

Christian Beliefs Week 5: Questions

Ch 4: What is Creation?

- **What is the Doctrine of Creation?**
- **What is the Created Creation?** God created the universe out of nothing (Latin: ex nihilo); nothing but God existed before the universe was created.
- Gen 1:1, Job 33:4, Col 1:16
- Heb 11:3 says, “By faith, we understand that the universe was created by the word of God so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.”
- Rom 1:17 says, “...calls into existence the things that do not exist.”
- God spoke all of creation into existence except humans He created with His hands. (Gen 2:7,22). Ps 139:13

- **What does it mean to be an image bearer of God?** (Gen 1:27).

- **God is not just a distant Creator but intimately involved in His creation.** Acts 17:28

- **What are the wrong views of the earth:**
 - Materialism
 - Pantheism
 - Dualism
 - Deism

- **God Deserves Glory.** Rev 4:11, Jer. 10:12

- **What is the age of the Earth?**
- Some possible suggestions (there is room for disagreement among Christians):
 - There is a possibility that God created a “grown up” universe.
 - There is a possibility of a break b/w Gen 1:1 and 1:2.
 - There is a possibility of a break b/w between 1:2 and 1:3.
 - There is a possibility of a long day in Gen 1.

- There is a possibility that the flood affected the geological data.
- The use of the word “kinds” in Gen 1 may be quite broad.
- There is a possibility of the death of animals before the fall.
- Where the Hebrew word *bara* is not used, there is the possibility of a sequence from previously existing things.
- **Old Earth theory:** Gen 2:4, Gen 1:5, Gen 1:14-19, 2 Peter 3:8.

- **Young Earth theory:** Ex 20:8-11

- **Secular theory**

- **Theistic evolution (or evolutionary creation)** Gen 1-3, 1 Cor 15:47, Rom 1:20

- **How should we think about and relate to His creation?**

Discussion:

- How can you give glory to God, the Creator?
- How can God’s involvement in creation help you live life with less fear and more gratefulness?
- Are there ways you can be a better steward of the parts of God’s creation He has entrusted to your care?
- How does it make you feel to know you are more like your Creator than any other created thing?
- Is it only Christians or all people who are made in the image of God? How does that make you feel with your relationships with non-Christians?
- How do the differences b/w humanity and animals described today bolster the argument against macroevolution (ie. Humans are from monkeys.)