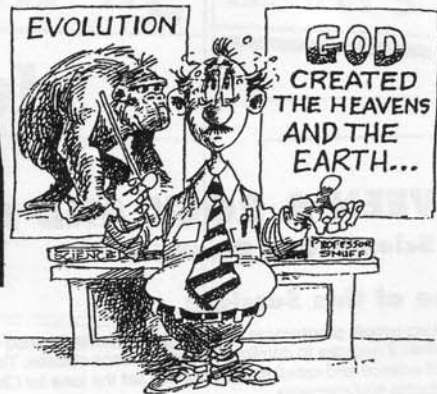


BETWEEN A ROCK AND A BIBLICAL PLACE



- 1** Answer each of the following questions.
- What makes the **most** sense to you about the theory of evolution?

 - What makes the **least** sense to you about the theory of evolution?

 - What makes the **most** sense to you about the theory of creationism?

 - What makes the **least** sense to you about the theory of creationism?

- 2** What do you think?
- | | THAT'S RIGHT | THAT'S NOT RIGHT |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| a. An open-minded person would have to accept evolution as truth. | _____ | _____ |
| b. The Bible and evolution are compatible. | _____ | _____ |
| c. Schools should teach both creationism and evolution as theories in their science courses. | _____ | _____ |
| d. The Bible provides Christians with a scientific account of the origin of the world. | _____ | _____ |
| e. One cannot be a Christian and believe in evolution. | _____ | _____ |
| f. Christians should not study science. | _____ | _____ |

- 3** Answer each of the following questions the way you believe the Bible teaches and then the way you believe science teaches.
- Is there a God?**
The Bible says . . . _____
Science says . . . _____
 - How was the world formed?**
The Bible says . . . _____
Science says . . . _____
 - How unique are people?**
The Bible says . . . _____
Science says . . . _____
 - How do the laws of nature work?**
The Bible says . . . _____
Science says . . . _____

- 4** Each of the following statements summarizes a belief about the origin of life. Choose the one that comes closest to what you believe to be true.
- Life evolved through naturalistic processes over a long period of time with no Creator involved.
 - A Creator created life then allowed that life to evolve through naturalistic processes over a long period of time.
 - A Creator created life and directed its evolution toward a purpose over a long period of time.
 - A Creator created life as it exists today and designed all of it for a special purpose.

- 5** Read each of the following verses that describe God in relationship to the world and everything in it.
Psalm 19:1-6 Colossians 1:16, 17 2 Peter 3:13 Revelation 14:7
- How do each of these passages suggest that we interpret scientific data? _____

Date Used: _____

Group: _____

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A BIBLICAL PLACE

Topic: Science and Creation

Purpose of this Session:

Christian young people progressing through school are confronted with questions and doubts about the validity of their religious upbringing when it appears to conflict with their science classes. This TalkSheet encourages an open and honest discussion on the subject of science and creation. Be sure you set the tone for Christian love, open-mindedness, and safety as young people share their doubts and concerns.

o Introduce the Topic:

Ahead of time, tape-record the opinions of different people regarding evolution and creation. Play these for the students and have them react to the views they hear.

You can also introduce the subject by asking the following question: "What would have to happen for algae to evolve into a person?" Let the group members go back and forth in answering this question. They do not need to come to any sort of solution. Then tell the group you will be discussing the issue of science and creation.

he Discussion:

n #1: Give volunteers the opportunity to share their answers. Keep the discussion participants from discounting or putting down the views of individuals. So often with hot topics Christian love is thrown out the window in favor of winning an argument.

n #2: Discuss each statement, allowing time for debate. The following comments can be made to the group after the statements have been discussed. Christianity and science are not competing with each other. They tend to answer different questions. Christianity focuses upon the "why" and "what should be" issues, while science leans toward answering the "how" and "what is" questions. Science examines and tries to explain data. There are more often than not competing theories that explain the same data. Creationism is a competing theory with that of evolution. There are a number of creation viewpoints just as there are a number of evolution viewpoints. Many scientific theories of today will be discarded, but God's Word will stand. Scientific theories cannot assert themselves as truth. Since no human being lived to observe the origins of our universe, no scientific theories can claim to be truth. By faith, however, we can know that God's Word is truth.

n #3: The following are brief comments about each statement. **Question a.** The Bible says there is a God who is both infinite and personal. Science says the existence of God can never be proved. **Question b.** The Bible says God created the world in six days, fundamentally as it appears now except for the distortions sin has created. Science generally says that the world evolved over billions and millions of years. **Question c.** The Bible says that people have been created in the image of God, making them unique. Science says people are linked to all creation through an evolutionary process that makes all living things similar. **Question d.** The Bible says God created and controls his laws of nature. Science says that nature is controlled by laws that are influenced by any outside force or power.

n #4: Allow the young people to share their views. If they come up with an additional view, ask them to write it on a chalkboard or on newsprint for everyone to examine.

n #5: The passages each describe God as Creator. Explain to the group that all people interpret any information they receive through the filter of their beliefs. If one is an atheist, data will be interpreted differently than if one is a Christian, or if one believes in theism. If one believes God created the world, one's view of the world will be affected by that belief.

Close the Session:

Go beyond the scope of this TalkSheet to discuss the details of the theories of evolution and creation. If you are well versed in these theories, you can debate the merits of each. It is easy to get caught up in subtle details of the theories and models of creationism and evolution, but they have little to do with our faith in Jesus Christ. We make belief in these issues a point of fellowship. Some have made it a question of salvation. The point that needs to be made is that God has declared his involvement in creation—in its beginning, in its sustenance, and in its end. The atheistic interpretations of God's creation or the new age theistic interpretations inadequately answer the order, wonder, and complexity of God's creation. Only a view that includes God of the Bible can adequately explain our world and everything in it. Explain that one has to have as much faith in science as one believes its theories as one does to believe in the Bible. Close by reading Psalm 100.

Outside Activities:

Have your young people conduct a poll in a shopping mall, asking passersby whether they believe in creation, evolution, or something in between.

Ask a scientist who is a Christian or a science teacher to present the different perspectives on the creation/evolution debate.

of People

UNIT THEME

The Beginnings of God's Plan

SCRIPTURE

God creates people – Genesis 1:26 – 2: 23

BIBLE TRUTH AIM

To understand that God created people in His image, distinct from animals, for special purposes.

LIFE RESPONSE AIM

To plan specific ways to fulfill God's purposes for us.

MEMORY VERSE

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Genesis 1:27, KJV

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27, NIV

**PLANNING
YOUR LESSON****INSIGHTS FOR
TEACHING**

Some students have heard that people are supposed to have come from apes. In this lesson we contrast the secular theory that people are the product of slow, haphazard mutations with the biblical revelation that people are the planned product of purposeful creation by our loving God.

How reassuring to know that God planned human beings to be special! How are we different from animals? Why did God make us special? People are lifted from a bestial level to a place of dignity and presented as God's unique creatures prepared to head up creation and to fellowship with God by choice.

Before our students become committed to secular theory, let's expose its fallacies. Let's build biblical strengths they can rely on, and let's introduce them to their Creator.

The suggestions and commentary on the **TEACHER CASSETTE** will help you make the most of this lesson.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Bibles, pencils
- BIBLE PROMISES OF BIBLE TREASURES, pages 11-12
- For Focus: Pictures of inventions, animals, and people
- For Discover: Analysis of differences between people and animals, Sheet 9, TEACHING RESOURCES
- COUNSELOR take-home paper for each student
- For Enrichment see page 35 - Pre-session, Worship, and Alternate classtime activities



GUIDING YOUR STUDENTS

FOCUS

GETTING STARTED

Thinking about the origin of people

Picture talk Choose from your files some pictures which show inventions, such as: bridges or skyscrapers, jet planes, or space vehicles. Also have ready pictures of interesting animals and a person.

[Hold up pictures of inventions.] Could these things have happened by themselves? (No, they had to be planned) Anything which has a design or plan has to have a designer.

[Hold up pictures of animals.] Could animals like these just happen by themselves? Some people think everything, including people and animals, happened by chance, without any purpose.

[Hold up picture of person.] Could people have just

happened by themselves and developed characteristics and abilities that are so different from any other creatures?

Raising the question Why did God create human beings? Those who don't believe God planned and created people don't know why they are on earth. How different it is for those who believe people were designed for a purpose! Let's find out how and why people were put here on earth.

EXPLORING THE BIBLE

Learning how God created people
in His likeness

"Taking notes" on the Bible story Hand out paper and pencils. As you tell the Bible story, have students listen for and write down four reasons people are special, different from God's other creations. After the story, discuss students' findings.

How people really got here
(Genesis 1:26-2:23)

The true story of how people got here is in God's Word. God said, "Let Us make man" (Gen. 1:26). God gave thought to the creation of man and planned it all out. People did not just happen by chance. They were God's special creation, His masterpiece.

The three Persons of the Trinity were all a part of Creation. God said, "Let Us make man in Our Image." That tells us how different man is from anything else created—plants or animals. God made people in His "likeness" or "Image." Since God is a Spirit without a body, our bodies cannot look like God. But we are made to act like God in the way we think and feel, decide and behave. People are like God in what they do, not in how they look.

People are different from animals because God created us for special responsibility. God gave man the abilities to think and choose. God's plan was to have man be the caretaker of all that He created. It was a high and wonderful position. Whatever their duties, people were to be busy helping to carry out God's plan for Planet Earth. They were to be God's companions and coworkers!

The Creator used some of the same elements to make animals and man. He used the same patterns of spine, veins, and brain for man as He had for animals. But something else was given to man—something which made him very different from animals.

When God breathed into the lifeless body of man, it was more than just supplying him with oxygen so he could inhale and exhale air. Animals can do that. God was giving special life to man. Man received an "inside person or spirit" with special qualities of being able to think, feel, choose, and act freely. It is this "spirit" of man which makes him different from animals.

The man was able to know God and communicate with Him. God cared so much for him that He prepared a perfect place for man to live. It was a huge garden, perhaps like one of our national parks. In it grew beautiful plants and trees and flowers. It was filled with growing things that were good to eat. It was watered by a river and a refreshing mist (Gen. 2:6, 10). There were no violent storms in that garden, just a steady, warm climate. All the animals were tame plant-eaters (1:29-30). The man did not need a house for protection against weather or wild animals.

Though God and Adam probably talked regularly about man's supervision of the garden, the Lord knew something was missing. Man was alone. Adam had already named and become well acquainted with all the animals God had brought before him, but none was the right companion for the man. He needed someone like himself, someone with that special "spirit."

God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, and using one of Adam's ribs, He formed a woman.

Adam said, "She was made from me with bones and flesh like mine. Her name is Woman because she was taken out of man." Woman was the perfect answer to Adam's need for a companion because she too was able to think, feel, choose, and act freely.

After God had completed His Creation, He looked over His work, including people. And He saw that it was all good. Imagine the invisible God moving among the forests and animals and through the seas, delighting in all His creatures. God looked on everything with pleasure. It was all perfect. He loved and enjoyed what He had created.

Then with everything going as He had planned, God rested from His work. He didn't take a vacation or go to sleep. He rested in the sense that He stopped creating. God set apart the seventh day because He had completed the work He had set out to do.

Using student page 11 Have students use their Bibles to complete page 11, STUDENT GUIDE (see below).

He Made Us

How do you feel about God's creation of man? Are you amazed?



O Lord, what are people that You should care about us? You made man a little _____ than the angels in heaven. You _____ him with _____ and honor. You put him in charge of the things You created. You put everything under his _____ of the _____, the birds of the air, and the _____ of the _____ Lord, how excellent and majestic is Your _____ on all the _____! (Based on Psalm 8:4-9)

David, the psalmwriter, was overwhelmed by God's creative power. He wrote Psalm 8 to express how he felt. Read the Psalm in your Bible. Write in the correct words to complete what David said.

How does the creation of people make you feel toward God? What should it make you want to do? Unscramble the circled letters and use them to complete the answer below.


A Verse to Remember

Genesis 1:27

BIBLE PROMISES

Have a student read Psalm 139:14 aloud. Discuss what the psalmist meant when he said he was "fearfully and wonderfully made." Hand out paper and pencils. Ask students to write down what they think is the most wonderful, amazing thing about people. After a few minutes collect the papers and read them aloud. If students need help, suggest these ideas: a mind that can reason and understand ideas, a body that can fight off disease, hands that can use tools to create beautiful works of art, mouths that can form words which are understood by other people.

Designed by God



CREATED

C	R	E	A	T	E	D	L	K	N	P
C	W	O	I	S	T	S	H	I	P	
R	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	I	Z	
D	F	A	S	S	A	N	N	I	Z	
W	O	N	D	E	R	S	T	I	Z	
N	Z	J	F	P	U	T	L	W	E	
R	K	Q	V	I	U	T	L	W	E	
U	T	V	E	L	N	G	L	E	E	
W	G	K	L	V	A	L	L	E	R	
M	A	D	D	U	V	G	H	E	E	D

God carefully planned and designed the first man and woman. They were special, different from all the other things He had created. Read the Bible verses to discover where what how special people are. Circle words in the puzzle to complete the sentences.

Psalm 8:6
God made man a little _____ than the angels. He _____ man with glory and honor and put him in charge of everything He had created. God put everything under man's _____ of the _____, the birds of the air, and the _____ of the _____ of the _____.

Psalm 140:3
The Lord is God. It is He that _____ on. We are His _____ and the _____ of His pasture.

Psalm 139:14
We are _____ and _____ made.

Isaiah 43:7
God _____ people for His _____ and called them by His name.

Are you amazed at the way God designed you? How should we respond to His creative power? Psalm 104:4

Which _____ of _____ and _____ of _____?

Making God's Word Mine

Genesis 1:27

BRAIN WAVE

God made each person unique, different from every other person. What are some ways you are different from your family and friends?

DID YOU KNOW?

Your heart pumps blood completely around your body more than 1,000 times a day. And if you could lay all your body's blood vessels end to end, they would circle the equator more than twice!

BIBLE TREASURES

What do you think the first man and woman looked like? Let students share their ideas. Some scientists would have us believe that people have evolved over millions of years from wild animals to half-wild, hairy, grunting creatures called cavemen eventually to what we are today. Do you think that's a reasonable theory? Let students express their opinions. We don't know what people were like when they were first created, but we know they were special, made in God's own image, very different from animals. The animals are *not* our brothers and sisters. We did not evolve from them.

Understanding how people are different from animals

Illustrated discussion Use the pictures on Sheet 9, TEACHING RESOURCES, to spark a discussion of how people are different from animals. Cut the question, captions, and cards apart. Using Plasti-Tak, mount the question on a large piece of poster board. Under the question mount the four captions: Thinking, Communicating, Choosing, and Knowing God. Hand out the cards to students. Have each student read his or her card aloud and show it to the rest of the class, then read the question on the back. Let the class discuss the answer to the question. Make sure you cover the cards in order, with discussion of the animal first and then the human contrast, so that your students understand how people are different from animals.

God tells us in His Word that people are a special creation, something unique and different from the rest of creation.

Thinking—Can a beaver change his ideas and build a better dam of a different design? (No, his instinct dictates only one way to build a dam.) **How are people different from this?** (People can think and plan and reason. People have built and invented many different kinds of things. People are creative.) **How are people like God?** (God is reasonable, creative, and able to plan, and He made us the same way.)

Communicating—How do animals "talk" to each other? (Discuss different methods of animal communication: noises, body posture and movement, scents, and so on.) **How do people talk?** (People communicate mostly with words which express their ideas and feelings.) **Unlike animals, people can think and talk about the past and the future. With whom did man talk after he was created?** (God) **People and God communicate.**

Choosing—Can a rat decide to be different from other rats? **Why or why not?** (Discuss how animals cannot choose to be different. They were created to follow certain patterns of behavior and they do not deviate from these set patterns. Some animals seem to have different personalities than others, but they all basically live, react, and behave in the same ways their species always has.) **How are people different from this?** (People can choose what their behavior will be.) **How does this make people like God?** (He can think and choose and He made us the same way.)

Knowing God—Why can't animals know God? (Animals don't have a spiritual nature.) **Why can people know God?** (God breathed His spirit into man.)

Rewording the memory verse Read Genesis 1:27 together from the STUDENT GUIDE. Ask each student to say the verse in his own words, adding to the verse one of the ways we are like God, such as: God created man in His own image, [to feel as God feels].

How are people different from animals?

Thinking	Communicating	Choosing	Knowing God
 <p>Our "beaver" beavers construct a dam. They appear to think, but they really do this by instinct. They need and know how to build dams or already locked inside them like a computer.</p>	 <p>A monkey has been trained to "talk" by using a typewriter. This monkey is trained to type out words, but it is not able to talk for itself. The monkey has a "monkey language" by itself.</p>	 <p>Animals can be trained to make choices which reward them with food. They know what to do to get the reward.</p>	 <p>Animals don't know there is a God. The cat can't think about Him or pray to Him.</p>
 <p>People are aware of needs. They think when you're alone together and make plans. They smart things to take care of needs.</p>	 <p>People can talk together to form words to express ideas. They communicate thoughts and beliefs, past and future, as well as present.</p>	 <p>People also learn to do what gets them what they want or need. But people can choose and control their behavior. They can decide to do right or wrong.</p>	 <p>Only people think of a Being they cannot see who is greater than themselves. This is because they have an "inside person" that gives them a conscience which animals do not have.</p>

RESPOND
APPLYING BIBLE TRUTH

... out God's purposes

Discussion The Life Response Aim for this lesson is to help students plan ways to fulfill God's purposes. This discussion and the STUDENT GUIDE activity will help you reach that aim. Ask a student to read aloud Genesis 1:27-28 and another to read Genesis 2:15. **What is one reason God created people?** (To be guardians or rulers over the rest of His creation and take care of it.) **Do you think people have done a good job of taking care of creation? How can we begin doing this job for Him now?** (Be kind to animals, pick up litter, be careful of growing things, work toward controlling air and water pollution, don't be wasteful with our natural resources,

recycle) Now turn to the STUDENT GUIDE to discover another reason for our being here.

Response activity with student page 12 Guide students through the activity on page 12 of the STUDENT GUIDE (see below).


Prayer Close with expressions of desire to please God and glorify Him this week.

At home this week

Encourage students to make the activities in COUNSELOR's "Time Out" a family affair. They may discuss their daily Bible readings with the family and work together to make cookies to remind them of pleasing God.

The correlated reading in COUNSELOR for this lesson is "The Next Step."

Why Am I Here?



Why are we here? Why did God make us? He wants people to take care of His creation, but we are here for another reason too.

Revelation 4:11
 Why did God create people?

How can you bring pleasure to your Creator?
 (List five or six ideas.)

Do you want to carry out God's purpose for your life and please Him? Circle one or two things from your list that you will do this week.

Pleasing Him





You are a special creation of God. He had a special purpose for making you. He wants you to help take care of His creation. But there's another reason that's very important to Him.

Revelation 4:11
 Why did God create people?

What can people do to please their Creator? (List five or six ideas.)

Do you think your life brings pleasure to God? Do you want to please Him? Circle one or two things from your list that you will do this week. Ask the Lord to help you be what He created you to be, starting now.

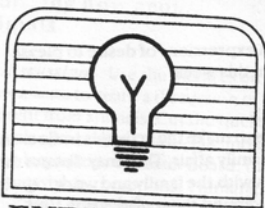
BIBLE PROMISES

To reinforce the idea of taking care of God's creation, divide the class into pairs. Provide poster board and fiber-tip pens for them to use. Have each pair design a poster, illustrating the Christian's responsibility for the earth. Help them think of captions or slogans, such as: EARTH—FRAGILE, Handle With Care or God Made You A Caretaker. Do You Care? Mount the posters on the classroom wall for everyone to see.

BIBLE TREASURES

Why should Christians especially set a good example in the way they treat God's creation? (We have been instructed in God's Word to be stewards of the earth. Our love for Him should lead us to respect and care for all He has made.) Juniors need opportunities to live out what they have learned. Encourage your students, with their families, to plan specific ways they can show their concern for the environment.

1. Fidy 2. Nolt 3. Mandy Samy 4. Mariana Tenias



ENRICHMENT IDEAS

Time line review activity Continue the time line activity to help your students review what they have learned. Print the Lesson 4 title on the front of a card. On the other side of the card print these review questions:

- What did God create first?
- What did God create last?
- How many days did it take God to create everything?

After your students have answered the questions, hang the card on the time line.

Just imagine! As students arrive, help them "see" the wonderful world God created. Imagine together that you are in a time machine set for "Day 6, pre-people." Assign each student some aspect of Creation to describe as if he or she were seeing it for the first time: water, sky, moon and stars, trees, flowers, fish, birds, animals.

Worship

The discussion about babies in the Worship folder, TEACHING RESOURCES, will help students think about the miracle of life. Lead them in a time of praising the Lord together for His creation of people and His love for us. Sing the songs on pages 29-30, STUDENT GUIDE.

Here's another idea: Invite a medical doctor or nurse from your church to come and share interesting facts about the human body—how it grows, fights off disease, adapts to changes, and so on. Talk about how wonderfully God has made us.

Alternate classtime activities

Memory verse symbols Print Genesis 1:27 on the board. Call on a volunteer to erase each word in the verse which tells who made man, replace those words with triangles to represent God. Ask another volunteer to draw a circle around each word that means *God made man* (created). Then erase the word in each of these circles. Repeat the verse as a group several times using the triangles and circles as symbols of the missing words.

"Caring for nature" class project If possible, give students an opportunity to carry out what they have learned about being responsible for God's creation. Plan a class project to help the environment, such as: cleaning trash and pulling weeds from an empty lot; picking up trash along the roadside; cleaning up a nearby creek; or collecting cans, glass, or paper to recycle.

Make this project fun as well as helpful by planning a picnic lunch or taking students out for pizza afterward.

"God's creative acts" review Draw six circles on the chalkboard. Have students add lines and symbols, such as seen in the sketch below, to indicate what God created each day.



Middle/Junior program of praise Your students have learned that God created them to praise and glorify Him. Give them an opportunity to do that in public. Arrange for your students to present a short program of praise during your church worship service. Help them plan songs of praise (such as, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God," and "This Is the Day") and Scripture readings (such as, Psalm 34:1-8 and Psalm 139:14, 17-18). Encourage some students to memorize verses to say. Practice the program until students feel comfortable doing it, then present it to the congregation.

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CHAPTER # 1

CREATION VERSUS EVOLUTION

"I believe in one God Maker of heaven and earth, and all things visible and invisible" According to our own Creed, we as Copts believe in "Creation". (The Nicene Creed)

CREATION STEP BY STEP

BEFORE THE FIRST DAY

Gen 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

This is the beginning of all temporal things. It is strictly creation out of nothing. The expression "creation out of nothing" is found in the II Maccabees 7:28. The idea is clearly taught in Gen 1:1;

Psa 33:9 For He spoke, and it was [done]; He commanded, and it stood fast.

Psa 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, For He commanded and they were created.

Rom 4:17 (as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed; God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

CREATION OF LIGHT & TIME THEN LIGHT BEARERS AND TIME MARKERS

THE FIRST DAY	THE FOURTH DAY
<p>{2} The earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.</p> <p>{3} Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.</p> <p>{4} And God saw the light, that [it was] good; and God divided the light from the darkness.</p> <p>{5} God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.</p>	<p>{14} Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; {15} "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. {16} Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. [He made] the stars also. {17} God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, {18} and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that [it was] good. {19} So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.</p>

The creation of light, preceded the creation of the sun and moon, the energy of light in many forms is much wider and bigger than the bearers of lights, i.e. the sun and the moon. Light runs at xx metres per second, this means time is synonymous with light.

But how did God support the earth without the solar system?

Heb 1:2-3 has in these last days spoken to us by [His] Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; {3} who being the brightness of [His] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

God upholds. If the sun's gravity is holding the earth, how is the sun being held?. There must be time when God supported the earth through His power, as He is doing this with the whole creation, including the sun, right now.

CREATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND THE THICK VAPOUR CANOPY AND THE CREATURES OF THE WATER AND THE AIR

THE SECOND DAY	THE FIFTH DAY
<p><i>{6} Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." {7} Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament; and it was so. {8} And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.</i></p>	<p><i>{20} Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." {21} So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good. {22} And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." {23} So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.</i></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The word "firmament" in Hebrew means "RAKISH", this is like thin metal beaten by a mallet, this would of been the best way to express the mass of air with it's pneumatic characteristic. 2. The question is this; where did all the water above the atmosphere go?. Some say that it was all used at the time of the great flood. 3. This huge canopy of water protected the earth from many of the cosmic rays we receive now, which could explain the huge difference in peoples ages before and after the flood. 4. It also appear that people before the great flood did not experience rain, change of seasons nor extreme weather fluctuations. This is probably what God tried to explain to Noah after the Flood 	
<p><i>Gen 8:22 "While the earth remains, Seed time and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."</i></p>	
<p>It also appears that Adam did not have to irrigate or wait for rain, as God said</p>	

Gen 2:4-6 This [is] the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, {5} before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and [there was] no man to till the ground; {6} but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

THE EMERGING OF DRY LAND AND THE CREATION OF THE ANIMALS AND THE CREATION OF MAN

THE THIRD DAY	THE SIXTH DAY
<p><i>{9} Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry [land] appear"; and it was so. {10} And God called the dry [land] Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that [it was] good. {11} Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb [that] yields seed, [and] the fruit tree [that] yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed [is] in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. {12} And the earth brought forth grass, the herb [that] yields seed according to its kind, and the tree [that] yields fruit, whose seed [is] in itself according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good. {13} So the evening and the morning were the third day.</i></p>	<p><i>{24} Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, [each] according to its kind"; and it was so. {25} And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good.</i></p>

MAN CREATED ON THE SIXTH DAY

{26} Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Man is the prince and the hegemony of the creation, inclusive of the environment. With this authority man has a responsibility to manage the environment.

It appears that some groups are turning the situation upside down by making the environment the master, and sometimes people refer to and deal with the environment as their god.

MAN ON GOD'S OWN IMAGE

{27} So God created man in His [own] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. {28} Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the

earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Man is in God's own image in holiness, love, eternity, wisdom, understanding, reasoning,....etc.

MAN WAS VEGETARIAN

{29} And God said, "See, I have given you every herb [that] yields seed which [is] on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. {30} "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for food"; and it was so. {31} Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed [it was] very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO BELIEVE IN CREATION?

The Bible stated clearly in the Book of Genesis that God created Heaven and Earth and every thing therein.

Some modern and liberal theologians are trying to tell us that Genesis is not an accurate record of how the world came to being. Some even say that Genesis and the other first four books, were not written by Moses, but rather collected by various people from "Babylonian Mythology".

We believe that the first five books of the Old Testament were given to Moses through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. for many reasons.

(1) The Lord Jesus Refers To Genesis As An Authentic Divine Book

Mat 19:7-9 They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" {8} He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. {9} "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

John 5:45-46 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is [one] who accuses you; Moses, in whom you trust. {46} "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

If our Lord Jesus uses Moses Books as a reference. He is obviously considering them to be divinely inspired books. Was Jesus a liar or was He ignorant?. The Books of Moses are authenticated by Christ Himself.

(2) The Church Teaches Us That Creation Is True

All the Church's documents, prayers, creed and life are very clearly pointing to the Creation as a fundamental part of the faith.

2.1 The Nicene Creed

The Creed states that

"God Is Creator Of Heaven And Earth".

Do we agree with the Creed, or is it out of date?

2.2 The Church Fathers

The Church Fathers always believed in the Old Testament as authentic part of God's revelation for man. St John Crisostom, as an example, left us a great heritage on the creation and on the authentic Book of Genesis. We most certainly believe that the Church fathers are correct in their teachings.

2.3 The Church Liturgy & Other Devotions

St Basil's Liturgy

"O Great and Eternal God who created man in in-corruption; and by the life-giving manifestation of your Only-Begotten Son, our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, You destroyed that death which was introduced into the world by the envy of the devil"

This Liturgical statement must rule out any struggle and blood shed as means of bringing the species to this earth. Especially that every thing God created was "GOOD" in His eye.

The Gregorian Liturgy

The Gregorian Liturgy declares the same thing, while speaking to God The Son.

"You 'Lover of mankind' created me.

You are not dependent on my service, but I am dependent on your master ship.

Through your unlimited grace you created me out of nothing .

You established and upheld the heaven as a ceiling for me, and you firmed the ground for my steps.

For me you restrained the sea.

For me you made the animals.

You subjected every thing under my feet, and satisfied all my needs, with your gracious works.

You created me, blessed me by the placement of Your Hand.

You have depicted in me the image of Your Authority.

Created in me the gift of reasoning and speech.

And opened your paradise "Garden" for my enjoyment.

You granted me to know You.

You materialized for me the Tree of Life.

And taught me the thorn of death.

One plant you prohibited me from eating.

This is the only one which you told me not to eat from.

Through my own will I ate, rejecting Your Law through my own brainwork.

I ignored your canons.

I snatched for my self the death sentence."

In chanting these words we are affirming our belief in God the Creator.

The Tasbeha "Mid Night Vespers"

We sing Exodus Chapter 15, every night of the year declaring the crossing of the Red Sea as a Biblical and heavenly reality? This is the song of Moses, God's servant.

The heavenly creatures in heaven are singing this song for ever and ever. We most definitely believe St John's Revelation, especially when we read that the "Song of Moses" is a principal song of the heavenly hosts.

How could we accept the claim that this story was just a mythical story? or an illusion?

(3) Creation Is A Corner Stone In The Christian Orthodox Theology

3.1 Was There Death Before Adam's Sin?

If we deny creation and adopt "Evolution", this means that we accept that Adam was not the first of the human creation, but there were many creatures and semi-humans before Adam. It then follows that these creatures struggled, died and suffered.

3.2 Was Death And Suffering A Normal Thing Not Related To Sin?

Man's Salvation depends on the sacrifice of Christ and His death. We believe that Death is the wages for sin.

If we agree with evolution then it follows that we agree death and suffering was not introduced by sin? and we are in turn marginalising the death of Christ.

We have already started hearing non believing "Theologians" who reduce Christ's death to no more than a gallant stand of love and emotion, but not as "The Price" for our sin.

3.3 Evolution teaches that death existed before Adam's time.

If Shedding Of Blood Existed Before Sin, Then Blood Shedding Is Of No Value For The Atonement Of Sin.

The principle of the "Blood Sacrifice" is the only acceptable means of forgiving man's sin. God killed the first animal to offer it as a sacrifice on Adam's behalf. Adam and the rest of the creation were mainly vegetarian, especially before the sin.

It is obvious that God prepared and used death and blood shed as part of His Plan for our salvation.

(4) The Belief In Creation Is A Fundamental Corner Stone In Our Christian Ethic And Morality

(4.1) All moral issues are dependent on two things:

- If God Is The Creator, Then He Is Our Master & His Word Is A Canon
- If The Creation Is A Fact, Then The Book Of Genesis Is Authentic, And It's Teachings Are Binding On All.

Some Examples:

- The validity of Christ's teaching on marriage and divorce, as Christ Himself referred back to Genesis.
- The validity of the teaching that Homosexuality is an abomination and a sin.
- The teaching of sexual fidelity and purity as taught in the story of Joseph, and subsequently in the Ten Commandments.

God Is our Creator and Maker, if He is So then His Word must be obeyed. If He is not then why bother about listening to His commands?. If we were evolved then let us make our own commands, and change them according to our development and society needs.

IN SUMMARY AGREEING WITH THEORIES LIKE THE BIG BANG AND EVOLUTION DESTROYS ALL OUR FOUNDATIONS, NOT ONLY AS CHRISTIANS BUT AS ORTHODOX TOO. BELIEVING IN CREATION IS THE ONLY VIABLE & STABLE THEORY, LOGICALLY & SCIENTIFICALLY

EVOLUTION IS NOT A SCIENTIFIC FACT, IT IS ONLY A BELIEF

The theory of evolution is a theory in crisis.

- Evolution Is Not Science, It Is Only A Belief, especially that No scientist was there at the time of the so called "Big Bang", or at the times of the so called "Evolution".
- We believe GOD as He Was there at the time of creation.
- But we cannot believe evolutionist scientists because of their obvious bias and their inability to repeat any of the events of Evolution in the laboratory.

(1) The Fossil Evidence:

The fossil evidence have not proven any thing, especially there are many embarrassing evidence that many objects have fossilized in a time span of less than hundred years.

(2) The Geological Column

The Geological column assumed by C Darwin was not consistently found in the form imagined by the science books writers. Most fossils as found are actually heaped in a manner which points to a great flood, "like Noah's".

(3) The Living Fossils

The most embarrassing discoveries of creatures which were claimed to be totally extinct. The complexities discovered in some of the so called "primitive" species, where, for example, eye formations of many of these "primitive" creatures were found to be thousands of times as complex as the human eye.

(4) Where Are The Intermediary Creatures?

The total absence of any intermediary creatures or fossils of such creatures, for example nobody has yet announced any findings or sightings of the intermediary creature between the fish and the bird, i.e. a creature with one wing on one side and a fish fin on the other side of the body?

(5) The Present Dating Methods Are Embarrassingly Contradictory

The embarrassing contradictions and variations between various laboratories determining the age of the same fossilized sample.

The Carbon 14 dating method and other similar methods are based on unproved assumptions. The explosion of Mount St Helen's in 1980 is an obvious example of the inaccuracy of such methods.

(6) The Same Evidence Used By Evolutionists Could Be Used to Prove the Theory of Creation

There is a great body of scientists who believe in Creation as more scientifically credible than evolution. These scientist are using the same evidence produced by the evolutionists to support the theory of creation.

FINAL END OF CREATION**The purpose of creation**

Some find the final end of creation is the happiness of man. As we see from the "Gregorian Liturgy", all creation was placed under our feet. We could say then, that the creator is the source of man's happiness, not the creation. Otherwise God could not Himself the final end, because He is sufficient unto Himself. But it would seem self evident that God does not exist for man, but man for God. The creature cannot be the final end of creation. The Bible teaches us clearly that God created the world for the manifestation of His Glory. Naturally the revelation of the glory of God is not intended as an empty show to be admired by the creatures, but also aims at promoting their welfare and attuning their hearts to the praise of the creator,

Isa 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Isa 60:21 Also your people [shall] all [be] righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

Isa 61:3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Ezek 36:21-22 "But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. {22} "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do [this] for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went.

Ezek 39:7 "So I will make My holy name known in the midst of My people Israel, and I will not [let them] profane My holy name anymore. Then the nations shall know that [I am] the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Rom 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth."

Rom 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him [are] all things, to whom [be] glory forever. Amen.

1 Cor 15:28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Eph 1:5-6 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

Eph 1:12-14 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. {13} In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, {14} who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eph 3:9-10 and to make all see what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; {10} to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly [places],

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

SUBSTITUTES FOR THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

They who reject the doctrine of creation resort to one of three theories for the explanation of the world

MATERIALISM

(1) Some say that original matter is eternal, and out of it the world arose, either by mere chance, or by some higher directing force. But this is impossible because you cannot have two eternal beings and therefore two infinities alongside of each other.

PANTHEISM

Others maintain that God and the world are essentially one, and that the world is a necessary issue (outflow) of the Divine being. But this view robs God of His power of self-determination, and men their freedom and of their moral and responsible character. It also makes God responsible for all the evil in the world

EVOLUTION

Refer to the above discussion.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. What is creation?
2. Was the creation a free or a necessary act of God?
3. What are the dangers of not believing in creation?
4. Does the Bible prove creation out of nothing? Where?
5. What two views are there as to the final end of creation?
6. In what sense is the Glory of God is the final end?
8. What substitutes been suggested to the doctrine of creation.
9. Were the days of Genesis ordinary days or long periods?
10. What did God create on each of the six days?
11. Is the theory of evolution consistent with the doctrine of creation?
12. Can you name some of the points on which they differ?
13. Imagine that the Nicene Council is being held today. In your opinion how should the Creed state the creation issue?
14. What is your opinion about the coloured races "Aboriginal", "Nigros",..... etc. Would you agree that they are still evolving?