

The Woodland Hills Approach to the Creation/Evolution Controversy

THAT God Created

We believe that the fundamental purpose of the Genesis creation texts (Gen 1-3) are to proclaim THAT God is the Creator. These texts state the following biblical truths:

1. There is only one eternal Creator-God
2. God created out of nothing by the power of His word
3. The creation itself is good, though it is affected by sin
4. Man and woman are created with equal value & dignity in the "image of God"

These truths are both clear and important. We hold them to be dogmas of the Christian faith. The answers to the questions of HOW God created and WHEN He created are not as clear or as central to the Christian faith. They involve doctrinal speculations that have led to differing views in the Christian community (see next two columns).

HOW God created

The Bible does not tell us in a precise and detailed manner how God created.

We all agree that atheistic evolution is not an option, since it denies that God is the Creator.

Within WHC, at least three different views are held on whether, or to what degree, God used evolution to create life:

1. Fiat Creation

God created everything by a series of direct, supernatural acts within six 24-hour days. Evolution did not play any significant role in creation.

2. Progressive Creation

God directly created the first member of each "kind" of life-form. Then, over a long period of time, the various sub-types developed through micro-evolution.

3. Theistic Evolution

Simple life-forms evolved into complex life-forms, just as modern science says (macro-evolution), but God directed the whole process.

WHEN God Created

Within WHC, at least four different views are held concerning the length of time God took to create the world:

1. Young Earth view

The "seven days" of creation in Gen. 1 represent seven 24-hour periods. Thus, the creation is relatively young.

2. Day-Age view

The "seven days" of creation in Gen. 1 represent seven long periods of time. Thus, the creation is very old.

3. Restoration (or Gap) view

The original creation (Gen 1:1) is very old, but it became corrupt and was judged (Gen 1:2), and then God recreated the world more recently (Gen 1:3 & following, which includes the 'seven days')

4. Literary Framework view

The author never intended to tell us the age of the earth. The purpose in Gen. 1 is to proclaim there is only one Creator-God. The '6 days' of creation are a literary device used to convey this theological truth in a way that ancient people would understand. It is not fair to force the Bible to answer modern-day, scientific questions that it was never meant to answer.