

CREATION & EVOLUTION

Questions about creation are never a salvation issue; rather they are a scriptural reliability issue. As such, an errant belief on the mechanism of creation will never damn one to hell, but poor communication by a Christian to a non-believer regarding creation has the power to cause that non-believer to forsake knowledge that could lead them to salvation. There are two approaches that do not endanger the salvation of our seeker with questions about Biblical reliability (as often expressed through questions about Creation). The first is to simply state that you are not an expert in the area of physics/astronomy/chemistry/biology but that you know many respected scientists and theologians alike are ok with a long view interpretation of Genesis. These persons include those from antiquity like St. Augustine (~AD 400) and modern times like C.S. Lewis. Then redirect the conversation to the heart of their questions: Is the Bible inspired by God? Can they trust it? What has it said in your life? What might it mean for theirs? The second option is to become sufficiently expert in whatever field underlying the initial question, likely physics, astronomy, chemistry, or biology, and then clearly answering their technical question in an easy to understand manner from their non-expert perspective. If they are still around to listen, after the years you spent achieving technical understanding and authority in the field, they will probably ask another question... in a different technical field. Remember, this person's question is not about science, it is about the reliability of scripture and whether he or she can literally trust it with their life. Permission to doubt, explore, and draw close enough to Christian community to observe God in action are far more valuable than some educated tidbit. Discussions and debates on theological interpretations, modern scientific understanding, and their interplay can be valuable. Such topics can even be of sufficient interest to draw non-Christians into spiritual conversations. Feel free to use such introductions with enthusiasm, or as serious exercise within a group of believers. However, for the love their unsaved soul and the price, for which you will be called to account, do not put the Bible in a position that must be rejected by an unbeliever due to your human interpretation. Opinions on God's mechanism for creation is not a salvation issue... unless you make it into one.

ARTICLES

<https://ncse.com/library-resource/creationevolution-continuum>

BOOKS

Darwin's Black Box by Michael Behe

De Genesis contra Manichaeos (On Genesis: A Refutation of the Manichees) - Augustine of Hippo*

De Genesis ad litteram liber unus imperfectus (Unfinished Literal Commentary on Genesis) - Augustine of Hippo*

De Genesi ad litteram (The Literal Meaning of Genesis) - Augustine of Hippo*

*All three commentaries by Saint Augustine are available in a single paperback titled On Genesis translated into English by Edmund Hill. ISBN 1-56548-201-8.

The Problem of Pain - C.S. Lewis (particularly chapter 5)

NOT TRUSTWORTHY

Institute for Creation Research

(*Originally published by Resonate Church.)