

# Christian Perspectives on Origins

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## God's Two Books



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Compartmentalism or  
NOMA:  
“They Share No Common  
Ground”

5% of Scientists (Bundrick  
2003)

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Conflict—Science over  
Theology  
“Scientists Know Best”

14% of Scientists

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Conflict—Theology Over  
Science  
“Theologians Know Best”

2% of Scientists

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Complementarism  
“Each is Incomplete”

35% of Scientists

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## Concordism (Mutual Dependence) “They Should Agree”



8% of Scientists

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## Research Findings

- U.S. scientists (2003 n=312) and Baylor students (2014 n=471) used Complementarism.
- AG and other Protestant educators, pastors, and students (2011, 2014, 2015 n=511) favored Complementarism and Mutual Dependence.
- 46.5% of scientists (2003) did not use any relational approach.

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## How do we know if something is true?

- If the proposition meets these two conditions:
  - It is consistent within itself (coherence theory).
  - It corresponds to observations (correspondence theory).

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## Theories of Inspiration

- God dictated each and every word.
- God inspired ideas, and the writer used his own words to communicate them.
- the Bible contains God's Word, but is not wholly God's word, so readers must choose which parts are divinely inspired.
- It's like the intention of a musical composer who says that another musician was her inspiration for a particular musical composition.

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## Evidences Used in Theology

- Scripture: Inspiration/Inerrancy  
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Tradition: Knowledge passed from one generation to the next. e.g. personal testimonies.
- Reason: Systematic theology.
- Experience: Pentecost, anointing, healing, deliverance, changed lives.

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## Evidences Used in Science

- Observations: source of hypotheses.
- Experiments: control for placebo effects and correlational vs. causative relationships.
- Reason: correspondence and coherence of conclusions derived from data.

## Both Theology and Science Change with New Discoveries

- Geocentrism
- Heliocentrism

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### How Old is the Creation?

**RECENT**



Ken Ham  
Answers in Genesis

**ANCIENT**



Hugh Ross  
Reasons to Believe

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### Why Choose Recent or Ancient?

Characteristic	Recent Creation	Ancient Creation
How to interpret Scriptures?	Straightforward	Accommodation
Literary form GCA	Historical Narrative	Contains Figurative Language
Use Normal Science Findings?	Reluctant	Embrace them
View of Earth's History	Catastrophic	Uniformitarianism

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### Microevolution

- Small changes.
- No new “kinds.”
- Accepted by virtually all creationists and non-creationists.

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### Macroevolution

- Large changes.
- Can result in new “kinds.”
- Rejected by some because:
  - 1.requires an ancient creation.
  - 2.depends on uniformitarianism.
  - 3.assumes species plasticity.
  - 4.failure of Neo-Darwinism.
  - 5.oppose universal common descent.
  - 6.requires embracing methodological naturalism.


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### Evangelicals and Macroevolution

Accept




Francis Collins,  
MD, Human Genome Project,  
Dir. NIH, Biologos




Denis Lamoureux,  
DDS, PhD, PhD,  
“Evolutionary Creation”

Reject



Hugh Ross,  
PhD, Reasons to Believe



Ken Ham,  
Answers in Genesis,  
BS Env. Sci., two hon. doctorates

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### AAAS and Evolution

(American Association for the Advancement of Science)

- “...there is no significant controversy within the scientific community about the validity of the theory of evolution.
- The current controversy surrounding the teaching of evolution is not a scientific one.”
- “...The theory of evolution, supported by extensive scientific findings ranging from the fossil record to the molecular genetic relationships among species, is a unifying concept of modern science. Of course, our understanding of how evolution works continues to be refined by new discoveries...”
- “...evolution and religion...need not be incompatible. Science and religion ask fundamentally different questions about the world. Many religious leaders have affirmed that they see no conflict between evolution and religion. We and the overwhelming majority of scientists share this view.”
- [Statement adopted by the AAAS Board of Directors, 16 February 2006.]

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## Major Religions and Origins (Pew Research Center)

- **Buddhism:** Many Buddhists see no inherent conflict between their religious teachings and evolutionary theory. Indeed, according to some Buddhist thinkers, certain aspects of Darwin's theory are consistent with some of the religion's core teachings, such as the notion that all life is impermanent.
- **Catholicism:** The Catholic Church generally accepts evolutionary theory as the scientific explanation for the development of all life. However, this acceptance comes with the understanding that natural selection is a God-directed mechanism of biological development and that man's soul is the divine creation of God.
- **Hinduism:** While there is no single Hindu teaching on the origins of life, many Hindus believe that the universe is a manifestation of Brahman, Hinduism's highest god and the force behind all creation. However, many Hindus today do not find their beliefs to be incompatible with the theory of evolution.
- **Islam:** While the Koran teaches that Allah created human beings as they appear today, Islamic scholars and followers are divided on the theory of evolution. Theologically conservative Muslims who ascribe to literal interpretations of the Koran generally denounce the evolutionary argument for natural selection, whereas many theologically liberal Muslims believe that while man is divinely created, evolution is not necessarily incompatible with Islamic principles.
- **Judaism:** While all of the major movements of American Judaism – including the Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox branches – teach that God is the creator of the universe and all life, Jewish teachings generally do not find an inherent conflict between evolutionary theory and faith.

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## Five Perspectives on Origins

- Young Earth Creation
- Old Earth Creation
- Evolutionary Creation
- Deistic Evolution
- Atheistic Evolution

Views Held  
by Christians

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## 1. Young Earth Creation (YEC)

- AKA "creation science"
- God created everything...
- In six consecutive 24-hour periods
- About 6,000 years ago.
- Biblical creation accounts are scientifically accurate historical narrative.
- Types:
  - Flood geology (Morris).
  - Mature earth (Wise).



Ken Ham  
*Answers in Genesis*



Henry Morris  
*Genesis Flood*

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## 1. Young Earth Creation (YEC)

- Biblical account is more trustworthy than science.
- Other Christian origins views may lead to an erosion of faith.
- Reject speciation & common descent.
- Accept microevolution.
- Accept historical Adam & Eve.
- 54% Christian pastors (743 surveys, Barna Group, 2012).

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## 2. Old Earth Creation (OEC)

- AKA "progressive creation."
- God created the universe & life BYA.
- Series of creative acts.
- Biblical creation accounts are mostly historical narrative, but not scientific in the modern sense.
- Reject speciation and common ancestry.
- Accept microevolution.
- Accept historical Adam & Eve (may not have been the first ones).



Hugh Ross  
*Reasons to Believe*



Stephen Meyer  
*Discovery Institute*

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## 2. Old Earth Creation (OEC)

- Types
  - "RTB model."
  - Day-Age view: each day = vast amount of time.
  - Framework view: God created in six days, rested one, analogous to human pattern.
  - Intermittent Day view: 24 hr. days separated by vast time spans.
  - Analogical Day/Cosmic Temple: God created earth as His temple and took up residence on the 7th day. Explains function rather than form.
- 15% Christian pastors (Barna Group, 2012).

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### 3. Evolutionary Creation (EC)

- AKA “theistic evolution.”
- God caused biological evolution.
- God created the universe & life billions of years ago.
- Accept both micro- and macroevolution.
- Two types:
  - 1. Planned evolution.
  - 2. Directed evolution.



Deb Haarsma  
Biologos



Denis Lamoureux  
Evolutionary Creation

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### 3. Evolutionary Creation (EC)

- Biblical creation accounts are not wholly historical narrative.
- These include figurative language and accommodation.
- 18% Christian pastors (Barna Group, 2012).
- Many doubt the existence of a historical Adam & Eve.

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### 4. Deistic or Agnostic Evolution

- AKA “evolution” or “nonteleological evolution.”
- Universe and life BYA.
- God is not involved in His creation.
- Life evolves “on its own” (ateleological).
- Accept micro- & macroevolution.
- The Bible is not divinely inspired or authoritative.
- The physical realm is the best revelation of God.
- Often erroneously confused with Atheistic Evolution.



Charles Darwin



Theodosius Dobzhansky

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### 5. Atheistic or Materialistic Evolution

- AKA “evolution.”
- Ateleological evolution.
- Deny God’s existence.
- Abiogenesis.
- Universe and life BYA.
- Accept micro- and macroevolution.
- Biblical creation account is fiction like other ANE accounts.
- Don’t all agree with NeoDarwinism.
- Some “functional atheists.”



Richard Dawkins



Neil deGrasse Tyson

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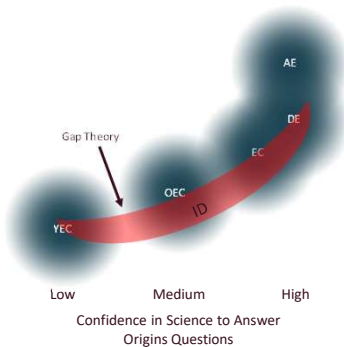
The GCA is ancient fiction like the other ANE creation stories

The GCA is neither historical narrative nor scientifically accurate

The GCA is historical narrative, but it reflects the ancient Jewish understanding of nature

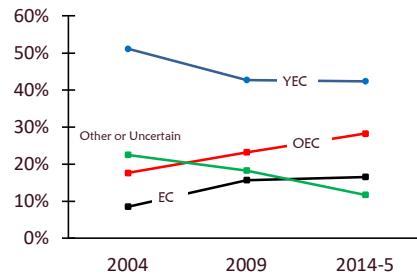
The GCA is historical narrative that is accurate in terms of modern science

GCA Literary Form



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### AG Students



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## Four Views on a Historical Adam and Eve

1. No historical Adam: Evolutionary Creation (Lamoureux)
2. A Historical Adam: Archetypal Creation View (Walton)
3. A Historical Adam: Old-Earth Creation View (Collins)
4. A Historical Adam: Young-Earth Creation View (Barrick)

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## 1. No historical Adam: Evolutionary Creation (Lamoureux)

- Evolution evidence precludes belief in a historical Adam.
- Evolutionary genetics findings:
  - Humans and chimpanzees shared a common ancestor 6 million yr ago.
  - Modern humans descended from a group of 10,000 people not two people.
- Disagrees with EC advocates Waltke, Falk, Alexander that Adam was historical person.
- Jesus Christ was a historical person.

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## 2. A Historical Adam: Archetypal Creation View (Walton)

- Adam was a historical person, but may not have been the FIRST person.
- Scriptures present Adam and Eve as archetypal representatives of humanity.
- Bible doesn't make the case for the biological origins of humans...only the function of man.

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## 3. A Historical Adam: Old-Earth Creation View (Collins)

- Adam and Eve were historical persons.
- Based on narrative of Scripture and theologically of our need for a redeemer, Jesus (second Adam).
- Jesus believed in a historical Adam and Eve.
- May not have been the only living persons at that time.
- Emphasis on man as image bearer and unique.

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## 4. A Historical Adam: Young-Earth Creation View (Barrick)

- Adam was the first person, specially created, father of all mankind.
- Based on Genesis 1-2 and NT, especially Paul's writings.
- Bible is inspired should be trusted more than science.
- Young earth view.

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