

Jesus, the Imaginative Creator and Sustainer

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. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:16-17

Not only is there strong evidence for God as Creator, but creation shouts for recognition of His infinite imagination. He didn't have to create variety and beauty in order to have a functional creation. A mindless, accidental universe would not likely produce much color or variety. But Jesus did: Jesus, with **unlimited imagination, unlimited power, and unlimited resources** created a world that reflects the glory and nature of God. Every unique bug, butterfly, sunset, bird, pebble, mountain, flower, vegetable, and person is a testament to His imagination. And as part of that creation He gave us senses so that we can enjoy and explore it forever. What a gift!

The passage above also says that "in him all things hold together." It's a sobering and humbling thought to realize that all the forces that hold our bodies and universe together (atoms, molecules, gravity, etc.) **are sustained each moment by Jesus**. Science recognizes these forces, but doesn't have an explanation for them. If Jesus stopped holding things together that would be the end of us. What a blessing that we can trust that He is able and willing to sustain all that He created, and that those He saves will be able to delight in His imagination and provision forever.

ORIGIN Recap

When we ask the question “where did we come from” the answer is a matter of ORIGIN:

Only Two Choices

Either God created us as He said, or we don’t know how we got here because there were no witnesses.

Realize the Significance

The origin of everything is a matter of deep importance. If God created as He said, He owns us and has the right to say what is right and what is wrong. If He didn’t create as He said, no one owns us and no one has the right to say what is right or wrong.

Is it Faith or Science?

The one-time origin of the universe/world/life/etc. is not a subject for science. Science is for the study of theories that meet the LAB requirements:

Lookable - you can see it happening

Accessible - you can go to it or bring it to you for study

Breakable - you can devise a test that would disprove the theory

Neither of the theories of special creation or of evolution meet these criteria, so the question of origin is a matter of belief and faith.

Guess at the Evidence

Although we can’t use science to prove or disprove our beliefs about origin, we can use it to investigate whether our belief is consistent with the evidence we see. We can speculate about what we would expect to observe in the universe around us if our belief was true, then we can see if the evidence matches our expectations.

Creation and evolutionary beliefs result in very different assumptions about:

- The properties of the universe
- The age of the earth
- The origin of life
- The origin of different species of life
- The origin of man

Inspect the Evidence

When we look at the evidence we see the following:

- Universe - “Decay”
- Age of the earth - “Can’t say”
- Origin of life by natural means - “No way”
- Origin of species and man by evolution - “Lacks Genes and 'Tweens”

No Compromise

All of the evidence in Scripture says “DON’T compromise with evolutionary thinking”

- **Death** did not come before mankind and sin
- **Order** of creation is not consistent with evolution
- **Names** in genealogies do not allow for evolutionary timeframe
- **Ten Commandments** point to seven-day creation week as a model for our week

Review

We are all biased - Our answers to life's big questions are based 99.99% on our bias, our assumptions about the "whole ball" that we don't know first-hand.

- If there is Someone who knows the whole ball it is logical to get our answers from Him.
- If there is no one who knows it all we have to rely on our reason, which would be the result of random, purposeless accidents.

Beginnings - ORIGIN

- **O**nly Two Choices
- **R**ealize the Significance
- **I**s it Faith or Science?
 - LAB - **L**ookable, **A**ccessible, **B**reakable
- **G**uess at the Evidence
- **I**nspect the Evidence
 - Universe = "**D**ecay"
 - Age of the Earth = "**C**an't **S**ay"
 - Origin of Life by Chance = "**N**o **W**ay"
 - Evolution of Species and Man = "**L**acks **G**enes and **T**weens"
- **N**o Compromise - DON'T
 - **D**eath after man, not before
 - **O**rders of Creation
 - **N**ames in genealogies define timeframe
 - **T**en Commandments refer to seven-day week

.....*still to come*...

Intent of Life

Authority

Standards