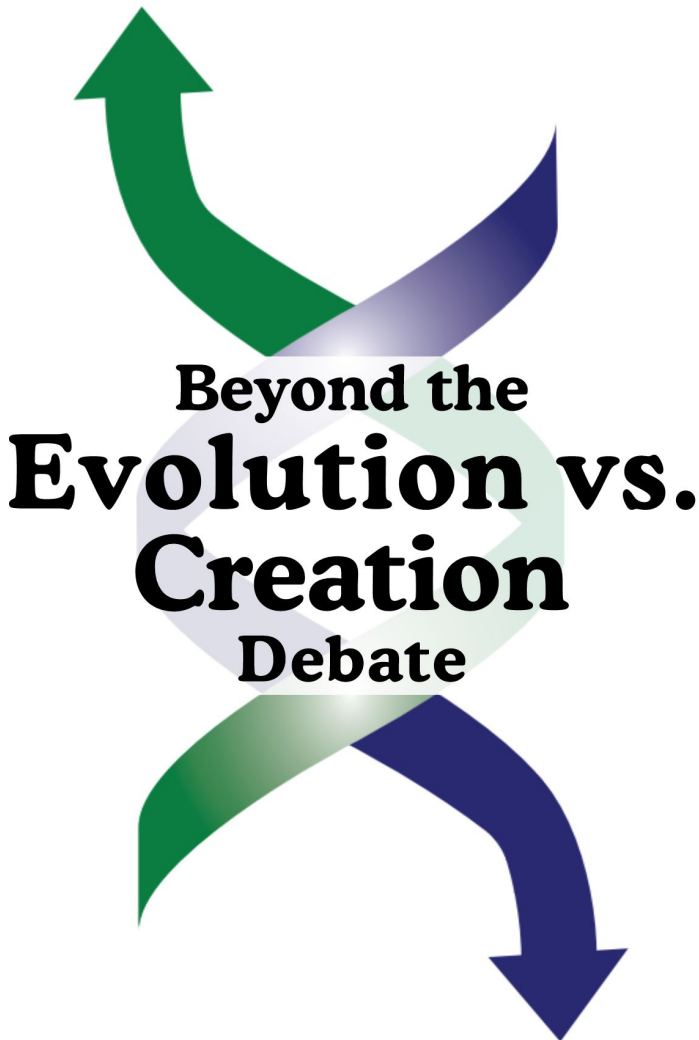


For High School Students



**Beyond the
Evolution vs.
Creation
Debate**

Denis O. Lamoureux

Professor of Science & Religion

Contents

HAPTER		
Are There Only Two Choices for Origins?		1
HAPTER		
Does Nature Point to God?		20
HAPTER		
Does the Bible Have Modern Science?		41
HAPTER		
What Are the Different Choices for Origins?		70
HAPTER		
Are You Ready to Make a Choice?		100
Acknowledgements & Biography		110
Appendix 1: Group Discussion Surveys		111
Appendix 2: Transitional Fossils		112
Appendix Image Credits		118
Notes		121

Beyond the Evolution vs. Creation Debate

Copyright © 2021 by Denis O. Lamoureux

MCGAHAN PUBLISHING HOUSE | LYNCHBURG, TENNESSEE
www.mphbooks.com

CHAPTER 1

Are There Only Two Choices for Origins?

Do you believe in evolution or creation? I am often asked this question when people find out that I have written several books on the origins debate. To their surprise, I answer that I believe in *both*. I'm an evolutionist and I'm a creationist.

Most people are quick to tell me that this is impossible. It is not logical to believe in both evolution and creation. I then say to them that I teach at a college and my job title is Professor of Science & Religion. Part of my work is to show students how it is possible to love science and to love God. Another part of my job is to be a scientist who studies fossils and evolution. I often mention that I attend church every Sunday morning and I read my Bible every day in my morning prayers. And my spiritual voyage includes experiencing miracles from God.

At this point in our conversation, some of these people get angry with me. Those who are not religious immediately claim that science proves there is no God. They challenge me to prove that a Creator exists by using scientific evidence. These non-religious people even say to me that *true* scientists are atheists because scientists don't believe in God.

People who are religious challenge me and ask where in the Bible does it say that God created using evolution. They point out that the first chapter of the Bible states the Creator made the entire universe and all living creatures in only six 24-hour days. These religious people then tell me that *true* Christians don't accept evolution.

Now you may think that I get upset when I am told that I can't be both a true scientist and a true Christian for believing in both God and evolution. But I never do. The reason is that there was a time in my life when I said these very same things! I'd often claim that evolution and creation just don't mix, and neither do science and religion. And I would even say this to people in a nasty and aggressive way.

My Story: Trapped in Either/Or Thinking

Let me share a little bit about my personal story. I was raised in a Christian home and I attended a Christian school. I then went on to college to study biology. After taking only one course on evolution during my freshman year, I became an evolutionist. At the same time, I rejected my Christian faith. Professors and older students kept telling me that religion was stupid and intelligent people do not believe in God. The only truth in the world was science. These professors and students had a huge impact on me, and eventually I became an atheist. For me, a world without God meant

there was no right or wrong, and I lived my life in a very selfish way.

After college, my faith in God returned. What was the reason? I was so tired of my selfish lifestyle. There was also a small voice in my heart that kept telling me that the way I was treating people was wrong. I started to read the Bible and discovered that being a follower of Jesus was an amazing way to live my life. Returning to God brought a lot of joy and peace into my heart.

I also started to attend church again. It was great to be surrounded by young people my age who cared about doing the right things and living the way God wanted us to live. It was also at church that I met Christians who rejected evolution. They claimed that *true* science proves creation in six 24-hour days is true. For me, this message was important because evolution had destroyed my faith in God while in college. And I quickly became a creationist.

Now I am sure that you have identified my problem. And it's the main problem with the debate over origins today. I assumed that there were only two choices—*either* evolution *or* creation.

Like most Christians and non-religious people, I believed that evolution and science reject God and that this leads to a life with no right or wrong. I also assumed that creation means God made the world in only six 24-hour days. In other words,

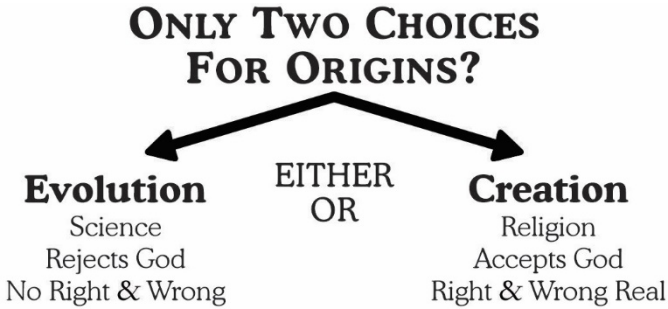


Figure 1-1. The Problem with the Origins Debate: Trapped in Either/Or Thinking

my mind was trapped in either/or thinking. And this forced me into believing there were only two choices for origins. Figure 1-1 presents this problem with the origins debate.

Here is a question for you. Could there be a view of origins in the middle of this diagram between evolution and creation? What about the idea that God created the entire universe and living creatures through evolution? Do you think this is a possibility?