

Origins Insights

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CREATION SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP



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Of Science and Creation

By David H.

<http://practically-thinking.blogspot.com/2006/05/of-science-and-creation.html>

"Archaeology is the search for fact, not truth. If it's truth you're looking for, Dr. Tyree's philosophy class is right down the hall."

– Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Science v. Creation is one of the longest running arguments in recent history; so long it often seems irreconcilable. Let's see if thinking practically can help, or if practical thinking is even possible on such a divisive subject.

It's a difficult topic, so let's warm up with a mental exercise. Imagine that the universe came into being at the time you started reading this article. Imagine it was created with everything you see in place and in motion: plants and animals, buildings, people, even the time capsule you and a childhood friend buried in a Band-Aid can. If all that had been created in the last few minutes we would have absolutely no way of knowing, since everything would be as it is.

To a scientist this recent creation wouldn't matter. Trying to understand how the world works, the scientist peers beyond that moment of creation to study the causes and effects and processes that brought us to this point in time. They see that Band-Aid can and see that somebody buried it, that the world had Band-Aids at the time, that the world had paint and plastic and metal-forming abilities, and they conclude that the universe was already far along when the can was buried. They seek fact, not truth, because fact helps them perform the job of science, where truth (in this example) would be of no help.

CSF Meetings

CSF South

New Wine Harvest Church
268 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills

No meeting in September

October 17 Speaker: **Dennis Wert**
Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

Dennis Wert, past CSF Chairman, will discuss examples of design as seen in this wonderful world including altruistic cells, coordination and control.

CSF North

Dr. David Menton
God's Girders: The Human Skeleton System

September 19, 2006

7:00 — 8:30 PM

Cornerstone Ministries (Export, PA)

See complete details with directions on the enclosed flyer and on our web site, www.csfpittsburgh.org. Please consider inviting a friend by using copies of the flyer as a handout.

To the Judeo-Christian believer, though, the timing of creation matters a lot. The Bible clearly indicates the world is a few thousand years old – 6 at least; maybe twice that. To say the universe is just a few *minutes* old is to say the Bible is wrong, and a flawed bible is of no use to the faithful. The believer will believe the Bible, and that's just how it works.

OK, exercise period over. The real situation is that there is a large body of data that, at first glance, seems to conflict with faith in a biblical creation. Some believers have tried to deny this data strictly on the basis of faith, often getting labeled zealots in the process. A Creation Science movement has grown to refute the data, or at least its interpretation, in an attempt to fight science on its own terms. Believers have even started to compromise their beliefs. Compromises on the length of a primordial day or the acceptance of "intelligent design", for example, are offered up to the scientific community in an effort to stop the fight, to stop science from attacking with each new discovery in spite of the diluting effect it can have on faith. None of these approaches has worked conclusively, though, and science marches on, even scoffing at the believer with humanistic arrogance.

Yet this entire conflict goes away with one simple realization: a belief in creation *has* to include the belief that the world was up and running at time of creation, with all the features that might indicate age and prior events. We know this has to be true for a created world, and can prove it. Take starlight, for example. If we believe the universe is only a few thousand years old, how did light from a star 1 million light years from earth get here last night? Obviously, if the universe was created, that light had to have been created en route. Here's another: plants created in the first 6 days of the world needed to stand in soil. Soil, though, is made of the remains of earlier life. If God created these plants in a day, it follows that He created the dirt and all the history embedded in it. Surely an omnipotent God can do all this.

To the creation believer, then, the truth is that all the facts we see in our world were created for us. They help us understand our world, and to manage it. They bring awe and wonder as we contemplate the Supreme Being capable of this complexity. Just as important, they show that it's possible to pursue science as a believer, knowing that when studying time prior to creation fact and truth are separate. The Creationist *can* embrace science without compromise.

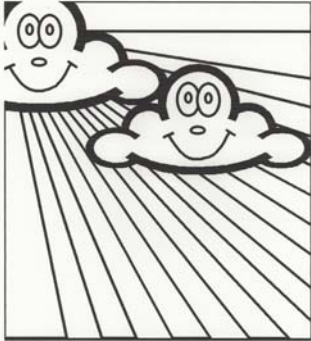
To the scientist, this realization may not change a thing. Whether the world started 6 minutes, 6 thousand years or untold billions of years ago, the same facts are out there to be discovered, understood and explained to the best of our scientific ability. But in recognizing the logical possibility of creation, the conflict is gone. As scientists we can pursue our craft without feeling we need to set aside a belief structure, and we, too, can see the wonder of a created world in all its intricacies if we choose to believe. The scientist can embrace creation without compromise.

Practically thinking, it becomes hard not to acknowledge both science and creation as two non-opposing ways of looking at our world: Science says "here's how it works" while Creationists say "here's how it happened." Creation Science has the opportunity to be the bridge joining science and faith, using the vast array of facts embedded in our world to celebrate the wonder of creation. Parents can help students understand that science is a means of understanding the physical nature of artifacts found in our created world. The faithful can realize that God included such artifacts to preserve freedom of choice in our beliefs, rather than proving creation and His existence through their absence.

As believers and/or as scientists, we can accept what we see and believe what we believe without conflict. Let's do it.

Creation Activities for Kids

Have you been looking for some fun kids activities that tell the creation story? You might want to check out a couple of web sites. These sites have coloring pages for children from preschool through early grade school and some for older children. Or how about a neat creation mobile for ages 3 and older?

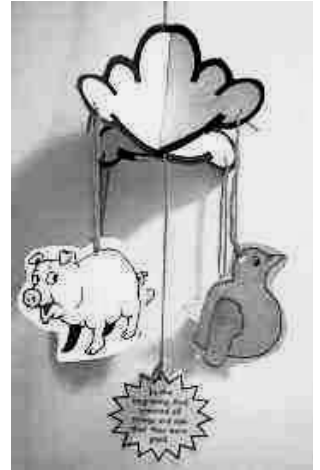


On the first day, God separated light from darkness.

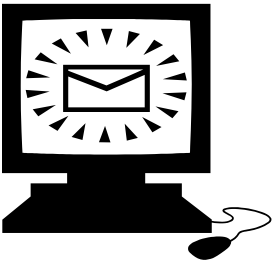
The best part about these materials is that they are **FREE**. Just go to the web site to print the pages on your own printer and you are ready to go. It's that simple.

The coloring pages can be found at <http://www.coloring.ws/creation.htm>

The mobile project can be found at <http://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/genesis/chapter1-index.htm>



Want us to e-mail your newsletter?



By receiving the newsletter by e-mail you will get it faster and CSF will save the printing and postage charges thus allowing the money to go toward programs like this month's presentation by Dr. Menton.

Just send an e-mail to csficc@csfpittsburgh.org and we will put you on the list. CSF will not release your e-mail address for any other purpose.

Creation Quotes

We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God.

Harry S. Truman

God made a perfect world. It is no wonder then, that the believer and unbeliever alike stand in awe, and often fear, of God's creation.

Robert E. Naylor

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

Read a Good Book Lately?

A Creation Science book, that is.

If you have and would like to provide a book review, CSF would be happy to hear from you.

Please submit your book review, 250 words or less, to bookreview@csfpittsburgh.org. Be sure to include your name along with your city and state.

Selected book reviews will appear in *Origins Insights* and/or our web site www.csfpittsburgh.org.

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