

## Introduction: The Ugly Duckling

Growing up we all learned about the story of the ugly duckling. The ugly duckling was a swan who, through some misfortune, lost her mom and ended up being raised among a family of ducks. Of course, since she was a swan, she stood out among all the ducks and struggled to walk like a duck, talk like a duck, and be an all around duck. The story revealed that it was a frustrating existence for her inside and out until one day she discovered the truth about where she really came from. When that day came it forever changed her present and her future. She was no longer the ugly duckling but a graceful swan, so the story goes.

### *Questions to Consider*

- 1) Is it important to know our true origins or does it not make any difference?
- 2) What are some possibilities as to our origins and do those theories have an impact on who we are and where we could be heading?
- 3) More of a thought than a question: So far in our discussions on Jesus' empty tomb, his sacrifice, his two natures, and his role as Savior and Judge at the end of the world, we've been working with some assumptions as to origins. Those assumptions are spelled out today in discussion 5. But perhaps we could stop and make the brief point that everyone is working with assumptions. Assumptions, in fact, direct us in the present and lead us into the future, wouldn't you agree? Maybe take a moment and give some examples.

### *A) Christianity*

All religions have some starting point and most give credit for our origins to God in some way. However, that is where all religions begin to move along in their own directions. Christianity is unique in this. Few religions speak about God creating everything perfectly, about the human race and a fallen angel throwing everything into chaos, and God promising to fix everything by his grace through his Savior alone. In fact, no other religion speaks about sin and grace in such a way as Christianity, as is evident so far. We'll take a moment and examine these things in more detail.

### *B) 3 Possible Origins*

**Evolution** (Never mentions God)

**Theistic Evolution** (God made all things by evolution)

**Creation** (God made all things in six 24-hour days)

\*Jesus, who rose from the dead, held to the biblical account of **Creation**. Consider

John 10:35b —and the Scripture cannot be broken—

Matthew 19:4 - "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female..."

Mark 13:18-19 - Pray that this will not take place in winter, because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.

NOTE: Therefore, rejecting the biblical account of creation carries serious consequences far beyond the question of how the universe began. It destroys both the Bible and Jesus' credibility.

### **C) Creation: Read Genesis 1:1-31**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” <sup>7</sup> So God made the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> God called the expanse “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup> God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup> God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>19</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground...”

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

### **D. The Creator**

1. Where'd God come from?

Psalm 90:2 (God is eternal) “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

2. Creation was the act of the Triune God.

- a. 1 Corinthians 8:6 (The Father's Participation) yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

b. Colossians 1:16 (The Son's Participation) For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

c. Psalm 104:30 or Genesis 1:2 (The Spirit's Participation) When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

NOTE: Creation portrays God as being omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipresent (everywhere-present).

3. What material did God use for creation?

Hebrews 11:3 (Nothing) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

### ***E. A Closer Look at Creation...***

1. The six days must be 24 hours each:

"Evening... Morning" Ex 20:9-11<sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.

Day 1 – Heavens & Earth (Formless, Empty, Waters, Light & Darkness)

Day 2 – Sky between waters above and below... (Genesis 7:4, 11 –Rain 1<sup>st</sup> Time)

Day 3 – Dry ground appeared & Plants "according to their kinds."

NOTE: Kingdom – Animal; Phylum – Vertebræ; Class – Mammal; Order – Carnivore; Family = Kind – Canid; Genus – Canis; Species – Lupis = Grey Wolf. Bible refutes any type of macroevolution. See [www.answersingenesis.com](http://www.answersingenesis.com) for some great material whenever questions about origins pop up, as they surely will.

Day 4 – Sun, Moon, Stars and perhaps Angels (Job 38:4-7) Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? ...<sup>7</sup> while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Day 5 – Every Sea Creature & Winged Bird "according to its kind."

Day 6 – Land Animals, & Humans "according to their kinds."

2. How long ago was "the beginning"?

3. How do we explain carbon dating, dinosaurs, and the old looking appearance of the earth?

4. Why are humans more than just animals?

Genesis 1:27 (Made in God's Image) <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image...

Genesis 2:7 (Made in a special way) <sup>7</sup> the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:21 (Made in a special way) <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh.

5. What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Ephesians 4:22-24 <sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

6. What did the impact of the fall of man into sin (Genesis 3) have on creation, which was “very good”/perfect, and on man’s image? Compare the following...

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him  
Genesis 5:1-3 When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man.” <sup>3</sup> When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

NOTE: The problem with theistic evolution is that it is derived from an improper way to translate the Bible. The word “day” must mean day, otherwise we couldn’t literally take Jesus’ being in the grave for three days. The problem with evolution is that it disregards God, the event of the fall, it devalues human life, and denies a need for a savior.

### ***F. Concluding Thought...***

The whole discussion of what came first, the chicken or the egg, is actually a pretty important discussion to have. Both carry very heavy implications for who we are now, how we live, and where we’re headed when we die. Next time we’ll talk more about the kind of foundations there are then to build our lives on. We’ll find again that we are either building on firm foundations or uncertain ones.

**Extra Study:** Read the books of Genesis through Exodus chapters 1-20. Although these are quite lengthy books, they give essential background to the *origins* of Humans, Sin & Grace, and the Jewish people from whom our Savior, Jesus Christ, would one day come. Note especially who the following are (Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Joseph, and Moses), and remembering what each did will prove helpful in understanding the rest of the Bible.

## Food for Thought about Evolution...

1. Although it is taught as truth, Evolution is not a scientific fact - it is a theory. In addition, proponents of evolution can't agree on one theory. Rather there are many different theories of evolution.

NOTE: All theories of evolution contradict the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This scientific law deals with "entropy", the law of "decreasing complexity". In other words, if you don't do anything to your lawn, it won't improve, it will deteriorate. The Harvard scientist, John Ross, has said: "There are no known violations of the second law of thermodynamics." This must include evolution.

2. Many scientists, including numerous non-Christians, do not believe in evolution. Just a few of many examples:

a. Sir Fred Hoyle, one of Britain's foremost scientists, a non-Christian, has declared that the probability of an evolutionary origin of life is equal to the probability that a tornado, sweeping through a junkyard, would assemble a Boeing 747. He said that the probability of life evolving on earth in five billion years is one chance out of 10 to the 40,000 power.

b. Dr. Colin Patterson, the one-time head of the British Museum of Natural History, said: "That's quite a shock to learn that one can be misled so long. Either there was something wrong with me, or there was something wrong with evolution theory."

c. Timothy Goldsmith, Yale University biology professor, commented on the PBS series *Evolution*. "My one criticism of this coverage is that it may leave the impression that antievolutionists are all young-earth creationists. Such is not the case; antievolutionists occupy a broad theological spectrum and they are not all Christians."

3. The "evidence" for evolution and prehistoric man is less than convincing.

a. They've never found a fossil of a missing link (half ape/half man...)

b. No proof of macroevolution happening in past, in man, or in any creature.

c. "Lucy" (Found by Sir Richard Leaky) actually was an ape.

d. All examples have been dismissed as hoaxes or skeletons with deformities.