

Creation and Faith

Dan Chamberlin

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3)

There is no clearer statement in Holy Scripture than this concerning the subject of faith as it relates to the origin of all things. It is a most important and fascinating statement with far-reaching implications.

In the context, the faith of God's elect in the Old Testament time, was based on God's bare word alone. Believing His word, they confidently acted upon it. We, likewise, must believe His bare word and then act upon it in whatever way He bids us to the saving of our souls, and to practical obedience in living the Christian life.

Today we who believe God's word find ourselves in conflict with those who do not. This is indeed the conflict of the ages! One hot part of the battlefield involves the issue of the origin of things. Unbelief is present everywhere: especially in classrooms, museums, zoos, but also boardrooms, politics and Hollywood, even some pulpits. (Lest we think this conflict is new, let us remember that the Puritans had to defend biblical creationism in their day, long before Darwin and Dawkins!)

Our opponents today argue against our biblical position by accusing us of being unscientific and simply falling back on faith. They say to us, "We have science; you only have faith. We walk by sight, but you walk by blind faith. We are objective, you are subjective." They accuse us of closing our eyes, sticking our heads in the sands of faith and ignoring the plain facts that prove evolution. (They are so objective and honest! They never fabricated any evidence! Truly, their dishonesty is appalling. The

history of modern evolution from Darwin till now is one full of fabrication of evidence which they wish they could actually find.)

Let me make a few simple observations about creation and faith that I hope will help clarify the issue.

All Explanations For the Origin of Things Require Some Sort of Faith

Sight is of no use to us in this question, because none of us, whether Christian or atheist, saw the beginning! It occurred once and cannot occur again. All who are honest must admit that there are limitations to science. Science observes the observable. But the origin of these things is unobservable. We see the evidence, but not the source; we see the effect but not the cause. Science simply cannot tell how it all got here. Science is out of its league in addressing this question. There is no scientific proof for the origin of things. Not even a scientist who believes in creation (and there have been, and are, many) can prove creation from science. Our text does not say, "By science we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God..." Rather, it is "By faith..."

What is the scientific method? (1) Observation. (2) experimentation. (3) hypothesis. But here is the problem: the beginning cannot be observed, tested and repeated. We were not there! I was not there. Were you there? No evolutionist was there. But evolutionists, with neither observation nor experimentation, have jumped to their hypothesis!—which they insist is more than hypothesis, and more than theory, it is fact! Therefore, their claim that science disproves biblical creationism is a big lie. They simply are showing their natural bias against God and His word.

Since none of us were present at the beginning, we must rely on something or someone else to explain to us how everything came to be.

Thus we are immediately in the realm of "faith" relying on something or someone else.

In other words, we all naturally presuppose certain ideas, and we cannot escape our presuppositions. Our finiteness requires us to look outside ourselves for a source of knowledge. As Dr. Downing has said: "Although modern man would fain consider himself to be scientific and empirical in his epistemology [science of knowledge and truth-claims], he is necessarily brought to a principle of faith, and therefore a presuppositional stance for what he considers to be true and truth." (*A Baptist Catechism*, p. 32.)

The Faith of the Evolutionist Rests in Irrational Impossibilities

To be fair, many beginner evolutionists blindly trust their college professor, or their textbook, or the great number of scientists out there who insist that only their explanation fits with science.

But the faith of "studied evolutionists" rests in impossibilities such as these:

- (1) the power of impersonal matter to self-exist. Trace any of the evolutionary systems back as far as evolutionists will allow, and you will always find something out there to begin with...some cause...some lifeless matter that for no reason was just "there", such as hydrogen, oxygen, carbon and nitrogen and helium. The question we rightly ask is, "Where did that come from?" But evolution gives no answer. It simply takes the existence of the first substance(s) by *faith!*
- (2) the power of matter to add genetic information to itself, and to choose which information to add...especially, the power of a species to change itself into another species. For example, a fish decided to

grow legs and walk on land. Now, while changes within a species certainly do occur, there has never been a change from one species into another. In truth, genetic information may be rearranged or become recessive or lost within a species but never gained. (Our modern genetic engineering involves intelligent person(s) from outside the system adding it, and even then there is no change of species.) Dr. Lesley Walls, a well-studied brother in Christ, assures me that all alteration of the human genome has been for the worse, not for the better. Things only tend to dissolution, disintegration and death. Even Isaac Asimov admitted that things tend to move from a state of order to disorder. But he and his fellow evolutionists contradict themselves by insisting that atoms organize themselves into increasingly complex, orderly, beneficial arrangements, even though no one has ever witnessed such an event. They simply take this contradiction by *faith*.

(3) the power of chance over a long period of time. "Given enough time, anything can happen." Thus, evolution hides under the veil of supposed millions of years that are assumed to provide plenty of room for impossible things. But large amounts of time do not make impossibilities any more likely to occur! Given endless time, impossibilities are still impossible! To think contrariwise requires *blind faith*. What we are accused of!

These kinds of presuppositions of anti-creationists defy reason and are an insult to our intelligence, not to mention a blasphemy against the Creator. The whole scheme is a sham, conclusions built on faulty premises. It only advances by means of peer pressure, intimidation and caricature of creationists as unsophisticated and ignorant. It cannot advance by scientific evidence because it has no evidence. It must be taken by *faith*.

It is really too kind to call these presuppositions "faith." We ought rather to call them absurdities, fantasies and very unsound thinking. Iain

Murray recently wrote, "The truth is that it is unbelief rather than Christianity that depends on the irrational for its survival." (*The Undercover Revolution*, p. 7.)

The Faith of the Christian Rests in the Eternal God, His Word and His Veracity

Since none of us was at the beginning, we have no good option but to trust the testimony of the only One who was there, namely the Creator. He is God alone and over all. He is above creation and above time. He is eternal. He self-exists. He did not create Himself; that would be an impossibility. Rather He necessarily eternally self-exists. (We said a moment ago that *impersonal* matter cannot self-exist. However, a *personal*, infinite, Supreme Being can and must self-exist.) He is the "uncaused Cause of all causation." He has revealed Himself in His word as Creator. In His word, He has revealed *that* He created and *how* He created (by the word of His mouth—and thus there is no room for "theistic evolution") and why He created (for His own glory). We must take this by faith...and we do so unashamedly!

The basic Christian presupposition is, *In the beginning God* (Gen. 1:1). But the basic evolutionist presupposition is, "In the beginning hydrogen and helium." Again, our text states our presupposition, ..."the worlds were framed by the word of God." Everything we know stems from this presupposition which we believe and cannot but believe.

Objection: "But you are guilty of circular reasoning! You believe the Bible is the word of God because it says it is."

Answer: In discussing ultimate issues, circular reasoning is all that is available to any of us. As *finite* beings, there is no other way to reason on the great issue of origins! We creationists begin with presuppositions and we return to those presuppositions. But so do atheists and evolutionists,

as we have seen! They presuppose there is no God, and they return again and again to that presupposition. However, if the Bible is not a reliable guide, then there is none, and our existence is ultimately meaningless. Those who follow such unbiblical thinking end up in total relativism, debating profound questions like, "Am I here?"!

The Biblical Explanation is Consistent with Sound Reasoning.

Our text says, ". . . *so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*" Something greater than matter is necessary in order for matter to exist. Matter is not eternal. Matter cannot make itself. It cannot make its equal. It cannot make its greater. John Blanchard put the truth succinctly when he said, "Matter matters", a chapter title in his book *Does God Believe in Atheists?* Even a pagan can understand this basic principle! Observing the world around us, and especially our own bodies and souls, we must conclude that a power greater than this world made it all to exist. (The same truth is taught in Romans chapter I.)

Thus, though there is no *scientific* proof for the origin of things, there is *logical, philosophical* proof, which any rational person will readily admit. And Scripture agrees with rational thinking. But Scripture also exceeds human reason, and fully satisfies our thirst to know who we are, how we got here, and what is the meaning and purpose of our life. (Here is a weakness of the "Intelligent Design" movement: it is content with *philosophical* proof of creation. The value of the ID movement is limited because it cannot tell us *who* the intelligence was and why the intelligence did what it did.)

God's word never contradicts reason. It supersedes reason, but is never below sound reason. God never requires us to believe anything that is unreasonable or silly. Thomas Manton said, "Religion is not illiterate.

Grace doth not make men simple, but rather perfects human learning. None discern truth with more comfort and satisfaction than a believer; [faith] solves all doubts and riddles of reason... Faith and reason must go together, though reason must be subordinate."

The question is not, "Who has faith and who has science?" because all explanations of origins require faith. (We all work with the same scientific data, but how we interpret that data is a matter of faith.) The real question is, "Whose faith is well founded? And whose faith is consistent with sound reason?" The faith of the evolutionist is built on unreasonable impossibilities. The faith of the Bible-believing Christian is founded upon the true and living God, the ultimate Authority, the only Witness to the event of creation. He alone was there, and He cannot lie.

Or we may put it this way: either you believe that God is eternal or you believe that matter is eternal. Eternal God or eternal slime! Those are the only options.

It all comes down to this: we all must trust an authority outside ourselves. Whose authority do you trust: that of the God of truth, or that of those who hate Him, who follow Satan the liar? Do you believe the One who always tells you truth or the habitual liar? Friend, if you believe a habitual liar, you are, in the fullest sense of the word, a fool!

The choice is clear and the implications are momentous. I urge you to believe in God! *Believe that he is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him* (v. 6). Seek Him and you will find Him who is your Creator and your Redeemer!

Some day, there will be no evolutionists. All will be creationists as they bow and confess the Lordship of Christ. But it will be one day too late for those who go to hell. Friend, *believe* God's Word today! *Believe* every word, every jot and tittle. "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt*

be saved!"

[This sermon was preached during the 28th Annual Sovereign Grace Conference, August 4-6, 2009, at Victory Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, by Elder Daniel Chamberlin, Pastor of Covenant Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, OK.]