

Probing the Genesis Creation Account

Contemporary Approaches to the Creation Account and Validity in Hermeneutics

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May 19, 2020

I. Introduction to the Debate and Crucial Questions

- A. The Debate Between Science and the Bible
- B. What is at Stake in the Discussion about the Creation Account?
- C. The Rise of Theistic Evolution (Francis Collins / Biologos)
- D. Questioning the Historicity of Genesis 1 and the Person of Adam
 - 1. Kenton Sparks Quote – Genesis 1 is not historical
PhD, Provost and V.P. for Academic Affairs, Eastern University
 - 2. Denis O. Lamoureux - No Adam
PhD, Prof. of Science and Religion, St. Joseph's College, Univ Alberta (ETS)
- E. Crucial Questions about the Genesis Creation Account
- F. The Issue of Hermeneutics in Interpreting the Biblical Account of Creation
- G. Background to the Debate: 18th Century Scientific Thinking

II. Evangelical Views of the Creation Account [See Handout #1]

What Makes for Such a Difference Among Evangelicals?

- A. How they understand the relationship of the first three verses (Gen 1:1-3)
- B. How they handle the exegesis of various details throughout Gen 1–2
- C. The extent to which they employ a literal hermeneutic

III. Contemporary Views of Genesis 1:1-3 [See Handout #2]

- A. The Literal Six-Day Traditional View [See Handouts #11, 12, 13]
- B. Day One Begins with Gen 1:2
- C. The Gap Theory
- D. The Analogical Day View
- E. Day One Begins with Gen 1:3
 - 1. Gen 1:1 as a Dependent Clause
 - 2. Precreation Chaos Theory
 - 3. Literary Day View

IV. Exegetical Details Pertaining to Genesis 1–2 [See Handout #3]

- A. Details Pertaining to Gen 1:1
- B. The Suggestion that Gen 1:1 is a “Summary Statement” of the Chapter
- C. Gen 1:2 and the Gap Theory
- D. Gen 1:2 and the Meaning of “Formless and Empty” (*tōhû wābōhû*)
- E. The Oddity of Light on Day One, but No Sun and Stars until Day Four

- F. The Meaning of “Day” (*yôm*) - 24 hours or a long age?
- G. The Question of the Historicity of Adam
- H. The Literary Framework View

V. The Role of Hermeneutics in the Debate

- A. Genesis 1 as Historical Narrative (The *tôlê dôt* Structure of Genesis) [See Handout #5]
Overview Chart of the Book of Genesis [See Handout #6]
- B. A Literal Hermeneutic is Needed for Reliable Guidance in Interpretation
- C. Evolution is Not Reconcilable with Genesis 1–2
- D. The New Testament Witness as a Hermeneutical Confirmation
- E. The Role of the Biblical Flood Account in the Assessment of Evidence
- F. Results of Applying a Literal Hermeneutic

VI. Dating the Creation Account in Light of Genesis 5 and 11

- A. Defense of “Tight” Genealogies [See Handout #16]
- B. Old Testament Chronology and Dating the Creation and Flood [See Handout #15]
- C. A Quick Calculation of OT Chronology [See Handout #14]
- D. Caution: The Differences Between the Hebrew and Greek Texts [See Handout #17]
- E. A Case for the Greek Septuagint’s Chronology in Gen 5 and 11 [See Handout #19]
- F. Resulting Differences in Dating of Hebrew vs. Greek [See Handout #18]

VII. Concluding Statements

Handouts:

- 00. Presentation Outline: Probing the Creation Account
- 01. Tanner_Chart: Evangelical Views of the Creation Account
- 02. Tanner – Contemporary Views of Gen 1:1-3
- 03. Tanner – Exegetical Details Pertaining to Gen 1-2
- 04. Tanner – Genesis 1 Creation Account – Textual Layout
- 05. Tanner - *Toledot* Structure of Genesis
- 06. Tanner – Overview Chart of Genesis
- 07. Bailey, M – Why Adam was Real and Why it Matters
- 08. Turpin S – The Importance of a Historical Adam
- 09. Turpin S – Eroding the Historical Adam (response to McKnight)
- 10. Mortenson – In Defense of the Historical Adam
- 11. Lyon J – Genesis 1.1-3 and Day One – ETS Pres 2018
- 12. Rooker – Genesis 1.1-3 – BibSac Part 1
- 13. Rooker - Genesis 1.1-3 – BibSac Part 2
- 14. Tanner – Date of Creation and the Flood – 8th ed
- 15. Tanner – OT Chronology – Dating Creation – BibSac 2015
- 16. Tanner – Gen 5 and 11 – Gapless Genealogies
- 17. Tanner – Manuscript Data for Genesis 5 and 11 – Full Table
- 18. Tanner – Comparison of Pre-Abrahamic Dates – MT vs LXX
- 19. Smith H – Case for Septuagint Data in Gen 5 and 11