

Creation vs. Evolution

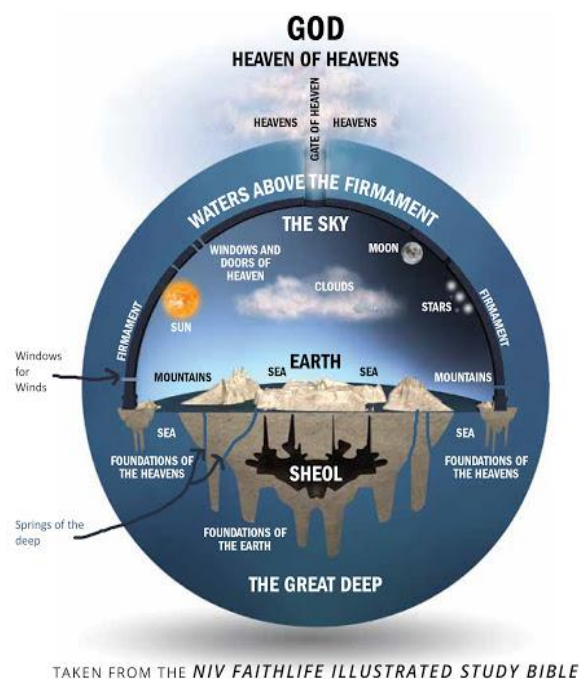


The creation of the heavens and the earth is divided into two parts: the six-day account in Genesis 1:1-2:3 (the first half) and the separate creation of Adam and Eve in Genesis 2:4-2:25 (the second half). The creator in the first part is Elohim (gods, in the plural, and the gods worshiped in the kingdom of Northern Israel), and by his word he created all beings, while in the second part, Yahweh (the god worshiped in the kingdom of Southern Judah) created life including Adam, from clay. You can see that different authors wrote each part. As for the designation of the Sabbath day, Elohim completed creation in six days and rested on the seventh, but seeing how this is written in Genesis 2:1-3, it seems to have been subtly added later by an editor to tie the different stories together.

If you look at the sequence of Elohim's Creation, they created light on the first day, the expanse (the sky) on the second day, and the earth, plants and trees on the third day. Only on the fourth day did they create the Sun, Moon and stars. On the first day, they created the light and separated the light from the darkness, but since the light existed without materials from which to separate it, we cannot say how the darkness was created. And if they created the Sun and the Moon on the fourth day, it is strange how they calculated the previous three days. They also created the plants and trees that could survive by photosynthesis before the appearance of the Sun. I can't understand at all how such an unscientific and nonsensical story was put at the very beginning of the Old Testament.

Among the words the Old Testament uses to refer to the Earth, you won't find "ball," "globe" or "ellipsoid." It does frequently say end of the circle or earth, or land's end, describing the Earth as a flat circle akin to the face of a coin. Because of this nonsense, Columbus's discovery of the New World had to wait until 1492. Despite learning that the world is a sphere without end, nothing has been corrected, and people insist the Bible contains nothing but truth, without even a single error.

If we were to recreate Yahweh's Creation as it appears in the Old Testament, I think it would look like this picture. The firmament separates heaven and earth, and since the water under the firmament and the water above it is separate, I think the water in heaven falls to earth when it rains, Genesis 7:11 reads, "On that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights." In the Bible, heaven has windows with curtains, doors, a pole that connects the earth and, even a ladder that you can climb up and down.



According to the Old Testament, Yahweh created the universe 6,000 years ago. In the seventeenth century A.D., James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, calculated the date of the creation of the world to be Sunday, 3 October 4004 B.C.¹ After this, people believed this was the date Yahweh created heaven and earth. Jewish, Christian and Islamic fundamentalists believe and follow this, and the Jewish calendar accepts it.

However, scientists, have a different view. Humans have only recently appeared on Earth, but the universe was created by the Big Bang, which happened 13.8 billion years ago. When we look at the center of the Milky Way Galaxy, the light we see left its source 30,000 years ago. The nearest spiral

¹ *The Laughing Jesus*, Timothy Freke & Peter Gandy, Three Rivers Press, 2005: 42

galaxy like our own, M31 in the constellation Andromeda, is 2 million light-years away, so we are seeing it as it was when the light from it set out on its long journey to Earth—2 million years ago. And when we observe distant quasars 5 billion light-years away, we are seeing them as they were 5 billion years ago, before the Earth was formed.² Moreover, considering that the oldest fossil so far discovered is from 3.5 billion years ago, the first living things existed far, far, far before the time specified in the Old Testament.

The 16th century Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno claimed that the Sun was like the "too many stars." It took a long time for this claim to be officially recognized. Prior to that, the dominant belief was that only the solar system existed and that the Earth was the center of the universe.

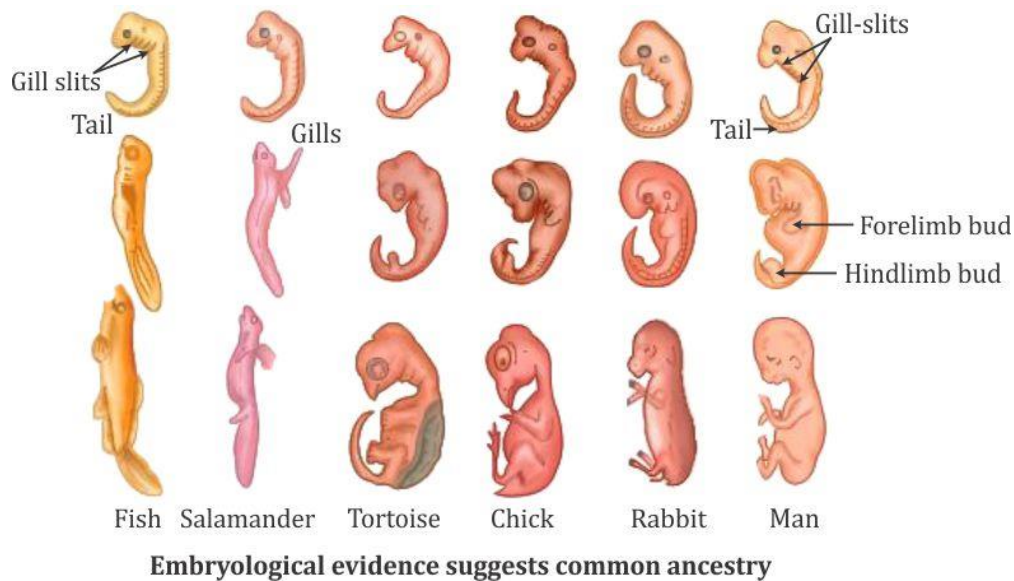
It would take about 4 light-years to get to the next nearest star beyond our Sun, Proxima Centauri. That's only a trip from one star to another in the Milky Way galaxy, a gravitational collective of hundreds of billions of stars. And our Milky Way galaxy is only one of perhaps a trillion galaxies—two trillion if we count all the dwarf galaxies that have since merged into the larger galaxies such as our own. In the visible universe of perhaps a trillion galaxies, containing as many as a hundred million trillion stars,³ every second may bring the birth of a thousand new solar systems.⁴

According to the theory of evolution, early life appeared in the sea before the Cambrian period. As an appropriate climate and environment developed, which is to say, oxygen level increased, more types of plant species appeared, and fish and herbivores could survive. The claim that various carnivores appeared over a long period of time based on this food chain of plants and animals is much more realistic than the fable that Yahweh created everything in a single moment. We can tell that humans evolved from fish because early human fetuses have signs of fish gills, amniotic fluid has the same salt content as seawater, and during pregnancy, fetuses survive in this amniotic fluid without any problem until they are born.

² *Pale Blue Dot*, Carl Sagan, 1994: 23

³ *Cosmos*, Ann Druyan, National Geographic, 2020: 31

⁴ *Cosmos*, Ann Druyan, National Geographic, 2020: 197



Humans have bred different kinds of dogs, which are descended from wolves, according to their will, and in just 10,000 years have created something that looks completely different from wolves. They have also developed the types and shapes of flowers into high-value breeds according to their tastes in a short period of time. Considering that these changes took place in such a short period, if we substitute 4.5 billion years for 10,000 years, any change can be possible even without the intervention of an Absolute Being or humanity.

In 1996, Pope John Paul II reiterated the Catholic version of the TE position, in which God created, evolution happened, humans may indeed be descended from more primitive forms, but the Hand of God was required for the production of the human soul (John Paul II 1996).⁵ Catholicism's acceptance of evolution is a good thing, but if it accepts the theory it must remove the false descriptions from the Bible. In particular, there are many problematic parts in the Old Testament. Accordingly, following the logic of Jesus who argued in conveying the New Testament that we should exclude the Old Testament, we should consider removing the Old Testament from the Christian Bible.

⁵ *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction*, Eugenie C. Scott, 2004: 64