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*<sup>4</sup> These are the generations  
of the heavens and the earth when they were  
created,  
in the day that the Lord God made the earth  
and the heavens.*

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*<sup>5</sup> When no bush of the field was yet in the land  
and no small plant of the field had yet sprung  
up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain  
on the land, and there was no man to work the  
ground, <sup>6</sup> and a mist was going up from the  
land and was watering the whole face of the  
ground—*

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*7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust  
from the ground and breathed into his nostrils  
the breath of life, and the man became a  
living creature. 8 And the Lord God planted a  
garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put  
the man whom he had formed.*

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*9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to  
spring up every tree that is pleasant to the  
sight and good for food. The tree of life was in  
the midst of the garden, and the tree of the  
knowledge of good and evil.*

*10 A river flowed out of Eden to water the  
garden, and there it divided and became four  
rivers.*

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*<sup>11</sup> The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup> And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. <sup>13</sup> The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

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*<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>*

*And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*

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*<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” <sup>19</sup> Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.*

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*20 The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.*

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*22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken  
from the man he made into a woman and  
brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,*

*“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man.”*

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*<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and  
his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they  
shall become one flesh.*

***Genesis 2:4-24 (ESV)***

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# Wonder of Creation

*Carnivore Christian*

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# The Goal:

- Humility
  - Unity
- Comfort
- Wonder



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# Today's Roadmap

- Starting axioms
  - Core ideas of Genesis 1-3
  - Views of the church fathers
  - Views of contemporary apologists and scholars
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# Starting Axioms

- Irenic heart posture
  - Authority and inerrancy of the Bible
  - We want the **right reading** of Scripture
    - Ex: We interpret parables symbolically, and history factually
  - Speculative theology should not be elevated to primary importance
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# Starting Axioms

- Fallibility, but usefulness, of church fathers' beliefs
  - Fallibility, but usefulness, of science
  - General Revelation of God in creation
    - We do not pit science against faith, as God created an orderly universe that reflects his nature and goodness. Thus, science reveals truth about God.
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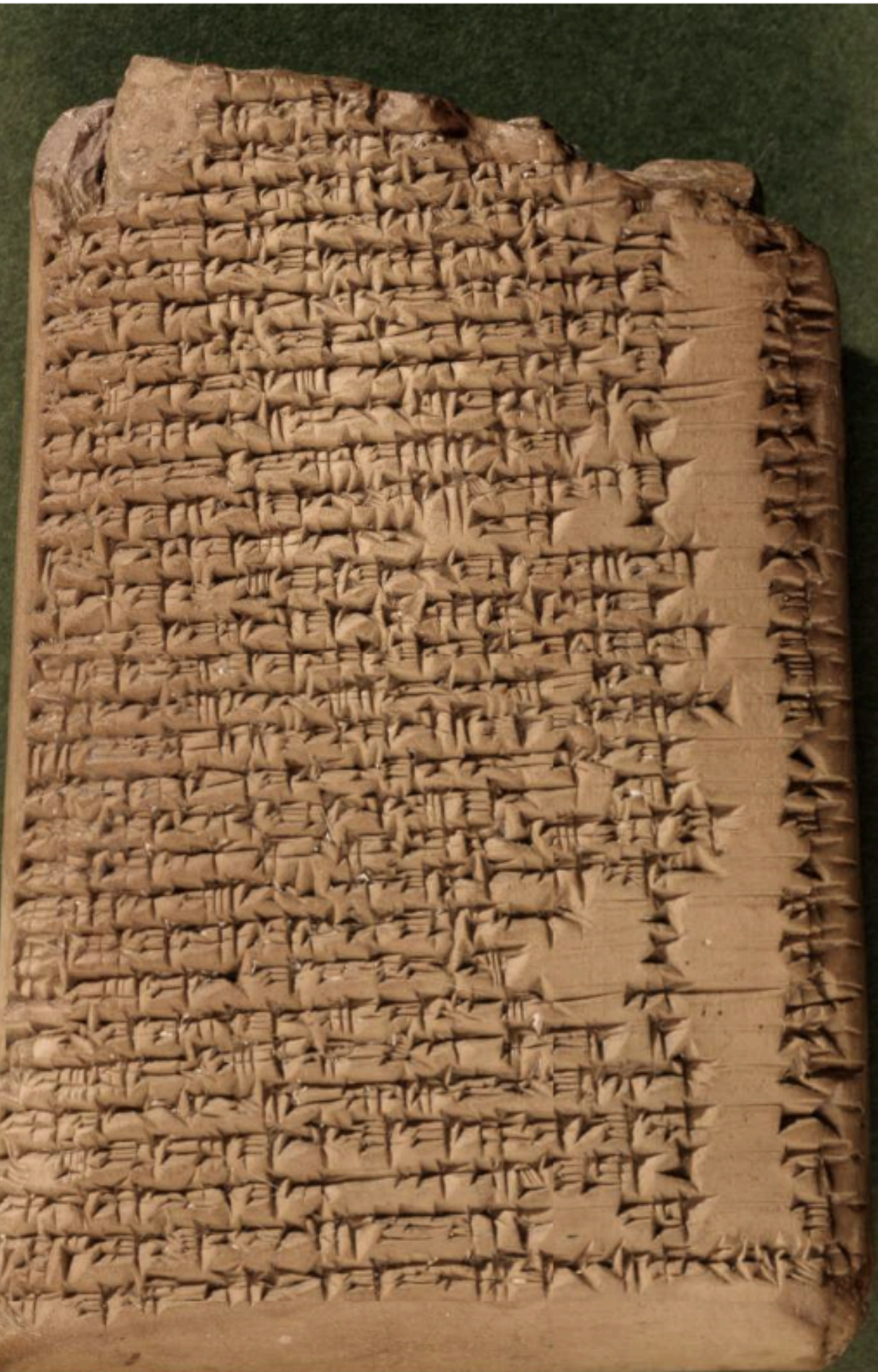


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# Genesis Background

- Genesis was written in an Ancient Near Eastern context. It is said it was written just *after* other similar creation myths such as the Enuma Elish (Babylonian) and Atra-Hasis Epic (Akkadian)
  - Genesis is a **rebuttal** of those myths
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# Genesis Background

- What are the main ideas being communicated about God and man?
  - Note: The Bible doesn't always answer the questions we as contemporary readers are asking. **We must submit ourselves to the text.**
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 1 - 2:3
    - God is altogether holy/set apart
    - God is eternal
    - God is Creator
    - God made all things *effortlessly* and *peacefully* (speaking into existence)
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 1 - 2:3
    - God called creation “good”
    - Humans are made in the image of God
    - All humans have worth, value, and dignity
    - Humans have a divinely bestowed purpose
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 1 - 2:3
    - God has woven work and rest into the created order
  - Genesis 2:4 - 3
    - God made Adam and Eve with his hands, contrasted with the rest of creation that he spoke into existence
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 2:4 - 3
    - God specially revealed himself to Adam and Eve
    - Adam and Eve are the first “priests”
    - The Garden is a unique place where God and man interact face-to-face
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 2:4 - 3
    - The Garden is the first “temple”
    - God made man to live forever
    - God gives humans a choice to follow him/be in relationship with him or not
    - Temptation came from satan who twisted the truth
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# Genesis 1-3 Core Ideas:

- Genesis 2:4 - 3
    - Humans rejected God
    - Shame and blame shifting are a human response upon guilt due to sin
    - God's grace covered the price of their sin, yet their sin still resulted in consequences (exile from the garden)
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# Jewish Thought Around Time of Jesus

- Josephus
  - Seems to believe in six 24 hour days

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“Moses, after the seventh day was over, begins to talk philosophically...”

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# Jewish Thought Around Time of Jesus

- Philo
  - Allegorical, more about order and arrangement, all was created at once and outside of time.



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# Jewish Thought Around Time of Jesus

- Philo

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“It is folly to suppose that the universe was made in six days, or in time at all.”

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# Jewish Thought Around Time of Jesus

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“And he says that the world was made in six days, not because the Creator stood in need of a length of time (for it is natural that God should do everything at once, not merely by uttering a command, but by even thinking of it); ...”

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# Jewish Thought Around Time of Jesus

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“... but because the things created required arrangement; and number is akin to arrangement; and, of all numbers, six is, by the laws of nature, the most productive: for of all the numbers, from the unit upwards, it is the perfect one.”

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# Early Church Fathers

- Unifying principles:
    - creatio ex nihilo
    - God alone is uncreated, all else is contingent
    - Just as Genesis rebutted ANE mythologies, it is also rebutted contemporary philosophies
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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that everywhere, wherever you may be, the least plant may bring you the clear remembrance of the Creator.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“It is this which those seem to me not to have understood, who, giving themselves up to the distorted meaning of allegory, have undertaken to give a majesty of their own invention to Scripture...”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“It is to believe themselves wiser than the Holy Spirit, and to bring forth their own ideas under a pretext of exegesis. Let us hear Scripture as it has been written.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“He has passed over in silence, as useless, all that is unimportant for us. Shall I then prefer foolish wisdom to the oracles of the Holy Spirit? Shall I not rather exalt Him who, not wishing to fill our minds..

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Basil of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“... with these vanities, has regulated all the economy of Scripture in view of the edification and the making perfect of our souls?”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal Six Day View

- Gregory of Nyssa (4<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Gregory of Nazianzus (4<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Acacius of Caesarea (4<sup>th</sup> century)
  - Ephrem (4<sup>th</sup> century)
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# Early Church Fathers: Literal-Prophetic View

- Irenaeus (2-3<sup>rd</sup> century)

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“This is an account of the things formerly created,  
as also it is a prophecy of what is to come... it is  
evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at  
the six thousand year.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal-Prophetic View

- Methodius (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

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“God, like a painter, is at this very time working at the world.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Literal-Prophetic View

- Methodius (2<sup>nd</sup> century)

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“When this world shall be terminated at the seventh thousand years, when God shall have completed the world, He shall rejoice in us.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Clement of Alexandria (2<sup>nd</sup> century)
- Didymus (4<sup>th</sup> century)
- Athanasius (4<sup>th</sup> century)



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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Origen (3<sup>rd</sup> century)

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“For who that has understanding will suppose that the first, and second, and third day, and the evening and the morning, existed without a sun, and moon, and stars? ...”

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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Origen (3<sup>rd</sup> century)

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“... And that the first day was, as it were, also without a sky? ... I do not suppose that anyone doubts that these things figuratively indicate certain mysteries, the history having taken place in appearance and not literally.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> century)
    - Believed God used “accommodation” to communicate to us (storytelling)
    - Saw discontinuity in Gen. 2:4-6 as a problem
    - Saw God’s rest as indicating allegory
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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“It is indeed an arduous and extremely difficult task for us to get through to what the writer meant with these six days, however concentrated our attention and lively our minds.”

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# Early Church Fathers: Instantaneous Creation/Allegorical View:

- Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> century)

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“Now clearly, in this earth-bound condition of ours we mortals can have no experiential perception of that day, or those days which were named numbered by the repetition of it.”

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# Three Major Current Views

- Young Earth Creationism (YEC)
    - Six 24 hour days view
    - Believes in a young earth/universe (~6,000-10,000 years old)
    - Global flood view
    - In general, emphasizes plain/straight-forward reading of Scripture
-



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# Three Major Current Views

- Young Earth Creationism (YEC)
    - Has entire field of science dedicated to it (“Creation Science”)
    - On the question of people outside the garden...
      - Narrative genealogies
      - Mathematically plausible
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# Three Major Current Views

- Young Earth Creationism (YEC)
    - Notable modern day proponents:
      - Ken Ham
      - Henry Morris
      - John MacArthur
      - Ray Comfort
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# Three Major Current Views

- Evolutionary Creationism
    - More of a range of views, but essentially that idea that God created *through* the evolutionary process
    - Holds to infallibility of Scripture
    - Note: We are not addressing a secular view of evolution here
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# Three Major Current Views

- Evolutionary Creationism
    - Notable modern day proponents:
      - Francis Collins
      - Denis Alexander
      - C.S. Lewis
      - N.T. Wright
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# Three Major Current Views



CAUTIONS



- In general...
    - Issues arise out of the excesses
    - We want to avoid villainizing the other side as inherently intellectually or spiritual inferior or heretical
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# Three Major Current Views



CAUTIONS



- YEC: careful not to oversimplify the text/treat it as a textbook
  - EC: allegorizing is slippery slope to subjective interpretation
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# Three Major Current Views



CAUTIONS



- YEC: Ken Ham
    - Implies you can't trust Scripture if you don't believe in the YEC view
  - EC: Francis Collins
    - Compromises in biblical morality
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# Three Major Current Views

- Genealogical Adam and Eve
    - Cutting edge view in apologetics
    - Harmonizes other two views: believes in Evolutionary Creationism *and* a literal reading of Genesis 1-3 with a literal Adam and Eve created de novo, whom all mankind are related to
-



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# Three Major Current Views

- Genealogical Adam and Eve
    - Demonstrates that genetics does NOT in fact disprove Adam and Eve.
    - Seeks to return ground to the church/theology in regards to creation rather than ceding ground to secular science
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# Three Major Current Views

- Genealogical Adam and Eve
    - Notable modern day proponents:
      - S. Joshua Swamidass
      - William Lane Craig
      - John Lennox
      - Hugh Ross
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# Response

- Let's remember key themes of Gen 1-3...
    - God's glory, power, and love
    - Garden was the first "temple"
    - Adam and Eve were the first "priests"
    - They sinned and were exiled, yet God provided a path to redemption, and prophesied of a coming Savior
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# Response

- And let's remember the goals of this discussion...
    - Humility
      - Unity
    - Comfort
    - Wonder
-



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# Response

“I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that everywhere, wherever you may be, the least plant may bring you the clear remembrance of the Creator.”

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- God, are there any ways you want to humble me in order to seek unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ? Have I allowed judgment in my heart around these matters?
  - God, are there ways I am restless about these issues that you want to bring comfort and security?
  - God, what does it look like to cultivate wonder in my heart in regards to your beauty, majesty, glory, and love?
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