



Lesson 11: Significant Consequences of Inspiration

Creation versus Evolution & The Age of the Earth

IF THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED, IT'S THE TRUTH!

Accepting the Bible as the inspired word of God has significant consequences on our thinking and behavior. If the Bible is God's word, everything it says about everything is right! (Psalm 119:128). God's word is truth (John 17:17). The worldview of every true Bible believer is thus shaped by what the Bible reveals about such things as the nature of God, the problem of sin, and man's need for salvation through Christ. Besides this, if the Bible is inspired, then questions concerning the origin of the universe and life on earth have their answer in Scripture.

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

The first verse of the Bible declares that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:27 declares that "God created man in His own image." If the Bible is inspired, this *must* be true. The general theory of evolution (or macroevolution) denies these truths.

Macroevolution is the belief that all living organisms arose over eons of time through chance and mutation from one simple organism, which itself arose from non-living matter. In contrast, microevolution holds that there are limited changes that can and do occur within kinds of creatures – existing DNA allows creatures to adapt and change while still remaining the same kind of creature. This phenomenon can be observed in many creatures including germs, gerbils, moths and men. Evolutionists often attempt to use examples of microevolution to prove macroevolution, but the two are entirely different.

Macroevolution requires that one kind of creature change into another kind of creature through chance beneficial mutations of DNA. This type of evolution has *never* been observed. It contradicts the Bible's inspired account of creation in the following ways:

- Macroevolution denies that all life began by being specially created.
- It denies that God finished His creative work (Genesis 2:2; Hebrews 4:3, 10).
- It denies that God created mankind in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27; Matt. 19:1-4).
- It denies the fixity of the kinds (Genesis 1:11-12, 24-25).
- It denies the fall of man as the introduction of death and futility into the world (Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 5:12; 8:20-21).
- It denies that the power of God sustains all things (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:28).
- It differs with the Bible on the sequence in which living things began to exist. For instance, evolution states that reptiles came before birds, but the Genesis account indicates that birds were created before "creeping things."

ATTEMPTS TO COMPROMISE WITH EVOLUTION

Theistic Evolution is the belief that God created the universe and simple life forms, but then He stepped away and allowed evolution to finish the work of creation over billions of years. While theistic evolutionists see their views as a means of reconciling evolutionary science

and the Bible, the truth is that the two opposing views cannot be reconciled. There is no middle ground. Theistic evolutionists must deny Bible truths in order to make their compromises.

The Gap Theory. The gap theory is an effort by theistic evolutionists to introduce billions of years of time into the creation story. It states that there is a *gap* between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 in which the earth *became* a wasteland. Many who hold the gap theory assert that during this time there were generations of plants, animals and men. Satan waged war with God and destroyed the original creation causing it to become “waste and void.” Thus, according to this theory, the remainder of the account in Genesis records a re-creation. To accept this theory, one must deny several plain statements of Scripture such as...

- God created everything in six literal days (Exodus 20:11)
- Adam was the first man (1 Corinthians 15:45)
- Death resulted from Adam’s sin (1 Corinthians 15:21; Romans 5:12)

The Day-Age Theory. This theory holds that the days of creation were not literal 24 hour days, but that they were *ages* spanning millions of years. It is another attempt by theistic evolutionists to introduce vast amounts of time into the creation account. The possibility of such would never enter into ones mind from simply reading the text in Genesis 1.

Besides sharing some of the same shortcomings as the Gap Theory, the Day-Age theory has a serious problem with the sequence of the days of creation as recorded in Genesis. Plants were created on the third day, but the sun, moon and stars were not created till the fourth day. Did plants exist for millions of years without the light of the sun?

The text of Genesis 1 repeatedly uses the phrase “evening and morning” as it describes the passing of each day. If God wanted to describe literal 24 hour days, how else would He have done it?

As we noted in the last lesson, Jesus accepted the creation account as literal (Matthew 19:4-5). So did the inspired apostle Paul who said that “Adam was first formed, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:13) and that “man is not from woman, but woman from man; nor was man created for the woman, but woman for the man” (1 Corinthians 11:8-9).

QUESTIONS:

1. Give some examples of how belief in the Bible as God’s word changes the thinking of people on important topics.
2. What is the difference between macroevolution and microevolution?
3. In your opinion, what is the biggest contradiction between the theory of evolution and the Biblical account of creation?
4. What is the biggest problem with the Day-Age Theory?
5. When it comes to explaining the existence of life as we know it, do you think it is more reasonable to believe fallible men who offer only theories and speculation, or to believe a book which claims to be the word of God, contains proof that it is, and has demonstrated itself to be a reliable historical document?