

## Crucial Questions

# What is the Relationship between the Bible and Science?

### CONNECT:

What do you think of when you think of the relationship between science and the Bible?

### PREPARE:

Although there is so much more to this topic than what could be covered in one sermon, it's a great start to the conversation and will hopefully encourage you to never stop discovering and growing in your understanding of who God is, his amazing creation, and how the Bible will not contradict Science. Read the following quote by an agnostic scientist and discuss:

“Here, then, is the Genesis Enigma: The opening page of Genesis is scientifically accurate but was written long before the science was known. How did the writer of this page come to write this creation account?...I must admit, rather nervously as a scientist averse to entertaining such an idea, that the evidence that the writer of the opening pages of the Bible was divinely inspired is strong. I have never before encountered such powerful impartial evidence that the Bible is the product of divine inspiration.”

- Andrew Parker, The Genesis Enigma

Two assumptions to keep in mind for this discussion:

1. Science is imperfect. Science is built on theories, some that can be proven and some that cannot. Science cannot explain miracles because miracles break the laws of nature. Where science disagrees with the Bible, we must choose the Bible.
2. The Bible is true and infallible, but our interpretations of the Bible are not infallible.

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### STUDY AND DISCUSS:

- Read Psalm 19:1-2 and Romans 1:19-20. The purpose of the Bible is to be the revelation of who God is and what God has done. Why is it important to understand the purpose of the Bible when looking at science?

### Essentials of the creation account:

- The Bible is God's authoritative word
- God is the sovereign and eternal Creator, he is the I Am or the Eternal One. He was not created and he did all of the creating of everything that we know in our universe, there was nothing that existed before God and that was not created by him.
- God created out of nothing, He created "ex nihilo", again everything that we see.
- Creation was God's idea and God's activity.
- God created human beings in his image.
- Adam and Eve were historical people and were the first image bearers in the history of creation.
- There was original sin and the corresponding Fall of creation.

### THREE VIEWS OF THE CREATION ACCOUNT:

**Naturalistic Evolution Theory** - Random natural forces alone account for everything we see. How is this essentially a religion of its own?

- Scientists tell us that three basic forces need to be completely balanced for life to exist in our universe: gravity, nuclear force, and electromagnetic force, along with about 25 other factors that are critical to support life. The combination of these two sets of factors leaves us with a probability that our universe exists randomly at 1 in 10 to 10 to the 123rd power! How does this impact your thoughts on this theory?

**Theistic Evolution** - God created the universe and natural laws that govern it but used the evolution process to bring creation to where it is today. What are some pros and what is appealing about this perspective? What are some cons/problems with this position?

- Read Genesis 2:7 and 2:21-22. Why are those details significant?
- Read Luke 12:27-28 and Matthew 10:29. What do these verses tell us about God's participation in his created world?

**Creationism** - In simple terms, this is a belief in a creator, which would include theistic evolutionism. It typically refers now to the two views on creation where God does not

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use an evolutionary process. Those two views are “old earth” and “young earth” creationists.

**Young Earth** - This perspective takes a literal view of the creation account as 6 24-hour days, which would make the world about 6,000 years old.

- Read Exodus 20:9-11. How does this passage support a young earth creationist view?
- How does the idea of dinosaurs, paleontologists’ and geologists’ discoveries, and the flood relate to this view?
- What are your thoughts on the following quote:

“Although Scripture could be understood as teaching that the earth is young, it does not have to be interpreted in this way.” - John Lennox

**Old Earth** - Like the young earth perspective, this position holds that God created directly, and by exact connection and creation. This position views the age of the earth as around 15 billion years old.

- Read Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8. How do these verses support the idea of non-literal 24-hour, 6 days of creation?
- What are the pros and cons of this view, in your opinion?
- Read Isaiah 40:22. Why is it important to have humility in approaching this topic?

### RESPONSE:

This was a great topic to close out our “Crucial Questions” series. Essentials and non-essentials have become a big theme throughout the series and will continue to always play a part in our relationships and discussions we have with believers and unbelievers alike. How are you challenged to set aside your opinions and the “non-essentials” for the sake of the gospel and the sake of unity?

### PRAY:

Lord, thank you for revealing all that you want us know about you and your ways in Scripture. We understand that there is tension at times in the mysteries and the unknowns. In those times, we trust you, anyway. Help us to have humility and grace in discussing all of these things we have learned!

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