

at one time. Sad to say, most people have a very black & white perception as to how the universe came into being—I was one of those “black or white” people. However, after a rather long journey of exploration & study of other Creation account models, I found that there was a “middle of the road” Creation model, known in scientific & philosophical circles as the Day-Age/Progressive Creation model, that synced the two accounts of Creation—that which is found in the book of Genesis (Bible) and the “book of nature.” The “book of nature” that I am referring to is that of the Creation itself & the scientific evidence pertaining to the earth & cosmos which is all around us. Believe it or not, these two accounts are not contradictory to one another. In fact, they are perfectly synchronized & in full agreement. As Martin Luther once said, “God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”

Let’s explore three points as to how these two accounts sync up:

1. “In the beginning, God created the heavens & the earth”—the *Big Bang*. There is no time period given from the time of the *Big Bang* in which the Creation of space, time, matter & energy was brought into being, & when God turned His focus to the Creation process on Earth. The traditional interpretation of Genesis 1:1 is that it is describing a *specific* event, hence, the *Big Bang*, which is separate from what occurred after God turned His attention to Earth.
2. The Hebrew word most often translated as “day” is *yom*. It is generally acknowledged that *yom* can refer to the (roughly) 12-hour period of

light during a normal day, to a 24-hour normal day, or to an unspecified period of time. The Hebrew for the phrase “evening and morning” or “evening, and there was morning” has usages not limited to 24-hour days. In fact, there are numerous usages in the Bible of this phrase, or variants of it, that refer to continuous processes or activities; hence, the process of Creation. What can be said definitively about “evening and morning and x day” is that it appears to serve as a marker the transition from one *yom* to the next *yom*. Nothing in the text precludes other evenings and mornings from occurring between these markers.

The interpretation of the word *yom* as being a period of time which extends beyond a 24 hour solar day is substantiated in the Genesis account itself, in the summary of the entire Creation account, where it states: “These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the *day* that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.”

Christian apologist, Kenneth Samples offers the following perspective—“Christianity’s greatest theologians and biblical scholars, including Augustine, Calvin, and Warfield, expounded a diversity of views concerning the nature and duration of the Creation days. From the time of the church fathers, through the Reformation, and up to the present, various views have prevailed, some more broadly represented than others, but none was ever considered the definitive, or the only, orthodox biblical position.”¹

Christian philosopher/apologist William Lane Craig also states, “Genesis 1 is a very subtle piece of literature that is patient to a wide range of interpretations. It is simply wrong to dogmatically insist on one interpretation as being the only permissible

Biblical interpretation that you can hold to be a Christian.”²

3. The number of events of days three & six of the Creation would most certainly have comprised more than a 24-hour period. The third day indicates a process that would take a year or longer. On this day, God allowed the land to produce vegetation, trees and fruit. The text specifically states that the land produced trees that bore fruit with seed in it—“and God said, “Let the earth bring forth.... Any horticulturist knows that fruit-bearing trees require several years to grow to produce fruit. However, the text states that the land produced these trees (indicating a natural process) and that it all occurred on the third day. Obviously, such a “day” could not have been only 24 hours long.

The events of the sixth day of Creation require time beyond 24 hours. On this day, God created the mammals and mankind. He also planted a garden, watered it, let it grow, and put man in it, giving instructions on its care and maintenance. Then God brought all the animals to Adam to be named. This job, in itself would take many days or weeks. Next, God put Adam to sleep and created Eve. It is very unlikely all of this could take place in 24 hours, considering that Adam, unlike God, was a finite creature with limitations and boundaries in his nature, and those limitations were present before Adam’s fall. At this point, Adam would need considerable time to reflect upon and process the profound events he experiences—all of which cannot reasonably be reduced to a matter of several hours.

William Lane Craig sums it up in this way, “To conclude that all of these events could happen in a 24-hour period would be like



THE BIG BANG...

"...IN THE BEGINNING..."

BANG!...well, actually it was quite a bit bigger, louder & hotter than what I can describe here, but we'll refer to this event as the *Big Bang* for now. Ok, on to what exactly is the 'big bang?' Simply put, it is the finite moment in which the universe began to exist, in which space, time, matter & energy were created. According to the prevailing cosmological models that explain our universe, an ineffable explosion, trillions of degrees in temperature on any measurement scale, that was infinitely dense, created not only fundamental subatomic particles and thus matter and energy, but space and time itself. Cosmologists use the term *Big Bang* to refer to the theory that the universe was originally extremely hot and dense at some finite *time* in the past, and has since cooled by *expanding* to the present diluted state—and continues to expand today. The theory is supported by the most comprehensive and accurate explanations from current *scientific evidence* and *observation*. According to the best available measurements such as the cosmic microwave background radiation & the correlation function of the galaxies, as of 2010, the initial conditions occurred around 13.3 to 13.9 billion years ago.

Now you may be thinking, "Ah, so you're a Darwinian evolutionist! Anyone who believes that the universe was created in a time frame of more than 6-24 hour days, is an evolutionist and as such, an atheist." If that is your take on the issue, I understand, as it was also mine

viewing the time-lapse photography of Walt Disney's *Living Desert*, not to mention the creation events of the third "day" in which God says, "Let the earth yield tender grass, herb sowing seed, fruit-tree (whose seed [is] in itself) making fruit after its kind, on the earth,"—a time cycle that spans at least a year or more."

What then is the conclusion of the matter? If you are a Christian, whether your position is that of the Young Earth model, or the Day-Age/Progressive model, it has no bearing on your faith & belief as a Christian. However, if you as a Christian have struggled to reconcile the Young Earth model of the Biblical Creation account with the evidence & discoveries of science, especially concerning the time span in which Creation occurred, you need struggle no more. The two accounts are in perfect sync with each other when one applies the interpretation & reasoning stated herein.

And if you are not a Christian, but have found Christianity impossible to embrace because of the seeming contradiction between the Creation account found in the Bible, and that of scientific proofs & discoveries, you too can find reconciliation between the two, & thereby come to an understanding of the reason & purpose of the One Who was the force & power in bringing it all to pass. You say, "But I don't believe in God, much less that He created the universe, so all this is meaningless to me." Well, take a moment to reflect on the following: 1) whatever begins to exist, has a cause—2) the universe exists—3) therefore the universe must have a cause. As Nobel laureate Arno Penzias stated, "Astronomy [science] leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly-improbable

accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan."

If you really want to know the Grand Designer & force behind the *Big Bang* & the universe in which we live, you can come to know Him personally right now by simply connecting to His power through the light & conduit of His power & love for you & all His Creation—Jesus Christ. Here's the *model* for submitting your request:

"I humbly come before You, the Grand Designer of both the heavens & the earth, acknowledging my need for You, my Creator. I accept Your Son, Jesus Christ through Whom all things were created and by Whom all things consist—the One Who came to this earth to reconcile me to You, through His death & resurrection. I ask You, Jesus, to open my mind to Your thoughts & Your truth so that I may understand & see Your Creation through Your eyes, & that I may know the reason & purpose for my life. Thank You for the beauties of Your Creation, & the proof of Your existence through Your Creation."

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(Endnotes)

- 1 Kenneth Samples, *Creedal Controversy: The Orthodoxy of "Days"*—<http://www.reasons.org/creedal-controversy-orthodoxy-days>
- 2 William Lane Craig, *Doctrine of Creation*, podcast—http://www.reasonablefaith.org/site/PageServer?pagename=podcasting_main