

Defining and Defending the Faith 6: I believe in God the ... maker of heaven and earth.

I. The Biblical doctrine of creation.

A. Key Biblical passages

1. Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2. Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you."
3. Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

B. The doctrine as stated by the Westminster Shorter Catechism answer 9: The Work of Creation is, God's Making All Things of Nothing, by the Word of His Power, in the Space of Six Days, and All Very Good.

II. The foundation of the Biblical doctrine of creation: Faith.

A. Faith in the authoritative interpretation of the fact of the existence/origin of the universe given by God in His Word.

1. The fact is that the universe exists.
2. This fact must be interpreted.
3. Any interpretation of this fact is a matter of faith since no one [other than God] was there at the time in which the universe came into being and the origin of the universe cannot be recreated in a laboratory.
4. Both the doctrine of creation and the theory of evolution are faith commitments in which trust is placed in the authoritative interpretation of the fact of the existence/origin of the universe by someone whether it is God or a scientist.

B. Faith in the Biblical doctrine of creation is not irrational.

1. The Biblical doctrine of creation violates no known rules of logic.
2. The Biblical doctrine of creation establishes the basis for the rules of logic.
3. The theory of evolution violates the laws of logic.
 - a. If the universe brought itself into being than it is both a cause and an effect at the same time and in the same relationship and thus violates the law of non-contradiction.
 - b. If the universe came into being by chance than it violates the rule that states that out of nothing nothing comes or every effect must have a sufficient cause.
4. The theory of evolution, which ultimately posits a universe held together by chance, or a cosmos that is founded on chaos, cannot provide an adequate basis for the rules of logic. In other words, if evolution is true than logic is absurd.

C. Faith in the Biblical doctrine of creation is not unscientific.

1. The Biblical doctrine of creation violates no observed laws of science.
2. The Biblical doctrine of creation is able to give a reasonable interpretation for all known scientific discoveries including all fossil records.
3. The Biblical doctrine of creation establishes the basis for scientific inquiry because it establishes the basis for such things as the law of non-contradiction,

the validity of cause and effect, the first and second laws of thermodynamics, and most importantly the uniformity of nature.

4. The theory of evolution violates the second law of thermodynamics.
 5. The theory of evolution provides no basis for the validity of scientific investigation because it cannot provide a basis for the above-mentioned laws and especially because it cannot account for the uniformity of nature.
- D. The Biblical doctrine of creation provides an explanation for the non-material universe, things such as thought, emotions, personality, etc., which the theory of evolution cannot explain in any meaningful way.
 - E. The Biblical doctrine of creation provides a comprehensive and coherent explanation for the existence of the material and non-material elements of the universe, which instead of violating any known laws of reason or science provides the philosophical basis for them.
 - F. Conclusion: The Biblical doctrine of creation is based upon a faith commitment to God and His Word but this faith is neither irrational nor unscientific, while the theory of evolution is based upon a faith commitment that is both irrational and unscientific.

III. Consequences of the Biblical doctrine of creation.

- A. The basis for the validity of rational thought is established.
- B. The basis for scientific investigation is established.
- C. The basis for the reality of non-material phenomena such as thought, emotions, and personality is established.
- D. The basis for meaningful action is established.
- E. The basis for human dignity is established.
- F. The basis for human responsibility and morality is established.
- G. Conclusion: If the Biblical doctrine of creation is true than the universe is rational, knowable, and meaningful; if the theory of evolution is true the universe is irrational, unknowable, and without meaning.

IV. Applications

- A. Christians must stop being embarrassed by the Biblical doctrine of creation.
- B. Christians must defend the Biblical doctrine of creation.
- C. Christians must not compromise the Biblical doctrine of creation.
- D. As the creator God owns all things.
- E. As your creator God made you to glorify Him.