



Q: So what's the deal with all this creation stuff? I mean, how do we know anything we hear in the Bible is true? Scientists are all saying that it's wrong. So how did it all start?

Introduction

When you look at this ongoing debate it seems to go in cycles every few years or so about whether or not Creationists (who believe the universe was created 6,000 years ago) are right or Evolutionists (who believe the universe was created 13.7 billion years ago) are right. To a certain extent, those who only believe in creation taking place just as it is presented in Genesis: you are right! To a certain extent, those who say that creation began with a Big Bang and we have evolved into what we are today: you are right, too! But neither position is *totally right*. Like so many things, the answer is actually somewhere in the middle.

Let's look at the book of Genesis first. I think one of the difficulties in looking at the creation story in Genesis has always been that we just look at the story. We don't look beyond what is being said. One of the things that we teach in Scripture is that interpreting the sacred word of God is both **simple** and **profound**.

What I mean is that the simple truth is God did create everything. You can't get around it, and anyone who argues any differently is just plain wrong.

But, if we just looked at it and said, "Well, God did all the work in 6 days! That's kinda cool! Then He took a break! That's great!" then we would be missing out on the profound meaning that Word of God is telling us.

2 Questions

The truth of Genesis is revealed by answering two questions: *Who made us?* and *Why are we the way we are?*

1. Who Made Us?

- a. The first Creation account in Genesis is all about who made us. When you compare this to any ancient mythologies, you'll see that Genesis answered the question in a way different than any ancient mythologies. When the Greeks asked the question "Who made us?" the answer was, "During a time of war between gods and titans all things were made." When you asked the Romans, the answer was the same (mainly because they just ripped off the Greeks and didn't have time to create their own myths!). When you look at the Norse or the Egyptians or the Syrians or pretty much anybody else, when they ask the question "Who made us?"

the answer is a bunch of gods who end up creating the earth out of some by-product of a war. And most of them don't really care about the people. People are just there so that they can play with them. But not with the true God. When asked the question, "Who made us?" the one true God says "I made you because I love you. I made you to be good and it is good."

2. Why are we the way we are?

- a. This question is answered in the second Creation account (If I'm freaking you out here, remember there are two Creation stories. The first Creation account is in chapter 1 and another in chapter 2. Go ahead: Open up Genesis. I'm not making this up.) The second Creation account is where we hear about the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, and original sin. And so we ask the question, "Why are we the way that we are?" and it's all because we couldn't accept the gift; we thought there had to be more. And instead of finding more, we found **sin**.

Genesis is NOT a Science Textbook

Genesis was never meant to be understood as a science textbook. So when we talk about things like evolution, you're never going to find that in the Bible because evolution has nothing to do with God's redeeming work or His inspired word to his people. The only thing we need to remember is what the Church teaches in this regard:

We disagree with most Evolutionists on the issue of humans as **animals**. To say that we were anything less than human is to deny the divine image. What does this divine image mean? It's not anything physical in the sense of how we look. That means that early humans were probably more hairy, in some cases shorter and some cases taller and some cases with bigger foreheads or longer arms and everything else you can imagine when you think of a caveman, but what it doesn't mean is that we were all apes.

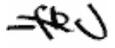
The problem with using Genesis as a science book is that it mixes up your head. You begin to think that you have to choose either the Genesis science book or the scientist's science books. But that's just not true. The Bible and science go together: One teaching us about God, the other teaching us about science.

Some people say, "If there was a Big Bang that created the universe, then we don't need God." Well, no. If there was a Big Bang, we still need something or *someone* to start it. And whatever name you want to give that starting point, ultimately it's God.

Summary

My hope is that we use the Scriptures for what they're intended: ***To teach us about God*** and ***to teach us how to live***.

So the next time you open up the Bible, see how much God loves you and learn how to be a saint.



(Fr. John Gerth)

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