CREATION VIEWS

**Outline:**

1. Introductory Matters
2. The Views

I. Introductory Matters

a. Genesis 1-2

 - Two successive accounts

b. To be scientifically proven…

1. Observable
2. Testable
3. Repeatable

c. “Historical Science” vs “Science” (\*see Bill Nye/Ken Ham debate)

d. “Macro” vs “Micro” Evolution

II. The Views: (Ordered from least to most biblical)

1. Evolution
2. Creative Evolution
3. Literary Approach
4. Day-Age
5. 2 Phase
6. Gap Theory (aka. Prior Creation)
7. Literal Six-Day

**1. Evolution**

Basics:

- Says that earth randomly evolved over an enormous period of time to create life

- Earth is however old Modern Scientists now claim (currently 5 Billion yrs)

- Uses Radiometric dating of meteoric material and volumetric/luminosity of sun compared to other stars. Oldest material=minimum age of earth, age of sun=maximum age of earth (because no sun means no solar system)

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Explains calculated age of earth

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. Radiometric dating inaccurate after 2,000 years (hour glass example)
2. Assumes unchanging conditions throughout earth’s existence
3. Is not scientifically proven
4. Contradicts two scientific Laws: (1) Biogenesis (i.e. life comes from life) (2) 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (i.e. things, if left to themselves, progress toward chaos, not order)
5. Assumes death prior to sin
6. Ignores God’s involvement

**2. Creative Evolution**

Basics:

- Says that God used the evolutionary process to create earth

- \*see Basics of Evolution

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Tries to account for God’s involvement
2. Explains calculated age of earth

Cons/Arguments Against

1. \*see arguments a-d on Evolution
2. Evolution and Genesis have different orders of creation (evolution puts light and stars before the earth, and the land before the ocean)
3. Assumes uniformitarianism (i.e. everything is the same as it always was)

**3. Literary Approach**

Basics:

- God created, but the Genesis account is purely poetic/literary

- Most who take literary approach adhere to Creative Evolution

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Attempts to explain the differences between biblical texts and Evolutionary theory
2. Explains calculated age of earth
3. Usually adheres to Mosaic Authorship

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. \*see arguments a-c on Creative Evolution
2. Does not use literal hermeneutic
3. Assumes higher view of science than the Bible

**4. Day-Age Theory**

Basics:

- God created in six phases of history but they weren’t literal days. A “day” in Genesis is a much longer period of time.

- May or may not have followed evolutionary process

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Attempts to hold higher view of Biblical texts
2. Explains calculated age of earth
3. Adheres to mosaic Authorship
4. Some linguistic support for *yom* as “time” instead of “day”

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. Abandons literal Hermeneutic
2. Uses verses out of context to support theory
3. Fossil record does not support gradual creation
4. Assumes death prior to sin

**5. 2 Phase**

Basics:

- God created the earth in two phases, one recorded in Genesis 1, the other in Genesis 2 with a great length of time in between

- Often uses pieces of other views in the first phase.

Pros/Arguments For:

1. \*See arguments a-c on Day-Age
2. Explains the repeat account in Genesis 2
3. Can be held while holding to a literal hermeneutic
4. Explains calculated age of earth

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. no evidence for break of time between 2:3 and 2:4
2. Unnecessary to explain biblical text
3. Assumes death prior to sin

**6. Gap Theory**

Basics:

- God created everything in 1:1 and began refashioning it in verse 2 with a large gap of time in between

- Uses mostly linguistic theological necessity arguments for support.

- Age of earth is indeterminate, but age since refashioning is identical to LSD

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Accounts for change in word “made.” *Bara- v.1 Asa-v.7ff*
2. Explains calculated age of earth
3. Can be held while holding literal hermeneutic
4. Explains when Satan fell
5. Attempts to Hold Higher-view of Biblical text

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. Hyper-literal interpretation of Hebrew words
2. Unnecessary to explain biblical text
3. Assumes death prior to sin (reasonable counter-arguments available)
4. Adds a lot to the text that isn’t explicit

**7. Literal Six Day**

Basics:

- God created everything in 6 literal days just as the Bible describes.

- The Chapter 2 retelling is a more detailed/particularized account

- Holds that the earth is between 6 and 10,000 years old

Pros/Arguments For:

1. Best use of literal hermeneutic
2. Holds Biblical text as highest standard of truth
3. Explains Genesis 2 account
4. Adheres to Mosaic authorship
5. No death prior to sin
6. Does not add to or take away from the text

Cons/Arguments Against:

1. Does not explain calculated age of earth
	1. “Apparent Age” argument
2. Minority View
3. Overly Simplistic

Resources for Further Study on LSD (both sides):

[www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)

[www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com)

“In Six Days” ed. John F Ashton

“The Genesis Flood” by Henry Morris and John Whitcomb

“Mount St. Helens: Modern Day Evidence for the World Wide Flood” by Steve Austin

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2015/01/28/biblical-reasons-to-doubt-the-creation-days-were-24-hour-periods/>

**Discussion Notes:**

**Other Notes:**