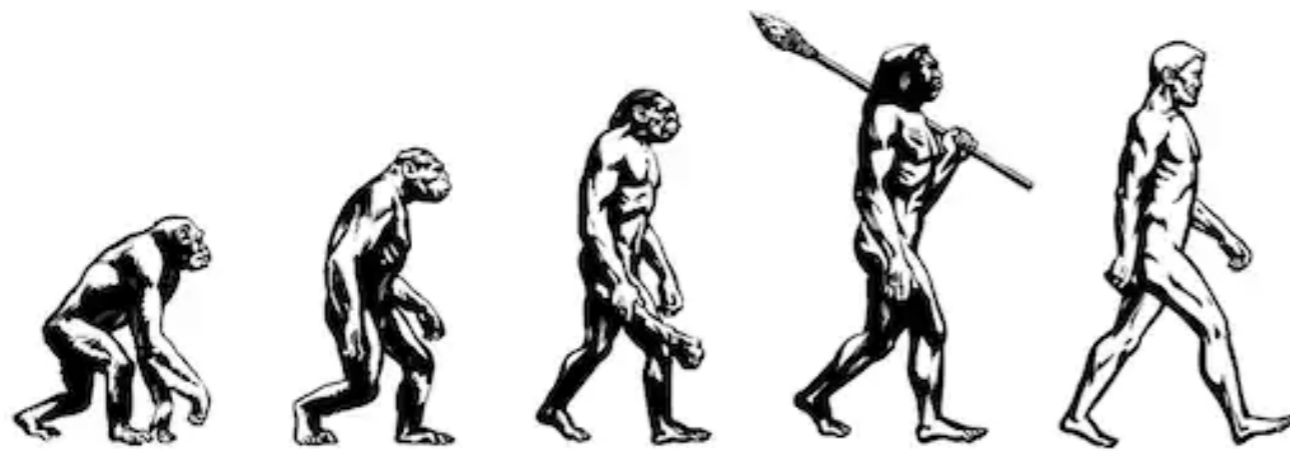
In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

CREATION OUT OF NOTHING

➤ Ek Nihilo

- God Creates out of nothing
- God does not create out of need
- God loves us for us, not for what we can do for him
- Pantheism
 - Creation is an emanation of the divine, pours out himself into creation
- Analogy of an Artist
- Before Creation it was simply God
 - Time and Creation begin at the same time
 - I am who I am



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WHAT IS 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

HISTORY OF CONFLICT

- Not developing theory to attack the church
 - Simply explaining what was observable in nature
- Original reaction was mixed
- Late 1800's
 - European theologians began to accept evolution as an instrument of God
 - Pope Leo
 - Modern Re-evaluation of biblical interpretation
 - Acceptance of human evolution except the evolution of the soul
- Main issue was with protestants and their literal interpretation of the Bible

CREATION OF THE COSMOS

- Creation of the Cosmos
- ◦ Stages of Creation
 - ▸ Heavens and the Earth
- Creation of the invisible and visible
- Important Notes
 - Genesis is not a science textbook
 - The church is not a scientific organization
 - Orthodoxy most definitely rejects creationism
 - Orthodox discerns synergy in all stages of creation

6 STAGES OF CREATION

- • Day 1
- ◦ 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 there be light - not sun or moonlight since it was created 4th day
- • Fathers say the light of the Godhead
- • Day 2
- ◦ Let there be a firmament
- † Formless matter takes form
- • Day 3
- ◦ Separation
- † Dry land separated from the sea
- † Let the earth bring forth

6 STAGES OF CREATION

- 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

CREATION OF MAN - THE WHY OF CREATION -

CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD

- Direct command of creation
 - The earth revolves around creation BUT the universe revolves around Man
- God breathes in Man
 - God does not do this for any creation
 - Breathing in the face of someone else is act of deep symbolism
 - Giving something of your own to another person
 - Priesthood
 - Baptism
- When God is breathing into man he not just doing it to him him life but giving of HIS own life
- Limitation of Evolution
 - The beginning of life itself
 - When man calls God
 - The breath of God in man
- The why of Creation
 - Being born in the image of Christ

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The Glory of God is the Human being

-St. Irenaeus



The salvation of one person, made in the image of the divine image is more precious to God than 10,000 worlds and all they contain

-St. Zosima in the 6th century