

Discussion of Creation and Science By Mike O'Neil



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The common misconception among many Christians and others is that the Bible's descriptions of creation are inconsistent with what mankind is learning from science. We are taught that as the word of God, the Bible tells us the truth. This belief has driven many Christians away from science. It has also driven some who have seen scientific evidence of 'evolution', away from God. Both paths are mistaken.

God's perfection and the truth of the Bible do not preclude statements that are not literally true. We must consider the facts of the time and place in which the Bible and its stories were being written.

Let us suppose that God communicated to his prophets and messengers "IN THE FIRST 29 BILLION, 369 MILLION, 859 THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND TWELVE YEARS, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH". Would this message have been understood?

We are talking about a time in history when the average person could not count far beyond the number of his fingers and toes. Counting into the hundreds or thousands would have been the province of intellectuals and scholars. The concept of Millions or Billions of years would have been incomprehensible. Could such a message have been comprehended, let alone accepted?

When my 5 year old asks how our television works, I do not attempt to explain radio waves, cathode ray tubes, transistors or satellites. I tell him that a machine at the TV station takes the pictures, sends them through the air and our TV catches them and turns them back into pictures.

Am I lying to my son? Am I misleading him? When he reaches college and learns the science behind semi-conductors, radio transmission and imaging technologies, should he accuse me of deceiving him. Should he dismiss everything that I've taught him as suspect? Of course not!

When God explained creation in the early years of our civilization, he was wise enough to understand that his message must be understood. He could not expect us to understand, even today, all of the tools and mechanisms that he used to create this miracle. He told us instead, "On the first day God created the heavens and the earth". The fact that **we** could not understand the true time frame does not in any way, change the enormity of the miracle.

The theories of a big bang, expanding universes, and evolution do not contradict God's word to us. They merely give us a glimpse of the wonder and might of his powers. When the Bible tells us **AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT", AND THERE WAS**

LIGHT he describes to his ‘children’ the miracle of forming our universe. Could there be a simpler or more concise description of a “Big Bang”?

Does the scientific fact that hydrogen collected into a mass larger than a million Earth’s, and was then ignited into a raging inferno that would burn for billions of years, lessen the wonder of our sun? Who but God could perform such a task? When we learn that he created not one sun, but billions of them should we not be even more amazed?

The thought that God slowly and carefully crafted us, and our world, through painstaking geologic change and biological manipulation does not in any way reduce the wonder and magnificence of his creation. Imagine the intelligence and wisdom required to form life, from single celled organisms, through millions of beasts and creatures and to finally create mankind.

Scientist’s and non-believers puzzle everyday over the millions of ‘coincidences’, ‘mutations’, and unlikely accidents that they imagine happened to create the universe. But too many of us miss the obvious, that these were not random acts of nature, but rather God’s carefully planned and executed steps toward the creation of his children.

The thought that he so loved his children that he spent billions of years working to mold us is amazing. To my mind, the thought that he whipped the whole thing up in a week does not in any way show a more powerful or loving God.

The study and understanding of the laws of nature, the physics and science of our universe is a necessary and valuable contribution to society. This knowledge provides mankind with the tools we need to grow, develop and very likely survive as a species. Knowing that these laws exist does not take away from God. It simply demonstrates his wisdom, power and majesty.

As Christians we know that “On the first day God created the heavens and the earth...”. Learning the way in which it was done, only adds to the wonder and glory of his creation.