

Struggles

- I sometimes feel maybe a Creator wasn't really necessary, that God is just a made-up idea, since it seems like science has shown it all could have happened on its own.
- I don't know what to think about the creation story or what to tell my kids because it says 6 days and that doesn't fit with science. If I question the creation story, it makes me feel like the Bible is unreliable.
- I'm afraid to discuss these issues (or any topics of faith) with non-Christians, because I don't want to compromise my faith or feel like an idiot.

Goals for a one hour class

- Appreciate the glory of God's work
- Recognize the complexity and mystery of the creation accounts
- Appreciate the work and progress of science in describing the truths of God's creation
- To remove stumbling blocks to faith "other than the cross of Christ."

Truths & Presuppositions

- The Bible (as originally written) contains exactly what God wanted to communicate to the original audience, and to us.
- Science is the pursuit of truth about life and the universe, and good science can be trusted.

Nothing to fear from science

- What is science? Hypothesis and observation. Does the rule explain the reality?
- Physical sciences study physical forces.
- Science was ordained in the garden: God told Adam to name the animals, a process that continues today.
- The scientific revolution was driven by devout Christians.
- Our faith rests on historical truths that happened and were observed.
- We all want to know what is REAL.

The Big Ideas

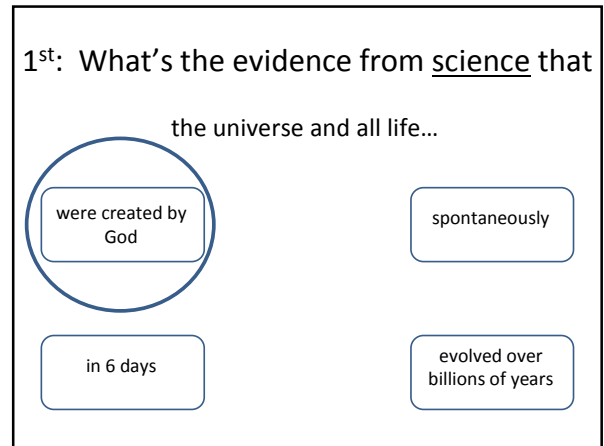
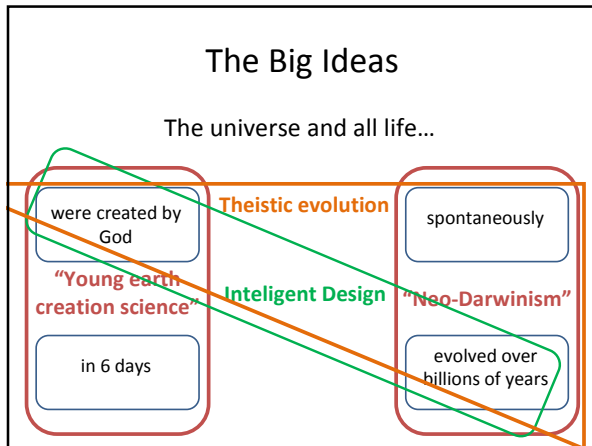
The universe and all life...

were created by
God

spontaneously

in 6 days

evolved over
billions of years



- ### The fingerprints of God:
- How has science confirmed God's story?
- The Big Bang
 - The Anthropic Principle
 - The Process
 - Word and Dirt

- ### The Big Bang
- Highly controversial when proposed.
 - Prevailing theory was that the universe "always was."
 - Requires some initiating event, outside of the physical universe.

- ### The Anthropic Principle
- The "basic rules" of the universe are designed to allow life.
 - Gravity: $6.67300 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3/(\text{kg} \times \text{s}^2)$
 - Nuclear forces
 - Carbon
 - The Rare Earth

- ### The Process
- God described a systematic process of creation over time, not all at once.
 - One being, outside of nature, not mythological.
 - Creation is essentially complete.

Word and dirt

- All life is made up only of two things: proteins (22 amino acids) and DNA (4 sugar molecules).
- Amino acids are building blocks (dirt).
- DNA is the instruction book (word).
- Genes are encyclopedias written in a language that has 4 letters.
- The words bind to the blocks and line them up in precise sequence.
- “God spoke” and created man out of the dirt of the earth.

Nothing to fear from science

- In the past 100 years, science has continued to find evidence of an intelligent hand in the design of the universe.
- Truths cannot be contradictory.
- Time and progress are on God’s side.

Thoughts and Applications

- In what ways do you doubt God?
 - His existence? His power? His knowledge of you? His love for you and his creation?
 - Speak to God about your doubts. Look for answers in his word and in science.
- Psalm 8 “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.” What would it mean for you to live a life in continual worship of your creator?

2nd: What’s the evidence from the Bible that

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Has God definitively said that He created the universe and all life in 6 ordinary days?

- Historical perspective
- Original context
- Genesis 1
- Genesis 2

Historical Perspective

- Church “fathers”: Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, did not believe in “literal” days.
- Charles Hodge, puritan theologian – early 1800’s.
- Most protestant theologians of the 1800’s.
- C.S. Lewis.

Original context: purpose & audience

- Moses describing God's relationship with his people.
- God prepared the earth as an ideal place for humans.
- God is the sovereign creator.

Genesis 1

- In the beginning, "the earth was formless and void," before the first day, therefore, "some lengths of time do not matter to the story."
- The sun was "appointed" to govern day and night on day 3.
- The days specify God's rest between creative activities, "it was evening, then morning."
- God's 7th day never ends.

Jack Collins, Science & Faith

Genesis 2

- Sequence: "before any green plant...the LORD God formed the man."
- A busy 6th day
 - Made all the animals
 - Made man
 - Plants a garden
 - Gives instructions
 - Man named all the animals
 - Man was alone
 - Put man to sleep, made Eve
 - "At last! This is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh!"

"Analogical" days

- Exodus 20 "Six days you shall labor and do all your work...For in six days the LORD made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day."
- Our work is "like" God's work.
- Our rest is "like" God's rest.
- Our days are "like" God's days.

Do you have to believe in 6 ordinary days?

- Maybe: Don't go against your conscience!
- But More Likely: This is an area of legitimate disagreement among people who love God and his Word.
- And Definitely: This is not a requirement for trusting the accuracy and authenticity of God's Word.

Thoughts and Applications

- Do you doubt that the Bible is God's perfect word for you?
- Do you accept those whose faith is weak, or do you add requirements to faith in Jesus? (Romans 14:1)

3rd: What's the evidence from science that

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Evidence for a lot of time

- We can observe events in distant stars that happened billions of years ago.
- The earth's crust has measurable changes that account for billions of years of variation.
- Dating with radio-isotopes is consistent and reproducible.
- Is "appearance of age" consistent with God's character?

Evidence for large-scale (macro)evolution in 1 slide

- The hypothesis usually holds up: the rule predicts the reality.
- DNA "looks like" it evolved
 - Less than 5% of our DNA is "active."
 - Most of our DNA looks like rough drafts of genes; leftover backup copies that are similar to those of other species.
 - Step-by-step genetic changes can be identified, linking similar species.
- Australia: what's the deal with all those marsupials?!

Thoughts and Applications

- Do you love and respect the people you disagree with? Do you look for areas to honor the truth in their positions, or do you judge their hearts and motives?
 - "Evolutionists"
 - "Liberals"
 - "Right-wingers"
 - "Calvinists"

4th: What's the evidence from science that

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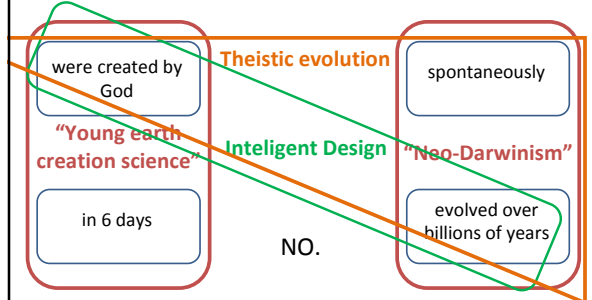
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Spontaneous improvement

- What science can't explain is evidence for God. (BAD IDEA)
- Spontaneous = Likely
- Science describes what usually happens, or at a defined frequency.
- We need science to show us what can and cannot happen on it's own.
- Intelligence and design

Do you have to pick a camp?

The universe and all life...



Final Conclusions

- Mainstream, secular science will (eventually) testify to the truth of what God has done.
- The creation accounts describe God's design in a mysterious way.
- We have no bone to pick with science.
- Find other ways to be a fool for Christ.