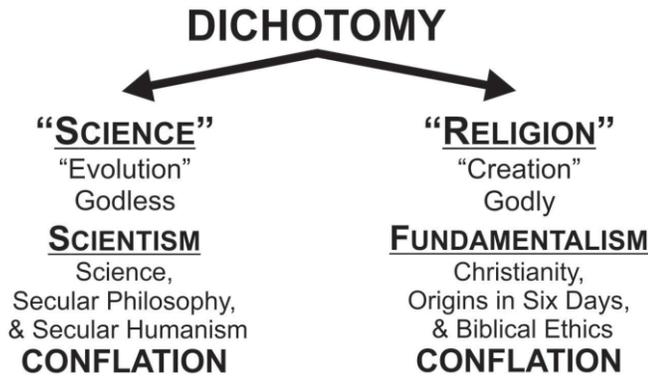


BEYOND THE “EVOLUTION” VS. “CREATION” DEBATE

Denis O. Lamoureux DDS PhD PhD

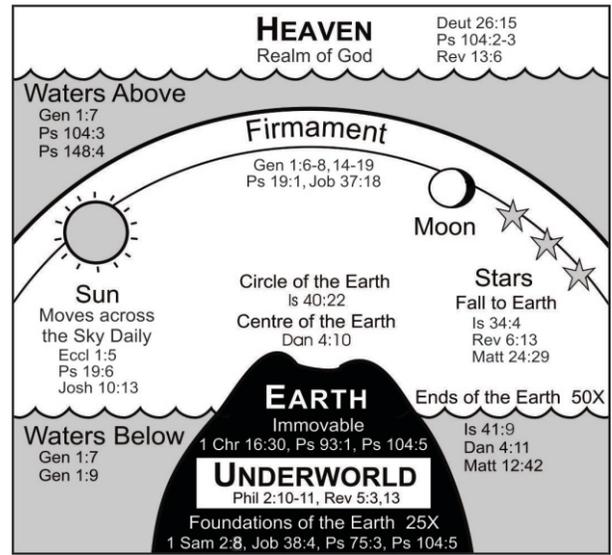
St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta

THE PROBLEM



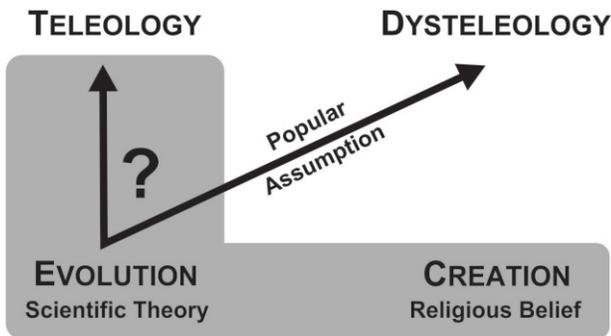
Dichotomy: Division of an issue into two simple positions
 Caused by ‘black-and-white’ & ‘either/or’ thinking
Secular Humanism: Belief that humans alone determine morals
Conflation: Sloppy blending of distinct ideas into one simple idea

The 3-Tier Universe



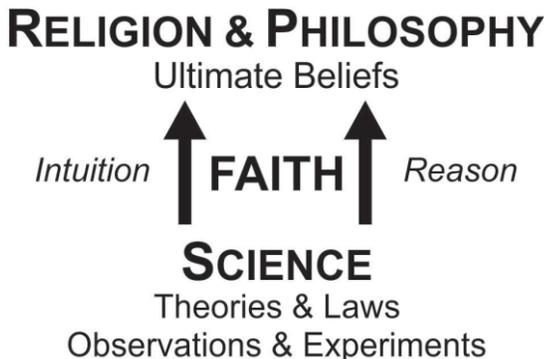
TOWARD A SOLUTION

A. Terms & Definitions



Teleology: Belief the world has plan & purpose
Dysteleology: Belief the world has NO plan & purpose
Evolution: Scientific theory that natural processes over billions of years produced all living organisms, including humans
Creation: Belief that the world is the product of the Creator

B. Science-Religion Relationship



Intelligent Design: Belief that the beauty, complexity, and functionality in nature point to an Intelligent Designer/s

C. Views on the Origin of the Universe & Life (Back of handout)

Flood Account Chiasm (Gen 6-9)

- A Noah & his sons Shem, Ham & Japheth (6:9-10)
- B Promise to flood & to establish Covenant (12-18)
- C Preservation of life & food for sustenance (19-22)
- D Command to enter ark (7:1-3)
- E 7 days waiting for earth to flood (4-10)
- F 40 days waters increase & ark floating (11-17)
- G 150 days waters prevail (18-24)
- CENTER GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1)
- G’ 150 days (end of) waters abate (2-5)
- F’ 40 days (end of) waters decrease & ark resting (4-6)
- E’ 7 days (periods of) waiting for earth to dry (7-14)
- D’ Command to leave ark (15-22)
- C’ Multiplication of life & food for sustenance (9:1-7)
- B’ Promise not to flood again & to remember Covenant (8-17)
- A’ Noah & his sons Shem, Ham & Japheth (18-19)

Creation Account Parallel Panels (Gen 1)

FORMLESS

Tohu

Day 1

Separate
Light/Dark

Day 2

Separate
Waters Above
Waters Below

Day 3

Separate
Water/Land

Day 7

Day of Rest

EMPTY

Bohu

Day 4

Fill
Sun, Moon & Stars

Day 5

Fill
Flying Creatures &
Sea Creatures

Day 6

Fill
Land Animals & Humans

CONCLUSIONS

- Define the Terms & Concepts
- Recognize the Step of Faith from Science to Religion
- Move Beyond the “Evolution” vs. “Creation” Debate
 - ➡ **FALSE DICHOTOMY**
- Consider the Two Books Model:
 - Book of God’s Works → Nature → Physical
 - Book of God’s Words → The Bible → Spiritual

Views on the Origin of the Universe & Life

	YOUNG EARTH CREATION "Creationist" Position Creation Science	PROGRESSIVE CREATION Old Earth Creation Day-Age Theory	EVOLUTIONARY CREATION Theistic Evolution	DEISTIC EVOLUTION God-of-the-Philosophers "Theistic" Evolution	DYSTELEOLOGICAL EVOLUTION "Evolutionist" Position Atheistic Evolution
Teleology	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Plan & purpose a delusion
Intelligent Design	Yes Points to a Designer	Yes Points to a Designer	Yes Points to a Designer	Yes Points to a Designer	No Design a delusion
Age of the Universe	Young 6000 yrs	Old 14 billion yrs	Old 14 billion yrs	Old 14 billion yrs	Old 14 billion yrs
Evolution of Life	Rejects macro-evolution Accepts micro-evolution	Rejects macro-evolution Accepts micro-evolution	Accepts macro-evolution	Accepts macro-evolution	Accepts macro-evolution
God's Activity in the Origin of the Universe & Life	Yes Direct Interventions over 6 days	Yes 1. Direct for basic "kinds" of life Interventions over billions of yrs 2. Indirect for inanimate universe <i>Ordained & sustained natural processes</i>	Yes Indirect <i>Ordained & sustained natural processes</i>	Yes Indirect Ordained natural processes God never enters the world	No Irrational necessity & blind chance natural processes God a delusion
God's Activity in the Lives of Men & Women	Yes Personal God Dramatic & subtle	Yes Personal God Dramatic & subtle	Yes Personal God Dramatic & subtle	No Impersonal God God never enters the world	No No God God a delusion
Nature of the Bible	Word of God Inspired by Holy Spirit	Word of God Inspired by Holy Spirit	Word of God Inspired by Holy Spirit	Human beliefs about God Rejects divine revelation God never enters the world	Human superstitions Rejects divine revelation God a delusion
Interpretation of Genesis 1-11	Strict literalism Creation days = 24 hrs Global flood	General literalism Creation days = geologic ages Local flood	1. Spiritual Truths 2. Ancient science 3. Ancient poetry	Irrelevant origins myth	Irrelevant origins myth
Origin of Humanity	Adam & Eve Accepts Image of God & human sin	Adam & Eve Accepts Image of God & human sin	Humanity evolved Accepts Image of God & human sin	Humanity evolved Rejects Image of God & human sin	Humanity evolved Rejects Image of God & human sin
Theology/Philosophy	Conservative Christianity Accepts Incarnation & Physical Resurrection	Conservative Christianity Accepts Incarnation & Physical Resurrection	Conservative Christianity Accepts Incarnation & Physical Resurrection	Deism & Liberal Christianity Rejects Incarnation & Physical Resurrection	Atheism Rejects Incarnation & Physical Resurrection
Ethics	Biblical	Biblical	Biblical	Secular Humanism	Secular Humanism
Examples	<i>Institute for Creation Research:</i> Henry Morris <i>Answers in Genesis:</i> Ken Ham	<i>Reasons to Believe:</i> Hugh Ross [Intelligent Design Theory]	Francis Collins Genome Project	Charles Darwin	Richard Dawkins

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Web Lectures: Variety of Sci-Rel audio-slide lectures with handouts, including this lecture.

Book Chapter: "Ancient Science in the Bible"

Papers: Evolutionary Creation, Religious Beliefs of Darwin, Was Adam a Real Person?

CHRTC 350: Science & Religion: An Introduction

24 hours of audio-slide lectures, 200 pages of class notes, 100 pages of class handouts.

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