

RELEVANT

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE FOR TODAY'S ISSUES

SESSION 6 VIEWS OF CREATIONISM

Biblical Foundation

- “In the beginning _____ created the heavens and the earth” (Gen 1:1).
- God created ex nihilo (Latin, “out of nothing”), or without the use of preexisting _____ (derived from Rom 4:17; 2 Cor 4:16; Heb 11:3).
- God’s creative act included fashioning both humans and _____, though humans alone have the special status of being made in God’s image.
- The _____ of God’s creation is declared repeatedly in Genesis 1.
- Subsequently, God’s good creation was affected by the _____ of the first humans in the garden (Gen 3:17–19). Creation is now subject to corruption and decay, though it groans and awaits its future restoration (Matt 19:28; Rom 8:19–23).

Three Principles for Interpreting Scripture

1. Naturalism - Evolutionary naturalism is the view that the universe originated absent any creator.
2. Design - _____ design is the view that design or a designer can be inferred by observing apparent order or purpose in creation.
3. Creationism
 - a. _____-earth creationism
 - i. _____ creationism - God created all things through the evolutionary process.
 - ii. _____ theory - there was a gap of billions of years between the two creative acts in Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2–31.
 - iii. _____-age theory - each “day” was not a literal day but an age, or an unspecified period of time.
 - iv. _____ creationism - God created in a series of acts over a long period of time.
 - b. _____-earth creationism
 - i. Jesus’ remark - Mark 10:6 implies that people were created at the _____ of creation rather than much later in time.
 - ii. _____ genealogies - read the biblical genealogies (Gen 4–5; 10; 11; Exod 6; 1 Chr 1–8; Neh 7; Matt 1; Luke 3) as historical records.

- iii. Genesis _____ - global catastrophic event could result in a geologic record that can be interpreted as involving billions of years.
 - iv. _____-age theory - The universe was created thousands of years ago in a six-day period as a mature creation.
- c. Assessing the Differences between Old- and Young-Earth Creationism
- i. Both OEC and YEC advocates affirm the Bible as God's word. The differences between them can be found in their _____ of the text.
 - ii. A significant strength of the YEC perspective is that it elevates the authority of a _____ reading and interpretation of Scripture.
 - iii. A significant challenge faced by the YEC views is the strong consensus among _____ that the universe, including the Earth, is billions of years old and that humans began to exist tens or hundreds of thousands of years ago.
4. Views Allowing Agnosticism on Earth's _____
- a. literary-framework theory - the biblical creation account provides a literary or artistic _____ rather than a chronological explanation.
 - b. cosmic temple view - identifies an explanatory _____ in the creation narrative.
 - c. _____-day theory - reality is described as perceived. Rather than viewing the six days as the length of time during which God created all things, six days is the length of day during which God revealed to Moses that he created all things.

Systematic Formulation

- The triune, uncreated, holy, loving, and relational God created _____ things.
- The Bible does not address in modern, scientific language _____ God created. Even so, Christians have always affirmed that God created.
- Recognizing God as Creator is significant for developing biblical views of the environment, _____, and animals.
- Distinguish between evolutionary creationism and evolutionary naturalism, which is necessarily _____.
- Discussions of how and when God created should be regarded as _____ discussions and not prioritized over evangelism and missions.