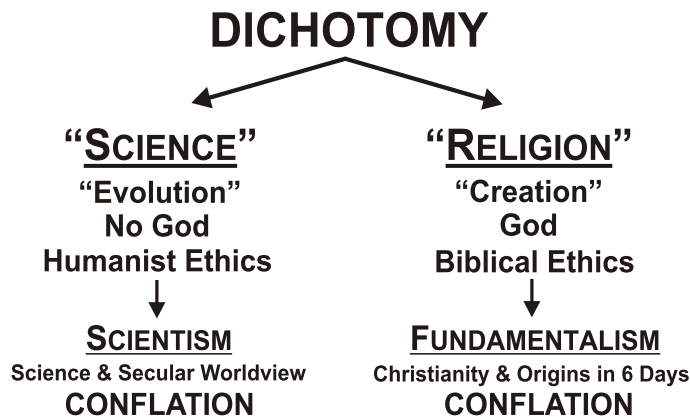


# BEYOND THE “EVOLUTION” VS. “CREATION” DEBATE

Denis O. Lamoureux DDS PhD PhD

St. Joseph's College, University of Alberta

## THE PROBLEM



**Dichotomy:** Division of an issue into two simple positions

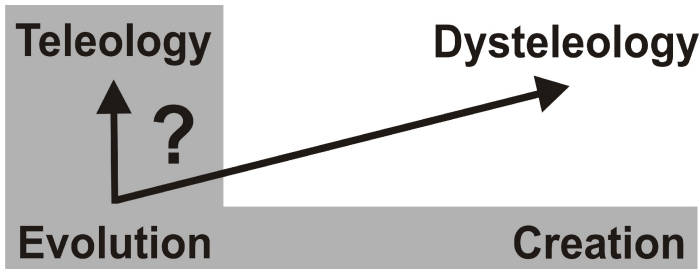
Caused by ‘black-and-white’ & ‘either/or’ thinking

**Humanism:** Belief that humans alone determine values & morals

**Conflation:** Sloppy blending of distinct ideas into one simple idea

## TOWARD A SOLUTION

### A. Terms & Definitions



**Teleology:** Belief the world has plan & purpose

**Dysteleology:** Belief the world has NO plan & purpose

**Evolution:** Scientific theory that natural processes over billions of years produced all living organisms, including humans

**Creation:** Belief that the world is the product of the Creator

### B. Science-Religion Relationship

#### RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Ultimate Beliefs

INTUITION ↑ FAITH ↑ REASON

#### SCIENCE

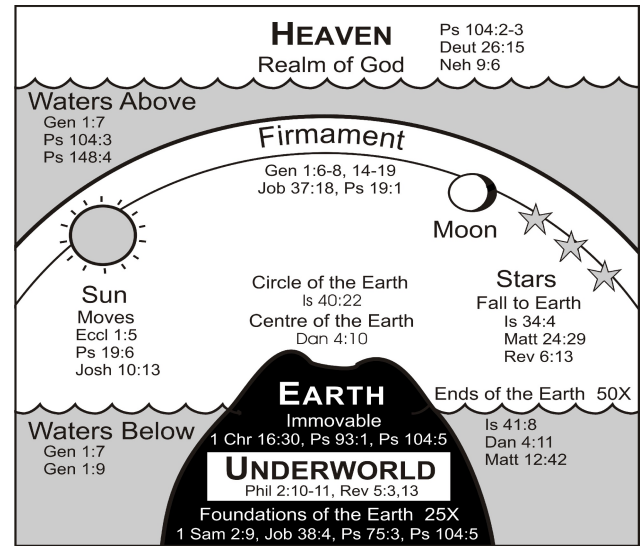
Observations & Experiments  
Theories & Laws

**Intelligent Design:** Belief that the beauty, complexity, and functionality in nature point to an Intelligent Designer

### C. Views on the Origin of the Universe & Life

(Back of handout)

## The 3-Tier Universe



## Flood Account Chiasm (Gen 6-9)

- A Noah & his sons Shem, Ham & Japheth (6:9-10)
- B Promise to flood & to establish Covenant (12-18)
- C Preservation of life & food for sustenance (19-22)
- D Command to enter ark (7:1-3)
- E 7 days waiting for earth to flood (4-10)
- F 40 days waters increase & ark floating (11-17)
- G 150 days waters prevail (18-24)
- CENTER GOD REMEMBERS NOAH (8:1)
- G' 150 days (end of) waters abate (2-5)
- F' 40 days (end of) waters decrease & ark resting (4-6)
- E' 7 days (periods of) waiting for earth to dry (7-14)
- D' Command to leave ark (15-22)
- C' Multiplication of life & food for sustenance (9:1-7)
- B' Promise not to flood again & to remember Covenant (8-17)
- A' Noah & his sons Shem, Ham & Japheth (18-19)

## Creation Account Panels (Gen 1)

### FORMLESS Tohu

Day 1  
Separate  
Light / Dark

Day 2  
Separate  
Waters Above /  
Waters Below

Day 3  
Separate  
Water / Land

### EMPTY Bohu

Day 4  
Decorate  
Sun, Moon & Stars

Day 5  
Decorate  
Birds &  
Sea Creatures

Day 6  
Decorate  
Land Animals & Humans

Day 7  
Sabbath  
God's Day of Rest

## CONCLUSIONS

- Define the Terms & Concepts
- Recognize the Faith Jump
- Move Beyond the “Evolution” vs. “Creation” Debate
- Consider the Two Books Model:
  - Book of God's Works → Nature → Physical
  - Book of God's Words → Scripture → Spiritual