

## The Supremacy of Christ: Reconciling the Bible and Science

Colossians 2:8 NIV We have to take responsibility for what we believe. You can't blame someone else if you are led astray – each of us must think and evaluate for ourselves. We choose who we follow and who we believe – there are many competing philosophies or worldviews out there that lead you away from Christ. Proverbs 13:20 NASB “One who walks with wise people will be wise, But a companion of fools will suffer harm.” The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

- I. Science is not antagonistic to the Bible.
  - a. All things were created by Christ – all things visible and invisible – they were created by Him and for Him – He's over both realms – the physical and the spiritual.
  - b. My meeting with Alistair – “I'm closed because I believe in science.” \*The implications of the Big Bang – that which we see came from what we don't see and it came out so precise that the universe doesn't collapse nor is it out of control – precise to 100 zeros!
  - c. Wall Street Journal – December 25, 2014; Eric Metaxis - Science Increasingly Makes the Case for God: The odds of life existing on another planet grow ever longer. Intelligent design, anyone? \*Carl Sagan and SETI – the conditions on necessary kept growing until in the 2,000s it became over two hundred and the odds went to zero for any planet to sustain life.
  
- II. The importance of reconciling science and the Bible.
  - a. Jesus told us to love God with all of our minds. If we don't reconcile we will feel like we have to make a choice between our minds and our faith. You can hold your faith with such fear that you hope no one asks you a hard question because you're afraid your answer won't hold up and you'll lose what's most precious to you.
  - b. Christians reconcile in different ways but what we agree on is the most important – don't divide on non-essentials.
    - i. After my message a few weeks ago on the dinosaurs – Pastor Chris and his two roommates realized they all had different views of exactly how God created.
    - ii. What we agree on? God created; mankind is the highest of His creation – made in His own image; there is a curse on creation because of man's sin; and Jesus Christ came to redeem mankind and the earth from sin and its curse.
    - iii. In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.
  
- III. Three ways of reconciling science and the Bible that I agree to disagree with.
  - a. Theistic evolution. God set up a natural process to create all things which scientists have observed. C.S. Lewis, Tim Keller, The Catholic Church,

InterVarsity – Francis Collins – genre of poetry – Worldview changes from randomness to purpose. Collins – Adam and Eve were representative people; Keller – Adam and Eve were actual people.

- b. Day age theory – yom can be 24 hours or an unspecified period of time. If the sun and the moon weren't created until day four there's no reason to interpret "evening and morning" as a solar day. Adam and Eve are real people created directly by God as are all the kinds God made – He created them to multiply into all different variations within the species.
- c. Young earth theory – Creation science – creation museum – God created the universe less than 10,000 years ago – Genesis 1:1 is not a creative act but an introduction to what God would do during the six days. All fossils and extinctions can be attributed to Noah's flood. \*Bill Nye and Ken Ham – the bible says its young so it's young. Sincere, lots of stuff that is really helpful, but if I had that position Alistair and I would have had nothing to talk about.

#### IV. My journey.

- a. I believe in Gap theory – a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 where the early earth was destroyed because of Lucifer's rebellion. \*See the Kingdom of Light – May 5<sup>th</sup>'s sermon.
- b. Started in 1998 in Montevideo. Darwin on Trial – not Darwin verses the Bible but Darwin against Darwin – a lawyer wrote it named Philip Johnson.
  - i. Darwin – 13 types of finches – one common ancestor. Microevolution – but he was developing a philosophy that rejected the God of the Bible so he came up with a creation story of all things having a common ancestor. \*He was opposed by geologists until archaeopteryx was discovered which is what his theory predicted.
  - ii. The problem with the fossil record: why don't we see a chain of fossils leading to new species?
  - iii. Stephen Jay Gould – 2001 named by the Library of Congress as one of 83 living legends, professor of geology at Harvard and the leading voice for evolution for 40 years until his death in 2002. In 1972 he and his partner, Niles Eldredge made a new theory – Punctuated Equilibrium - he passionately defended his theory again in "The Structure of Evolutionary Theory" in 2002 before he died. After 140 years of searching the fossil record he maintained that two things are mainly observed: \*Sudden appearance and stasis.
    - 1. He says that the lack of fossils showing a progression of evolution is "the most puzzling fact of the fossil record." He wrote that "the extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record is the trade secret of paleontology."

2. Niles Eldredge his associate agrees with Gould by stating further: "We paleontologists have said that the history of life supposes the story of gradual adaptive change, all the while really knowing that it does not."
  - iv. Colin Paterson's book on evolution. There are over 60 million fossils in the British Museum of Natural History and not one of them is portrayed as a true transitional fossil. \*The problem with Archaeopteryx. \*For every one beaver fossil there should be 10,000 almost beavers.
  - v. Didn't give up on evolution, just on how it happened. For an atheist there is no other option. Punctuated Equilibrium: Evolution never happened in the main population but on the fringes in small laboratories. When punctuations happened, usually brought on by geologic catastrophes, they would do their quick work and only the fittest would survive to be multiplied across the population. Then there would be long periods of equilibrium until there was another catastrophe and another punctuation in the evolutionary process. \*The emperor's new clothes
- c. Science teachers in the Montevideo school system explained to me how academia works. \*C.S. Lewis and Tim Keller are academics – humility leaves the science to others.
- d. University professor one - Sexual selection and George.
- e. The second professor. Agreed upon facts:
  - i. The Pleistocene age or ice age ended recently – In the last 10,000 years.
  - ii. There were mass extinctions at the end of the Pleistocene age and the mystery of disharmonious associations.
  - iii. There was a time after the ice age of two to three thousand years of a more equable climate on earth (warmer in the poles and with increased moisture in the deserts) than we have today called the "Holocene Climate Optimum." No one knows why or how it ended.
  - iv. We are now living in the Holocene age.
- f. Problems with the current theory that states extinctions occurred because they couldn't adapt to the warmer climate and that man killed them gradually over time.
  - i. It doesn't explain why vegetation did not decompose in the mouths of mammoths.
  - ii. It doesn't explain why warm weather creatures were all around the mammoths in Siberia and Alaska.
  - iii. It doesn't explain how mammoths survived without the glands of today's arctic animals.

- iv. It doesn't explain how they survived alongside a number of other large animals with so little food supply when elephants today need three hundred pounds of food every day. \*His interruption at this point.
- g. A more plausible theory.
  - i. The Pleistocene age ended when God recreated the world less than 10,000 years ago. He created a whole new set of animals and placed them in a moist, greenhouse like climate we call the Holocene Climate Optimum.
  - ii. After a few thousand years God judged the earth with a world-wide flood which removed some of the moisture in the air leading to a world of extreme temperatures – cold on the poles and hot in the deserts. Not just water coming down, the deeps erupting in volcanic ash that would have darkened the sun for a period. We moved from the Optimum to the Holocene age.
  - iii. Mammoths and other animals were killed in the flood waters, buried in mud and then quickly froze in the dramatic change of climate because of the volcanic smoke.
  - iv. Carbon 14 dating can only be independently verified up to 5,000 years. If the atmosphere before that time has a different C14/C12, all efforts of dating man and animals would be off. There would have been more C14\* in the air and less on the earth in a greater greenhouse, so all animals and humans that died in the flood appear much older than they are because the ratio was different.
  - v. His response: "What you have is a theory and it's as good as any other I've heard."