

# Creation (Genesis 1) part 2

Valleys Family Church Sermon  
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012

## Intro

- Last time Gen 1: God **source of family, order, life**
- Now Creation vs Evolution- on TV evolution is presented as fact and taught as fact in schools & colleges. Foundations important= Genesis= 'beginnings' contains foundations of Gospel.

"If the **foundations** are destroyed, What can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3, NKJV)

- *How old is the universe?*  
*Can creatures evolve?*  
What relevance does this creation account have to our lives today?

## Read Gen 1:1-2:3

### How old is the universe?- (1:31 & 2:1)

- Wikipedia article which is critical Young Earth beliefs:  
"The scientific consensus, supported by a 2006 statement by 68 national and international science academies, is that it is evidence-based fact derived from observations and experiments in multiple scientific disciplines that the universe has existed for around 13 billion years, that the Earth was formed about 4.5 billion years ago with life first appearing at least 2.5 billion years ago."
- Where did these views come from, as a young earth was the prevailing view until 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Cent. This is seen in a quote from Shakespeare's play 'As you like it' in 1599 (IV, 1:90) "the poor world is almost 6,000 years old" - this was seen an unquestioned truth in the sixteenth century.
- It was in 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries there was a shift as people such as Abraham Werner (1749-1817) of Germany and James Hutton (1726-1797) of Scotland (now considered by many to be the father of modern geology) postulated that the rock layers of the earth were laid down over vast periods of time rather than as a result of a global flood. Hutton's ideas were later championed by Charles Lyell (1797-1875) in his book *Principles of Geology in* 1830-1833.
- Evolutionists=position of faith. Science deals with provable by experimental observation. Can't go back in time- just look at evidence and draw conclusions. Our lenses we look through mean we look at same evidence and draw different conclusions.
- Universe & earth billions of years old or not? How do you fit billions of years into this passage? 3 ways some Christians try:

**1. Theistic ('of God') Evolution-** Evolution is all true, God is the author of it. Creation account in Genesis =Myth. Historical fact begins with Abraham. Sometimes added to this is the documentary hypothesis- different editors for Gen 1 & 2 (used diff. Names 'Elohim' 'Yahweh') and at least 4 editors who tampered with Genesis and O.T as Jews up their history from Babylon captivity (Julius Wellhausen, German biblical scholar 1844-918).

### Problems:

- Genesis is presented as history, not myth or fable. Jews divided their writings into three groups: history, poetry and prophecy. Genesis included in their list of historical writings.

- At least 165 passages in Genesis are quoted or referred to in N.T, including over 100 from Genesis chaps 1-11. All the N.T authors refer in some way to Genesis chaps 1-11 & every one of the first 11 chaps is alluded to in certain sections throughout the N.T.
- In O.T & N.T. Genesis is quoted from or referred to more than any other book in the entire Bible.
- Jesus believed it. On at least six occasions, Jesus Christ either quoted from, or referred to, some aspects of Genesis 1 to 11. Moses wrote the book of Genesis, either through divine revelation or by compiling existing historical documents (see P.J.Wiseman- New Discoveries in Babylonia about Genesis). Jesus believed that Moses' writings were factual and historical, so to doubt them is also to doubt Jesus:

"If you really **believed Moses**, you would **believe me**, because Moses wrote about me. But **if you don't believe what Moses wrote, how can you believe what I say?**" (John 5:46-47)

"But Abraham said to him, 'If they will **not listen to Moses** and the prophets, they will **not listen to someone who comes back from the dead.**'" (Luke 16:31)

"Some Pharisees came to Jesus and tried to trick him. They asked, "Is it right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason he chooses?" Jesus answered, "**Surely you have read in the Scriptures: When God made the world, 'he made them male and female.'** And God said, 'So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one body.' So there are not two, but one. God has joined the two together, so no one should separate them." The Pharisees asked, "Why then did Moses give a command for a man to divorce his wife by giving her divorce papers?" Jesus answered, "Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because you refused to accept God's teaching, but divorce was not allowed in the beginning." (Matthew 19:3-8)

- NT theology including the gospel is based on it.
- Jesus' genealogy went back to Adam and Adam is named as the son of God in Luke. At what point does it become fable?
- Contrast with creation epics from around the world which are highly stylised and not very credible.
- Documentary hypothesis is nonsense. End up with a cut up Bible. But has been taught in many Bible colleges so therefore these ideas are often presented on T.V documentaries. Views the Bible as literature from many different sources. One of reasons for this is a disbelief in the supernatural (e.g disbelief in predictive prophecy such as found in Isaiah and Daniel). Dead Sea scrolls disproved a lot of this (e.g 1 scroll of Isaiah by 1 author 1000 yrs older than previously had with only few differences), but the theories are still popular and dangerous.

**2. Gap Theory-** Millions of years in gap between Genesis 1:2 and Genesis 1:2. Then earth then 'became' void (a possible translation of the Heb.). God then re-created life on the earth, and also created mankind.

#### *Problems:*

- 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. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex 20:11, also Ex 31:17)
- No death before Adam:

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—" (Romans 5:12, NKJV)

Even animals were vegetarian because no death:

"God said, "Look, I have given you **all the plants** that have grain for seeds and **all the trees** whose fruits have seeds in them. **They will be food for you.** I have given **all the green plants as food for every wild animal, every bird of the air, and every small crawling animal.**" And it happened." (Genesis 1:29-30)

How can God look and say it is 'good' and 'very good' if there are millions of years of death in the ground Adam and Eve are walking on? Rather it was Adam's sin that affected all of creation- the ground he was made from and the animals he had dominion over (hence parasites today and the viciousness of 'nature'). Also thorns and thistles are not created until the fall of man and these are found in the fossil record, so the fossil record came after, not before Adam fell.

**3. Progressive Creation- Day-Age theory.** The belief that while life was developing through the vast ages imagined by evolutionists God stepped in at various times along the way. At each point He created something new which the evolutionary process could not accomplish without this help from God

*Problems:*

- Hebrew word used for day ('yom') really does mean a 24-hour period when it is used in scripture with a number as it is in Genesis 1 'day 1' etc. Also in Genesis 1 each day has an 'evening' and 'morning'- these words become meaningless if they are being used to describe millions of years.
- The Bible teaches clearly that God **finished** His work of creating and making things on the sixth day of creation:

"So the sky, the earth, and all that filled them were **finished**. By the seventh day **God finished the work he had been doing, so he rested from all his work**. God blessed the seventh day and made it a holy day, because on that day **he rested from all the work he had done in creating the world**." (Genesis 2:1-3)

- Adam was created on day six. He lived through day six, and day seven, and died when he was 930 years old. If each day were a million years, there are big problems.
- If you have to fit in the thousands of years after the creation of Adam you have a problem with the genealogies. Genealogies in Genesis 5:Adam to Noah no gaps. Gen 11 Noah's son Shem to Abraham. No gaps:

*"When V was W years old he begat Z."*

This formula makes sure there are no gaps. This means you can literally count up the number of years to determine the date of events. Abraham can be dated to about 2000 years BC. The timespan from Adam to Abraham is about 2000 years, putting Adam to about 4000 BC (or 6000 years ago).

**Application:**

- Easier to believe 6 days. Literal reading= best for Genesis creation account and there are many reasons from all the sciences to believe in a young earth- see <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v7/n4/ten-best-evidences> .
- Have faith in the Bible. Trustworthy. Do studies. Hold tensions without throwing away faith.
- Check out places of help on Net- Answers in Genesis. Institute for Creation Research. (Intelligent design arguments are also useful but they do not commit to actually saying it is the God of the Bible who is the designer).
- Answer those who dispute, but do so in love- just as Paul did in Athens in Acts 17 (I see you are very religious). Use as part of gospel-sharing training- see Acts 17:26, Acts 14:15,17. Young people especially need to know.
- Face objections- e.g. light from stars reaching us- surely God is able to make it shine that far on the day He made it- after all He is God! A God who is unable to

create really is no God at all. If we doubt God's abilities, or methods, or order of creating we are really doubting that His power or authority over nature:

"Oh, Lord God, you made the skies and the earth with your very great power. **There is nothing too hard for you to do.**" (Jeremiah 32:17)

### **Can creatures evolve?- (1:24)**

#### *Animals:*

- God has set the limits to His Creation- v24 'each according to it's kind'
- Word 'species' has changed- originally =biblical 'kind' e.g the dog 'kind' or 'species', the cat 'kind' or 'species'. But in 1700's Carl Linnaeus, Swedish Christian our modern classifications. He used the term 'species' in his classifications. Today the term 'species'=different types of dogs, different types of cats etc. rather than the species called 'dogs'.
- Micro-evolution, not macro-evolution. There is huge variation within the kind- many breeds of dogs and cats but one kind does not become another- a dog will never become a cat & vice-versa.
- Complex gene-pool to simple gene pool is the way- all the variety was within the original dog (probably a wolf for dogs). Poodle is a long way down the chain.
- Genetic info is lost rather than gaining new info. Mutations are not beneficial. Genetic problems more likely to occur in close relatives having kids with each other because more likelihood of genetic errors because similar gene pool and so less of the original gene pool because less genetic variation.
- Certain types within a 'kind' will do better in a certain environment. A dog with more fur is better protected in a cold environment than a dog with little fur and vice versa. 'survival of the fittest' true to a certain extent within the kind.
- This means that within a few generations the animals with characteristics suited to their environment will thrive and those less suited will die out- this is logical and does not go against scripture or common sense.
- We know that dogs and other animals are bred for specific characteristics. This happens quickly, not slowly. The changes are apparent within a few generations, it doesn't take millions of years. The changes happen this quickly and yet dogs are still dogs- they haven't and will not become anything other than dogs. Humans are pioneering at amazing rates- we have seen huge changes in our lifetimes, yet our bodies are still the same as they were thousands of years ago- our bodies are not evolving into a different 'kind'. Crocodiles still appear the same today as they do in the fossil record. The Caelocanth fish was an index fossil thought to have become extinct anything from 70 million -400 million years ago as it disappeared from the upper strata of rock layers. That means that other fossils found in the same strata were dated to the same period. It was postulated to have had lungs, a large brain and that the 4 bottom fins were the precursors to legs. This fish was thought to have crawled out of the sea, filled it's lungs with air and became the first 4-legged land animal. Millions of students were incorrectly taught this fish was the ancestor of amphibians, birds, reptiles, mammals and people. However, from 1938 to the present day it has been found to be alive and well in the waters of Madagascar and has been caught and filmed on numerous occasions looking exactly like it's fossil- why didn't it evolve? There are many other so-called 'living fossils' today which are strong proof against macro-evolution.

#### *Man:*

- Adam was the first man created according to the Bible. This is the plainest reading of Genesis 1 and 2 and it is stated in the New Testament that Adam was the first man. There is no mention in the Bible of pre-Adamic man. This clearly rules out ape-like ancestors:

"It is written in the Scriptures: "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam became a spirit that gives life." (1 Corinthians 15:45)

"God began by making one person, and from him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. God decided exactly when and where they must live. God wanted them to look for him and perhaps search all around for him and find him, though he is not far from any of us:" (Acts 17:26-27)

- **Adam not a primitive ape:**

"The man gave names to all the tame animals, to the birds in the sky, and to all the wild animals. But Adam did not find a helper that was right for him." (Genesis 2:20)

"The man named his wife Eve, because she is the mother of everyone who has ever lived." (Genesis 3:20)

- In Genesis 5:1 we read that: "This is the book of the generations of Adam." This hints at the likelihood that Adam actually wrote down his history and passed it on through his family line. Also Adam's descendants made musical instruments and worked with brass and iron:

"Jabal's brother was Jubal, the first person to play the harp and flute. Zillah gave birth to Tubal-Cain, who made tools out of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah." (Genesis 4:21-22)

- The few so-called 'transitional' forms for humans have been seen to be either apes or humans or forgeries.
- People groups have always lived in caves- they still do today in certain parts of the world.
- Man made in the image of God (1:26). Not true of the animals- for man to become a living soul it took the breath of God:

'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.' (Gen 2:7)

### **Application:**

- We have a responsibility to act in a non-animalistic fashion- we reflect the image of God.
- We are given government over the earth so we are accountable to God for how we have looked after it. Green and environmental application. Within limits as this world is passing away- i.e. It is important, but not more important than people's salvation as that is eternal.
- All humans made in the image of God, therefore we must love all people. Guard the tongue- James' epistle. Love your enemies.
- Sanctity of life- abortion and euthanasia.
- Humanism has its limits- we are dependant on God and only reach our full potential in a living relationship with our maker- it is what we were created for.

### **What relevance does this creation account have to our lives today?**

*The fact that things aren't just co-incidence and chance (evolution and Big Bang) means God deserves:*

- **Our worship-** We are to worship God as our creator- the sun and moon are not named in 1:16. Monotheistic. The work of one God- compare to other creation myths of other countries- multiple Gods. Deal with idols in our lives.
- **Our trust-** Anti-superstition- God is still involved in the universe- He has not wound up the clock and left it to its own devices- He holds all things together- Colossians. God is resting, but still holds all things together. We are not left to fate, but rather God is in charge of history and works all things together for His purposes.

*Also it means that we are not just drifting through life- just as God purposed creation so He gives us a purpose:*

- **Our mission-** The overall purpose of God in creation is to bring all things together under one head- Christ- Ephesians. God wants to reconcile His creation to Himself through Christ, forming one body. That body is the body of Christ, the Church.
- We have an exciting part to play in the wonderful panorama of history. Let's keep focussed on our vision- to fulfil the Great Commission of Matt 28 that all may hear that the God who created the universe loves each and every soul on this planet and desires that they come to a saving faith in Him and know Him as their own Father.

"and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:20-21)

### **Summary**

- How old is the universe?
- Can creatures evolve?
- What relevance does this creation account have to our lives today?

### **Song**

We could try to count the stars