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CREATION: THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

IT'S A QUESTION ABOUT INTERPRETATION

- ▶ What does it mean when we say that the Bible needs to be taken "literally"
- ▶ The real question is how are we supposed to interpret Genesis 1-11?
- ▶ We need to try and understand what God is trying to convey in His Word

IS GENESIS 1-11 SUPPOSED TO BE TAKEN AS HISTORY?

- ▶ The genealogies of 1 Chronicles and Luke 3 assume the truthfulness of Genesis 1-11
 - ▶ Both of these go all the way back to Adam, the first man. Luke even calls Adam, "the son of God".

JESUS TRUSTED GENESIS 1-11

- ▶ Jesus quotes from Genesis 1-11, 25 times
- ▶ In his teaching on divorce Jesus refers to the “beginning” when God created Adam and Eve
 - ▶ And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” Mark 10:5-9

PAUL TRUSTED GENESIS 1-11

- ▶ 1 Cor 11:8-9 He references woman being made from man
- ▶ 2 Cor 11:3 He refers back the serpent deceiving Eve
- ▶ 2 Tim 2:13-14
 - ▶ Adam formed first, then Eve
 - ▶ Eve being deceived

ROMANS 5:12-21

- ▶ This passage hinges on Adam being a real, historical person, who is the biological father of all mankind.
 - ▶ Adam sinned and it has been passed down to ALL
 - ▶ Adam was a type of the one to come => Jesus
 - ▶ Christ's perfect obedience can reverse the effects of sin for ALL

BUT CAN'T "DAY" MEAN MORE THAN A 24 HOUR PERIOD?

- ▶ Yes, absolutely
 - ▶ Day of the Lord
 - ▶ Back in the day (a.k.a. the 90's)
 - ▶ Context

2 PETER 3:8-10

- ▶ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one **day** is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

WHAT DID MOSES MEAN IN GENESIS 1?

- ▶ The best way to do a word study is to see how the same author uses a specific word.
- ▶ Exodus 20:8-11
 - ▶ “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

WHAT DID MOSES MEAN IN GENESIS 1?

- ▶ Exodus 31:17

- ▶ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.

WHAT ABOUT SCIENCE?

- ▶ The universe had a beginning
- ▶ What about the Big Bang?
 - ▶ This actually aligns better with Creation
 - ▶ The Big Bang isn't really a beginning - where did the "hot, small, and dense superforce" that exploded into everything come from?
 - ▶ You cannot have an "infinite regression"

THE UNIVERSE EXHIBITS FINELY TUNED DESIGN

- ▶ Evolution cannot explain this
- ▶ If something appears designed then the most obvious conclusion is that it was designed by someone
- ▶ William Paley's (1867) "watch in the woods"
 - ▶ It has a specific function (telling what time it is)
 - ▶ If any of the parts were out of order (or missing) it wouldn't work
- ▶ The order and regularity of the universe (why does the universe to continue to operate in this way?)

Stonehenge, England



SPECIFIED, IRRIDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY

- ▶ Darwin said (Origin of the Species, 1859), "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed[,] which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive[,] slight modifications[,] my theory would absolutely break down. But I can find out no such case"
- ▶ But since the advancement of science and technology we now know that there are numerous examples of this.
- ▶ "A single cell is seethingly complex containing maybe 100 million proteins of 20,000 different types. A factory that contains an elaborate network of interlocking assembly lines." (John Lennox, God's Undertakers, 2012)
- ▶ Evolution simply cannot explain the complex universe that we live in.

THE ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE

- ▶ The world we live in looks as if it were designed ***for human life***.
- ▶ Physicist *Freeman Dyson*: "As we look out into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked together to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known we were coming." [*Disturbing the Universe*, 1979 pg. 250].
- ▶ Astrophysicist *George Greenstein*: "As we survey all the evidence, the thought insistently arises that some supernatural agency, or rather Agency, must be involved. Is it possible that suddenly, without intending to, we have stumbled upon scientific proof of the existence of a supreme being? Was it God who stepped in and so providentially created the cosmos for our benefit?" (*The Symbiotic Universe*, 1988 pg 8)

EVOLUTION?

- ▶ Micro vs Macro
- ▶ Punctuated Equilibrium
- ▶ Fossil Record
- ▶ 2nd Law of Thermodynamics

CONCLUSION

- ▶ Don't be afraid of scientific inquiry.
- ▶ Read, Study, Seek out answers
 - ▶ God's Undertakers - John Lennox
 - ▶ A Shot of Faith to the Head - Mitch Stokes
 - ▶ How to Be an Atheist - Mitch Stokes
 - ▶ Should Christians Embrace Evolution? - Norman Nevin
- ▶ Trust in the Lord, the Creator of all