

The Top 10 Myths About Creation #1

Introduction. We are engaged in a war of worldviews. Secular humanism, with its evolutionary and millions-of-years foundation, is fighting tooth-and-nail against the Bible and the idea that God is the Creator for the hearts and minds of our children. Over the past generations, we have seen the battle increase and intensify.

There is no doubt America was founded on principles based on the Bible. In fact, just two generations ago, the majority of Americans supported prayer, scripture readings, and Bible instruction in public schools. They also supported displaying the Ten Commandments in public places. Gay marriage and abortion were outlawed.

Today, however, it is very obvious that the population as a whole does not see the Bible as the absolute authority as it once did. Pollster George Barna found that in the U.S. a minority of "Christian" adults (44%) and an even smaller proportion of "Christian" teenagers (9%) are certain of the existence of absolute moral truth. The only way to win the battle is to give you ammunition to combat people who have false views about creation.

I. **Myth 10: Creationists Do Not Believe Species Change**

- A. A popular caricature of creationists is that we teach the fixity of species (i.e., species do not change), and since species obviously do change, evolutionists enjoy setting up this straw-man argument to win a debate that never really existed in the first place.
- B. Prior to the publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species*, some Christians did claim that species were fixed or immutable. But part of the problem is that the word "species" did not mean the same then as it does now -- nor was there ever any reason to assume fixity in the first place.
- C. Contrary to the accepted wisdom of Darwin's day, the Bible nowhere teaches that species are fixed and unchanging (in fact, it does not even use the word "species"). Rather, Genesis refers to "kinds" and suggests that living organisms have had a very dynamic history (Genesis 1:11-12, 21). We know that species do change -- but only within the original kinds God created several thousands years ago. In fact, new species have even been shown to arise within a single human lifetime.
- D. Species changing via natural selection and mutations agrees perfectly with what the Bible teaches. These changes are not evolution -- they remind us that God put enough information in the genome of each original kind to live and flourish in a cursed world.

II. **Myth 9: Intelligent Design Is Creationism**

- A. Although some evolutionists claim that the Intelligent Design Movement (IDM) is a sort of Trojan horse for creationism to get into schools, those in the IDM are not necessarily even Christians, let alone creationists.
- B. Creationism begins with the belief that the Bible is God's infallible word. The Bible provides the framework by which we understand the world. Because it teaches that there is a Creator and that the earth is young, creationists base our research on this foundation.
- C. Conversely, the IDM holds that certain aspects of living organisms and the universe can best be explained by being the work of an intelligent designer. The identity of this creator and whether or not the Bible is true are irrelevant. While creationists may agree with some aspects of the intelligent design theory, those who blend the IDM with creationism likely do not understand either of them.
 - 1. The major problem with the IDM is a divorce of the Creator from creation. The Creator and His creation cannot be separated; they reflect on each other. Science can never be neutral because it works with hypotheses based on presuppositions.
 - 2. In today's culture, many are attracted to the IDM because they can decide for themselves who the creator is -- a Great Spirit, Brahman, Allah, God, etc. The current movement focuses more on what is designed, rather than who designed it.
 - 3. Therefore, IDM advocates do not have problems accepting an old age for the earth or theistic evolution. If God's word is not true concerning the age of the earth, then maybe it is not true concerning other events of the week of creation; and maybe God was not a necessary part of the equation for life after all. This would also have a direct impact on Jesus' statements regarding creation (Matthew 19:4-5). Would this make Him a liar?

III. **Myth 8: The Bible Is Not A Science Textbook**

- A. The Bible is not a science textbook in the sense that it describes exactly how the laws of the universe function, but it does make a number of statements that do address scientific principles. Several examples in the Bible show that what it does address is factually accurate.
 - 1. The suspension of earth in space (Job 26:7).
 - 2. The earth is round (Job 26:10).
 - 3. The universe is expanding (Isaiah 40:22).
 - 4. The ocean has currents (Psalm 8:8).
 - 5. Life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:10-16).
 - 6. All nations are from one blood (Acts 17:26).

- B. Underneath this myth is the assumption that only natural causes can explain reality. This automatically rules out God and the possibility that He created the universe.
 - 1. It says that God could not have created the universe because special creation is denied, not by fieldwork or research, but by biased presuppositions.
 - 2. The denial of supernatural events limits the depth of understanding that science can have and the types of questions science can ask.
- C. If the Bible does contain the true history of the universe as inspired by the God who created it, then doing science without a biblical worldview often leads to false or imperfect conclusions. A scientist can make astounding discoveries and not believe God's word, but a full understanding of the universe has to begin with Genesis.

IV. ***Myth 7: Creationists Have A Narrow View Of The Bible***

- A. This is only partially true. Creationists believe that the Bible was written to be understood. Since we believe that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and gave us the Bible to instruct us (2 Timothy 3:16-17), we also assume that His Word is clear and accurate. There is no reason for someone to "read into" what the words actually say.
- B. On the other hand, the Bible is not written in one particular style throughout. There are a variety of styles, including historical narratives and poetry. Beyond that, the people God inspired employed various figures of speech. For example, Jesus was a master of hyperbole and parables.
- C. Therefore, creationists approach the Bible in a direct way (Proverbs 8:8-9; 2 Corinthians 4:2). We do not take idioms or poetic descriptions literally. We also do not ignore the intent of the text to align with popular ideas or philosophies.
 - 1. For example, Christians say that in order to interpret the days in Genesis, you need to cross reference 2 Peter 3:8, which indicates that the days are each a thousand years.
 - 2. This passage employs a literary device called a simile. God compares a day to a thousand years in order to make the point that time does not bind Him, in this case regarding His patience. God is not limited to the time He created -- that would be illogical. This verse also gives no reference to the days in Genesis, so it is not warranted to apply this to the days in Genesis 1. When read plainly, these verses indicate that God is patient when keeping His promises.

V. **Myth 6: Creation Has Been Disproven**

- A. Instead of engaging in cordial debate, some evolutionists prefer to say that creation has been disproven and refuse to listen to any discussion. After all, creationism is an "old" idea that has been replaced -- for the most part -- by evolution in schools, universities, and the media.
- B. We would say, instead, that evolution was disproven long before Charles Darwin came on the scene. How? Because God who spoke everything into existence told us how He created -- and it was not over billions of years through natural processes.
- C. The real issue here is not one of proof or disproof, but of spiritual ramifications. If God is the creator, He is also the judge. Evolution allows many people a way to deny God's authority, and seeing creation as being "disproven" helps them ignore the clear signs of a Creator (Romans 1:18-21).
 - 1. Psalm 19:1-6 is an important Old Testament parallel. God's creation, surpassing all limits of language, culture, gender, and age, preaches about God constantly and effectively.
 - 2. The world does not need science to acquire knowledge of the Creator. According to the Bible, people already know the Creator and are desperately seeking any excuse to dispute His existence. As 2 Peter 3:5 says, they "willingly are ignorant" of the evidence that everyone plainly sees (Psalm 78:32).

Conclusion. We cannot just tell people, "Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." The world has questions and we need to give them answers. We need to show skeptics that the Bible relates to the real world -- that a biblical worldview addresses biology, astronomy, history, and anthropology. We need to help our children build their worldview on the Bible and equip them with answers for their teachers and friends. We need to take action to stop the desertion of children from their faith after they leave home. A big part of this is accomplished by confronting these myths about creation.