

## Origin Beliefs

### Commentary for October 18, 2011 – A Comparison by J. D. Mitchell

In Portland, Oregon where the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge is located there is a flourishing, energetic, and sophisticated group of educators that promote biblical creationism, primarily teaching what is called “young earth creationism.” On pages 2 and 3 is a comparison of the five most popular beliefs regarding the origins of the heavens and the earth.

This useful compilation of origin beliefs was compiled by J.D. Mitchell, P.E., BSME, MBS, a local creationist author, speaker, and researcher. I have been granted permission from Mr. Mitchell to re-present his information in a different format than he presents in his webpage “[A Comparison of the Most Popular Origin Beliefs.](#)”

Mr. Mitchell has also done excellent original research on the La Brea Tar Pits, the archaeopteryx fossil (the supposed link between dinosaurs and birds), presuppositions of evolution theory, false evidence of evolution, among other topics. Mr. Mitchell has two tagline phrases: “The Universe Looks Designed Because It Is!” and “Good Science and the Bible are in Perfect Accord!” I agree with those statements because they are true.

In his article “[The Story of Creation](#)” Dr. Ernest Martin puts forth his understanding of the biblical story of creation. To that article I attached a Supplement in which I discuss and review the excellent book by Thomas Patrick Arnold, *[Two Stage Biblical Creation: Uniting Biblical Insights Uncovered by Ten Notable Creation Theories](#)* (Arlington Heights, IL: Thomas Arnold Publishing, 2007).

Mankind has always been informed by God about creation. As I note in my Supplement, the information was always available to most of mankind just as God says through Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah 40:21–22 and verse 26 clearly show that mankind should know about creation because God has told mankind that information from earliest time, from the beginning:

**“Have you not known? [Yes!] have you not heard? [Yes!] has it not been told you from the beginning? [Yes!] have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? [Yes!]”**

**It is he that sits upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreads them out as a tent to dwell in: ...**

**Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who has created these things, that brings out their host by number: he calls them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one fails.”**

**• *Isaiah 40:21–22, 26***

Only God’s revelation, His Word, the Bible, can provide correct answers to the questions that mankind asks. Put J.D. Mitchell’s information on pages 2 and 3 side by side.

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Biblical Creationism (Young Earth)</b>	<b>Intelligent Design Biology (Old/Young Earth)</b>
<b>a. Who are the proponents?</b>	Creation scientists	Intelligent design movement
<b>b. What is the history?</b>	Since creation ~ 6,000 years	Since Natural Theology of William Paley (1802)
<b>c. What is the public acceptance?</b>	Confusion	Confusion
<b>d. Where did life come from?</b>	Created by God	From a designer
<b>e. How about lifeform variety?</b>	God created life with enough information within kinds	No consistent answer (NCA)
<b>f. How did man originate?</b>	God made from dust at time of creation	NCA
<b>g. How many races are there?</b>	Only one — the human race	NCA
<b>h. How about origin of the earth &amp; universe?</b>	God created everything within six days	NCA
<b>i. How are days of creation explained?</b>	Ordinary approximately 24 hour days	NCA
<b>j. What is the age of the earth?</b>	Approximately 6,000 years	NCA
<b>k. What is the age of the universe?</b>	Approximately 6,000 years	NCA
<b>l. How about dinosaurs?</b>	Made on day six along with other animals and man	NCA
<b>m. How about death, disease &amp; suffering?</b>	God's punishment for man's sin	NCA
<b>n. Is there a moral authority?</b>	Yes, the Bible	NCA
<b>o. What is the view of the Bible?</b>	Inerrant & authoritative	NCA
<b>p. What about Noah's Flood?</b>	Cataclysmic & worldwide	NCA
<b>q. How are the geologic layers explained?</b>	Evidence for Noah's Flood	NCA
<b>r. What does the fossil record tell us</b>	Evidence for God's judgment & Noah's Flood	NCA
<b>s. How about Noah's ark?</b>	Large barge-like vessel	NCA

<b>Theistic Evolution (Old Earth)</b>	<b>Progressive Creation (Old Earth)</b>	<b>Molecules-to-Man Evolution (Old Earth)</b>
Churches & theologians	Day Age scientists and theologians	Secular world
At least since Augustine (430 AD)	Since about 1800	Since Aristotle
Confusion	Confusion	Confusion, but probably less than 20%
God created it and it then evolved	God created life in spurts	Accidentally from chemicals
From natural selection and mutations	God created separately	From natural selection and mutations
From ape-like ancestors	God made man super-naturally	From ape-like ancestors
Four	Only one — the human race	Four
God used the big bang	God used the big bang	Naturally from big bang
Idea is a myth	Each day is millions of years	They are a myth
About 4.5 billion years	About 4.5 billion years	About 4.5 billion years
Between 12 and 20 billion years	Between 12 and 20 billion years	Between 12 and 20 billion years
Evolved and went extinct about 65 million years ago	Created and went extinct 65 million years ago	Evolved and went extinct 65 million years ago
Always a part of life	Always a part of life	Always a part of life
The Bible maybe	Yes, the Bible	No. except for personal preference
NCA	Inerrant as properly interpreted by experts	Just another book
Local flood in the Middle East	Local flood in the Middle East	Most believe just a myth
Evidence for millions of years	Evidence for millions of years	Evidence for millions of years
Evidence for evolution	Evidence for millions of years of creation	Evidence for evolution
Modest vessel or myth	Modest vessel or myth	Modest vessel or myth

## **Proper Analysis**

J.D. Mitchell's analysis is useful because in my opinion it correctly identifies the teachings of each of the five competing origin belief systems. He tests each of the belief systems by asking 19 questions and then shows how each would answer those questions. Only the understanding of young earth biblical creationism answers the questions in accord with ALL the information put forth in the biblical record.

Mitchell's work (and that of all biblical creationists) is reinforced and supported by Thomas Arnold's book which gives detailed scholarly analysis of passages in the Bible that deal with the issue of creation. Hundreds of books supporting creationism have come out in recent years, and more will follow. Young earth creationism is winning the battle for truth, and evolutionists are very afraid that their hold on education may suffer defeat in the court of public opinion. The unscientific and unbiblical theory of evolution will soon die.

Note the section **"c. What is the public acceptance?"** Mitchell notes that public acceptance is confused for every origin belief. Why is this so? It is because the public does not acknowledge God or the truth of His word. If they did they would reject all forms of evolution (theistic and otherwise) as evolution is increasingly being demonstrated as impossible.

God created mankind to seek answers in life, answers to questions about Him. Some of the answers about God can be found by observing creation. In fact, every detail of the creation (the plants, animals, geology, geography, astronomy, and even astrophysics) gives us information about God, just as the apostle Paul says in Romans:

**"... that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:**

**Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but [they] became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened [they did it to themselves]. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."**

**• Romans 1:18-23**

What can we learn about God from His creation. God loves color. He loves variety. He is orderly. He delegated authority to Adam, spirit beings, kings, and to His Son Jesus Christ. Most all of the hundreds of attributes about God can be understood by looking at creation.

God's love can only be known through His revelation to man. God's plan, which includes physical creation, is designed for all the sons of Adam. That means all creation has a purpose, which includes you. In a very real sense, as believing children of God you are the object of creation. Christ was the object of creation, and you are in Christ as God intended from before the foundation of the world.

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