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Chapter 25 – Man: His Creation-Part 1

I. THE CREATION OF MAN

A. Question of Origins

The question “Where did we come from?” is a basic question that everyone asks. It is basically a question of origins. It is a natural subject of inquiry for those who are able to recognize their own existence and must also therefore, be a subject of inquiry among angelic beings. As per humanity there have been two basic answers.

B. 2 Basic Answers

1. Creation/Absolute Beginning (Universe Temporal)

First, there are those, who, on authority of Scripture, hold that the universe was created out of nothing (*ex nihilo*). These would include Judaism, Islam, and Christianity although all base this claim on the Scriptural account in Genesis. This view, on the same authority, says that God is the Creator who did not begin to exist but is eternal in essence and person.

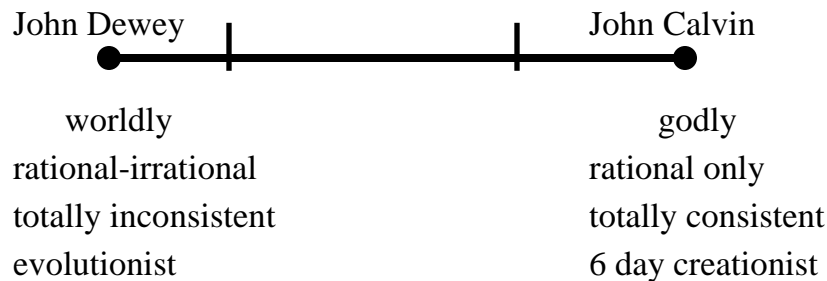
2. Evolution/Relative Beginning (Universe Eternal)

Second, there are those, who, on the authority of autonomous human reason, hold that the universe is not created but eternal. This is the view I was taught on the university campus. Those who hold to this view include all other philosophies/religions. These philosophies/religions have various views of god(s). Some say there is no god, others identify the universe with god and others say personify the forces of nature as gods and goddesses. Those who personify the forces of nature as gods and goddesses say these gods and goddesses have generated all the systems and living creatures of the world out of a

primordial watery chaos. All these views deify the universe by claiming it is eternal. That is, they attach the divine attributes to the universe itself. We are free to exist without God but we are not free to exist without any gods whatsoever. All men are religious by nature (Eccl 3:11; Rom 1:18-20; 2:14-15; Acts 17:23ff). The question is not whether you are religious or scientific or whether you are religious or political but rather what philosophy/religion you are following. Those who compartmentalize by saying, “that is a political issue” or “that is a debate within science and we should not let our religious views affect our politics or science” are only fooling themselves. God has spoken to every area of life, has pre-interpreted all things, and thus, there are no dichotomies (John 3:12).

C. 2 Starting Points to Answer the Question

As I alluded to, there are two basic starting points to answering the question of origins. One’s starting point for thinking determines one’s conclusions as long as he is consistent to his starting point. People are more or less consistent to their starting point. We call these presuppositions. For example, Van Til’s excellent treaties, *John Dewey or John Calvin* where Van Til shows the two basic starting points taken to their logical conclusions. These two men spent their whole lives trying to remain as consistent as possible to their starting points. Most people stand somewhere in between, the majority become uncomfortable when pushed along the lines of consistency. This is the task of apologetics. To make them uncomfortable with their basic presuppositions so they will see their inconsistency and be driven toward the rational worldview of God’s word.



Biblically, there are only two ways to think. Every Christian has experienced them both. Non Christians can only experience one way of thinking.

1. Autonomous Reason (Naturalism)

First, there is autonomous human reason. This means one’s thinking starts with himself and rejecting all forms of verbal revelation. It is often thought, even by Christians, that the

laws of logic are neutral and may be used objectively by believer and unbeliever alike to arrive at truth. The argument often goes like this.

1. To understand the Bible we use rules of grammar.
2. The rules of grammar are logical
3. Therefore, logic clearly precedes one's ability to know God

But "Where did the laws of logic come from?" They came from God so that you have to presuppose God in order to use the laws of logic so you can come to know God. Thus, these 3 steps are the epitome of sinful thinking. The laws of logic that undergird grammar themselves come from God. Therefore, God is presupposed anytime anyone uses logic. The laws of logic wouldn't exist if God did not exist.

Thus, it has never been my purpose to say that using logic is wrong. What is wrong is using the laws of logic to serve one's sinful nature. And that's the only way an unbeliever can use logic. That's what I mean by autonomous human reason. Using laws of logic to serve the sinful nature. Autonomous human reason uses the very laws of logic that were designed to glorify God to feign Him! Yet the folly of unbelief is revealed just there because the unbeliever must use the laws of logic God gave him to feign Him. Thus, this use of logic actually proves what it is seeking to disprove, namely, God's existence (cf Isa 28:24-29). Van Til said it this way, "the unbeliever must sit in God's lap to slap Him in the face." What Van Til is saying is that the unbeliever must use the tools God gave him in order to deny God's existence. The unbeliever is in a catch-22 that will be the main focus of discussion at the Great White Throne Judgment when God points out to them this wickedness.

????Whenever the unbeliever uses the laws of logic aright it is because he has presupposed God. That is, if an unbeliever uses the laws of logic aright it is evidence that he really does know God exists. For example, we have the law of contradiction. The law of contradiction says, for example, "This shirt is blue and this shirt is not blue" is a contradiction. Either it is blue or not blue but it can't both be blue and not blue at the same time in the same place (law of exclusive middle). Now, everyone uses the law of contradiction. Unbelievers use it, believers use it. What's the difference? The difference is that the unbeliever uses logic to serve his sin nature rather than to serve the Creator. Logic was given to man to serve the Creator not to deny Him. Yet the unbeliever uses the same laws of logic that we use to deny God's existence, to deny God's goodness, etc...Yet that is not the way the laws of logic were designed to be used. They were designed to be used to serve God and to bring glory to God. What I'm showing you is that the law of contradiction and other laws of logic

are not just neutral. They are used either to serve God or to reject God. But the laws of logic are not just independent entities out there. It is sin to misuse the laws of logic to serve your own sin nature. It is sin to use the laws of logic to deny God's existence. To assume that laws of logic are neutral is sinful because you've just said that they are independent of God. But God created them and He created them to be used to serve Him. You cannot say that the law of contradiction is basic to believer and unbeliever because the unbeliever will use it against God's existence which it was not made to do. It was made to use to glory God not in denial of God and to serve the sin nature.

2. Authoritative Revelation (Supernaturalism)

Second, one may start with authoritative revelation in which one uses the laws of logic and grammar to worship and glorify God rather than serve his sinful nature. The result of this right use of logic is biblical creationism.

D. Bible as the final authority clearly teaches the creation of all things including man

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Psalms 102:25 "Of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Isaiah 42:5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it,

Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

Revelation 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

E. 3 Strategies with Regard to Origins

1. Capitulation – full scale abandonment of revelation
 - a. Evolution (Process)
 - i. Many Definitions of Evolution

The reason you want people to define “evolution” is because it can be used in many different ways and if you’re not careful you will have one definition in mind while your friend has a different definition in mind so that you’re not communicating. Staunch evolutionists like to blur or switch definitions during a conversation to make you look like a fool.

First, evolution simply defined means “change”. There is nothing wrong with using the word in everyday conversation. *Second*, there is cosmic evolution which is the formation of stars, planets, and other heavenly bodies from previously existing material. *Third*, there is chemical evolution which is the formation of chemical bonds between the building blocks of proteins, RNA, and DNA. *Fourth*, there is biological evolution which is the development of complex single and multicellular living organisms. The idea therefore is that there is a common ancestor of all living things. *Lastly*, there is what is known as microevolution or variation which means there are variations in the expression of genetic makeups of populations of single or multicellular organisms

- ii. 3 of these Definitions of Evolution cannot be defined as Science by their own definition.

Science is said to be an empirical discipline, that is, one that involves observation of physical evidence. However, cosmic evolution has never been observed. We have seen star death but we have never seen star formation. Chemical evolution has been attempted in the laboratory, particularly famous was the Miller-Urey Experiment of 1952 which supposedly form amino acids. The problem however, is that no one has ever been able to come up with what original conditions could result in chemical evolution. Finally, biological evolution has never been observed. No one has ever seen any organism produce an offspring other than what it is. If no one has ever observed these things then they cannot rightly be considered science. To be considered science it must meet five requirements:

- a. observable
- b. testable
- c. repeatable
- d. peer reviewed

e. published

The Bible says there is no evidence for evolution at all. It says all the evidence points to the *specific* God of the Bible (not a *general* concept of God).

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Modern evolutionary theory is not a theory but a philosophy of life. One of my biology textbooks written by Stephen J Gould is even titled “A View of Life”. It is a way of looking at the world. It is a philosophy of life or religion. As per the question

iv. Who or what is man?

Evolution answers that man is a machine; a machine composed of chemicals; material. This only makes sense in this religion because they start with the universe as a machine and since man came from the universe then man must also be a machine (impersonal). Second, evolution answers that man is an animal. Some volunteers in England a few weeks back tried to prove this point by locking themselves in a London Zoo Exhibit. Third, evolution answers that man is a victim. Man is a victim of his environment and his genetics. There is nothing man can do about his sexual orientation, etc... we are chemically and environmentally determined so that we are not ultimately responsible for our actions.

iv. Formula: upward development + chance = all things

The worship system of this religion is the deification of two things: 1) upward development and 2) chance. What cannot be explained by the god of Upward Development is explained by the second god, Chance. So, evolution is by necessity a polytheistic religion.

- v. Mechanism: natural selection and mutations
- vi. Mutations – normally harmful; often lethal; 1/3000 beneficial
- vii. Classification System (KPCOFGS) - arbitrary
- viii. Definition of Species Still Not Agreed Upon (1859)
- ix. Variation/Microevolution a reality within the kind (there are limits). This is not changes in an organisms

genetics (mutations). Rather this is variation of gene expression in a population. This is the only kind of evolution that has been observed. The Bible permits this kind of evolution.

2. Accommodation – putting creationism and evolution together

a. Theistic Evolution (a combination of providence and process)

This view says God used evolution to bring about all things. This is very common among Christians but it is totally inconsistent with the nature of God. It would require that God use the process of death to bring about life. The days of creation do not fit with the order of evolution anyway. This is one of those very inconsistent worldviews that all coherent thinkers reject because the biblical account and the evolutionary story are totally at odds with one another and can't be put together.

i. Day-Age Concept

This is the view that each day is an age of time rather than 24 hours. This is an allegorical way of reading the text and is a compromise with evolution.

ii. Day-Age-Day Concept

This is the view that in between each 24 hour day is an age of time. This is another allegorical way of reading the text and is also a compromise with evolution.

iii. Gap Concept

This is a view that puts a gap of time between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 of unknown length. Some say all that is needed is enough time to allow for the fall of Satan. Others add millions or billions of years as a compromise with evolution. Many more recent scholars think this is an allegorical reading of the text.

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