

## MODERN LIBERALISM AND CREATION

We live in an age when space probes are supposed to determine the age of the universe. What confidence could any thinking person have in that, after the evidence of cosmic dust on the moon proved former suppositions laughable? Minds seem to be closed to whatever conflicts with the tremendously variable assumptions of the evolutionary hypothesis.

David Attenborough talks glibly about how creatures developed wings and claws as they found need for them. He does not ask himself how they managed to survive before such a pressing need was solved, why such developments have no evidence in the fossil record, or why such developments are not going on today.

What makes this theory all the more serious is that the voice of Christians about what God's Word has to say is blunted by modern liberalism. There is a great difference between modern liberalism and historic Christianity about the origins of the universe and of human beings. Modern liberals sail under the Christian flag, but while many contend that God is the Creator of all things, they want to regard the theory of evolution as God's means of creation, or at least leave it as a permissible opinion that does no harm to faith. Many want to interpret the early chapters of Genesis symbolically. They want to regard Adam and Eve as mythical persons, or simply as symbols for mankind in general. They often use the German word "*Weltbild*", or world-view. They maintain that the biblical writers had a simple, naive, unsophisticated view of a three-storey-universe, which has to be discounted and corrected heavily. Many of them blandly claim that the Bible does not tell us how the world was created, simply that God is the Creator.

In our age some scientists are seriously pointing to many inadequacies in the theory of evolution, but the theologians are the ones who blindly defend it!

So what are the consequences? Would there really have been a mythical Adam and Eve in a real Garden of Eden? Would there really have been a real Adam and Eve in a mythical Garden of Eden? Is the Bible really so silent about the time of the origin of the world? What about the six days? If the sun, moon, and stars were created on the fourth day, the fifth and sixth days, which were days of evening and morning, were normal days, because the sun and moon were there. But then the Bible says that all the six days were days of evening and morning. Sometimes when the Bible says, "In the day that" it simply means, "In the time when", but never when it uses numerals with day, like "first", "second" and so on. There is really no room for a very long gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, when things were in an unformed state, before God began His six-day work of creation. When the fourth commandment at Sinai gave the reason for the observance of the Sabbath in the Old Testament, it stated, "For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day." (Ex 20: 11) So even though at the beginning of creation the earth was "without form and void" (Gn 1:2), even that was within the six-day period of creation, by the Bible's own clear words, in God's own account. He was the only one there, so we should accept His account.

What about the time between creation and later? In fact the Bible is very careful in the genealogies to state how old each descendant of Adam was when he had his first son; so it is a simple matter to add up the years down to the flood according to the Bible's own reckoning. Even if one allows for some difference in the years according to the Greek translation of the Old Testament called the "Septuagint", the age of the earth is still well within ten thousand years. There is no room for millions of years.

Besides, how can theologians speak of God "creating" by way of the sheer blind chance, which the theory of evolution needs desperately? Doesn't God not only foreknow, but also control and determine events in His gracious providence? Nothing happens in His design by chance. The truth is that evolution is the opiate for those who really want to find an excuse for not giving God His due.

Liberal theologians readily accept the contention that a well-educated and informed person in this modern age can hardly afford not to accept evolution, including human evolution. There are real problems here that they fail to address. The claim that what a person believes about the origin of the world doesn't affect his faith in Christ the Saviour is foolish. If there was no real Adam, and the human race developed from animal stock, then there was no image of God in man. Then Paul's contrast between Adam and Christ in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15 is also a hoax, for then there was no Adam through whom the sin and death came that the second Adam rectified. That does affect the Gospel.

You don't have to know much science to know that most genuine hybrids are sterile. In fact, cats still give birth to cats, and so on. Careful selection can lead to different breeds within species, but left to themselves, they will revert to type. It is a general law that things don't run up, but run down. Each produces after its kind. Far better to accept in faith that the world was framed by the Word of God, so that the things that are seen were not

made of things that are visible (Hb 11:3).

Many of the evidences that people try to point to of very long ages should rather be attributed to the general flood at the time of Noah. That quickly accounts for what core samples of ice in Antarctica have revealed about earlier ozone readings, the existence of coal and oil deposits, and so on.

What is perhaps worst of all is the assumption that, if God produced an imperfect world, which is still developing according to its own needs, any evil in the world is really God's fault, for not making it perfectly in the first place. That is blasphemous, for the Bible says that God did pronounce His creation "very good." There was the fall into sin, caused by the devil and human transgression. In fact, one of the clearest consequences of original sin is people's deliberate suppression of their natural knowledge of God from the creation of this world. It is so full of design and purpose, and people deliberately suppress the witness of their consciences, which properly point them to a wise and just God, who will call each one to account on judgment day. Romans chapter one says that people are without excuses, and says three times over that because people have suppressed what they have known of God, God has handed them over to reprobate minds, in effect, to stew in their own juice.