

Summary "Reflections on the Creation Debate" CBF 24 May 2012

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Introduction Atheists seek to discredit the Bible and its message of a Creator, and insist that "Science" will be able to explain our existence without any requirement for God. It is accepted that knowledge is not yet complete, but this will be resolved in the future..

My contention is that there is harmony between the Biblical accounts of creation, including the Genesis prologue (a literary, not literalist, interpretation after Augustine and Blocher) and current scientific accounts of the origin and development of the universe. Far from defects in the Biblical account, there are significant gaps in a coherent account of our origins as understood by science. These "difficulties" should be better known and proclaimed.

1 Seven Principles concerning Creation, as told by the Bible

1 Time began. The universe did not always exist

2 Something came from nothing. The initial existence was inanimate-matter, light and water.

3 Earth was formed and developed from preceding stages.

4 Humans represent the end of creation-there is an anthropic principle.

5 Creation developed through information transmission -the information coming from God.

6 Creation was designed by a designer

7 Creation is purposeful, a delight to God, and declared "very good".

2 Four Divine Laws of Life

Law 1 There shall be an initial creative event, where space and time will commence, and the products of this event shall be constructed to produce life, which will be generative

Law2 This life will be expressed as individual entities and life on earth will be rich in variety. There will be matching of life to various environments.

Law 3 These living entities will be social and relate in different ways to each other

Law4 There will be time limits to individual living beings

Scientifically these four laws can be stated as follows:

Law 1 All living beings are physico-chemical entities, have a common origin ultimately in the big Bang, although more immediately from the chemicals of primitive earth, and are capable of reproduction allowing initially clonal survival, and later generative offspring.

Law 2 Variety exists in living organisms as a result of changes over time in a universal genetic code. This allows gradual change (evolution from genetic mutations), and adaptation

to varying environments (natural selection). These genetic changes will produce disease and disability, as well as variety .You cannot have one without the other. .

Law 3 Symbiosis is a reality of living entities, with mutualism, parasitism and commensalism modes. These relationships may produce benefits in some situations, but in other situations competition, development of food chains, harm and disease. Not all relationships can be commensal.

Law 4 Individual death occurs for all living entities, and maximum life spans exist for individual living entities, most commonly preceded and regulated by an ageing process

3 Seven Major Gaps in the story of life Summary

- 1 Big Bang from nothing
- 2 Order from a bang
- 3 Spontaneous generation of life on primitive earth
- 4 Development of eubacteria
- 5 Development of metazoa regulated by hormones and brains
- 6 Development of the human brain
- 7 A unique pattern for human ageing.

Conclusion 1 Ancient copies of even more ancient documents ,provide data that allow the interpretation that our very existence has come about as a creative activity of an Almighty Being, revealed to us as Yahweh, and that this event: 1) marked the beginning of time; 2)came from nothing; 3) developed in a dependent manner from a preceding source material;, 4) produced humans as image bearers of Yahweh; 5) required transmission of information to achieve progressive development; 6) is designed;7) is intended.

2 This information, now readily available for us in our modern Bibles, conforms with the discoveries of science, so that there is no disharmony between the Bible and science, in fundamental areas. . Atheists demand "pseudo-design" and "pseudo-purpose", deny an anthropic principle and rely on accident and chance instead of a creator.

3 Four patterns in living entities can be seen by observation of life on Earth, and could be considered as "Biological Laws". These can be seen as intentions of the Creator as if proclaimed in the Bible as Divine Decrees. . Acceptance of these patterns by individuals as God's intentions, would make life less confusing, more delightful, and minimise much of the angst currently present in the Western community at large

4 Scientific understanding of our existence has many serious gaps in explanations of causal mechanisms required to move from the Big Bang to our present state. There are no grounds for confidence that these mechanisms will ever be found.

