

# LIVING WATERS NEWSLETTER

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## WHICH CAME 1<sup>ST</sup> THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

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Several years ago my wife and I enjoyed a trip to the Canadian Rockies. We were privileged to observe some of God's purest creation untouched by man. However, several times during our travels I heard a guide talk about the millions and billions of years it took for this to evolve and they said it in a factual manner that scorned any other possible conclusion. I pondered how the evolutionary theory, as irrational and impossible as it is, has received such universal acceptance.

Evolution provides a convenient explanation for those people who reject God, who don't want a moral judge or a moral law. But what is so shocking is that this evolutionary lie has perpetuated the evangelical Christian community as well. Even theologians and Bible commentators have tried to weave a combination of evolution and creation together, which ironically, puts them in a perilous position that undermines the very foundation of their faith. When God created the earth, He created it mature. He created it with the appearance of age, fully developed. He didn't send out one little cell programmed to split itself over and over again over millions of years. There were no seeds, no embryos and there was no egg, there was a chicken full grown. When Adam was created, he was full grown, he was a full-grown man. Everything was full grown, fully developed. The cataclysmic creation of the universe yielded a mature creation with the appearance and reality of age. How did the universe come to be? Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Out of nothing, the universe with no prior existing matter and no prior existing energy...God created the entire universe. How did He create? Verse 3: "Then God said, 'Let there be light.'" God created by simply speaking it into existence. And when did He create? He created it, as we know it, in six literal days some 6000 years ago. Without exception creation is always mentioned as a unique event which took place at a particular moment in past time. It's not something that's going on all the time, as is the theory of evolution. The theory of evolution sweeps everything into one common denominator, saying there are no absolutes, that everything is in flux, until it comes to the one absolute necessity to make the system work, the theory itself. Evolutionists argue that everything that exists today is a result of chance and random processes, but evolution, they rationalize, is absolute. Creation is a rational faith in Almighty God. Evolution is irrational faith in important chance.

The governing discipline in the matter of life in the universe at every single point is not science. The governing discipline is theology. The only way you will ever understand the universe, the only way you will ever understand the history of man, the only way you will ever understand behavior and why people do what they do, the only way you will understand the flow of life and where we came from and where we're going is when you understand a true theology. We cannot then allow our theology to vacate the throne at the beginning of the Bible and take a footstool

while science ascends the throne. Theology is the controlling element in all human theology and unwavering faith in the accuracy and truthfulness of the Bible is at the heart of all sound theology. It starts with believing the Genesis account.

Consider the complexity of the human body. It has one hundred or so trillion cells and every one of those cells has a strip of DNA. It's a copy of coded information and it's coiled up inside every single cell in every living organism. There are forty-six segments in that little coil. Twenty-three of those came from our father and twenty-three of those came from our mother. That little coil influences your personality and your physical features. It determines exactly however single cell in your body is to function throughout your entire life. If we take that cell and stretch it out it would be seven feet long. And if you took all the DNA strips in your body and connected them together it would stretch to the moon and back a half million times. Is it rational to chalk something complex to happenstance?

Think about the rotation of the earth. It is the rotation on its axis that determines a 24-hour day. It is the moon's orbit around the sun that determines the year. Did you ever ask yourself...what determines a week? There is nothing in the celestial bodies that determines a week. And yet universally across the face of the earth mankind lives by weeks. Where does that come from? Out of Genesis 1. That was the period of time in which God created the universe. C.S. Lewis made this observation. He said, "If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collusion, then man is an accident, and all our thoughts are accidents. Why should I believe that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all other accidents?"

Christianity does not begin with accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. It begins with accepting God as creator. That establishes the foundation for all truth and authority. Christians that buy into the idea of evolution are undermining their own message. As God's people, we must uphold the truth. God has established the rules and the standards and God is the judge of every life. Therefore, man is accountable to God, then the Bible and Jesus Christ become relevant because they reveal God, His commands, His laws, His promise, His purposes, and His salvation.

Which came first? The chicken or the egg? The chicken fully grown! In the beginning God created!

...M. Gingrich

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## THOUGHTS ON THE CREATION ACCOUNT

Genesis 1 & 2 is perhaps the most disputed passage in Scripture. The subject of the creation of the universe has been debated and wrestled with by theologians, philosophers, and scientist, for generations, leaving the average Christian confused and uncertain about the Biblical record. We begin this article by citing a quotation from Eric Sauer's book, *The King of the World*: "The diversity of opinion among expositors who accept the authority of the Bible proves that we must be careful and cautious in coming

to a conclusion and above all avoid self-confident dogmatism; we must have tolerance and understanding for those that disagree with us. Above all we must in all modesty be conscious of our own insufficiency, and remember the question which the Creator Himself put to His early creature Job about the creation: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" (Job 38:4-7)." Another passage we do well to keep in mind is Deuteronomy 29:29: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but the things that are revealed belong unto us and our children forever."

In his book on Apologetics entitled *Therefore Stand* Dr. Wilbur Smith quotes Leander S. Keyser in *The Problems of Origin* as saying: "If the Bible is God's revelation, it surely was intended to teach whatever it does teach. Therefore, when it recites history, it must teach truth truly. The God of the Bible is represented in the Bible as the God of the whole universe—of the material as well as the spiritual realm. Biblical religion is of too wide a scope and too paramount a character to be set off in a corner. It touches life and experience at every point. Let it be admitted that the Bible is not a scientific textbook. There are many technical matters of science which God has wisely left man to discover for himself as a part of his mental, moral, and spiritual discipline. But if the Bible is a divinely inspired book, it must tell the truth when it deals with other data. The critics who think they can go through the Bible and pick out its religious element, and separate it from the rest of its teaching, have an impossible task on their hands. They will inevitably shred its cloth of gold."

God the creator is not only found in Genesis one and two. Throughout the Old Testament God is over and over said to be the creator of the heavens and the earth; and he is therefore worshipped as the Creator. Creation is one of the great themes of the Psalms, specifically found in over 32 passages. They sometimes refer to God as "creating" and other times the One who "made" the heavens and the earth. Other times God is indirectly referred to as the Creator, for example the eighth Psalm verses three and four: "When I consider Your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him of the son of man that you care for him?" The Psalm continues to verify Genesis one by stating the purpose of God creating man "You have made him a little lower than the angels...and made him to rule over the works of your hands" (ver. 5, 6). The Hebrew writer quotes this passage verbatim in Hebrews 2, in referring to the final destiny of man fulfilling the purpose of God creating him, this being fulfilled in Christ. The truth of God as Creator is many times spoken of by the prophets. They use the creation by God to rebuke Israel for her gross idolatry and her superstitious worship of the heavenly bodies. In the giving of the Law on Sinai the Israelite week was fixed by reference to the work of creation. "Six days shall you labor...but the seventh day is a Sabbath unto the Lord thy God...for in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth...and rested on the seventh day" (Exodus 20:9-11).

There is, and have been, as many theories of the creation of the universe as there are theologians, scientists, and philosophers, all trying to explain (or deny) the first two verses of Genesis 2: "Thus the heavens and earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed the work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done." The Bible believer must adhere to the scripture we quoted above, which will explain much about the theories: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God but the things revealed belong to us

and to our sons forever, that we might observe the words of this law" (Deut. 29:29). Admittedly there could have been millions and millions of years between Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" and Genesis 1:2: "And the earth was (or as some translate "became") waste and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters." "Then God said..." and the six days of God creating or making the world as we know it. But to this theory we simply say: "Deuteronomy 29:29. At this point we quote Eric Sauer's *The King of the Earth* again: "Thus the whole narrative is an expression of the Divine wisdom, greatness and simplicity, it is a God-given *summary* of the process of creation, which in its great, concise features permits us to look into God's mighty workshop. It is so brief that it has been compared with military communiques in time of war, when everybody knows that behind the few, lapidary words there are many events, implied in them." Some important passages in the Old Testament setting forth the truth that God created the universe are: Job 38:4; Psalm 19:1; 24:1; 102:25; Prov. 8:26-29; Isa. 40:26-28; Jer. 10:12; 51:15, 16.

The New Testament affirms over and over the creative work of God. There are over 45 references to Genesis 1-2 and to creation in general in the New Testament. The gospel of John begins with the reaffirmation of the creative work of God as recorded in in Genesis (see our interpretation of John 1:1-5 in *Living Waters Newsletter* January 2017). In the other three gospels Jesus repeatedly uses the terms "from the foundation of the world," "creation," "from the beginning of creation," and "when God created." In the book of Acts the early Christians refer to God as "You who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." The opening words of the Apostle Paul's address to the Athenian philosophers in Acts 17 were a unique and appropriate introduction with these words: "The God who made the world and all things in it, He being Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands..." Paul in his opening words in the epistle to the Romans shows that men in their ignorance of God are without excuse because "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" (Rom. 1:19, 20). The book of Hebrews and the book of Revelation are replete with references to God as creator.

The real purpose of the creation narrative in Genesis is not to give a scientific doctrine of the origin of the world, but to reveal certain divine principles which are important to our Christian life. 1. Creation is the foundation of prayer. The first recorded prayer of the early church acknowledged the greatness of God as creator (Acts 4:24-29). He can handle all our problems. 2. Creation is the basis of Christians worship and conduct. In Lystra Paul and Barnabas uses the creation account to show who and what should be worshipped. (Acts 14:14-18). 3. Creation demonstrates the folly of idolatry. Paul's sermon to the philosophers in Acts 17 uses the creation as an answer to their idolatry. 4. Our faith in the creation gives us assurance in adversity. (I Peter. 4:19). If God can create the heavens and the earth, then He can handle any problem and enable the believer to be what He wants him to be.

God has not yet finished with this planet which He designed to be inhabited my man, with Jesus as the ideal man and ruler. Jesus will rule on the renewed earth with his saints. In fact, Paul chides the believers for not knowing this. "Do you not know the Saints will judge the world....we will judge angels?" (I Cor. 6:2-3).