

Something lighter: Thoughts about creation 1 of 4, Why am I here? – 20210227

Hi all,

I was sitting in an airplane in the summer of 1992, part way through a very long flight headed for Russia to help start churches. Out of boredom I grabbed an old magazine from the seat pocket in front of me and was stunned to read that scientists had proven by DNA that we all came from one man and one woman, based on studies started in 1987. And to think the book of Genesis had stated that all along. How nice of science to confirm scripture I thought. :)

I had seen charts where researchers had worked backwards to find the origins of man using population figures. Working backwards from the billions on the planet today, figuring birth rates, disasters natural and man-made, plagues and such, they calculated that around the time of Jesus there were about 170 million people alive. Working further backwards estimates for the time of Abraham in about 2000 BC show around 5 million were alive.

Here is an easy to read chart: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

Is the world held in place on the back of a turtle?

I'd long sought answers to explain apparent contradictions between Genesis and science, and believe that science merely discovers how God does things using natural law. But filling in those gaps between Bible and science is more difficult.

There is a basic rule of learning: Man can only write and think about things he is familiar with. Therefore creation stories that reference things familiar to man prove themselves to be from man's imagination, and not of divine origin. If there are explanations of natural things clearly not found in things familiar to ancient man, we can only conclude that information came from outside of man.

For example, the creation story from Babylon says fresh water and salt water mixed which created the gods and goddesses. One of which was murdered and half of her became the land and her other half became the waters. Another that the earth is on a turtle's back (Hindu). The Norse had a cow that gave birth to Buri as she licked a salt lick, and so it goes. Some Native American creation stories include a raven creating man from a pea pod and the Celts believed a white mare (horse) gave birth to the first god...It is interesting that many of these have a Father who produces a son, like Buri above, who had a son by a means not explained, named Boor, who came into being over 3 days.

Outside source of knowledge

But the Bible is very different as you know, with thoughts and concepts clearly sourced from outside nature and things familiar to ancient man. For instance Genesis saying God created mankind from one man and one woman in His likeness and image. We didn't come from a pea pod nor a cow, but how could ancient man know that except from a source outside themselves?

The book of Job is the oldest book of the Bible. It is ancient Jewish poetry and wisdom, which is why it is included with Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and 'Songs', and takes place after Noah but before Abraham - as noted by no priesthood, individual offerings to God, God talking to Job from a whirlwind, etc).

Job 26:7 reveals God 'hangs the earth on nothing' in 'the empty space'. How did Job know about the emptiness of space or that the earth 'hangs' there on nothing? That knowledge is outside normal human experience. Job didn't say the earth sits on a turtle - the knowledge of earth hanging in empty space came from outside man's thinking.

The Bible indicates the earth is round: An example is Genesis 1:9 that says all the land was gathered in one place and the waters gathered together separately. With gravity holding all things together, if you remember your high school geometry, that can only happen on a sphere.

If that's hard to understand, try pouring water on a table and then spin that table and see if the water stays put. Even with a center of gravity at the middle of the table, the water would fly in all directions in a disorganized mess. Only a sphere can retain land and water at equal distance from the

gravity source. The earth is rotating around its axis at 1000 mph (1609kph), and if it wasn't a sphere with gravity at its core, everything would act as water on your table top if you spun it.

The person of Wisdom describes how He was present when the Father created the earth, stating in Proverbs 8:27: "When He established the heavens, I was there. When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep..." That's a circle. How did ancient man know that?

The theory of evolution

The Biblical creation story demonstrates we are each created, thought up by God, who has a purpose for us and each part of creation. God reveals Himself as the I AM, the ever present one, the one who will be what He will be. That means our best days are ahead of us for we are in Him and He in us: He is the God of the future, of never ending ages in Him.

By contrast the theory of evolution says all the universe is a giant cosmic accident, a chance occurrence of the meeting of molecules. Therefore man is an accident. And if man is an accident then morals are what man says they are. Right and wrong is a matter of opinion. If one thinks it is moral to loot and steal and another believes it is wrong - both are right! It's all an accident that provides no framework of absolutes by which to measure life.

What is the point? If I am an accident, my purpose in life is my own decision; If I decide I don't have a purpose I can end my life. What does it matter? Evolution is a hopeless existence. A few atheists have told me, "When I die it's like a bug on a sidewalk, I'll just cease to exist." That thinking is the end result of believing all the universe is an accident.

My response has been that I can prove we are eternal beings very simply. Most will readily acknowledge that inside themselves they feel the same as they did when they were young, but their body has changed around them. Their body has aged while inside they have not. That unchanging, ageless inner self proves we don't need our earth body to live, for our unchanging internal selves have shown over the decades we are eternal and will live on after our body ages to the point of ceasing to function.

Paul wrote in Romans 1 that seeing God in creation and acknowledging God as Creator is the most basic way to know Him. Romans 1: 20-31 says if a person rejects Him as Creator, He will allow that person to go their way, allowing them to think all kinds of ungodly thoughts leading to a life of sin.

That foundation of God as our Creator is what allows the rest of our faith to be built properly. If a person believes the theory of evolution is fact, while also claiming to know the Father and Lord, the house of their faith has a cracked foundation and a few cracked walls. They will be off in other areas as well, without even realizing it quite often.

Most every person wonders first within themselves 'Why am I here?' and 'What is my purpose in life?' Those questions are the first opportunity to acknowledge God exists, that we and nature were created, and not a cosmic accident.

Genesis isn't a science book, and there are many voices out there lending confusion to the issue, but unanswered questions should not be a cause for us to dis-believe. About all else, we know faith in Jesus is eternal life, beyond that the answers can wait.

But filling in some blanks can be helpful...So here are some thoughts that may explain some things you've wondered about...and we'll get into that next week as we look at macro-evolution and micro-evolution. One is Biblical, the other is not. Until then, blessings,

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Thoughts about Creation, 2 of 4, Macro/micro evolution, How big is heavenQ - 20210306

Hi all,

I promised to cover macro-evolution and micro-evolution at the close of last week's 'Thoughts'. It starts with this:

He has to provide the ability to obey

Coming from one mom and dad means Adam and Eve had within themselves all the genetic material for all the races, all the hair colors and textures, facial features and skin colors we see around us today. Within our mom and dad were Caucasians, Orientals, Africans and everyone in between. In fact 'Adam' means 'red' or 'red, rosy, ruddy'.

When God commanded to go forth and multiply and fill the earth, He had to provide the ability within every plant and animal including man, to do that. That means micro-evolution. Not one species becoming another species which is macro-evolution, but one species branching out and genetically adapting to the environment.

Darwin's Finches

Darwin marveled at the different types of beaks among the same species of finch found on various islands. One species had short, stout beaks for opening hard seeds, on another island a species with elongated beaks for catching insects on the fly, and so on. Mistaken for macro-evolution, they provide a great example of micro-evolution as each living thing had within themselves the genetic ability to obey the Prime Directive from their Creator, and adapt genetically.

Also, because animal bodies and human bodies are both made from the earth, it explains why a gorilla shares 98% of our DNA, a cat shares about 85% a cow 80%, even a chicken has 60%. All our bodies came from the earth, so it is logical that in terms of DNA, we share similarities. But oh those differences! All have the ability within their genetics to 'go forth and multiply and fill the earth' - because when God commands, He provides the provision.

Rabbit trail

The 'world population clock' estimates there are 7.8 billion people alive on the earth today, I've seen estimates that over all time, about 113 billion people have lived and died. You may ask how a heaven described as about 1500 miles square (2414 km) can hold the billions who make it to heaven.

The answer is provided by Jesus who said the kingdom of heaven is like a seed. A seed is larger on the inside than it is on the outside. It can only be understood through quantum physics, but because quantum physics was the method the Lord used to make everything, we can find examples in nature: How many apple trees are within 1 apple seed? Potentially unlimited. How many apples can come from one single seed? That seed or that apple is larger on the inside than it is on the outside. The author of Hebrews 11:4-10 alludes to this, saying Levi was in the loins of Abraham when Abraham tithed to Melchizedek, though Levi would not even be born for at least 250 years.

Similarly each of us is larger on the inside than we are on the outside - however large the part of your life is that is visible, deep in the unseen realm of your heart you have dreams and hopes unfulfilled, talents, skills, hobbies, things that you in your heart would like to do, things awaiting the next ages to come to pass - all those combine to make you larger on the inside than you are on the outside.

Having been to heaven I can tell you it is like that. If you remember your schooling, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet make up the colors of the rainbow, but combine to produce a single ray of white light. So too within each of those separate colors is a whole world within that wavelength. Heaven is like that, multi-dimensional, yet each dimension one and combined with the others. Yes, it can hold billions of people on the inside while on the outside only appearing to be 1500 miles square (2414 km).

I would say it this way. On the outside, marriage seems very limiting, but in fact marriage in the Lord is larger on the inside than it is on the outside - all things of God are like that. There is more freedom on the inside than outward appearance shows. A person who is single can relate to a best friend or close relative. On the outside you are just friends, or maybe your mom or brother you are best friends with. But within those relationships are worlds of history, memories, plans, secrets, respect and love, making that relationship far larger on the inside than on the outside.

I'll put it another way: 99.99999% of our body is empty space. That is the space between all the molecules that make up a human body - the space between the molecules comprises 99.9% of our body. We only appear solid because the molecules are so closely packed, but do not actually touch each other. You've seen pictures of electrons revolving around the nucleus in the same way the earth orbits the sun. Consider all the space in between the sun and the earth - it is the same with an electron going around its nucleus, on a microscopic level.

That space between them is huge. On a quantum physics level, if we lost all the empty space in our bodies our body would be the size of a speck of dust. The whole 7.8 billion of us would be the size of a sugar cube - heaven has much more space on the inside that it appears on the outside.

(<https://www.sciencealert.com/99-9999999-of-your-body-is-empty-space>)

Back to the main trail

Adam and Eve would have had several hundred children over the course of their roughly 900 years, and they would have all been the various races we see on earth today, genetically distantly related. Think of it this way: Technically my wife is my sister, but we are not genetically directly related. But how far back can you carry that?

What if Adam and Eve had 500 children? How many 'red and yellow black and white' would there have been? They would all be precious in His sight and genetically distant. Even now we see the occasional birth of a different color baby than the parents. In the July 11, 2010 edition of the NY Post they show a picture of a black couple in Nigeria holding their white newborn baby, in what was stated to be a literal 1 in a million event. Even now all these centuries later, there remains enough genetic diversity for this to happen - and you can research similar events in India and elsewhere.

Noah's 3 sons and their wives repopulated the earth, so there was enough genetic diversity in their hundreds of years of making babies that each cousin would not have been genetically closely related to each other. Going back to Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel, the diversity would have been even more. So while we might say the boys married their sisters, genetically speaking, they didn't, and they could have been decades apart in age - they lived so long, what if some 500 year old man married a 400 year old woman, robbing the cradle, lol. But genetically different and distant.

The same for all the animals and the species descended from them. That means from 'mom and dad' wolf, came genetically, the Pekinese and Great Dane, the Dachshund and the Golden Retriever. Not genetically directly related. All dogs came from a 'mom and dad' who had the genetics within them to fulfill God's command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth. Man has been manipulating God's built in micro-evolution through selective breeding ever since. That goes for crops and plants as well. There was an original 'mom and dad' tulip, but now look at the varieties! Thank you Lord for building that DNA ability within the command to go forth and multiply and fill the earth.

Once God stopped creating, mathematically it means plant and animal species could only decrease in numbers. One report estimates the earth has lost 99% of its species, with over 500 species lost forever in the last 100 years, 160 species lost in the last 10 years alone. That supports the fact God stopped creating so long ago, and it has been downhill ever since. How alive was the earth at its peak! Can you imagine if the earth once again was filled with 100% of what He created back then? Amazing to consider.

Perhaps this series has gotten you thinking, or answered questions you've had; the point being to affirm our faith in the Lord no matter how He created the us. Next week...are we alone in the universe? Until then, blessings,

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Thoughts on creation. Are we alone? 2 floods. #3 of 4 - 20210313

Hi all,

Are we alone? How old is the universe?

Years ago I really wanted to know how old is the universe and are we alone? Is it 14 billion years or just a few thousand years? I had read many books from Christians who debated the age of the earth and universe, leaving me with no definitive answer. So I set my heart to sit outside each night to look at the stars and pray, asking the Father.

It took nearly 2 weeks of nightly going outside around 9pm (21.00) for 30 to 60 minutes at a time, laying back on a lounge chair praying and thinking and talking to the Father, and staring at the stars. My mind would wander and then I'd reign in my thoughts to worship or pray again, then wander off and then bring them back again.

I'd settle in to just look at the stars, the satellites passing quickly overhead, the lights from a passing airliner and wondering where they were going...and back to the Father: "Are we alone? You know I'm not going anywhere. I'll keep this up as long as I can, I figure until the seasons change and it gets below freezing." (I'm honest with Him since He knows my heart anyway, so what's the point in making empty threats, lol).

To day one

Finally, about 2 weeks into my routine the Father spoke as I lay on my back staring up at a star filled night:

"What you see *out there* (He said with emphasis) in the universe is creation to day one (up to day one). All you see before you is what was done up to day one. Then I stopped and turned my creative attention to the earth to complete it. But there will come a time when I will once again turn my creative attention to the rest of the universe to complete it. But what you see out there now, is creation to day one."

I lay there for a minute thinking. All those stars, all those galaxies, are just "to (up to) day one". Incomplete, primitive, the most basic building blocks of the universe in place, but on hold awaiting a time when He will turn His attention back to them.

Wow. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." of Genesis 1:1 sets the order, that the stars came first, then the planets - science agrees. But 'in the beginning' was before day 1 starts as we read Genesis, for the focus in that first verse is the stars, then leads to the earth, then continues the focus on earth's creation. How long was 'in the beginning God created the heavens and earth' before He turned His attention to earth to complete it?

(I still love the stars, I even have a teaching series on the 'Gospel in the Stars' for the signs of the zodiac in ancient times told the story of salvation, from Virgo the virgin who gives birth to a son, to Leo the lion of the tribe of Judah showing the return of Messiah, to Gemini who were originally a groom and his bride, and so on).

That He said it was 'to day one' tells me there is a huge time gap between the creation of the stars and earth and the 'day one' starting earth's completion. There could be billions of earth years between the creation of the universe and God starting His focus on earth to complete it. We don't know, the rest is speculation.

The 'ages to come' in which He will continue to show us His love and kindness mentioned in Ephesians 2:7, have to do with His plans for us and the rest of the universe.

Starlight and Time, by Dr. Russell Humphreys

His book is available in Kindle format as well as paperback, and for me, generally solved the question of how old the universe and earth are. His main point is that Einstein said time would go faster the further it got from a gravity source. This was proven correct with the placement of 2 identical atomic clocks, one in Greenwich, England near sea level, and one in Boulder, Colorado, more than a mile (1.6km) above sea level. The clock further away from the core of the earth which is the source of earth's gravity, runs 5 microseconds (.000005) faster than the one at sea level.

This proves Einstein correct, time moves more quickly the further from a gravity source. According to Dr. Humphreys' calculations, that means (because Genesis was written from the perspective of earth) the stars would be about 14 billion years old while the earth would be a few thousands of years old.

Both ages are correct, it is time that changes with distance from a gravity source, which is the earth's gravity in this context. Interesting to consider...

2 floods

Genesis opens with the earth as a water planet in darkness, stating the earth was 'formless and void and darkness was on the face of the deep'. That is a dark water planet. But how did it get that way?

The phrase in Hebrew stating the earth was, "formless and void" is used only 1 other place in scripture, which is Jeremiah 4:23. There he speaks of the judgment on Judah, saying the earth was 'formless and void' and dark in judgement. It would seem therefore the earth in Genesis 1 became formless and void due to judgment by flood.

When I read Peter saying the next destruction of the planet will be by fire*, I can't help wondering if the first judgment was the Genesis 1 flood, then Noah's flood was the 2nd, and the 3rd time will be by fire?
*II Peter 3:7

Some food for thought, we won't really know the answer this side of heaven

If that is the case it suggests it happened when Lucifer was thrown out of heaven, stripped of his authority and responsibilities, and cast down to earth. The spiritual war in heaven had a physical manifestation on the planet; his world being judged by a world-wide flood.

A planet flooded in judgement as Genesis opens would not only explain why Satan had already fallen from heaven when he later speaks to Adam and Eve in the Garden, it would explain why he was thrown down to earth in the first place, as opposed to say, sending him to Mars or Jupiter.

Ezekiel 28:13-19 and Isaiah 14:12-17 state Lucifer had authority and made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities, among other destructions he did upon the earth. Most take that to mean in our day Satan is active on the planet, but what if it is speaking of an earlier creation that was flooded over in judgment?

What if there was a creation long before Adam and Eve, modern man, that a good Lucifer ruled? Maybe he ruled the earth as a good king until he wanted more? He wanted to control heaven and took the battle there as The Revelation 12:7-10 states, and was stripped of his authority and thrown back down to earth. Maybe that is why he has been trying to rule the planet in his fallen condition ever since?

What is clear is that there have been 2 floods on the earth that we are told about. If that first flood was in judgment similar to the later flood that came in Noah's time, it means there was ancient life on the planet before the modern man and woman of Adam and Eve and before modern life forms like mammals and higher plants.

That would explain so much about ancient sea life coexisting with modern sea life, fish found in fossils also discovered alive today, and so much more. And that's where we will pick it up next, and also cover the question of dinosaurs. Until then, blessings,

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Thoughts on creation. Dinosaurs? 4 of 4, - 20210320

Hi all,

We will complete this fun series thinking about dinosaurs and lots more. I ended last week talking about 2 judgments by flood, and how anything that was alive (if there had been an earlier creation) in the waters in the first flood could have survived to Adam's time, then survived Noah's flood to our time. That would explain why the Coelacanth fish is found in fossils but is still alive in our oceans today. It would explain ancient types of fish like the alligator gar, hagfish, sturgeon, star fish, and sharks, today live side by side with higher forms of fish with fins and scales.

There are also ancient forms of insects found in fossils like roaches, dragonflies, silverfish and grasshoppers. Scientists say the ancient forms were generally larger due to a higher oxygen content on the earth at the time....and that is interesting for many reasons.

The ancient world

Remember when Adam and Eve were created the earth was covered by clouds but sunlight was visible: Genesis 2:5-6 says it had not rained in those days, but a mist went up from the earth and watered everything. The atmosphere had enough water that it would later rain 40 days and nights without stop. Adam & Eve were naked yet comfortable, meaning the world-wide temperature would have been around 76-80 F (25-27C).

Ancient land life was created perfectly in a perfect environment, far more perfect than today's earth, for the earth back then even gave its fruit and vegetables in abundance without work on man's part. Sin had not yet been unleashed on the planet. It was a perfect environment with the greenhouse effect warming the whole planet, perfect food supply and Genesis 1:29-30 says man and animal were vegetarians with no fear of each other.

What goes around comes around again

Josephus, the Jewish historian who wrote a history of the Jews for Rome, said in the days of Adam and Eve the animals could talk. I personally believe that was his understanding of what we today call 'words of knowledge' and 'words of wisdom'. I believe Adam and Eve moved by the Spirit to know what the animals were thinking and 'saying' in their thoughts, and would have governed by God's wisdom about all the plants and animals under their care.

Hebrews 6:5 also refers to the gifts of the Spirit as 'the powers of the age to come'. When we rule with the Lord we will do so by the Spirit, able to rightly administer God's ways on the earth - remember Zechariah 14 and Matthew 25 both reveal it will be an enforced righteousness and not everyone will want that. Though Satan will be bound, free will remains intact, and many will not want righteousness in all transactions to be enforced.

Big people, big animals, big plants

How big would Adam and Eve have been given perfect nutrition, no sin (at least for awhile), and God's life saturating everything from His brand new creation? An example would be pre-WW2 and post-WW2 Japan. The average height of a Japanese man in WW2 was 5' 3 1/2" tall (1.6m), but subsequent generations, exposed to a variety of foods and health care, have grown 1-2cm (.75inch) per decade since. I wonder if Adam and Eve might have been huge people.

In the plant, insect, and fish world is it any wonder fossils record plants, insects and many ancient fish far larger than their modern relatives? Megalodon being a good example of a giant shark species. Most fish, amphibians and reptiles are what's called, 'indeterminate growers', meaning they never stop growing, limited only by food and environment.

And that brings me to reptiles who as I just stated, never stop growing. If man lived 900+ years back then, and today Nile crocodiles and Australian salt water crocodiles grow in 50 years to over 20 feet (6m), how big in a near perfect environment with perfect food supply would a 500 or 750 year old crocodile grow to be? If a Komodo dragon now grows to 10 feet (3m) in less than 30 years, how big would it grow in 300, 600 or 900 years? What about that little lizard you see running around your garden that grows 6" (15cm) long in a few months; how big would he get in 500 years? If that little garden snake startles you now, how big would it be in 500 years of hanging around your garden? It's a good thing man and animals were vegetarians and not afraid on one another back then!

Dinosaurs?

In Genesis 1:21 the King James Version says God created great whales. The Hebrew translated 'whales' is 'tannin'. That word is translated every time in the Old Testament as 'serpent' or 'dragon'. verse 21 actually says God created 'large dragons' or 'large serpents' (reptiles).

For instance, in Exodus 7:7-12 'tannin' is used to describe the staff of Moses being thrown down and turned into a 'serpent'. The text tells us the Egyptian sorcerers did the same with their staffs, but Moses' 'serpent' swallowed up their serpents. Moses' staff did not become a Humpback whale, neither

did the sorcerer's staffs become whales swallowed by Moses' whale. Serpent or dragon is the correct translation of Genesis 1:21, not 'whales'.

Genesis 1:21 indicates God made 'large dragons' in the time of man. Where did they go? Only the smaller reptiles would have been taken on Noah's ark, and others could have survived floating on debris during the rather brief duration of Noah's flood. But today with our heat/cold cycles and limited food, not to mention the spread of sin burdening the earth, they don't live long enough for us to find out! But it explains why an intact dinosaur carcass was found in India in 2017 and soft tissue in a T-rex bone was found in 2015.

When Noah's flood came the water envelope that had been keeping the earth's temperature universally warm, collapsed. The polar regions would have experienced an immediate large drop in temperature, which may explain why woolly mammoths have been found in the permafrost with food still in their stomachs, their bodies flash frozen by a cataclysmic event. For the first time ever, Noah saw a rainbow as the modern blue sky with full sun appeared, and it was God's sign of covenant never to flood the earth again.

Our modern world with polar ice caps, hurricanes and tornados and such all came about when the atmospheric envelope collapsed. Together with sin, perhaps direct solar radiation has shortened the life spans of every living creature from what it was in those perfect and near-perfect days. What fun to consider, what fun to learn about. And yet a new age and new world await believers, our best days are yet ahead! Blessings, new subject next week, until then,

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