

Study Guide #19: Creation *and* Evolution?

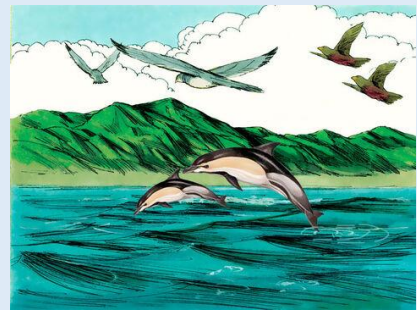
Introduction

Most of the professed Christian world has adopted the essence of modern evolutionary theory. Apparently, not wishing to appear anti-science, many Christians have incorrectly assumed that the scientific evidence supports evolution. Review Explorer I, Study Guide #4 for a discussion of the evidence against evolution. These Christians have adopted a compromise between atheistic evolution and traditional Christian belief in a Creator-God called theistic evolution. Essentially, theistic evolution is the understanding that God is the eternal First Cause who chose to use evolutionary processes to “create” the universe and everything in it. This Study Guide examines the merits of theistic evolution from a Biblical Christian perspective.

Question #1: Why can't the days of Creation Week in Genesis 1 each represent millions of years?

Answer: Theistic evolutionists teach that each day of Creation Week is symbolic of millions of years. However, there are at least 4 sound reasons why this should be rejected; 3 of them are Biblical reasons, and the other one is scientific:

- *First*, the Hebrew word for “**day**” in Genesis 1 is “yom.” In every single instance when the Hebrew word “yom” is accompanied by a number in the Old Testament, it always refers to a literal 24-hour day. And a check of Genesis 1 shows that each day of Creation week is numbered.
- *Second*, each Creation day in Genesis 1 is identified by the expression “**the evening and the morning,**” which clearly specifies a 24-hour day.
- *Third*, a comparison of the seventh day of Creation Week in Genesis 2:1-3 with the language of the Sabbath Commandment in Exodus 20:8-11 reveals that the commandment was based upon the former. Obviously, the Sabbath Commandment is a reference to 24-hour days. Therefore, the Creation days must also be 24-hour days.
- *Finally*, according to Genesis 1, vegetation was created on the 3rd day, fish and birds on the 5th day, and land animals and mankind on the 6th day. It's a scientific fact that plants require the intaking of carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. And animals and people take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. But if each day represents millions of years, there would have been no animals or people to produce the carbon dioxide necessary to sustain plant life. Then all plants would



Day 5: Fish & Birds

have died out millions of years before animals and people appeared on earth, meaning that they could not obtain oxygen from plants that no longer existed. Moreover, plants need light for photosynthesis to occur. But if the night portion of the 3rd day were only 1 million years long, all plants would have died before even the 4th day had dawned.

Question #2: Are there any other implications for Genesis if evolution were true?

Answer: As we stated in Explorer I, Study Guide #15, the widespread acceptance of evolution by most Christians by the turn of the 20th century cemented a very critical approach to Genesis chapters 1-11. If evolution were true, then the early portion of Genesis could not be describing literal history. By accepting theistic evolution, a Christian is siding with those forces which ridicule the historicity of Genesis. But more importantly, they place themselves squarely in opposition to other inspired writers of Scripture and to Jesus Himself, who accepted the literal history of all of Genesis. See Explorer I, Study Guide #15.

Question #3: Is the idea that evolution is ongoing in the present in agreement with Scripture?

Answer: *First*, all evolutionists, including theistic evolutionists, believe that natural evolutionary processes are continuing to work even in the present. *Second*, this idea is in direct contradiction to the Scriptures, as follows:

- **“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done”** (Genesis 2:1-2, NKJV). The language of the Sabbath Commandment echoes the same thought that Creation ended at the end of Creation Week.



Starry Night Sky

- **“By the word of the Lord the heavens were made...For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast”** (Psalm 33:6, 9, NKJV).
- The apostle Paul says that **“by Him all things were created”** (Colossians 1:16, NKJV).
- The writer of Hebrews states **“that the works [of creation] were finished from the foundation of the world”** (Hebrews 4:3, NKJV).

Question #4: Is evolution consistent with God’s love and mercy?

Answer: No. If theistic evolution were true, then God would be responsible for all those millions of years of suffering, misery, and death that different life forms experienced on the upward path toward improvement. However, the Scriptures tell of a very different God, one who is love and mercy personified. It describes God as one who cares about all His creatures, so much so that He values even the little sparrows

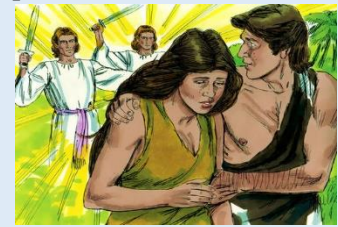
and notices when they fall to the ground in death (Luke 12:6-7). Surely, such a God would not have chosen evolutionary processes which result in such misery to “create” the world.

Question #5: Is evolution consistent with God’s omniscience and orderliness?

Answer: If theistic evolution were true, then several million years have been involved to date in an almost endless series of trial-and-error attempts via random mutations to get the life forms where they are today. What a colossal waste of time that has been for God, who knows all things past, present, and future! Not only has this been a colossal waste of time, but it implies that God has chosen a terribly inefficient method for “creating” the universe. But the Bible describes God as **“not the author of confusion”** but of order (I Corinthians 14:33, NKJV).

Question #6: How did death become part of God’s creation?

Answer: Theistic evolution teaches that life has evolved over millions of years through a naturalistic process of innumerable rounds of life-and-death cycles. Yet the Christian Scriptures teach that death came as a result of mankind’s sin, and specifically the sin of Adam, the first man created (Genesis 3:1-3, 19; Romans 5:12-17; Romans 6:23; I Corinthians 15:21). Therefore, theistic evolution asks us to believe that suffering and death existed for long ages in a sinless world made by a wise and holy God. That’s a preposterous idea which is as foreign to the Scriptures as anything could possibly be!



Adam & Eve Expelled from Eden

Question #7: How does the plan of salvation from sin work if evolution is true?

Answer: The primary assumption underlying all theories of evolution is that living organisms evolve upward from the simple to the complex, with each level representing an improvement. Therefore, this theory says that mankind is getting better and better because he’s a creature who is continually developing toward perfection. By contrast, the Bible teaches that mankind fell out of harmony with his Creator-God soon after his creation, thereby losing the original perfection that he had been created with. This is the reason that we all need a Savior to redeem and restore him into a right relationship with God. Theistic evolution undermines the entire heart of Christianity because when the Genesis creation account is interpreted as myth or allegory, then it actually removes sin, and the need for salvation, from the divine message. Under that scenario, Jesus died for nothing. We need to see that any radical reinterpretation of the early chapters of Genesis automatically places the interpreter at diametric odds with the heart of the Scriptures and its teachings.

Question #8: Is the Golden Rule consistent with evolution?

Answer: All evolutionary theories teach that life evolves out of a life-and-death struggle in which only the fittest survive. In this way, evolution teaches that “might makes right” because whatever survives guarantees the future upward progress of life forms. But this doctrine of “survival of the fittest” is

completely incompatible with the Golden Rule, which states that **“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them”** (Matthew 7:12, NKJV).

Question #9: Is the Biblical idea of basic “kinds” consistent with evolution?

Answer: If evolution is true, then all life forms evolved from a common ancestor—Darwin’s “Tree of Life” concept. In other words, evolution teaches that change of life forms into different basic kinds of life is unlimited, and that this accounts for the “fact” of evolution. Of course, there’s no evidence in the fossil record to support this theory. And the Bible record of creation is quite clear that God created plants and animals **“after their [its] kind”** (Genesis 1:12, 21, 24-25, NKJV). Both the fossil record and the Bible are decidedly against the idea that there has been any crossover from one basic kind of life into a different kind of life. [NOTE: The use of the word for **“kind”** in Genesis 1 appears to be equivalent to what scientists call a *family* of living things.]

Question #10: Is there any other testimony in Scripture that is inconsistent with evolution?

Answer: Yes. Theistic evolution is closely related to Deism, which is the “watchmaker” concept in which God created the universe and then went off like an absentee landlord to attend to other matters while the watch winds down. Under theistic evolution, God may come back every once in awhile to make a correction in the evolutionary course. But He is not intimately involved with the world in a personal way or on an ongoing basis. By contrast, the Scriptures portray God as very much involved with His creation in an intimate way. Note the following verses:

- **“You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their hosts, the earth and all things on it, the seas and all that is in them, and you preserve them all”** (Nehemiah 9:6, NKJV).
- **“He gives to all life, breath, and all things”** (Acts 17:25, NKJV).
- **“He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being”** (Acts 17:27-28, NKJV).



God holding the Earth in His hands

- **“For by Him all things were created...And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist”** (Colossians 1:16-17, NKJV).
- **“God...has in theses last days spoken to us by His Son,...who [is] upholding all things by the word of His power”** (Hebrews 1:1-3, NKJV).

Question #11: Do you have any final thoughts about theistic evolution?

Answer: In attempting to harmonize evolution with the Judeo-Christian God, theistic evolutionists wind up with even more problems than do atheistic evolutionists. Not only is the scientific evidence not supportive of evolution (see Explorer I, Study Guide #4). But theistic evolutionists also have to face the evidence of the Scriptures, which is contrary to their view. We believe that a careful analysis of the Scriptures should reveal to any objective, reasonable searcher for truth that evolution has no support in them. A Being who is an eternal Ultimate Reality (see Explorer I, Study Guides #2 and #3) is sufficiently powerful to have created the universe through an instantaneous act of fiat creation *ex nihilo* (“out of nothing”). And the best evidence from nature and Scripture either implies (nature) or states (Scripture) that He did just that.