

The teaching of evolution has made significant inroads in the beliefs of common man. In 1999 Gallup found”

1. 47% believed in a recent, special creation
2. 40% believed in a God-directed form of evolution
3. 9% believe a strictly natural-caused evolution

Twenty years later in 2019, a similar Gallup poll found:

1. 40% believe in a recent, special creation
2. 33% believe in a God-directed form of evolution
3. 22% believe in a strictly natural-caused evolution

Only a third the people in the United States believe what the early chapters of Genesis state is literally true. Interestingly, you find that the wealthier or the more educated, the less likely you are to believe what the Bible says. This worldly wisdom is described for us in 1 Corinthians 1:19-24. **But does it matter** whether we accept the accounts in Genesis as literally true? After all, it is a part of the Old Testament, and we are under the New Law. It concerns events thousands of years old. Does it matter if those events are tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands year old? Let me suggest that it does matter and we will consider four reasons why it matters.

1. HOW WE SEE THE CREATION AFFECTS HOW WE SEE JESUS. Jesus Christ was involved in the creation. John 1:1-3 - Nothing was made without the Word. *John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.*

But during the Genesis 1 account, where does mention Jesus? He is seen in the term “God said.” The word for God is “*eloheem*” which is the plural form of God. It’s the concept seen in Gen 1:26 that says “*let us make man in OUR image.*” God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all involved in the creation. Colossians 1:13-18 reminds us that the universe was created by Jesus, for Jesus, and it is sustained by Jesus.

In other words, the world has a purpose and that purpose revolves around the Son of God.

Hebrews 1:1-3 tells us that God had appointed Jesus as heir of all things *by whom also he made the worlds*. So, you would expect Jesus to know when the creation took place and how it took place. Jesus speaks of the creation by saying in Matthew 19:4 that man was made male and female and that this took place at the beginning. *Matthew 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.* He did not say they “became” male and female or became human. He did not say that it happened long after the world came into existence. If you do not accept that there were human beings at the beginning of the world, then you are saying Jesus lied. If you believe he was mistaken about this, then how can you be certain there are no other mistakes? Hence, how we see the creation affects our view of Jesus

2. HOW WE SEE THE CREATION AFFECTS OUR VIEW OF THE BIBLE.

The Bible declares God to be just. We are told that we will be judged by God’s word. *John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words.* In chapter 5 he speaks of eternal life. *John 5:24a Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life.* These passages emphasizes the need of understanding. Our future hangs on our ability to understand what is expected of us. By reading we can understand. Paul would say, *How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, (4) Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) (Ephesians 3:3-4)* A few verses later Paul would command our understand. *Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.* This command cannot be fulfilled if the Bible is obscure.

Since we can understand, the Bible gives definite statements regarding the origin of the world, such as that it came about by God speaking it into existence. *Hebrews 11:3a Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.*

We understand that God spoke things into existence.

It tells us how long it took, not only in Genesis, but see Exodus 20:8-11. Then there are the genealogies given in Genesis 5 that give us a close approximation to when these events occurred. There is no room to put thousands of years between the generations. We are told at what age in the previous generation the next came and the list goes all the way to the sons of Noah in Genesis 5:32 and other lists continue this method. While you might argue plus or minus a year due to rounding, you can't put plus or minus 100,000 years. The only way to get around this is to declare that God didn't really mean exactly what He said. Peter warned of such. ***2 Peter 3:16b ... they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.***

If man can arbitrarily declare Genesis 1 to be allegorical, then what about the verses that refer to Genesis 1? If man can play fast and loose with one part of the Bible because of his own understanding, then why not other areas? There is a proverb we would do good to heed. ***Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.***

3 HOW WE SEE THE CREATION AFFECTS OUR VIEW OF TRUTH. If we can arbitrarily alter the events of creation, then why not other doctrinal matters? Jesus says in John 17:16 that his doctrine was from God. The early church continued steadfast in the apostle doctrine (Acts 2:42). Yet we see this doctrine been altered.

- How is it that people argue for women preachers when the Bible says ***“let the women keep silent in the church. Corinthians 14:34?”***
- How is it that people argue for homosexual members when the Bible says it is unrighteous and will keep one out of heaven? 1Corinthians 6:9-10.
- How do you get people advocating sex outside of marriage when the Bible says ***Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.***

The reason is that people are not persuaded that the entire Bible is absolute truth! Therefore, they believe that the teachings can evolve to adapt society's views. But complying with doctrine is important because doctrine is what saves us. ***Romans 6:17-18 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*** Paul would instruct Timothy to keep the doctrine that could save him and others. ***1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.***

When people want to alter the events of creation, it opens the door to other alterations. Perhaps this is why we are warned against false teachers. ***Ephesians 4:14-15 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:***

The Bible is clear as to how and when the world came into existence. It is important that it is accepted just as it is presented. Guard against false knowledge. ***1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: (21) Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.***

Invitation