

In the Beginning - Session 2: Creation Theory

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

When does God create the earth in Genesis 1? How long did it take? How old is the earth?

4 Major Approaches to Creation: (1) Young-Earth Creationism (2) Old-Earth Creationism; (3) Evolutionary Creationism; (4) Intelligent Design

Young-Earth Creationism

Literal, six-day creation

6,000 years ago

Death, disease, predation entered through the Fall

Geological evidence attributed to Noah

Old-Earth Creationism

“Progressive creationism”

God created in successive stages over a period of millions or billions of years

Accepts scientific evidence for an ancient universe

Does not accept theory of origins

Evolutionary Creationism

“Theistic evolution”

Accept the current scientific theories both of the origin of the universe and of the human race

Darwin - that all life, including humans descended from a common ancestor

God created with evolution in mind

Intelligent Design

Objective examination of scientific evidence alone will lead an unbiased inquirer to conclusion that design by an Intelligent Being makes an inference to the best explanation

Can be Young-Earth or Old-Earth

Some hold to non-Darwin versions of evolution

Central point of Genesis 1:1

1. God created all things.
2. The world is not eternal.
3. The universe did not create itself.

God in Genesis 1 is...

the Creator of the Universe
Giver of the “Land”

“The data seen through the telescope didn’t change over the years; what changed was the interpretation of the data. A similar problem accompanies all serious reading of Scripture. We can’t help trying to make Scripture a part of our world.” - John Sailhamer



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Creation Account Theories: The Gap Theory; The Historical Creationism Theory; The 24-Hour Theory; The Day-Age Theory; The Framework Theory; The Temple Inauguration Theory

The Gap Theory

An indeterminate period of time - a gap - exists between the first two verses of the Genesis account

Allows for the earth to be ancient while still interpreting the six days of creation as literal 24-hours

Scofield Bible gained popularity for this position in 1907

The Historical Creationism Theory

Literal and realistic

No gaps or re-creation

Whole universe created in “beginning”

“Beginning was not point of time, but period of time. After, God prepared “land” for man

The 24-Hour Theory

Days of Genesis 1 are literal 24 hour days

The universe was created in six days

The Day-Age Theory

Each day of creation in Genesis 1 is an era of time

The six days extended over millions or billions of years

Fits cosmic structure

Interpret as though purpose of Genesis 1 is to provide a detailed, scientifically verifiable model of cosmic origins

These other theories are non-concordist approaches that: (1) view Genesis as a myth; (2) see Genesis as allegory; (3) view Genesis as a literary device

The Framework Theory

Seven-Day week is literary (theological) framework, not literal

Metaphorical or figurative

Fits cosmic structure

Topical, consequential order for the days of creation

The Temple Inauguration Theory

Would be recognized to the people of the ancient world as a temple building account

Describes creation as a cosmic temple

Seventh day is God inhabiting His cosmic temple

Based on parallels to Ancient Near East cosmogonies